

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

GLENN K. MURANAKA  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

**MARCH 20, 2019  
2:25 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 153  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO STUDY AND MAKE  
RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO INCREASE COMPLIANCE WITH THE VARIOUS  
REQUIREMENTS FOR AGRICULTURAL LANDS AND TO PREVENT ABUSE OF  
AGRICULTURAL LAND LEASES.**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR 153, requesting the Department of Agriculture to study and make recommendations on how to increase compliance with the various requirements for agricultural lands and to prevent abuse of agricultural land leases, including: improving compliance and enforcement methods; preventing impermissible land uses; confiscating leases from non-performing individuals; stopping the illegal subleasing; and addressing other hindrances, issues, and policies. The measure also requests that the Department of Agriculture submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature. The Department agrees with the resolution with respect to the need to study and assess the compliance and enforcement challenges facing our staff and offers the following comments.

The Department is cognizant of all the concerns identified in this measure and seeks to address them on an ongoing and continuous basis. The Department, however, has been unable to maintain an optimally robust property inspection program that would consist of annual site inspections for each property, at a minimum, to



address compliance and enforcement issues. The Department currently has only three property managers overseeing the entire State, with one of them responsible for the Island of Hawaii which has nearly half of the Department's agricultural lands. Without additional staffing and resources, the proposed study and report of these issues may impose considerable additional strains on the Department's capacity to carry out its day-to-day duties effectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**SCR-153**

Submitted on: 3/15/2019 9:31:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/20/2019 2:25:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SCR-153**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 10:09:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/20/2019 2:25:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments: