

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 6:39 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for SB249 on 3/16/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/16/2011 9:00:00 AM SB249

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Cathy Goeggel
Organization: Animal Rights Hawai'i
Address:
Phone:
E-mail:
Submitted on: 3/15/2011

Comments:
ANIMAL RIGHTS HAWAI'I
Advocates for animals since 1975
PO BOX 10845 HONOLULU, HI 96816
animalrightshawaii.org

Testimony on SB1337 SD2
SSCR720 and
SB249, SD2
Position: oppose

March 16, 2011

House Committee on Agriculture:
Chair: Clift Tsuji
Vice Chair: Mark J. Hashem :

I am Cathy Goeggel, President of Animal Rights Hawai'i.

Furlough Fridays, community school closures, taxes on senior citizens' benefits- This is how some of our politicians are dealing with the downturn of our economy. We are told that we should tighten our belts...unless, of course, you are the moribund livestock industry which has just asked for another bail out of several million dollars...

Sound familiar?

In 1995, the Legislature approved an \$11million bond Palama Meat Company and the Livestock Cooperative to build a new slaughterhouse and a processing facility in Campbell Industrial Park on State land. Palama Meat was to guarantee the bond.

In 2004, Palama Meat filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy

Then, the Members of the Livestock Cooperative borrowed \$600,000 from the state- \$119,000 of which is still outstanding. Only one payment has been made in the past three years.

But wait, there's more: HLC borrowed \$1.6 million from Central Pacific Bank, guaranteed by the USDA Rural Development Agency--upon which they defaulted and the taxpayers (you and me) had to make good that loan.

Two years ago, the Legislature approved \$600,000 to pay for chicken and pig feed as well as shipping costs.

Now, the livestock industry has asked even more--for a two year \$2 million grant to pay for feed, plus an unspecified amount to renovate the current facility, which the State now owns.

There are several questions that have not been answered: what is the lease rent and has the Coop been paying it? how much money is the Coop getting from subleasing the land to a trucking company and is any of it going to repay loans? Who paid for the "Living Machine" installation? Does the equipment in the slaughterhouse really belong to the Coop? Did they actually use their own money to pay for anything?

We have all heard the litany from the Livestock Cooperative, the DoA and the Agriculture Committees that the industry needs a slaughterhouse in order for the industry to survive- but with all the financial support it has received, it is failing, and prudence suggests stop throwing good money after bad.

On the mainland there are a growing number of mobile slaughter facilities that would, if implemented on O'ahu, provide rural farmers with a service not currently available. Why should the taxpayers of our State provide a service that lines the pockets of a few companies. It is Wong's Meat Market and Hawai'i Food Products that are using the HLC slaughterhouse the most--for the several thousand pigs they import live from the mainland just to be slaughtered here, and whose corpses are then sold as "island processed."

Chair Tsuji called for a full and open accounting of the financial condition of the HLC slaughterhouse. Our request to his office on March 14 resulted in our being referred to to Legislature website- sadly, the info is not available to the taxpayers, only to the decision makers whose minds seem already made up- after all, it's only money, and we have SO MUCH that we are closing schools...and by the way, we learned that HLC owes the almost \$600,000 to the state (us) - even more than we thought...

Cathy Goeggel
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LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 7:23 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for SB249 on 3/16/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/16/2011 9:00:00 AM SB249

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Angela "Kikuchi" Kneale
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail:
Submitted on: 3/16/2011

Comments:

I am against the Appropriation of funds & grant monies to a slaughter house. The meat industry is environmentally, ethically, and financially costly and has few life enriching benefits to the public.
Finding other areas for agricultural grants in Hawaii especially during times of drought and crisis is more necessary.
I am against the Slaughterhouse because it takes funding away from other agricultural resources, environmental support, and will adversely affect an already fragile Hawaii agricultural system.