

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
Ke Ke'ena O Ka Hope Kia'āina

32nd Legislature, State of Hawaii
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
March 1, 2024

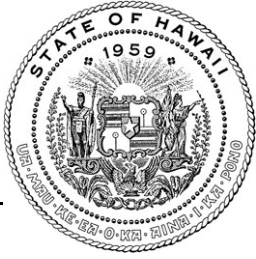
Testimony on
S.B. 2079 – RELATING TO THE IMPORTATION OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of S.B. 2079** which allows the State of Hawai'i Plant and Animal Declaration Form to be distributed, completed, and transmitted electronically.

Our office has been working with Senator Glenn Wakai along with various Departments and stakeholders to explore ways to transform the current paper-based system to include an electronic option. The current statutory language prevents the State from capturing the information referenced in the declaration form in an electronic format. Amendments contained in S.B. 2079 will allow the State to have the flexibility to modernize the current process.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of S.B. 2079.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAME KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

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Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, March 1, 2024
9:55 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
SB 2079
RELATING TO THE IMPORTATION OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent of SB 2079 which allows the State of Hawai'i Plant and Animal Declaration Form to be distributed, completed, and transmitted electronically.

DBEDT is in agreement that the Hawai'i Plant and Animal Declaration Form helps to prevent harmful pests from being brought into Hawai'i's unique environment, agriculture, and communities and that the existing law, as written, is not clear as to whether electronic forms may be used.

DBEDT respectfully requests that the collection of visitor characteristics continue to ensure the reporting of tourism research. The tourism data collected is useful for government agencies to plan and improve infrastructure, businesses to understand the needs of visitors, and economic forecasting. We also recognize the benefits that the digitization of the form offer, such as better efficiency, automated workflows, easy accessibility, data accuracy, and being environmentally friendly.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support this measure.

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
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

MARCH 1, 2024

9:55 AM

CONFERENCE ROOM 211 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

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

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, 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.



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March 1, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2079
RELATING TO THE IMPORTATION OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
9:55 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 2079, which allows the State of Hawai'i Plant and Animal Declaration Form to be distributed, completed, and transmitted electronically.

HFB recognizes the importance of preventing destructive invasive species from entering the State and how difficult it is to manage those that become established in our islands. We appreciate the difficult work of HDOA and its partners in preventing entry and their efforts to eradicate or control these detrimental animals, insects, weeds, diseases, and other pests.

Our ports-of-entry biosecurity program is essential to prevent invasive species from entering the state. The State of Hawai'i Plant and Animal Declaration Form helps prevent new invasive species from entering Hawai'i when completed by passengers and flight crews arriving in Hawai'i. Converting the current paper form to an electronic form will increase the number of completed forms which can help decrease the number of restricted plant and animal species entering the state.

Thank you for your continued support of Hawai'i's agricultural community.



Testimony of
ALASKA AIRLINES

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, March 1, 2024, 9:55 a.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 211

in consideration of
SB2079
RELATING TO THE IMPORTATION OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS.

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

Alaska Airlines supports [Senate Bill 2079](#), which allows for the electronic distribution, completion, and transmission of the State of Hawai'i Plant and Animal Declaration Form. This modernization is crucial for preserving Hawai'i's unique ecosystem by preventing the introduction of invasive species, aligning with our commitment to environmental stewardship and operational excellence. The transition to a digital declaration form will significantly enhance the passenger experience, allowing for convenience and reduced wait times, thereby streamlining operations for airlines and airport staff.

Implementing Senate Bill 2079 necessitates a collaborative approach. Alaska Airlines is ready to work with our internal teams and closely with the State of Hawai'i and other airlines to create a uniform, efficient, and effective process. This partnership is vital to ensure the system's user-friendliness and alignment with security and environmental goals, making the arrival and declaration process smoother for all involved.

The enactment of Senate Bill 2079 represents a pivotal opportunity to modernize our biosecurity measures and customer service protocols, benefiting the environment, enhancing traveler experience, and supporting the operational needs of airlines and airport authorities. This initiative also showcases our dedication to the communities we serve and the preservation of Hawai'i's natural beauty.

We urge the committee to support this bill, laying the groundwork for further technological and ecological advancements in Hawai'i's transportation and tourism sectors.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/29/2024 8:57:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Williams	Testifying for Airlines for America	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to support this concept. We look forward to working with LG Luke and the legislature on this initiative.

February 29, 2024

The Honorable Donvan Dela Cruz
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Way and Means Committee,

My name is Tim Carson, and I am President and CEO of SMS Research and Marketing Services, Inc. I am the current vendor that processes the paper Hawai'i Plant and Animal Declaration Forms. I am writing to offer my strong support for SB2079, which proposes to streamline and digitize the paper forms. Even as the incumbent vendor processing the paper forms, I believe this bill represents a crucial step forward towards efficiency and increased user-friendliness which we believe will ultimately result in increased response rates.

Having processed the paper forms for many years, SMS has witnessed firsthand the inefficiencies inherent in the current processes. These inefficiencies include manual processes of receiving the paper forms (physically picking up the forms at Honolulu International Airport and having them delivered via FedEx each day from the neighbor islands), manually scanning each form by flight (approximately 4 million forms a year), and having a team verify the data where from the forms where the software we use is unable to read handwriting). SB2079 presents a clear and practical solution to address these issues.

Additionally, SMS is currently working with the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and the Hawai'i Department of Business and Economic Development and Tourism on a limited pilot to digitize the form and test out the methodology (how the passengers will know to complete the form in advance of boarding the plane (communication plans, QR codes at check-in, at the gate, on the plane, etc.), test response rates, how the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture will receive and reviews the forms as the passengers arrives, etc.). This bill will allow us to proceed with such a pilot and determine true feasibility.

I strongly urge the Ways and Means Committee to pass SB2079.

Mahalo,



Tim Carson
President & CEO
SMS Research & Marketing Services, Inc.