

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

JAMES J. NAKATANI
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2011
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1276
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK**

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 1276.

The Department of Agriculture supports the overall intent of the bill to appropriate moneys to the department of agriculture for the purposes of providing a grant to the Hawaii Livestock Cooperative. The grant provides funds for the stabilization of the Cooperative through improvement of its facilities, purchase of animal stock and development of new markets and products.

The slaughterhouse is an essential component of the State's livestock industry. It is the largest slaughterhouse on Oahu and one of the most modern in the State. In order for Hawaii to increase food self-sufficiency it will need a centrally located USDA inspected slaughterhouse to ensure a safe food supply for its citizens, provide hog producers and ranchers access to retail markets and to ensure that local hogs and cattle are humanely processed.

A grant to the Cooperative to stabilize its operation would allow the Cooperative to become more efficient, increase throughput and develop new markets or products to diversify its operation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Friday February 4, 2011 9:00 a.m. Room 312

HB 1276 RELATING TO LIVESTOCK.

Provides a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, HRS, to the Hawaii Livestock Cooperative to enable the cooperative's slaughter facility to stabilize their operations.

Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

My name is Alan Gottlieb, and I am a rancher and the Government Affairs Chair for the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 130+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports** HB 1276.

As we understand it, the Oahu slaughterhouse operated by The Hawaii Livestock Coop in The Campbell Industrial Park has been in financial difficulty for several years. Their mortgage with Central Pacific Bank (CPB) for about \$1.4 million was close to being foreclosed upon, but was guaranteed by the USDA, and last year USDA paid off CPB, and now the US Treasury wants to recoup its \$1.4 Million. The slaughterhouse primarily slaughters hogs, as there are very limited cattle on Oahu for slaughter. Even if ALL of the Oahu cattle were kept in State, there would still be a fairly small amount of cattle for this facility. Nevertheless, we see the value in protecting this important resource.

We believe every Island should have a slaughterhouse to serve the needs of its livestock farmers and also for the food security of Hawaii's residents. We do feel that before State monies are expended, that the operators provide proof of a sustainable business plan, to protect the taxpayer's money, and that if they have a sustainable business plan, this would be a great investment for the State in supporting Hawaii agriculture.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in favor of this very important issue.

hashem2 - Dorothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 4:45 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: lblanchard11@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1276 on 2/4/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/4/2011 9:00:00 AM HB1276

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Laurelee Blanchard
Organization: Leilani Farm Sanctuary
Address: Haiku, HI
Phone:
E-mail: lblanchard11@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:
Leilani Farm Sanctuary

260 E. Kuiaha Road
Haiku, HI 96708

February 2, 2011

Testimony on HB 1276

Position: oppose

Leilani Farm Sanctuary opposes the granting of funds by the State of Hawaii to Hawaii Livestock Cooperative to stabilize its operation. This company is already approximately \$100,000 in arrears. Hawaii Livestock has defaulted on its loan, and must not be further bailed out by the taxpayers.

This bill is in complete contradiction to the legislature's goal of reducing the deficit. Please vote "NO" on HB 1276.

Sincerely,

Laurelee Blanchard, President

Leilani Farm Sanctuary

OPPOSE!

HB1276
(HAWAII LIVESTOCK CO-OP FUNDING FOR SLAUGHTERHOUSE)
Friday, February 4, 2011, 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Rm. 312

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE (AGR)
Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Dear Representatives:

Please, no more using our tax dollars for bad business bailouts! If they can't survive unless heavily subsidized by our money, they should not be supported.

There are many things wrong with Hawaii Livestock Cooperative's request for more funding to flush down their already sinking business model:

- **They have neither proven nor given any example of how they can make their meat processing operation "sustainable" except to increase the number of slaughter, cruelty, and pollution to the islands.**
- **Simply jumping on the bandwagon of local-ism is NOT good enough.** In a rush to "go local", must we also bring **environmental pollution & cruelty to the local level** as well? More **waste treatments, streams/waterways pollution, dead zones, coral reef suffocation, and fish depopulation** are just some of the inevitable outcomes from slaughterhouses (and other types of pollution associated with animal agriculture.)

Billions of animals are already slaughtered and consumed yearly in the US. **Our extreme consumption** of their flesh had given us nothing but **ecological destructions, pollutions, famines, and increased rates of cancers, heart diseases, obesity rates** along with many other types of illness. Yet Hawaii Livestock Cooperative only want to give us more of the same by using our money? I think not!

Please **oppose this bill** and spend our tax dollars where it will truly matters in the future: Green farmers & gardeners, not the Hawaii Livestock Cooperative.

Mahalo~

Anjie Pham
Honolulu, Hawaii

hashem2 - Dorothy

From: Joel Fischer [jfischer@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 11:03 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: HB1276; AGR; friday, 2/4/11; Rm 312; 9AM

Importance: High

HB1276, Relating to Livestock
AGR; Chair, Rep Tsuji

PLEASE KILL THIS BILL TOO, MAKE-DIE-DEAD!

In a session that will be devoted to finding ways to cut our deficit, this may be one of the strangest bills to be heard. How could the State possibly appropriate monies to give to a company that is behind some \$100,000 in the money they owe the state? Plus, why in the world would the state even want to spend its own money when the processing of meat products is in the province of private companies. This part of the bill just does not pass the common sense, "sniff" test.

Furthermore, almost all of our beef comes from the Big Island; what possible reason is there to build a slaughterhouse on O`ahu? none!

NEW LANGUAGE: Doesn't the term "slaughterhouse" sound like an awful business for the state to be paying for? That is because the slaughter of animals is simply a grisly, morally questionable endeavor. Instead of this bill, I recommend it be gutted and new language inserted that will govern slaughterhouses and all animal management practices to make them more humane. I have some guidelines that are used by Whole Foods to rate animal facilities as to their animal welfare practices. I would be happy to meet with any Senator interested in improving animal welfare practices in Hawai`i and/or to send them these guidelines.

Thank you.

Aloha, joel

Dr. Joel Fischer, ACSW
Professor (Ret.)
University of Hawai'i, School of Social Work
Henke Hall
Honolulu, HI 96822

"It is reasonable that everyone who asks justice should DO justice."
Thomas Jefferson

"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because one's conscience tells one that it is right."
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Never, never, never quit."
Winston Churchill