

SB2695

Late
Testimony



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

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LATE

JANUARY 31, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2695
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK FEED

Room 229
2:45 PM

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

I am Brian Miyamoto, Chief Operating Officer and Government Affairs Liaison for the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF strongly supports SB 2695 which creates a livestock feed feasibility pilot project to investigate the viability of a livestock feed program on Department of Agriculture land.

Hawaii's livestock industry faces numerous challenges. One of their biggest challenges is the rising cost of feed for livestock production. These costs have been a contributing factor to the decline of the state's livestock industry.

In 2007, there were 5 dairies and 6 egg farms in Hawaii. Since then, 2 of those dairies and 4 off those egg farms have gone out of business. The remaining egg farms and dairies are currently threatened with closure, due to rising production costs. This is primarily due to feed costs.

If we want to keep fresh, locally produced milk, eggs, beef, pork and chicken available to the residents of Hawaii, we need to help revitalize our dwindling livestock industry. A decrease or absence of livestock production increases the State's reliance on the importation of food and threatens the State's food security.

I can be reached at (808) 848-2074 if you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.