

LATE

**SB 249**

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2011  
2:45 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

HOUSE BILL NO. SB249  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

LATE

Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill No. 249. The Department of Agriculture supports the overall intent of the bill provided that its passage does not impact the priorities set forth in the executive biennium budget.

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 slaughterhouses 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. This would allow the Cooperative to reduce slaughter fees to reasonable levels providing better returns to local ranchers and hog producers and make operation more efficient.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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LATE

ALLUVION, INC.  
P.O. BOX 820  
HALEIWA, HI 96712

637-8835 FAX: 637-8836

Testimony for Senate Bill 249  
Appropriations: Dept. of Ag; Campbell Industrial Slaughterhouse

January 27, 2011 2:45 p.m. Conference Room 229

Dear Senator Nishihare, Senator Kahele, and members of the Committee:

My name is Susan Matsushima, owner of Alluvion, Inc., a diversified agricultural operation on the North Shore of Oahu. I would like to testify in support of Senate Bill 249.

Working with members of the cattle industry in the development of a State-wide plan for the Cattle Industry, we are finding that the Campbell slaughter facility plays a vital role in our Island State's need of slaughtering on each island.

The Campbell facility is the newest in the state and currently services mainly the hog industry. However the facility was built to service both hogs and cattle. Due to the loss of milk production on Oahu, the cattle stream that was planned on for slaughter of cull cows each month also stopped.

The demand of grass fed animals is increasing and Oahu ranchers are looking to increase production and a certified slaughter facility is needed to provide safe beef for our consumers. Zippy's currently uses all local grass-fed animals for all of their hamburgers. Although the beef is currently coming from the Big Island, if demand increases and Oahu ranchers have product available, the need for Oahu slaughter can be met by this facility.



Please support Senate Bill 249 so that legal and safe slaughter can occur on Oahu.

Our consumers are mainly on Oahu and with increased beef production within our state, keeping the newest and best slaughter facility open will insure that sustainable production can also increase the food security that we have been striving for.

Sincerely,

Susan Matsushima, CEO.

nishihara1 - Dale

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 27, 2011 12:12 AM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** ashman.janet@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB249 on 1/27/2011 2:45:00 PM  
**Attachments:** SB 249 slaughterhouse Ag.doc

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

**LATE**

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Luella Costales  
Organization: HFBF  
Address: PUUNENE  
Phone: 8082265483  
E-mail: [ashman.janet@gmail.com](mailto:ashman.janet@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/27/2011

**Comments:**

Please accept this testimony from the HFBF for Thursday's 2:45 pm Senate Ag Committee hearing on SB 249.

Thank you.



## **Hawaii Farm Bureau**

F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street, Honolulu, HI 96819  
PH: (808)848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
E-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org)  
[www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

### COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

Thursday, January 27, 2011

2:45 p.m.

Conference Room 229

### **SB 249 Making an Appropriation to the Department of Agriculture**

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation supports the intent of this bill for the following reasons:

- We understand that the Oahu facility is in financial distress.
- For island food sustainability and food security reasons, the Oahu facility should remain open to supply meat to the population.
- Most of the population of the islands reside on Oahu and most of these people and our island visitors are not vegetarians; they do eat meat.
- Even if meat shipments from the mainland are available to the islands, this facility supports local livestock farmers/ranchers.
- 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 it may also be useful for beef processing in the future.

We hope that this bill will at least further discussion on the situation and its potential resolution.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to offer comments.

**nishihara1 - Dale**

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**From:** nomi image [nomie\_34@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 27, 2011 1:47 AM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Subject:** re: SB249 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

**TO: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair; Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair**

**Date: Thursday, January 27, 2011**  
**Time: 2:45pm**  
**Place: Conference Room 229**  
**State Capitol**  
**415 South Beretania Street**

**LATE**

Dear Senators:

I am writing in **OPPOSITION** of **SB 249** which, if passed, will appropriate 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

Unfortunately, I am unable to be here in person due to work.

As a constituent among many living paycheck to paycheck, I do not appreciate my hard working tax dollars going towards bailing out an already failing industry. The current slaughterhouse here is already \$100k behind in paying back state loans. And I don't even eat meat, for god's sake! These people in support of this bill talk about 'consumer food safety'. Absolutely nothing is safe about meat eating, period. The runoff from livestock feces will contaminate our water and other crops. The public needs to wake up and understand that meat eating will eventually lead to very bad health, heart disease, stroke, arteriosclerosis, colon cancer, and diabetes among many others. Why not give this money instead to local vegetable/fruit farmers?

I urge you to please oppose SB249.

Respectfully,

N. Egami  
Honolulu, HI  
8083498334

**nishihara1 - Dale**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 27, 2011 3:53 AM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** lts@lj.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB249 on 1/27/2011 2:45:00 PM  
**Attachments:** Opposition Testimony to SB 249.doc

**LATE**

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

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Lorraine Sakaguchi  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone: 955-1632  
E-mail: [lts@lj.net](mailto:lts@lj.net)  
Submitted on: 1/27/2011

Comments:



I am writing in opposition to SB 249, which seeks to appropriate \$1 million to purchase and renovate a slaughterhouse in Campbell Industrial Park.

The State of Hawaii should not be spending money, especially such a significant sum of money, to acquire a facility that is primarily for the use of private industry. The bill is silent on further expenditures by the State that might be needed to actually maintain and run the slaughterhouse. This is an especially egregious waste of taxpayer money in light of Governor Neil Abercrombie's State of the State Address on January 24, 2011, in which he stated that the State of Hawaii not only has "an \$844 million fiscal deficit through the next biennium", but "that there is also a severe operational deficit in government". He further stated, "The truth is that the canoe, which is our beloved Hawaii, could capsize." During such a crisis, it is appalling to think that the State, which is in such a perilous crisis, and may not be able to find enough funds for many of its own critical functions, should be asked to take on yet another burden, particularly one which properly belongs with the private sector.

The above reasons alone should be more than enough to have this bill rejected.

If any other reasons are required, please consider that the State of Hawaii should not be subsidizing either the slaughter of animals, or the businesses that depend on this slaughter. I object to my taxes being spent on contributing to systematic suffering caused to both animals and people. If private industry were to pass on the true cost of raising, transporting and slaughtering meat to its customers, then people would be more likely to reduce their consumption of unhealthy levels of cholesterol-laden meat, and turn to plant-based foods, instead. This, in turn, would help to reduce rates of heart disease, strokes, type 2 diabetes and cancer. The people of Hawaii would be healthier and less in need of expensive medical intervention if meat consumption could be cut, so how would it be in their best interest for the State to subsidize any part of the meat industry?

Please vote to reject SB 249.

Thank you,  
Lorraine Sakaguchi  
Honolulu, Hawaii

nishihara1 - Dale

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 27, 2011 10:44 AM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** potteringpuck@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB249 on 1/27/2011 2:45:00 PM  
**Attachments:** Bills(2011-01-27)--SB249 (Slaughterhouse Funding).doc

LATE

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

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Anjie Pham  
Organization: Individual  
Address: Nuuanu Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii  
Phone: 808-232-1765  
E-mail: [potteringpuck@yahoo.com](mailto:potteringpuck@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 1/27/2011

Comments:

# OPPOSE!

**SB249**  
**(SLAUGHTERHOUSE APPROPRIATION \$1M FUNDING)**  
Thursday, January 27, 2011, 2:45 p.m.  
State Capitol, Rm. 229

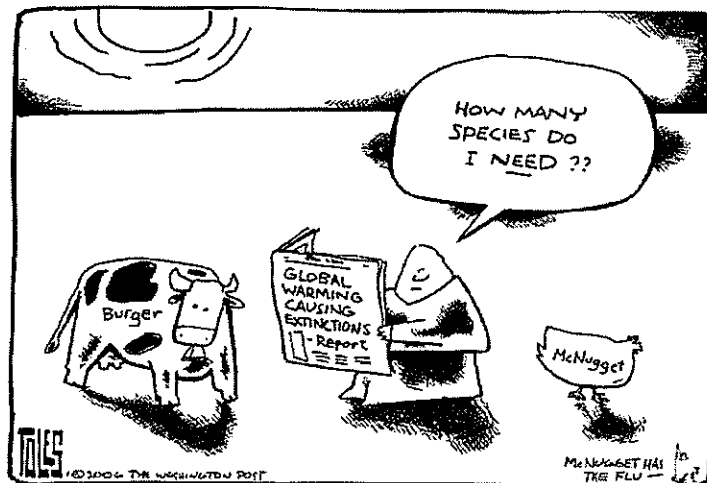
**AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE**  
Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Sen. Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

**LATE**

Dear Senators:

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 all inevitable outcomes of 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 already limited budget to subsidize their private land use. In an article on [www.all-creatures.org](http://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.



Our islands and its environment are unique. How sad it would be if they disappear all in the name of slaughterhouses and some locally-killed beef. Please kill this bill. Mahalo~

**Anjie Pham**  
Honolulu, HI 96817

**nishihara1 - Dale**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 27, 2011 11:33 AM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** denisesnyder@live.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB249 on 1/27/2011 2:45:00 PM

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

**LATE**

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Denise Snyder  
Organization: Individual  
Address: Honolulu, HI  
Phone:  
E-mail: [denisesnyder@live.com](mailto:denisesnyder@live.com)  
Submitted on: 1/27/2011

**Comments:**

I oppose this bill. Taxpayer/government funds should not be used to bail out this UNSUSTAINABLE private industry.

Switching to a plant-based, whole foods diet is better for people, animals, and the environment.

Let's embrace the 21st Century. Use any available funds to create new and expand existing organic plant food farms and gardens.

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

LATE

Senate Committee on Agriculture  
January 27, 2011  
Conference Room 229  
State Capitol at 2:45 pm

Testimony on SB 249  
Position: oppose

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele:

I am Cathy Goeggel, President of Animal Rights Hawai'i and I wish to express our opposition to SB 249 and any other attempts to provide financial defibrillation to the moribund livestock industry in Hawai'i.

Remember the taxpayers' monies that built Moloka'i slaughterhouse, the sweetheart lease deal given Hamakua slaughterhouse, the attempt by the legislature to spend \$65,000 of taxpayer monies for cowtainers, the \$million bond to Palama Meat and the Hawai'i Livestock Cooperative (HLC) abattoir in Campbell Industrial Park (CIP), the state support of feed and shipping for pigs and chickens from just two years ago, and the scandal surrounding the land swap with Hawai'i Raceway Park some years earlier.

Well, Palama Meat went bankrupt and the HLC is \$100,000 in arrears in paying back two loans totalling \$600,000 from the State Dept. of Agriculture. In fact, it was only immediately after our inquiry in November of last year, that HLC made any payments since 2008. I have not been able to ascertain if HLC has been paying lease rent to the State either.

I remember well hearing that the HLC killing plant would provide many new jobs and provide "hot" pork for the local markets as well as provide killing for spent dairy cows. O'ahu has only one tiny boutique dairy left whose market is limited; the numbers of pigs imported for slaughter has decreased significantly; Local meat remains more expensive and is found only at a few stores--and is totally missing from Costco, Safeway and other large purveyors of meat. So now that the reasons for building the plant in the first place have disintegrated, the State now wants to enlarge and embellish the Kalaeloa property and then hope

ANIMAL RIGHTS HAWAI'I- SB 249

P.2

that they will have been right. If the cattlemen want to gamble (if you build it, they will come ?), let it be with their own money, not ours.

When I read the introduction to this bill, I thought it might be a bit of an inside joke- as I am sure you know, there is only one slaughterhouse in CIP--so why not name it?

The majority of Hawai'i cattle are on the Big Island, where there already are slaughterhouses. There are killing plants on Maui and Kaua'i as well. If the State is determined to squander money on cattle, why not do it where the cows are, and build a rendering plant there. If the idea is to finish the cows on O'ahu, allow me to remind you of the rusting fences of the defunct feed lot on state land, abutting the HLC.

The gorgeous green pastures that are currently home to cows could be used for biofuel production or other agricultural enterprises, and can remain green, whilst actually helping Hawai'i to self sufficiency.

It is obvious that livestock agriculture in Hawai'i cannot contribute to our economy--rather it is a drain on our already dwindling coffers. I do not want any more money spent to provide a rural lifestyle for a very few large landowners.

Please do not vote for SB 249

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Goeggel