

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

FEBRUARY 14, 2024
1:46 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 2079
RELATING TO THE IMPORTATION OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Chair Gabbard, Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill No. 2079 relating to the importation of plants and animals. This bill allows the State of Hawaii Plant and Animal Declaration Form to be distributed, completed, and transmitted electronically.

The Department agrees with the intent of the bill and offers comments.

The Department appreciates clarifying that there are both a paper and electronic form that can be used. However, the Department does not believe that the addition of "paper" on page 4, line 15 is necessary. While it is unlikely that defacing of a digital form could or would occur, removing the distinction does not appear necessary for determining if there is a violation and should there be some way of digitally defacing the form, it would be best to not be precluded from seeking a penalty.



Regarding HRS 150A-5(2)(B), the Department also appreciates the clarification on submission of the forms to the Department. However, this bill implies that the forms, whether digital or not, will be given to the Department prior to passengers and their baggage departing the airport or seaport, however, with both forms now in use, timing of submission also needs clarification. The Department suggests the following language to clarify this section:

“(B) Completed paper forms shall be collected by the transportation company and be delivered, immediately upon arrival, to the inspector at the first airport or seaport of arrival. Completed electronic forms shall be transmitted to the inspector prior to passengers departing the first airport or seaport of arrival. Failure to distribute or collect paper declaration forms, ~~or to~~ immediately deliver completed paper forms, or transmit completed electronic forms prior to passengers departing is a violation of this section;”

Regarding HRS150A-5 sections (7) and (8), the Department believes that the five changes of “such” to “another” or “the” is unnecessary as “such” refers to the specific decision or situations that precede each statement containing “such”, ensuring clarity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:29:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/14/2024 1:46:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Miyamoto	Testifying for Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support