

June 22, 2023

Senator Angel Bolques  
35th Legislature of the virgin Islands  
Cruz Bay, St. John  
U. S. Virgin Islands

Dear Senator Bolques:

I Sandra Gerard-Leung take this opportunity to thank you for the availability to speak on the Territory Wide Survey of Food for the Virgin Islands Bill No 35-0078.

As a Virgin Islander raised in a household where both my Parents enjoyed cooking and sharing the foods of the Crucian and Puerto Rican homes I have an understanding of foods, desserts, delicacies and drinks.

I dabble in making jams, jellies, preserves, fruit drinks, wines and infused rums. When it comes to foods and what would be our National Dish I have some ideas especially those that I grew up eating and seeing being served on a regular basis and those served at special events.

I applaud your thinking in having forethought on the National Dish of the Virgin Islands but always remember we are a melting pot of people who descended from many places and we all share some commonalities in our foods.

A Territory Wide Survey would be the only way to gather information that can then be collated with information relative to Foods of our islands, but we must make certain that the survey encompasses the young, the middle aged and our Seniors so that there is an abundance of information shared. As long as we are certain that we can do this I am 100% in favor of this survey.

I thank you for this opportunity and I am here to assist in any way that I can to show the culture, love, depth of knowledge of food and originality that we as Virgin Islanders have in our foods.

Sincerely,

***Sandra Gerard-Leung***

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