

SB 249

Fax Cover Sheet

To: Committee on Agriculture

From: Leonard

2 pages includes cover

Please deliver to Chairman Senator Nishihara

Hearing on 1/27/11 at 2:45 PM

Room 229

Hawaii Livestock Cooperative
91-319 Olai Street
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707
Ph. (808) 682-2595 Fax (808) 682-2598

January 26, 2011

To: Senator Clarence Nishihara / Ag. Chairman

From: Leonard T. Oshiro / Hawaii Livestock Coop / General Manager

Subject: Support S.B.NO.249

Dear Senator,

Hawaii Livestock Coop which is located in Campbell Industrial Park will support Senate Bill 249.

HLC has been part of the economic down turn (low slaughter numbers). Should HLC be able to drop slaughter fees, there is a possibility of increasing hog numbers. The Coop has been working with Wong' Meat Market, to partner up in processing beef (for the local market) at the plant. This will increase the should improve beef kill numbers. HLC is the newest plant in the State and should anything happen to any USDA plant we can fill the void.

Issues that will come about should the plant close:

1. There will be no USDA certified slaughter plant on Oahu. This is a major concern with food safety on the forefront of all parties.
2. Illegal slaughter of hogs, cattle, sheep will be done "under the Kiawe tree".
3. The market for fresh pork (hot pork) will come to a close about 900 head per month, affecting Chinatown market and local super markets, making Oahu more dependent for food supply from the mainland.
4. Jobs lost at plant 14, other related another 25 or possibility of more. Revenue loss in the millions.

Investments:

1. The investment of close to 3 million dollars to build the slaughter plant with private money and Federal grants will be lost, to build a replacement today about 8 million.
2. Including a state of art waste water treatment plant.
3. Ranchers and farmers operations will have no where to turn (slaughter their animals) and will be force to close their operations on Oahu.

Bottom line :

Hawaii Livestock Cooperative would like to give the plant to the State. The land is leased from the DOA. The plant was built for 3 million plus and to replace it would cost 8 million.

The critical issue facing all of us, is keeping HLC facility open for those involved in the animal industry and food safety for consumers. HLC is willing to discuss all issues with you and the DOA. Feel free to contact me.

Thank You ,



Leonard T. Oshiro General Manager /Hawaii Livestock Cooperative



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

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Phone (808) 885-5599 • Fax (808) 887-1607
e-mail: HCattlemens@hawaii.rr.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Thursday January 27, 2011 2:45 pm Room 229

SB 249 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Appropriates funds to the department of agriculture to: acquire a slaughterhouse within the Campbell Industrial Park on the island of Oahu; to fund necessary construction, renovation, and improvement projects; and to purchase equipment for the slaughterhouse

Chair Nishihara 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 the intent of SB 249 with some explanation of our situation as it pertains to this slaughterhouse.

As we understand it, the Oahu slaughterhouse 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.

The cattle industry is currently undergoing State wide planning to determine whether we can keep more cattle in State and create a State wide brand, rather than shipping our young calves to the Mainland. Current practices of shipping calves to the Mainland has been done for economic reasons, not for lack of infrastructure, but some of the cattle currently being shipped could stay in Hawaii if we can develop a premium grass finished market for our beef. County Cattlemen Associations have all indicated they prefer to have slaughter and processing infrastructure on their own Island and not have to ship their live cattle off Island for slaughter and processing. Ultimately, if we can create a State-wide network for a branded, high specification Island grass finished beef, facilities such as the Oahu slaughterhouse will play an integral role in the network. Perhaps at that time, slaughter may be a small part of what that facility does for the cattle industry, but perhaps that facility may, for example, do all of the State's value added processing. These are some of the elements that will be discussed in the coming months as we go County to County working on our Cattle Industry Master Plan, funded by a USDA Rural Development Grant, through 4AgHawaii.

Of course, if the State goes further with its plan to buy this slaughterhouse, some questions might be: Who will run it; or will the State lease it out to the highest bidder; or will they leave current management to continue to run the plant.

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

**WONG'S MEAT MARKET, LTD.
1200 Sand Island Parkway
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819**

Phone: (808) 845-5900

Fax: (808) 845-9600

January 26, 2011

Via E-mail

TESTIMONY FOR SB 249

Thursday – January 27, 2011

2:45 p.m.

SB 249 is extremely vital to the cattle and other livestock industry. If Hawaii is to move forward in gaining independence from huge protein imports from the mainland, then the purchase of a slaughter facility on Oahu will be a vital step towards that goal.

Reducing protein imports will help Hawaii's economy by generating employment, ensuring food safety through USDA meat inspection, promote fresh local products and increasing Hawaii's food self sufficiency.

Calvin Y.K. Wong, President
Wong's Meat Market, Ltd.

nishihara1 - Dale

From: Elaine Johnson [ElaineJohnson@nerdshack.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 6:05 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Subject: re sb249

Re: SB2429

Chairs Nisihara and Kahale, Committee Members:

Dear Senators:

At a time when revenues are at an all time low, and taxpayers are being stretched beyond their means, appropriating money to acquire a slaughterhouse at Campbell Industrial park is not reasonable. This is a handout to the livestock industry, and there are others who need the money more. It has been reported that the current livestock cooperative in Campbell park is in arrears in paying back monies owed to the state (i.e. the tax payers), and enough is enough. Please do not fund this.

Elaine Johnson
Honolulu, HI

nishihara1 - Dale

From: Pamela Davis [liberate@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2011 3:44 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Subject: Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB249 (Slaughterhouse)

SB 249

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Appropriates funds to the department of agriculture to: acquire a slaughterhouse within the Campbell Industrial Park on the island of Oahu; to fund necessary construction, renovation, and improvement projects; and to purchase equipment for the slaughterhouse.

TESTIMONY AGAINST SB249

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2011
2:45 P.M.**

Dear Chair Nishihara and Committee Members:

Animal Advocate Inc. hereby submits testimony **IN OPPOSITION TO SB249**, which seeks to appropriate one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for the purchase of the slaughterhouse in the Campbell Industrial Park, to fund construction, renovation, and improvement projects, and, to purchase equipment for the slaughterhouse.

This bill states that the "legislature has long recognized the benefits of maintaining the viability of the State's beef industry for local consumption in an effort to increase Hawaii's food self-sufficiency and overall sustainability."

We agree that Hawaii, and in particular Oahu, should take serious steps to ensure the sustainability of agriculture so that we are not completely dependent on imported food.

However, despite the text of this bill, which is clearly erroneous, "beef" (slaughtering of cows) is **NOT A SUSTANABLE INDUSTRY**.

The true cost to produce beef is **about seventy dollars (\$70.00) per lb.** Water resources are wasted, and the slaughterhouse expels its waste into a "lagoon" which is

situated only yards from the ocean. This is a pollution disaster just waiting to happen. The medical waste in our ocean wasn't enough? Now you want to roll the dice again, this time with a lagoon which has a liner that will break and discharge its contents into the groundwater and into the ocean? Animal Advocate Inc. has visited the site and we know that this bill is folly.

If the legislature is really concerned about sustainable industries for the production of food on Oahu, then why does the State keep up-zoning AG lands, many of which are currently in crop production, in order that that more subdivisions can be built?

This is obviously a plan to shore-up the failing livestock industry. We understand that the Hawaii Livestock Cooperative is one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) behind in paying back the State loans, and we taxpayers are tired of bailing out companies which are failing due to their own fault. So, since they are in arrears, the legislature's idea is to saddle the taxpayers with this slaughterhouse? **We say NO.**

If the legislature really wanted to do something positive for the **TAXPAYERS** and for the **ENVIRONMENT**, they would introduce bills to promote the production and consumption of fruits, vegetables, legumes and grains grown here in Hawaii. These are sustainable industries; crop production does not waste our precious water resources, and, fruits, vegetables, legumes, and grains are healthy, and their consumption promotes the well-being of our citizens.

This bill is not worth the paper it is printed on. The taxpayers have had enough. This bill must be defeated.

Sincerely,

Pamela Davis
President, Animal Advocate Inc.
Honolulu, Hawaii

nishihara1 - Dale

From: Joel Fischer [jfischer@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 4:12 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Subject: SB249, Thursday, 1/27, 2:45PM, Rm 229

Importance: High

SB227, Making An Appropriation...to Slaughter
Senate Agriculture; Chair, Sen Nishihara

PLEASE KILL THIS BILL, 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

It is better to be "over the hill" than under it.

Anonymous

nishihara1 - Dale

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 3:34 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: veganman@pixi.com
Subject: Testimony for SB249 on 1/27/2011 2:45:00 PM
Attachments: Dr. Greger comments.pages

Testimony for AGL 1/27/2011 2:45:00 PM SB249

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: PATRICK J. MOORE
Organization: Individual
Address: Kaohinani Drive Honolulu
Phone: 595-4748
E-mail: veganman@pixi.com
Submitted on: 1/25/2011

Comments:

The State of Hawaii cannot afford to subsidize unhealthy products like slaughtered animals. The Legislature needs to help farmers who grow plant foods. Everything associated with raising animals is a waste of resources! Where does the feed come from? Look at the Marshall Island people. They eat the Western diet now and half of them need dialysis. Diabetes is rapidly becoming epidemic because of animal products. You think you are a carnivore? True carnivores like cats eat meat raw! Ask Hawaii's own Terry Shintani, M.D. what he thinks about a new slaughterhouse at taxpayers expense. Ask John Kristofich, M.D., heart doctor at Straub Hospital. Both of these physicians encourage all the people of Hawaii to eat a diet of only plant foods. I strongly urge you to think long and hard, do some research and vote NO to this slaughterhouse. Mahalo, Patrick Moore, Nuuanu

nishihara1 - Dale

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 11:56 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: HARRISMDW001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB249 on 1/27/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGL 1/27/2011 2:45:00 PM SB249

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: William Harris
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: HARRISMDW001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 1/25/2011

Comments:

"The legislature has long recognized the benefits of maintaining the viability of the State's beef industry for local consumption"

And what might those benefits be? Increasing the risk to Hawaii citizens for cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, obesity, half a dozen forms of cancer, a host of autoimmune diseases, and the catalogue of catastrophes associated with animal agriculture?

>"in an effort to increase Hawaii's food self-sufficiency and overall sustainability."

Fine. Why don't we give the plant farmers, who grow healthy food, a break by simply putting animal ag on the free market where it belongs.

"The legislature also finds that adequate resources are necessary to promote ranching and an increase in cattle production. "

Why? They can't make it on a free market basis, never have, never will, they come begging for legislative bailouts every year without fail, and on top of it are increasing disease rates with their cholesterol and saturated fat laden offerings.

Let 'em sink or swim for God's sake.

William Harris, M.D.
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