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SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025
1:01 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 25, HD1
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO INCLUDE A STATEMENT
ON DESECRATION LAWS IN THE PLANT AND ANIMAL DECLARATION FORM.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution 25, HD1 requesting the Department of Agriculture to include a statement on desecration laws in the plant and animal declaration form.

The Department agrees with the intent of this resolution that seeks to increase protection of culturally important resources, such as Native Hawaiian cultural sites, burial grounds, and places of worship, also including protected, indigenous, endangered, and threatened wildlife, and that messaging through a captive audience may increase the likelihood of compliance. However, the Department notes that the form's statutory intent is to mandate the declaration of regulated commodities to prevent the entry of pests or diseases into the State and the Department is concerned that if it chooses to add this acknowledgement to the declaration form, this act would essentially enable the Department to pick and choose what other laws should be emphasized on the declaration form. As such, the Department believes that the appropriate way to add this language to the declaration form would be via a statutory change to HRS 150A-



5(2)(A). The Department is also concerned that the staff who process the forms would essentially not be able to provide any direction or guidance on the added acknowledgement as they do not have any expertise on the applicable regulations and could inadvertently provide incorrect information, leading to a possible violation.

The Akamai Arrival program has shown some promise and if deemed effective, a complete transition from a physical form to a digital one could occur. Should a complete transition to a digital declaration form occur, there is an opportunity to use the Akamai Arrival homepage as a launchpad to provide travelers and residents with educational materials on how to comply with the intent of this resolution. This could be extended to include other important topics that the Legislature deems necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Friday, April 11, 2025
1:01 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 25, HOUSE DRAFT 1
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO INCLUDE A
STATEMENT ON DESECRATION LAWS IN THE PLANT AND ANIMAL
DECLARATION FORM

House Concurrent Resolution 25, House Draft 1 requests that the Department of Agriculture includes a section on the State of Hawai'i Plant and Animal Declaration Form (Form) that everyone is required to complete acknowledging and affirming statements regarding desecration laws. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers comments.**

Many visitors to Hawai'i may 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 supports the inclusion of a section, as part of the Akamai Arrival Program, to provide links to information about regulations that protect indigenous, endangered, and threatened wildlife.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.