

# OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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Statement of  
**RODNEY FUNAKOSHI**  
Planning Program Administrator, Office of Planning  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT AND  
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM**  
Friday, April 12, 2019  
2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of  
**HCR 107 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO  
MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING A STATEWIDE PROGRAM TO  
ADDRESS AGRICULTURAL THEFT.**

Chairs Gabbard and Wakai, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Taniguchi, and Members of the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism.

The Office of Planning offers **comments** on HCR 107 which requests the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism and Department of Agriculture to make recommendations regarding a Statewide program to address agricultural theft.

While we certainly share the concerns and are aware of the debilitating impacts of agricultural theft on farmers, neither the Office of Planning nor the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism has any related programs or enforcement capability to contribute to resolution of this issue. We respectfully defer to and fully support the Department of Agriculture in their efforts to address agricultural theft.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
& TOURISM AND AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

**APRIL 12, 2019  
2:00 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 107  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND TOURISM AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO MAKE  
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING A STATEWIDE PROGRAM TO ADDRESS  
AGRICULTURAL THEFT**

Chairpersons Wakai and Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HCR 107, requesting the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and the Department of Agriculture to make recommendations regarding a statewide program to address agricultural theft. The Department offers comments.

The Department of Agriculture has already entered into a two-year contract with the Hawaii County Prosecutor's Office for one investigator to conduct agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism investigations. This has been very valuable and productive project with the limited staff performing investigations and outreach with farmers, law enforcement, and farmers markets. We encourage the cooperation and participation of other county law enforcement and prosecutors' offices to provide a consistent and effective effort in pursuing the prosecution of agricultural related crimes. It is important to note that SB759 SD2 HD1 offers additional resources to support the pilot project efforts in the County of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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April 12, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

**TESTIMONY ON HCR 107**  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
AND TOURISM AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO MAKE  
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING A STATEWIDE PROGRAM TO ADDRESS  
AGRICULTURAL THEFT

Room 224  
2:00 PM

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Wakai, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Taniguchi, and Members of the Committees:

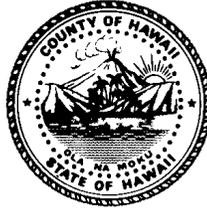
I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HCR 107**, requesting that DBEDT and HDOA make recommendations regarding a program to address agricultural theft.

Agricultural theft and vandalism are persistent problems facing agriculture. Weather, drought, pests, weeds, disease, activists, unstable markets, transportation, labor issues, and a changing climate all contribute to uncertainty for farmers and ranchers. Few businesses face such challenges, yet we are charged with producing food, fiber, fuel and flowers for the 99% of non-farmers. Add in the constant threat and impacts of trespass, theft, and vandalism, and it's a wonder farms and ranches remain viable.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

**Harry Kim**  
*Mayor*



**Wil Okabe**  
*Managing Director*

**Barbara J. Kossow**  
*Deputy Managing Director*

## County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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April 10, 2019

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair  
Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair  
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Dear Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Taniguchi and Ruderman, and Committee Members:

**RE: HCR 107 Relating to a Statewide Program to Address Agricultural Theft**

For about a year, the Hawai'i County Prosecuting Attorney's office has had an investigator working on agricultural crimes, and we have received positive comments from the agriculture community about his work. This Resolution highlights the vulnerabilities agriculture has to theft and vandalism, and our news media has documented farmers who have gone out of business because of their losses.

We are hoping that continued state funding for the program on Hawai'i Island will be provided in SB 759, but also believe that a statewide program is warranted, based on the results achieved on the Big Island. Therefore, we fully support HCR 107.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim  
MAYOR

**HCR-107**

Submitted on: 4/11/2019 1:54:15 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/12/2019 2:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III	Testifying for Hawaii County Council	Support	No

Comments:

**HCR-107**

Submitted on: 4/9/2019 8:44:16 AM

Testimony for EET on 4/12/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Allix Hessick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HCR-107**

Submitted on: 4/12/2019 9:25:17 AM

Testimony for EET on 4/12/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Democrats Legislative Priorities Committee	Support	No

Comments: