
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HERITAGE BREED ANIMALS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that heritage breed
2 animals historically were a vital resource for small-scale
3 farmers who often had to endure a changing climate and a growing
4 society. Although there is no agreed-upon definition of
5 heritage breed animals, heritage breed animals are generally
6 considered to be animals that are bred over time to be best
7 adapted to local conditions. Heritage breed animals are usually
8 bred for adaptation to specific regional environments, and this
9 allows heritage breed animals to adapt to changes in their
10 habitat over time. This adaptability also allows the animals to
11 be better suited for small-scale farmers rather than large
12 industrial producers.

13 According to the Livestock Conservancy, traditional,
14 heritage breeds retain essential attributes for survival and
15 self-sufficiency, such as hardiness, fertility, rapid growth
16 rates, foraging ability, longevity, maternal instincts, ability
17 to mate naturally, and resistance to diseases and parasites.
18 Because heritage breeds are not officially recognized by the



1 United States Department of Agriculture, it is unknown how many
2 heritage breed animals are in existence in the State. However,
3 it is known that many heritage breeds face extinction
4 nationwide. For example, according to the Field Guide to
5 Heritage Cattle, it is estimated that one hundred ninety
6 livestock breeds have become extinct in the past fifteen years
7 and one thousand five hundred more are at risk.

8 It is believed that there are currently heritage breed
9 sheep and goats in Hawaii that have adapted to the unique
10 climate and terrain. The legislature finds that efforts should
11 be made to conserve Hawaii's unique heritage breed livestock by
12 identifying and studying them, and if possible, acquiring
13 examples of heritage breed species to breed and raise in
14 captivity. The legislature further finds that heritage breed
15 animals are an important livestock option for small farmers and
16 sustainable agriculture, and as such, farmers and the community
17 will benefit from insight into their conservation.

18 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to direct the
19 University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human
20 resources to conduct a study and inventory of heritage breed
21 animals in Hawaii.



1 SECTION 2. (a) The University of Hawaii college of
2 tropical agriculture and human resources is directed to conduct
3 a study and inventory of heritage breed animals, specifically
4 those breeds that existed in Hawaii prior to 1778. At minimum,
5 the study shall include the following:

6 (1) A definition of the term "heritage breed animal" as it
7 applies in Hawaii and the identification of any such
8 species in Hawaii;

9 (2) Identification of any causes or factors that may have
10 or are currently contributing to the decline or
11 extinction of heritage breed animals;

12 (3) A survey of farmers that are raising heritage breed
13 animals;

14 (4) An assessment of existing and potential future demand
15 in the State for products derived from heritage breed
16 animals;

17 (5) An evaluation of the impact of hunting on populations
18 of heritage breed animals; and

19 (6) An analysis of possible benefits of breeding heritage
20 breed animals in captivity.



1 (b) In carrying out the duties prescribed in subsection
2 (a), the University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture
3 and human resources may consult with the following:

- 4 (1) The state archives;
- 5 (2) Conservation organizations;
- 6 (3) State historians;
- 7 (4) The United States Department of Agriculture National
8 Agricultural Statistics Service; and
- 9 (5) Any other person or entity it deems appropriate.

10 (c) The University of Hawaii college of tropical
11 agriculture and human resources shall submit its findings and
12 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
13 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
14 the regular session of 2016.

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the
18 study and inventory of heritage breed animals.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
20 Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources for
21 the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

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JAN 23 2014



H.B. NO. 2633

Report Title:

Heritage Breed Animals; Study; University of Hawaii;
Appropriation

Description:

Directs the University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources to conduct a study and inventory of heritage breed animals that existed in the State prior to 1778.
Appropriates funds.

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