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TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

APRIL 13, 2022
11:00 A.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 325 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 169
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO DEVELOP AND
IMPLEMENT A PROCESS TO CERTIFY PRIVATELY-OWNED AND
OPERATED PLANT QUARANTINE FACILITIES

Chairperson Hashem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 169. The Resolution requests the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (Department) develop and implement a process to certify privately-owned and operated plant quarantine facilities.

The Department supports the intent of the bill, recognizing the importance of adequate facilities for quarantine purposes and offers comments. The Department notes that the ability to allow private quarantine facilities already exists administratively pursuant to Hawaii Administrative Rules Chapter §4-70-4 and §4-70-5.

The Department also offers comments related to the importation of coffee material. Direct import of coffee plants is prohibited from overseas to Puerto Rico and Hawaii pursuant to 7 CFR Part 319 of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), to prevent the introduction of the coffee berry borer, *Hypothenemus hampei*, and the coffee leaf rust, *Hemileia vastatrix*, and other serious coffee pests. Recently, the Department initiated a pilot study, in



collaboration with USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine, USDA Agricultural Research Service, University of Hawaii, Hawaii Agriculture Research Center, and our local coffee industry to identify a safe and stream-lined process of importing rust-resistant coffee varieties to Hawaii using the Clean Plant Diagnostic approach of the National Clean Plant Network (NCPN). In short, resistant coffee varieties would be imported from overseas to an accredited and certified NCPN or other laboratory in California, screened and tested for pests and pathogens, reproduced as clean tissue culture, and then imported to a certified facility in Hawaii for propagation and subsequent release into the field. This process would guarantee clean coffee stock material for propagation thus reducing normal post entry quarantine restrictions here in Hawaii.

If validated by the pilot study, this process would eliminate the need for private quarantine facilities which would be inherently at higher risk due to their potential close proximity to susceptible hosts. Further, the process would effectively eliminate the risk of exposure from infested materials within the facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

SCR-169

Submitted on: 4/11/2022 6:54:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/13/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenani Gramberg	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill because, I feel and believe that quarantine process should be highly monitored and I feel it should be done professionally and not privately.

Who is and How often are these leases being inspected for pono practices on Agriculture Lands? Who's inspecting how much dwellings are going up and being rented out to non farmers? How do we get the Waimānalo agricultural businesses to create a Future Business Plan?, so we can stop importing plants, which is where and how the invasive species are arriving here and start planting from seed to fulfill the Plans created by those particular businesses. Waimānalo has the perfect climate to perform this procedure and more. There are too many non-agricultural activities happening in Waimānalo on agricultural lands. Who's responsible for the eradication, before a population starts? Would it be the company that bought it in or the entity that leased the land?

Invasive species have a devastating effect on the state's agriculture, food self-sufficiency, freshwater quality and quantity, human health, and on the health of native species and ecosystems. February 1st marks the start of Hawai'i Invasive Species Awareness Month (HISAM).

How does the State pick or choose which invasive species to eradicate first? How does the state choose which invasive species deserves the funding? Why only in a particular area? When does eradication work become a community effort? We need to start thinking about all the invasive species here and start to create an eradication plan, rather the State has the funding or if it becomes a community effort as well.

SCR-169

Submitted on: 4/12/2022 3:12:16 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/13/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Kimo Falconer	Hawaii Coffee Growers Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and Members of the House AGR committee,

On behalf of the Hawaii Coffee Growers Association, I am asking your committee to support an effort to implement a plan to allow private greenhouse and grow-out facilities to become certified by the Department of Agriculture to conduct quarantine activities per their overview.

The State's plant quarantine status is sorely lacking and part of the reason new invasive species such as coffee leaf rust are showing up here. Allowing private facilities to take on a portion of this backlog, would multiply the State's ability to better meet the quarantine demands that the State's facilities can't currently handle.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration to this measure.