

Amendment offered by Ms. Tokuda of Hawai'i

Amendment description

The amendment would require the Secretary of Agriculture to develop and implement a policy for laboratories operated by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and other USDA labs to report infectious disease and public health data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the same basis as non-governmental labs. It also mandates a plan to fully staff the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF), including detailed reporting on current and required positions, staffing efforts, timelines, and associated public health and agricultural risks.

AMENDMENT

OFFERED BY MS. TOKUDA OF HAWAII

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following (and make such conforming changes as may be necessary):

1 **SEC. ____ . REPORTING OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DATA**
2 **FROM APHIS LABS; STAFFING OF NATIONAL**
3 **BIO AND AGRO-DEFENSE FACILITY.**

4 (a) REPORTING OF APHIS DATA.—

5 (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF POLICY.—Not later
6 than 180 days after the date of enactment of this
7 Act, the Secretary shall develop and implement a
8 policy to require laboratories operated by the Animal
9 and Plant Health Inspection Service, and any other
10 biological or medical laboratories operated by the
11 Department of Agriculture, to report infectious dis-
12 ease and other public health data to the Centers for
13 Disease Control and Prevention that is comparable
14 to the data types and timeframes that non-govern-
15 mental laboratories are required to report to the
16 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

17 (2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
18 30 days after the Secretary develops and implements

1 the policy under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall
2 submit to the appropriate congressional committees
3 a full description of such policy.

4 (b) STAFFING OF NATIONAL BIO AND AGRO-DE-
5 FENSE FACILITY.—

6 (1) PLAN.—The Secretary shall develop and
7 implement a plan to fully staff the National Bio and
8 Agro-Defense Facility established under section 3 of
9 the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility Act of
10 2020 (7 U.S.C. 9202).

11 (2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
12 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the
13 Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congress-
14 sional committees a report containing a full descrip-
15 tion of the plan under paragraph (1) and an update
16 on the implementation of such plan, including each
17 of the following:

18 (A) The estimated number of employees
19 required to execute the mission of the National
20 Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, as described in
21 section 3(b) of the National Bio and Agro-De-
22 fense Facility Act of 2020 (7 U.S.C. 9202(b)),
23 disaggregated by occupation of employee, in-
24 cluding veterinarians, doctorate-level research
25 scientists, research scientists with under-

1 graduate or graduate degrees less than a doc-
2 torate, lab technicians, other scientific staff, ad-
3 ministrative staff, and any other categories as
4 the Secretary determines appropriate.

5 (B) The number of positions currently au-
6 thorized and funded at the National Bio and
7 Agro-Defense Facility, disaggregated by the
8 categories described in subparagraph (A).

9 (C) The number of positions currently
10 filled at the National Bio and Agro-Defense Fa-
11 cility, disaggregated by the categories described
12 in subparagraph (A).

13 (D) A description of current and planned
14 efforts to fill all positions required to execute
15 the mission of the National Bio and Agro-De-
16 fense Facility.

17 (E) An estimate of the date on which all
18 positions required to execute the mission of the
19 National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility will be
20 filled.

21 (F) A description of the risks to public
22 health, animals, plants, and the agricultural in-
23 dustry due to any shortfall in staffing at the
24 National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility.

1 (G) A description of the current and
2 planned activities of the Department of Agri-
3 culture to coordinate with and assist other
4 agencies of the Federal Government to improve
5 the biodefense of the nation and better protect
6 the nation from biological threats.

7 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—

8 In this section, the term “appropriate congressional com-
9 mittees” means—

10 (1) the Committee on Agriculture of the House
11 of Representatives; and

12 (2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
13 and Forestry of the Senate.

