

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
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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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 24, 2017
12:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

HOUSE BILL NO 1389 HD1
RELATED TO LIVESTOCK HARVEST FACILITIES

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1389 HD1. The bill requests funds for the planning and design of scalable livestock harvest facilities. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture supports this measure provided it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget.

The Department recognizes that efficient harvest facilities are a critical component in the protein production chain and is a limiting factor in the consistent availability of locally produced meat products. Properly designed harvest facilities work towards producing safe products efficiently by giving equal attention to employee safety, pre-harvest animal health, product processing regulations and environmental impact.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 24, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1389, HD1
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK HARVEST FACILITIES

Room 308
12:30 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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 supports HB 1389, HD1, which makes an appropriation for the planning and design of scalable livestock harvest facilities to be expended by DOA.

This bill is designed to provide not only needed capacity but also allow a new plant to incorporate new technologies to enhance energy and waste management, food safety and animal welfare. This also provides the potential for new certifications required by retailers and for export certification, which would open foreign markets for Hawaii beef.

The proposed bills would provide a set of architectural plans of a scalable plant that any third-party (investor/group of producers) could adapt to any specific parcel in any county for the purpose of building a processing facility. This plan would:

- a. reduce construction time and cost by having these plans readily available
- b. take into account the projected growth of the industry per island
- c. safeguard against oversupply while offering adaptability for an undersupply of cattle
- d. incorporate best practices for energy efficiency and waste disposal, improved processing flow, and new designs to update food safety and animal welfare.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HCIA 2016 - 2018 Board of Directors

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OUR MISSION

HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices and build a healthy economy.

TESTIMONY FROM BENNETTE MISALUCHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In Support of HB 1389, HD1 Relating to Livestock Harvest Facilities Makes an appropriation for the planning and design of scalable livestock harvest facilities to be expended by DOA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 24, 2017, 12:30 p.m.

Conference Room 308

Chair Luke and members of the committee:

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy economy.

HCIA supports **HB 1389, HD1**, which will allocate monies to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture to plan and design scalable livestock harvest facilities.

As we understand it, many of the existing livestock harvest facilities in the islands are not equipped to handle the recent resurgence of cattle production. This is a problem, especially when you consider the State's goal to double local food production by 2020. Hawaii cattle ranchers need our help and support to remain competitive and continue to serve local markets.

Please prepare for the future now by passing this important bill. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Bennette Misalucha
Executive Director

TESTIMONY OF KEOKI WOOD, LIVESTOCK MANAGER, PARKER RANCH, INC. TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE
February 10, 2017
8:30 am
Conference Room 312

MEASURE: H.B. No. 1389

TITLE: RELATING TO LIVESTOCK HARVEST FACILITIES

Representative Creagan, Representative DeCoite, and members of the Agriculture Committee:
Parker Ranch, Inc. fully supports House Bill 1389.

Livestock harvest facilities are critically important to supporting the cattle industry within the State. First, local harvest facilities provide ranches the opportunity to hold cattle back from shipment to the mainland to meet local demand and expand our local food system. Additionally, harvest facilities are imperative in providing stability within livestock operations given the need to cull cattle and mitigate losses in drought conditions.

The two existing harvest and packaging facilities on Hawai'i Island both are reaching the end of their estimated remaining useful life. The next five to ten years are important for the industry as it prepares for the inevitable retirement of these facilities. Planning and anticipating these changes is important for all ranches in the State, but especially on the Big Island which is home to 75% of Hawaii's total pasture, estimated by UH researcher Jeff Melrose to be close to 555,000 acres. This bill provides the needed resources to design and plan for the future growth and stability for the industry throughout the State. In addition to the estimated remaining useful life for Big Island harvest facilities, current capacity constraints at these facilities limit the volume of local beef that can be harvested and therefore limits the expansion of our local food system. It is important for all ranches, operators, and industry leaders to work together to plan and design a model for a harvest facility that can grow alongside our evolving industry.

The planning and design for a scalable harvest facility provides an opportunity to research integrated features and engage designers and experts to consider a harvest facility that can be adapted to various natural resources, pasture resources, and herd sizes around the State. Current designs around the country and world have successfully integrated renewable energy, on-site wastewater treatment, cold storage, modular floor design, and anaerobic digestion. These design principles, among others, should be explored and further defined as plans for innovative facilities are developed.

Parker Ranch believes that there is a great need for harvest facilities around the State to support the vibrant cattle industry in Hawaii. Increasing local food production and supporting our State's ranching heritage and industry is important to increasing the sustainability of Hawaii's food system. Working with designers and engineers to understand the ideal design and feasibility for harvest facilities is an important step towards realizing sustainability for the future of Hawaii's cattle industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Contact Information for Keoki Wood

808-936-6923

kwood@parkerranch.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 7:03 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jacinthow001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1389 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM

HB1389

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William G. Jacintho, Maui Cattlemen's Association	Maui Cattlemen's Association	Support	No

Comments: Strongly Supports HB 1389

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Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 24, 2017
TIME: 12:30 P.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 308

HB 1389 HD1 – RELATING TO LIVESTOCK HARVEST FACILITIES.

Makes an appropriation for the planning and design of scalable livestock harvest facilities to be expended by DOA.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dale Sandlin, Managing Director of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four 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** HB 1389 HD1 as this measure provides funds for the planning and design of a scalable livestock harvest facility.

Of the large agrarian enterprises that have been undertaken in Hawaii, only cattle remain. The beef industry represents economic, environmental and cultural sustainability for our state. According to University of Hawaii figures, Hawaii supplies only 6% of the beef consumed in the state. We have great capacity to grow our local market and support Hawaii's economic base. Ranchers are essentially "grass farmers," providing open space, reducing fuel load for wildfires, maintaining our watersheds and utilizing lands that are otherwise unproductive and inaccessible. Lastly, the ability to provide our own food source is an inherent strength in any community, but particularly so in an island state that is so dependent upon imports to feed its population. The increased demand for "farm to fork" products strongly supports agriculture that is locally sourced.

In a recent series of community meetings held across the state, producers identified processing as the major bottleneck for marketing of local beef. The current processing plants have played a vital role in maintaining avenues for our market animals, but they are aging and with the expanding demand for locally raised beef, our current facilities have not been able to accommodate the increased numbers. In keeping with HCC's mission to be an advocate for Hawaii's ranchers, HCC has been working to address specific long and short-term needs. While short-term needs are at a critical stage in some counties, specific issues are being addressed separately. Our long-term success and resilience depends upon our ability to address both needs.



This bill is designed to provide not only needed capacity but also allow a new plant to incorporate new technologies to enhance energy and waste management, food safety and animal welfare. This also provides the potential for new certifications required by retailers and for export certification, which would open foreign markets for Hawaii beef.

The proposed bills would provide a set of architectural plans of a scalable plant that any third-party (investor/group of producers) could adapt to any specific parcel in any county for the purpose of building a processing facility. This plan would:

- a. reduce construction time and cost by having these plans readily available
- b. take into account the projected growth of the industry per island
- c. safeguard against oversupply while offering adaptability for an undersupply of cattle
- d. incorporate best practices for energy efficiency and waste disposal, improved processing flow, and new designs to update food safety and animal welfare.

Hawaii's cattle industry is committed to a robust future and opportunities for continued growth. By supporting this bill, Hawaii's legislators vote to support Hawaii's agriculture and grow a more food-secure community.

We respectfully ask this committee to support this measure and we appreciate the opportunity to testify on this critical matter for our industry.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 5:45 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: alan@prloffice.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1389 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM

HB1389

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Support	Yes

Comments: My name is Alan Gottlieb. I am a member of Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) and I am writing in strong support of HB 1389. Hawaii Cattlemen's Council is the state-wide umbrella organization comprised of the four county level Cattlemen's Associations. In a recent series of community meetings held across the state, producers identified livestock harvest and processing as one of the major bottlenecks for marketing of local beef. HCC's mission is to serve as an advocate for Hawaii's ranchers. In keeping with that mission, HCC has been working to address specific long and short-term needs for livestock harvest. While short-term needs are at a critical stage in some counties, specific issues are being addressed separately. Our long-term success and resilience depends upon our ability to address both needs Hawaii's beef industry is at a crossroads as increased demand for locally-raised beef has challenged our current infrastructure's capacity to meet the growing market. Our industry needs to prepare for this expansion. Hawaii's ranchers are uniquely positioned to provide economic, environmental and social sustainability. Hawaii currently produces only 6% of the beef consumed within our state. With the rising demand for locally sourced food, there is much capacity to grow our local market. Hawaii ranchers provide a multitude of ecosystem services including protection of our watersheds, decreased fire load and aesthetic open spaces. By providing pasture raised beef to our communities, the beef industry supplies a healthy, nutritionally wholesome protein source at a reasonably price to our island residents. This bill will provide funding for the planning and design of a scalable harvest facility that could be used in multiple venues. Once completed, our industry will be in a stronger position to attract potential investors. Hawaii's ranchers firmly believe in its future and the ability of agriculture to remain a relevant part of our economy. HB 1389 represents a great opportunity for Hawaii's lawmakers to advance efforts to provide a more food secure community. I respectfully request your support of HB 1389.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 8:07 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kaimiunger@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1389 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM

HB1389

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keith	McCandless Ranch	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, My name is Keith Unger and I manage McCandless Ranch in South Kona. Like many ranches in Hawaii, McCandless would like to participate in the State's goal of making Hawaii more food sustainable. We currently are a cow calf operation, and all our weanoffs are sold to mainland buyers. We are in the process of reevaluating our business model to retain animals here - grass feed them, then send them to the local harvesting facility for processing and marketing. The difficulty we are having is securing a timely processing date; often times we are asked to wait 4-6 months. While HB 1389 doesn't propose to directly build a new processing facility, it does seek funds to design and engineer a facility that could be built, saving a prospective investor much time and money. The genius of HB 1389 is that it will create a template that could be used to suit a particular region or market anywhere in Hawaii. The development of state of the art processing facilities on every island is a critical component in keeping local beef here in Hawaii. If Hawaii is serious about food sustainability, we need to invest. HB 1389 is an important start. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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TESTIMONY OF JASON VAN TASSELL, LIVESTOCK MANAGER, PANIOLO CATTLE COMPANY, LLC, A
SUBSIDIARY OF PARKER RANCH, INC. TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 24, 2017
12:30 pm
House Conference Room 308, State Capitol

MEASURE: H.B. No. 1389
TITLE: RELATING TO LIVESTOCK HARVEST FACILITIES

Representative Luke, Representative Cullen, and all members of the Finance Committee:

Paniolo Cattle Company (PCC) fully supports House Bill 1389.

PCC was established with the mission of supporting statewide local beef production to meet the demand for high-quality, affordable, and locally raised beef. Supporting this market to respond to local demand provides ranches with the opportunity to hold cattle back from shipment to the mainland and expand our local food system. As such, livestock harvest facilities are critically important to supporting local food production in Hawaii.

Consumer demand for local, grass-fed products in Hawaii has increased in recent years, following national trends. The Wall Street Journal reported in 2016 that “sales for grass-fed beef rose nearly 40% over the year before, while conventional beef only grew 6.5% during the same period.”¹ Based on average beef consumption for both residents and tourists in Hawaii, the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) estimates that total statewide demand is over 89 million pounds of beef per year, or roughly 198,000 market cattle. Currently UH researchers estimate that local supply only meets 6.2% of local demand. This percentage has an opportunity to increase as local programs like PCC that are utilizing Hawaii’s pasture forage become more established.

Harvest facilities are vital to that growth and providing the equipment and processes that align with current safety and handling standards required by retailers sourcing and selling local beef products. Retailers that PCC are working with, such as Safeway and other distributors, are responding to industry demands to comply with GAP and other humane animals handling and food safety practices. Designing and planning for a harvest facility with these capabilities from the start will streamline these processes and requirements for operators and ranches moving forward.

On Hawai’i Island, there are two existing harvest and packaging facilities for cattle with an estimated remaining useful life of less than 10 years. Within these facilities, given nameplate capacity, there are constraints on the volume of local beef that can be harvested which therefore limits expansion of our network of local ranches participating in and helping to grow PCC and other local programs.

¹ Wall Street Journal. *Why grass fed beef is on a roll*. Accessed from: <http://www.wsj.com/articles/why-grass-fed-beef-is-on-a-roll-1474388110>

The planning and design for a scalable harvest facility provides an opportunity to consider the unique natural resources, pasture resources, and herd sizes around the State and align those conditions to meet the growth opportunities that local program like PCC have. Using our partnership with Safeway as a benchmark, there has been great response by consumers throughout the State to local, pasture raised beef products. In order to build on this momentum and further develop our local markets, ensuring processing slots and volume on a week to week basis is critical. Harvest facilities that can expand and contract should be a key design question and consideration to adequately align with market conditions.

As a growing company, PCC believes that there is a great need for additional, state of the art harvest facilities to support ranches establishing local, pasture raised programs. Increasing local food production and supporting ranches in this way will increase the sustainability of Hawaii's food system and a harvest facility gets us closer to that goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair and Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair
State Capitol
SB 1257 – Relating to Livestock Harvest Facilities

My name is Lisa Wood and I currently serve as president of Hawaii Cattlemen’s Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen’s Council is the statewide umbrella group comprised of the four county level Cattlemen’s Associations. I am writing in **strong support** of HB 1389. These bills provide funds for the planning and design of a scalable livestock harvest facility.

The people of Hawaii have been stewarding cattle for over 200 years. Kamehameha the Great was the first; upon receiving the animals as a gift, he ordered them protected to allow them to acclimate to their new environment and grow in number. Kamehameha III recognized the economic and nutritional value that cattle represented. He recruited the vaqueros that were brought to Hawaii to train the people in management of the animals. Our producers represent families that have been ranching for generations.

Of the large agrarian enterprises that have been undertaken in Hawaii, only cattle remain. The beef industry represents economic, environmental and cultural sustainability for our state.

According to University of Hawaii figures, Hawaii supplies only 6% of the beef consumed in the state. We have great capacity to grow our local market and support Hawaii’s economic base.

Ranchers are essentially “grass farmers”. They provide open space, reduce fuel load for wildfires, maintain our watersheds and utilize lands that are otherwise unproductive and inaccessible.

Lastly, the ability to provide our own food source is an inherent strength in any community but particularly so in an island state that is so dependent upon imports to feed its population. The increased demand for “farm to fork” products strongly supports agriculture that is locally sourced.

In a recent series of community meetings held across the state, producers identified processing as the major bottleneck for marketing of local beef. The current processing plants have played a vital role in maintaining avenues for our market animals, but they are aging and with the expanding demand for locally raised beef, our current facilities have not been able to accommodate the increased numbers. In keeping with HCC’s mission to be an advocate for Hawaii’s ranchers, HCC has been working to address specific long and short-term needs. While short-term needs are at a critical stage in some counties, specific issues are being addressed separately. Our long-term success and resilience depends upon our ability to address both needs.

HB 1389 is designed to provide not only needed capacity but also allow a new plant to incorporate new technologies to enhance energy and waste management, food safety and animal welfare. This plant would allow us to expand our marketing options as well.

The proposed bill would provide for a generic, scalable template which could be modified for use in multiple venues. It would include a feasibility plan that would allow the plant to be tailored to the area’s specific needs and identify optimal throughput for each individual plant. The plans would incorporate many of the new technologies previously mentioned and also provide an option for multi-species use.

Hawaii’s cattle industry is committed to a robust future and opportunities for continued growth. By supporting this bill, Hawaii’s legislators vote to support Hawaii’s agriculture and grow a more food secure community.

I respectfully ask for your support of HB 1389.

Sincerely,

Lisa B Wood, DVM
Hawaii Cattlemen’s Council, President

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 9:35 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kaufman@maui.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1389 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM

HB1389

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Kaufman, DVM	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This measure is necessary for the AG industry on Maui.

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Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 8:24 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: voggymtn@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1389 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM*

HB1389

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Willie-Joe Camara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 6:28 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jmattoshbp@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1389 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM

HB1389

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jill J Mattos	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am the General Manager for Hawaii Beef Producers in Paauilo Hawaii I strongly support this bill. I believe the Harvesting Facility we have now is the Best in the State we are the only BRC certified plant which we can supply to anyone, but as time goes on there will be more regulations. Our Plant here is 2500 ft away from the ocean. It is 42 years old, it gets salt air everyday its made of metal, high maintenance is required. This facility needs to stay in operation for the next 6 years, till a new one is built, and then everything that is in this plant can be transferred to the new plant including employees. A sight for the new plant needs to be well thought out and this facility will still need help to keep it running which is needed for Ag Industry think about it its 42 years old. A limited about of state money has been put into the plant itself.

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Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 6:18 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: gregf@haleakalaranch.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1389 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM*

HB1389

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gregory Friel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 8:08 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kaimiunger@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1389 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM*

HB1389

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keith Unger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 10:33 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: olumauangus@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1389 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM

HB1389

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert H. Ferreira	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I Robert H. Ferreira a ranch manager that supports local beef production and a founding member of Maui Cattle Company strongly support Bill HB 1389 The future of the Hawaii Cattle Industry and the States quest for food sustainability needs this bill. Please support this bill and don't let our industry follow what has happened to our Sugar Industry.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 12:22 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: aknranch@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1389 on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM*

HB1389

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 12:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Annette Niles	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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