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Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawai'i  
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Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025**  
**10:30 A.M.**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 34, SENATE DRAFT 1**

**REQUESTING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO PETITION THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ADDRESS THE LACK OF PARITY BETWEEN HAWAII AND OTHER STATES AND TERRITORIES PERTAINING TO THE EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL GOODS.**

Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SCR34, S.D. 1 which requests the Hawai'i congressional delegation to petition the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to address the lack of parity between Hawai'i and other states and territories regarding the export of agricultural goods.

The Hawai'i Department of Agriculture acknowledges the concerns expressed in these resolutions and recognizes the importance of collaborating with the USDA to address the discrepancies in phyto-sanitation requirements facing Hawai'i. Our ultimate goal is to ensure parity with all other states in the union. We value Hawai'i's cut flowers, fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops as essential niche exports to the Continental U.S. and will continue to support their fair and equitable trade.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these resolutions.



**SCR-34-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 11:42:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/11/2025 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Buy Local, It Matters!

**Testimony in Support of SCR34**  
**House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems**  
**Hearing Date: April 11, 2025**

[COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS](#)

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Chair  
Rep. Matthias Kusch, Vice Chair

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen      Rep. Sean Quinlan  
Rep. Amy A. Perruso

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Leimomi Khan and I am submitting testimony in strong support of SCR 34 Requesting Hawaii's Congressional Delegation to Petition the United States Department of Agriculture to Address the Lack Of Parity Between Hawaii and Other States and Territories Pertaining to the Export of Agricultural Goods. Likewise, I have submitted testimony in support of HCR 27, which requests Hawaii's Congressional Delegation to Petition the United States Department Of Agriculture to Address the Lack of Parity Between Hawaii and Other States and Territories Pertaining to the Export Of Agricultural Goods.

As an island state, Hawai‘i faces unique agricultural challenges not experienced by our mainland counterparts. Our producers operate under geographic isolation, higher transportation costs, and infrastructure gaps that directly impact our ability to access national and international markets. Despite these challenges, Hawai‘i’s farmers and ranchers continue to produce high-quality, culturally significant, and globally desirable agricultural products.

One of the most pressing inequities outlined in this resolution is the **requirement for a petition for pest risk analysis by the USDA** before products can be approved for export. While necessary to protect plant health, the current system places Hawai‘i in the **same queue as foreign countries**, many of which are prioritized over our state when it comes to review and approval. This not only delays economic opportunity for local producers, but also fundamentally contradicts the principles of federalism and equity among states.

**Hawai‘i, as the 50th state of the Union, should not be placed behind foreign nations in the prioritization of USDA reviews.** In alignment with the Administration’s vision of *America First*, we urge that Hawai‘i be given **priority status** in the pest risk analysis process, recognizing that we are not a foreign entity, but an integral part of the United States with a vital role in domestic agricultural production.

The continued treatment of Hawai‘i as if it were outside the Union—in both regulatory processes and federal program access—compounds historical and systemic inequities that harm our agricultural sector. We ask for fairness, equity, and acknowledgment of our state’s contributions and potential.

Passage of SCR34 would be a powerful statement by this Legislature to advocate for federal responsiveness, parity in treatment, and support for local agricultural development. I urge your favorable consideration.

Respectfully, Leimomi Khan