



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Friday, February 4, 2011
9 a.m.
Conference Room 312

HB 1232 Making an Appropriation to the Department of Agriculture

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation **supports** the intent of this bill for the following reasons:

- We understand that the Oahu facility is in financial distress.
- For island food sustainability and food security reasons, the Oahu facility should remain open to supply meat to the population.
- Most of the population of the islands reside on Oahu and most of these people and our island visitors are not vegetarians; they do eat meat.
- Even if meat shipments from the mainland are available to the islands, this facility supports local livestock farmers/ranchers.
- Many in the community prefer fresh meat to that coming in from the mainland.
- Our understanding is that at the present time, the facility is used mainly for pork processing but that it may also be useful for beef processing in the future.

We hope that this bill will at least further discussion on the situation and its potential resolution.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to offer comments.

hashem1 - Angleica

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 6:45 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: HARRISMDW001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1232 on 2/4/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/4/2011 9:00:00 AM HB1232

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: William Harris, M.D.
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: HARRISMDW001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2011

Comments:

I oppose all further bailouts to a financially unsound and unhealthy endeavor, the Hawaii meat biz

LATE TESTIMONY

hashem1 - Angleica

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 8:33 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: nesnow@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for HB1232 on 2/4/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/4/2011 9:00:00 AM HB1232

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kevin Nesnow
Organization: Individual
Address: Poola St Honolulu, HI
Phone: 768-3424
E-mail: nesnow@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/3/2011

Comments:

I absolutely OPPOSE HB 1232!

Our tax dollars must not be spent to support such a heinous endeavor. Using State monies to build a slaughterhouse, that will only benefit a fraction of the people of Hawai'i, is an unimaginable atrocity. I can't believe this is even being suggested. If it's really a matter of economics, then let the free market decide. Couldn't a private company step in to provide this service? What are the barriers, or more importantly, who? Wouldn't private investment stimulate our local economy, instead of diverting already insufficient funds away from more responsible and equitable needs such as our failing education system? And taking large parcels of land away from agriculture for ranching, consuming unproportional amounts of vital water resources, and increasing inevitable pollution runoff does not promote our islands' sustainability. Do NOT spend our State finances to support this destructive and environmentally UN-sustainable industry. Thank you.

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HONOLULU, HI 96816
ANMALRIGHTSHAWAII.ORG

LATE TESTIMONY

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Friday, February 04, 2011
9:00am
Conference Room 312
State Capitol

HB 1232

Position: oppose

I am Cathy Goeggel, President of Animal Rights Hawai'i and I wish to express our opposition to these and any other attempts to provide financial defibrillation to the moribund livestock industry in Hawai'i.

Remember the taxpayers' monies that built Moloka'i slaughterhouse, the sweetheart lease deal given Hamakua slaughterhouse, the attempt by the legislature to spend \$65,000 of taxpayer monies for cowtainers, the \$10million bond to Palama Meat and the Hawai'i Livestock Cooperative (HLC) abattoir in Campbell Industrial Park (CIP), the state support of feed and shipping for pigs and chickens from just two years ago, and the scandal surrounding the land swap with Hawai'i Raceway Park some years earlier. Well, Palama Meat went bankrupt and the HLC is \$100,000 in arrears in paying back two loans totalling \$600,000 from the State Dept. of Agriculture. In fact, it was only immediately after our inquiry in November of last year, that HLC made any payments since 2008. I have not been able to ascertain if HLC has been paying lease rent to the State either. In addition, HLC defaulted on a \$1.5 million on a Central Pacific Bank loan guaranteed by USDA- that loan, as were other monies, were paid for by the taxpayers.

I remember well hearing that the HLC killing plant would provide 300 new jobs and provide "hot" pork for the local markets as well as provide killing for spent dairy cows. Those promised jobs have never arrived...O'ahu has only one tiny boutique dairy left whose market is limited; the numbers of pigs imported for slaughter has decreased significantly; Local meat remains more expensive and is found only at a few stores--and is totally missing from Costco, Safeway and other large purveyors of meat.

So now that the reasons for building the plant in the first place have disintegrated, the State now wants to enlarge and embellish the Kalaeloa property and then hope that they will have been right. If the cattlemen want to gamble, let it be with their own money, not ours.

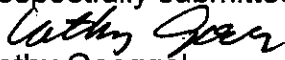
When I read the introduction to this bill, I thought it might be a bit of an inside joke- as I am sure you know, there is only one slaughterhouse in CIP--so why not name it? The majority of Hawai'i cattle are on the Big Island, where there already are slaughterhouses. There are killing plants on Maui and Kaua'i as well. If the State is determined to squander money on cattle, why not do it where the cows are, and build a rendering plant there. If the idea is to finish the cows on O'ahu, allow me to remind you of the rusting fences of the defunct feed lot on state land, abutting the HLC.

The gorgeous green pastures that are currently home to cows could be used for biofuel production or other agricultural enterprises, and can remain green, whilst actually helping Hawai'i to self sufficiency.

It is obvious that livestock agriculture in Hawai'i cannot contribute to our economy-- rather it is a drain on our already dwindling coffers. I do not want any more money spent to provide a rural lifestyle for a very few large landowners.

Please hold HB 1232

Respectfully submitted,


Cathy Goeggel