

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. 1232
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 1232. The Department of Agriculture supports the overall intent of the bill.

The purpose of this bill is to appropriate moneys to the department of agriculture to purchase the slaughterhouse in Campbell Industrial Park and to make necessary capital improvements to the facility. 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.

Since the Department already owns the facility and leases it to the Hawaii Livestock Cooperative who operates the slaughterhouse and owns the equipment, we would respectfully offer the following comment. It may be more appropriate to provide a grant to the Cooperative to reduce debt, make the necessary capital improvements and purchase equipment that they deem appropriate as proposed in HB 1276. This would allow the Cooperative to reduce slaughter fees to reasonable levels providing better returns to local ranchers and hog producers and make the operation more efficient.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

February 3, 2011

To: Representative Clift Tsuji / 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 House Bill 1232.

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
Cell: (808) 228-2265



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

P O Box 437199 Kamuela HI 96743
Phone (808) 885-5599 • Fax (808) 887-1607
e-mail: HCattlemens@hawaii.rr.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Friday February 4, 2011 9:00 am Room 312

HB 1232 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 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 the intent of HB 1232 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.

hashem2 - Dorothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 4:35 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: lblanchard11@gmail.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: Laurelee Blanchard
Organization: Leilani Farm Sanctuary
Address: Haiku, HI
Phone: 808-298-8544
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 1232

Position: oppose

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele:

We oppose the appropriation of \$1 million by the State of Hawaii for purchasing the slaughter facility for which Hawaii Livestock Cooperate 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 SB 249.

Sincerely,

Laurelee Blanchard, President

hashem2 - Dorothy

From: Joel Fischer [jfischer@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 10:59 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: HB1232; AGR; Friday, 2/4/11; Rm 312; 9AM

Importance: High

HB1232, Making an Appropriation
AGR; Chair, Rep Tsuji

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

OPPOSE!

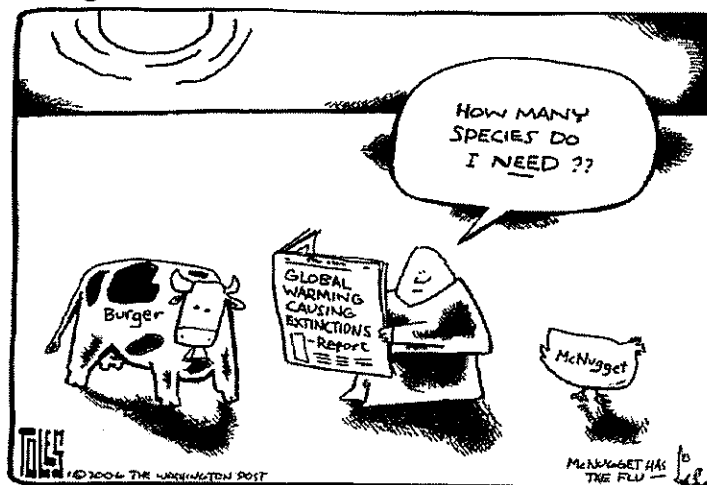
HB1232
(SLAUGHTERHOUSE APPROPRIATION \$1M FUNDING)
Friday, February 4, 2011, 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Rm. 312

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

Dear Representatives:

Please do NOT allow any of our tax dollars - much less \$1 Million - to go the Dept. of Agriculture for the proposed appropriation of a slaughterhouse in Campbell Industrial Park. My main reasons for opposing this bill are:

1. It is **unnecessary** as there are already slaughterhouses on the other islands.
2. In a rush to “go local”, must we also bring **environmental pollution & cruelty to the local level** as well? **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.)
3. It is **geared towards helping already rich land barons and cattle ranchers** who want to use our State’s limited budget to subsidize their private land use. In an article on www.all-creatures.org, *livestock grazing is the number one cause of threatened and extinct species both in the United States and in other parts of the world.... The impact of countless hooves and mouths over the years has done more to alter the type of vegetation and land forms of the West than all the water projects, strip mines, power plants, freeways, and subdivision developments combined.* If anything, these people should *reimburse* the State for their part in causing species destruction & environmental degradation.



If these slaughterhouses/ranchers have their way, Hawai'i might well end up like this cartoon. **Our islands & their environs are unique.** How sad it would be if they disappear **all in the name of slaughterhouses and some locally-killed meat?**

Please toss this bill! Mahalo~

Anjie Pham
Honolulu, Hawaii

hashem2 - Dorothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 10:48 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: ashkhosla@gmail.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: Asha Khosla
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ashkhosla@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

hashem2 - Dorothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 11:46 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: 1/31/2011

Comments:

HB1232 is another bailout for the chronic mendicants in the Hawaii cattle biz who have demonstrated for the last 40 years their inability to hold their own on the open market.

In that same time frame virtually every health agency in the country has come to the recognition that fruits and vegetables (which get along just fine without relentless subsidies)not meat, are the most important nutritional components for human health and a decrease in health care costs.

Please do not pass this bill.

hashem2 - Dorothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 8:55 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: orrk001@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: Katherine Orr
Organization: Individual
Address: 44-119 Bayview Haven Pl Kaneohe
Phone: 808-234-5508
E-mail: orkk001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

I oppose this bill because my extensive personal investigations lead me to conclude, beyond any doubt, that animal products are not needed for human health and do not promote health, as we have been led to believe. I have learned that our current meat-based diet is a major contributor to human disease, suffering and death. Furthermore, it is 1) overburdening our health care infrastructure, 2) causing needless suffering to animals, 3) damaging to our environment on many fronts.

Our funds would be better spent educating the public about what the science (and actual experience) clearly shows, and putting funds into more constructive channels than supporting a new slaughterhouse.

hashem2 - Dorothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 8:25 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: ebarker@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: Eric Barker
Organization: Individual
Address: Honolulu, HI 96836
Phone:
E-mail: ebarker@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

There is no "sustainable" animal agriculture to be done on a populated island that is approximately 2500 miles from the western coast of the U.S. Hawaii, a place rich in tidal, wind, solar and geothermal energy cannot provide even 25% of the energy requirements for it's population. This would likely be the first "sustainable slaughterhouse" to manifest in the West and probably unique to the Earth. What about all the water and food requirements? What about the waste and runoff from it?

The National Cancer Institute explains clearly that at least 2 compounds are formed when the flesh of animals is subjected to high heat (above 300 degree fahrenheit)
<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/Risk/cooked-meats> Since dangerous pathogens are generally more prevalent in animal flesh, especially those that are factory farmed and slaughterhouse processed, it is not wise to eat raw flesh, effectively necessitating the carcinogenic path.

Additionally, due to factory farming conditions, animals are typically dosed with antibiotics, contributing to the development of antibiotic resistant pathogenic microbes.

As people are unhealthy and dying of cancer enormous financial and medical resources are used in an attempt to band aid the effects of decades of consumption of cooked / factory farmed animal flesh.

Additionally, the energy requirements to freeze flesh is higher than that required for refrigeration and must be maintained from the time of death to time of consumption. Then additional energy must be converted to cook the flesh before consumption.

How about growing avocados, coconuts, bananas, macadamia nuts, cashews, coconuts, peppers, tomatoes, watermelons, papayas, etc. in parks, in medians, sides of the roads, around freeway entrances / exits, etc? Or, how about we just make it legal for volunteers and homeless to do so, with the help of community service organizations and schools to plant, maintain and harvest the foods while teaching people how to live off the land in a sustainable way? It would be cheaper, require much less energy, and no spilling of blood / guts is necessary!

hashem2 - Dorothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 8:32 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mauramccormick@att.net
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: Maura McCormick
Organization: Individual
Address: 801 S King St. #2303 Honolulu, HI
Phone: (808)587-7739
E-mail: mauramccormick@att.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

The department of Agriculture should not be in the slaughterhouse business. There are many more important matters for them to work on.

hashem2 - Dorothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 8:20 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: ruthheidrich@juno.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: Dr. Ruth Heidrich
Organization: Individual
Address: 1415 Victoria St. #1106 HI
Phone: 808 536-4006
E-mail: ruthheidrich@juno.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

hashem2 - Dorothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 9:18 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: cchow78@hotmail.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: CHRISTINE KAUAHIKAUA
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: cchow78@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

i am vegan and do not support the use of public tax dollars for a facility like this. consumption of meat is cruel, unhealthy, and poses environmental issues. it should be something the government should be trying to reduce in our society!!!

hashem2 - Dorothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 10:45 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: taelam@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: Thomas Elam
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: taelam@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

HB1232 is fiscally irresponsible given the state of the economy and the large budget deficits facing the state of Hawaii. If such appropriations must be made they would be better spent on improving the education of our children instead of on perpetuating cruelty to animals. I strongly object to my hard-earned tax dollars going to fund such clearly frivolous special interests. The last thing this state needs is a slaughterhouse.

hashem2 - Dorothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 10:39 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: dianeblastic@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1232 on 2/4/2011 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Diane Blastic
Organization: Individual
Address: Honolulu
Phone: 8087723082
E-mail: dianeblastic@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments: