

SB 612

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

**FEBRUARY 1, 2017
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 612
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 612 which proposes to appropriate funds for feed developers and reimbursements to qualified producers for feed costs. The department supports this bill.

The department is currently accepting applications from feed developers for the cost of development of feed for sale to qualified producers and from qualified producers of milk, pork, eggs, poultry, beef, sheep, lamb, goats, and seafood for feed costs incurred for fiscal year 2016-2017.

To make it consistent with subsection 155D-2 (b), pertaining to the feed reimbursement for a qualified producer, the department is respectfully requesting that subsection 155D-2.5 (b) be amended to remove the effective date referencing the July 1, 2017 date for feed development costs incurred.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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February 1, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 612
RELATING TO RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 224
1:15 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB strongly support SB 612, appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the feed developer grant program and reimbursements to qualified producers for feed costs

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 the cost of feed.

SB 612 will help to 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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:25 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: warrenmcfb@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB612 on Feb 1, 2017 13:15PM*

SB612

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 1, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

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.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair | Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 1, 2017
TIME: 1:15 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 224

SB 612 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the feed developer grant program and reimbursements to qualified producers for feed costs.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dale Sandlin, and I am Managing Director 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 150+ 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 612 as this would provide feed opportunities for livestock producers and help reduce the cost of these necessary inputs.

Many Hawaii livestock producers rely on imported grain to sustain their animals and these feed costs are a significant part of their overall expense. While current weather conditions are favorable to producing good pasture, we can easily enter into drought conditions like the nearly decade long drought we experienced a few years ago. With the new research feed mill on Big Island and the allocation of funding for a mill on Oahu help provide the means necessary to create feed, we still need to develop the bi-products from bio-energy crops and other bio mass products for this feed.

Hawaii's cattle industry faces a number of challenges, including high fuel and transportation costs, the rising costs of livestock feed, limited and aging processing facilities, and ongoing drought conditions that disrupt cattle weight gains and interrupt the marketing of consistent high quality beef. For this reason, having a good supplemental feed, grown in Hawaii is essential in many cases.

If we can develop local feeds to feed Hawaii Livestock, this will go a long way in helping all Hawaii Livestock producers and the Hawaii cattle industry to keep more of our calves here in Hawaii for finishing for local markets.

Please excuse our lack of physical presence as our industry's national convention is being held on the mainland during the time of this hearing. We thank you for your understanding and for giving us the opportunity to testify on this important matter.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 4:26 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: alan@prloffice.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB612 on Feb 1, 2017 13:15PM*

SB612

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 1, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Support	No

Comments:

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Meadow Gold Dairies



Written Testimony by: Glenn Muranaka
SB 612, Agriculture
Senate AEN Hearing, Tuesday, Weds. Feb. 1, 2017 – 1:15 pm
Room 224
Position: Support

Chair Gabbard and Members of the Senate AEN Committee:

My name is Glenn Muranaka, President and General Manager of Meadow Gold Dairies. Our company has been in Hawaii since 1897—120 years, providing Hawaii consumers with a variety of milk products and juices. Meadow Gold's long history has not come without effort. We continually adapt to our customers' and consumers' ever-changing needs, and we constantly evolve along with our industry, our community and our market. Over the years, this has required that we struggle, tighten our belts, innovate and work extremely hard, making us a better company in the process. The foundation of this work rests with the 330 employees that are committed to providing superior quality products.

This request for funding for a livestock revitalization program is strongly supported. The high cost of production for Hawaii's livestock and aquaculture industries are a challenge for many farmers and ranchers. Funding support for the feed developer grant program and reimbursements to qualified producers for feed costs will help such farmers and ranchers.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me at 944-5911.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 1:40 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: ej@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB612 on Feb 1, 2017 13:15PM*

SB612

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 1, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ellen jackson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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