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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

## Testimony of DAWN N. S. CHANG Chairperson

## Before the House Committee on AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Friday, March 21, 2025 10:00 AM State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

# In consideration of HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 25 HOUSE RESOLUTION 24 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO INCLUDE A STATEMENT ON DESECRATION LAWS IN THE PLANT AND ANIMAL DECLARATION FORM

House Concurrent Resolution 25 and companion House Resolution 24 requests that the Department of Agriculture includes a section on the State of Hawai'i Plant and Animal Declaration Form (Form) a section for everyone required to complete the form to acknowledge and affirm statements regarding desecration laws. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers comments.

Many visitors to Hawai'i may also be unaware of the various federal and state laws that protect indigenous, endangered, and threatened wildlife, as listed in Title 13 Chapter 124 of the Hawai'i Administrative Rules, that they may encounter while in the State, including but not limited to Hawaiian monk seals, sea turtles, whales, dolphins, seabirds, forest birds, plants, and other native species. The Form offers an opportunity to notify visitors of the laws protecting indigenous, endangered, and threatened wildlife.

The Department suggests the inclusion on the Form a section that provides links to information about regulations that protect indigenous, endangered, and threatened wildlife.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.