

SB 757

Testimony

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2013
2:50 P.M.
ROOM 229

SENATE BILL NO 757
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 757. The bill proposes to cap the livestock revitalization program to the lesser of \$200,000 or 15% of the feed costs incurred for production of poultry products, milk or pigs and beef cattle raised and slaughtered in Hawaii for local consumption, which would only be a short term mitigation measure. While the Department supports the intent of the measure to use general funds to implement this program.

It is true that the rising cost of feed has a significant impact on the production costs for our local protein producers. Currently only four egg farms and two major dairies remain. Additionally, our ranching community is also wrestling with the problems associated with drought and higher feed costs. They are being threatened by closure which would heighten the State's dependence on imported foods and threaten the State's food security and self-sufficiency. Hawaii's livestock industry must be supported to ensure protein production in the long term.

In line with these efforts, the department is currently finalizing the contract on a pilot feed mill project per Act 122 from the 2012 Legislative Sessions which would help



to assess the viability of growing livestock feed in Hawaii and look to reducing the cost of feed and increase the profitability of our local protein producers in the long term. Please consider providing incentives to those who will grow and develop traditional livestock feed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB757 on Feb 5, 2013 14:50PM*
Date: Friday, February 01, 2013 4:59:53 PM

SB757

Submitted on: 2/1/2013

Testimony for AGL on Feb 5, 2013 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Catlemen's Council	Support	Yes

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Tuesday February 5, 2013 2:50 pm Room 229

SB 757 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Caps the livestock revitalization program grant per qualified producer per year at the lesser of \$200,000 or fifteen per cent of the cost of feed for production of poultry products, milk, or pigs and beef cattle raised and slaughtered in Hawaii for local consumption. Appropriates funds for the livestock revitalization program. Requires the livestock revitalization program to be funded through the environmental response, energy, and food security special fund..

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committees:

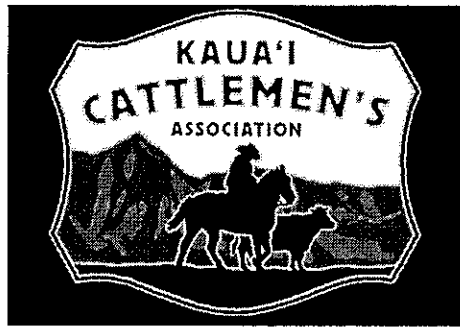
My name is Alex Franco; I'm a beef processor on Maui and President of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is a statewide organization comprised of five county level Cattlemen's Associations that occupy approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council strongly supports SB 757.

Feed cost has gotten out of control for Hawaii's Livestock industry. On going drought conditions over the last eight years in Hawaii has forced many producers to supplement feed animals with high feed cost associated with the devastating Mid West drought. This has acted as a double edge sword for Hawaii's livestock industry in controlling cost, which according to USDA it will continue into 2013. A feed grant will help Hawaii's livestock producers off set these increase prices as we work our way through what looks like the continuation of drought conditions through 2013.

HCC also supports extending this feed grant program to include goats, sheep and aquaculture/aquaponics farmers.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Tuesday February 5, 2013 2:50 pm Room 229

SB 757 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committees:

My name is Karin Carswell Guest, I am a rancher and the secretary/treasurer for the Kauai Cattlemen's Association. Kauai Cattlemen's Association (KCA) is part of The Hawaii Cattlemen's Association (HCC) which 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 Kauai Cattlemen's Association strongly supports SB 757.

The cost of livestock feed has been devastating for Hawaii's Livestock Producers. In addition to the 8 years on-going drought we have had in Hawaii, a devastating drought has decimated this year's grain harvests in at least four Midwestern states resulting in rapid increases in grain and livestock feed prices. Livestock producers dependent on such imported feeds are experiencing significant feed price increases and such increases are projected by the USDA Farm Service Agency to continue for the rest of 2013 until the next successful grain harvest. In the meantime, farmers and ranchers can expect to pay premium prices for imported grains and feeds. In order for Hawaii's livestock producers to meet these much higher-than-normal feed costs, a feed grant is needed.

Furthermore, we would support extending this grant program to goat, sheep and aquaculture/aquaponics producers.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Karin Carswell Guest

Kauai Cattlemen's Association

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To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: econnell1@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB757 on Feb 5, 2013 14:50PM
Date: Sunday, February 03, 2013 10:21:42 PM

SB757

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for AGL on Feb 5, 2013 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emmons Connell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: The folks that run live stock in this State have enough ag. breaks. This bill sounds like "free" money for special interests. Please vote no on this bill.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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