

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Acting Chairperson
Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

FEBRUARY 13, 2019
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 778
RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

Chairperson Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill 778. This bill provides funds to the Department of Agriculture for the acquisition of a mobile animal harvesting unit. The Department of Agriculture supports this bill provided it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget and offers a comment.

A mobile harvesting unit will provide additional opportunity to increase processing of animal protein. Funding for operation and maintenance, its location, means of moving the unit and waste disposal are considerations in its operations.

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 13, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 778
RELATING TO FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

Room 312
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director 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.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 778, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the acquisition of a mobile animal harvesting unit.

Many small family farmers who have found a ready market for their livestock directly to local consumers, restaurants, and stores have difficulty converting their live animals into a product that can take advantage of it. The challenge for many of these small producers is that they often do not have USDA inspected processing facilities available within a practical distance and an affordable cost.

A mobile animal harvesting unit mounted on a trailer that comes to the farm has advantages for small producers such as low capital costs, convenience, improved animal welfare by avoiding long-distance shipping, and low processing costs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.

LATE

HB-778

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 8:55:30 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments:

HB-778

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 10:02:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

HB-778

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 3:16:12 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natalie Parra	Keiko Conservation	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-778

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 9:54:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patsy Kaneshiro	SK Natural Farms, LLC (a.k.a. 2 Lady Farmers)	Support	No

Comments:

ChairCreagan, Vice ChairDeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

Our names are Patsy and Stacy and we are pig farmers on Oahu. We ask for your support of HB 778 to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture for the acquisition of a mobile animal harvesting unit. This unit would be extremely beneficial to the hog producers on Oahu. It would allow us more flexibility as an industry as we try to grow our markets in the food service and retail stores. We would be able to supply fresh quality locally raised pork to the people of Hawaii on a consistent basis.

HB-778

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 11:57:43 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Galimba	Kuahiwi Ranch	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support HB778. Given the current lack of small animal slaughter capacity on Hawaii Island and the general fragility of processing infrastructure in Hawaii, this appropriation is timely and necessary for food sustainability and the economic sustainability of small livestock farmers.

Mahalo,

Michelle Galimba

HB-778

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 9:59:59 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amelie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-778

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 12:51:47 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suyin Phillips	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The mobile slaughterhouse on the Big Island is not a success. Do not throw away more money on this. No welfare for an industry that repeatedly violates the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act on Hawai'i!

HB-778

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 2:18:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Wilcox	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-778

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 3:27:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryuko Miura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-778

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 3:33:22 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Walter Ritte	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 778. There is no evidence of need for such unit, it is a waist of the tax payer's monies. We have slaughter houses on the islands. This unit can and will also be used at night to irradiate deer on Molokai, which has upset many voters on Molokai. There is no explanation on how, when, why this unit will be used or the proof of need for nearly half a million dollars for killing animals out in the fields.

Walter Ritte

HB-778

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 5:50:46 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
April M Blades	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose any funds being appropriated for a mobile slaughterhouse to control the feral pig population and ask the Department of Agriculture to invest in research on humane population control.

Thank you for your time and consideration pertaining to HB778.

April M Blades

HB-778

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 7:56:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Pottish	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-778

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 4:39:04 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Halina M. Zaleski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Availability of harvesting has become a limiting factor in the development of the swine industry. Without reliable harvesting producers will lose the markets that they have been working assiduously to develop.

LATE

HB-778

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 9:09:03 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacoby Young	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Why are we bailing out industries that commit multiple violations of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. This is a failure to see the future that does not include harming animals in horrible ways and growing and support local plant agriculture. There is nothing sustainable about breeding, raising, and killing animals for food. No more welfare for the animal flesh industry.

LATE

HB-778

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 9:31:23 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Glenn shinsato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Sirs,

My experience as a farmer/owner/operator (now retired) of a USDA/FSIS inspected hog/rabbit slaughter facility on Oahu, has convinced me that there is a need for a hog slaughter facility that will be sensitive to the needs of the hog industry **and** the consumers. Care must be taken to insure that past mistakes are not repeated or perpetuated.

"Insanity is doing the same thing expecting different results."

Thank you

Glenn Shinsato

LATE

HB-778

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 11:36:40 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wayne Shimokawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Wayne Shimokawa, a hog farmer and a member of Hawaii Pork Industry Association. The pork industry in Hawaii, like all the other livestock industries in the state is constantly facing obstacles and an uphill battle to survive. If it's not the animal activist groups, it is the environmental groups, it is the high cost of grain, the neighbors who don't want us and the list goes on. Now we are faced with high cost of slaughtering our animals at the only USDA facility on Oahu. Not only it is costing us more to produce but also to market our animals. We cannot slaughter our own animals and sell it a wholesaler or retailer. It has to be USDA inspected.

The possibility of having a mobile slaughter facility will give the livestock industries options for slaughtering their animals. Look at Hawaii's ethnic composition, pork is a very important source of protein for our people. We, the pork industry, like all of the other livestock industries are trying to help feed Hawaii and survive. We have to try and lower our production and marketing costs so that we can get our product to the consumers of Hawaii at a lower price.

Thank you for time and I hope that passage of this bill is strongly considered.

Thank you,

Wayne Shimokawa, hog farmer and member of Hawaii Pork Industry Association