

SB 249

SD 1



Hawaii Farm Bureau

F E D E R A T I O N

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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Ige, Chair
Senator Kidani, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 1, 2011
9:20 a.m.
Conference Room 211

SB 249 SD1 Making an Appropriation to the Department of Agriculture

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, representing farmers and ranchers throughout the islands, **supports** this bill because it will help assure that the Hawaii Livestock Cooperative facility is available to address the food needs of the islands.

- For food sustainability and food security reasons, the Oahu facility should remain open to supply locally raised meat to people in Hawaii.
- Even if mainland meat shipments are available to the islands, this facility supports local livestock farmers/ranchers.
- The Campbell facility is in close proximity to the market since most people live on Oahu.
- Most residents and island visitors are not vegetarians; they eat meat.
- 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 in the future it could be used for beef processing.

Thank you very much for your continued support of local farmers and ranchers.