
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HERITAGE BREED ANIMALS.

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

1 SECTION 1. For centuries, people throughout the world have
2 bred and raised thousands of different animal breeds. Although
3 there is no agreed-upon definition of heritage breed animals,
4 heritage breed animals are generally considered to be animals
5 that are bred over time to be best adapted to local conditions.
6 Many heritage breed animals are found in geographically isolated
7 areas such as the Hawaiian islands.

8 In the 1700's, explorers brought sheep and goats to Hawaii.
9 Since their arrival, these animals adapted to Hawaii's unique
10 climate, became an integral part of Hawaiian culture as a
11 sustainable food resource, contributed to Hawaii's early
12 economy, and continue to be a valuable food resource.

13 The legislature finds that Hawaii is home to unique breeds
14 of heritage breed animals. For example, Mauna Kea sheep are
15 believed to be the original uncontaminated feral sheep because
16 of isolation. Their unique form, developed over the past one



1 hundred fifty years, makes this species worthy of genetic and
2 serologic evaluation, in captivity or in the wild.

3 The legislature further finds that Hawaii's heritage breed
4 animal population may potentially play a vital role in
5 preservation of genetic diversity within the world's livestock
6 species. Hawaii's wild sheep and goat population play a role in
7 today's land management and fire control practices. These
8 animals also provide locally-harvested sources of protein that
9 contribute to Hawaii's sustainability. Accordingly, the
10 legislature believes that Hawaii should prioritize preserving
11 the existing genotypes of its sheep and goats to ensure their
12 conservation as relics of Hawaii's past and as a valuable and
13 unique resource that Hawaii is fortunate to have today. The
14 legislature further finds that efforts should be made to
15 conserve Hawaii's unique heritage breed livestock by identifying
16 and studying them and, if possible, acquiring examples of
17 heritage breed species to breed and raise in captivity.

18 The purpose of this Act is to direct the University of
19 Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources to
20 conduct a study and inventory of heritage breed animals in
21 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 2017.

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 2015-2016 and the
18 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
19 2016-2017 for the study and inventory of heritage breed animals.



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University
2 of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources
3 for the purposes of this Act.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

5

INTRODUCED BY:

Cindy Evans
OK

JAN 23 2015



H.B. NO. 531

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 moneys.

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