

SB2293

Testimony



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January 28, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2293
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 229
2:45 PM

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

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,832 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 is in strong support of SB 2293 which provides funds to allow qualified beef cattle, dairy, hog, poultry, goat, sheep, fish, and crustacean farms to apply for funds for their farm's feed expenses.

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, 3 of those dairies and 4 off those egg farms have gone out of business. The remaining egg farms and another dairy are currently threatened with closure, due to rising production costs, primarily due to feed costs.

SB 2293 seeks to revitalize Hawaii's livestock industries by reimbursing qualified livestock producers up to sixty percent of their farm's feed expenses. This bill will help keep fresh, locally produced milk, eggs, beef, pork, poultry, sheep, lamb, fish and crustaceans available to the residents of Hawaii and will help to 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Tuesday January 28, 2014 2:45 p.m. Room 229

SB 2293 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Appropriates monies to reimburse qualified producers for a percentage of each farm's feed expenses.

Provides monies for the administrative costs of the livestock revitalization program.

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

My name is Alan Gottlieb, and I am a rancher and the Government Affairs Chairperson of 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 strongly supports SB 2293.

Many Hawaii livestock producers rely on imported grain to sustain their animals and these feed costs are a significant part of their overall expense. Furthermore, the 9 years on-going drought we have had in Hawaii in many of our largest cattle raising regions has added to the problem. We continue to hear about pilot projects for feed mills here in Hawaii, and bi-products from bio-energy crops, but these have still not come to fruition. Until such time that Hawaii does have some local feedstock for our local livestock, we will require your assistance. Otherwise we risk losing them, and putting Hawaii's Food Security in further jeopardy.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

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To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2293 on Jan 28, 2014 14:45PM
Date: Saturday, January 25, 2014 8:11:33 PM

SB2293

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Jan 28, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments: Long term funding should focus on creating local sources of feed, but this is necessary in the short-term. Creating dependance on the state for feed subsidies in not sustainable.

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2293 on Jan 28, 2014 14:45PM*
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 11:12:33 PM

SB2293

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for AGL on Jan 28, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Sakala	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 8:50:28 PM

SB2293

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for AGL on Jan 28, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
behrendt sara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 5:56:25 PM

SB2293

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for AGL on Jan 28, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Kwik	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: With this bill it is really important to include the 2 acre farms and to not utilize cheap or free GMO corn etc.... The more small farms growing chickens, tilapia, etc... with sustainable food like moranga greens, etc... free range on the property to eat bugs etc. the better off we are. Hawaii has approved so many 2 acre agriculture parcels and people only grown 10 trees it is a joke. All people need incentives to raise their own poultry, lamb, tilapia, with enough to give to a few families. Make sure this covers the small 2 acre farms, it encourages the small farms, it gives education to feed without the GMO feed, we can grown and raise our own feed on island. The knowledge is here believe it or not and we can do this :)

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Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 12:53:44 PM

SB2293

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for AGL on Jan 28, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 11:03:29 AM

SB2293

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine L. Andrews, J.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 7:29:33 AM

SB2293

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for AGL on Jan 28, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rob Tarver	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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