

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

GLENN K. MURANAKA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**APRIL 1, 2019
10:20 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 118 SD1

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO DESIGNATE AREAS IN
EACH COUNTY FOR DAIRY OPERATIONS AND DEVELOP INCENTIVES TO
ATTRACT DAIRY OPERATORS TO THE STATE**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR 118 SD1 that requests the Department of Agriculture to designate areas in each county for dairy operations and develop incentives to attract dairy operators to the State. The Department supports the intent of this measure and offers comments.

The Department supports efforts to increase dairy production in the State. Noting the recent shutdown of the planned Kauai Dairy and the pending closure of the Big Island Dairy, there are lessons to be learned from various agencies involved with dairy operations. In turn, the Department would ask that this report include collaboration the Department of Health, the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, and the various economic development programs within each of the counties across the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



SCR-118-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2019 7:54:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2019 10:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Miyamoto	Testifying for Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Yes

Comments:

SCR-118-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 5:09:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2019 10:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not approve this reso. The proponderance of testimony has opposed any new dairies in Hawai'i- The failure of the Ulupono dairy on Kaua'i and the debacle of environmental devastation produced by the O'okala Dairy on Hawai'i should prove a cautionary tale. The entire issue of "sustainability" needs to be revisited. Hawai'i's fragile environment is not suited for intensive animal agriculture- pollution from CAFOs (pigs, chickens, dairy cows) should be controlled. Existing CAFOs should be inspected- there are many un lined manure "lagoons" that leach pollution into our water table. Environmental assessments MUST be done to evaluate the true "sustainability" of any new livestock project.



We strongly oppose SCR118. Not only is the dairy industry incredibly cruel but it heavily contributes to both air and water pollution. Cattle naturally produce methane, which has a warming effect on the planet that's 20 times greater than carbon dioxide, causing animal agriculture to have a larger effect on global warming than the transportation industry.

This is **also a poor investment for Hawaii to make economically.** Some of the largest dairy companies are investing tens of millions of dollars in dairy-free alternatives due to an increase in demand for dairy-free products. Even Forbes has reported multiple times over the last few years that this trend is anticipated to rise. It would be unwise to put time and resources into this industry while some of its top contributing companies are already predicting its eventual demise.

Keiko Conservation Team
keikoconservation.org

SCR-118-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 8:02:05 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2019 10:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sylvia Dolena	Testifying for Aloha Animal Advocates and Pele Lani Farm LLC	Oppose	No

Comments:

Sen. Gabbard and Sen. Ruderman,

Sirs, we were just finally able to shut down Big Island Dairy on this island. The pollution into the ground water and into the streams were horrendous. The waste holding pools would flood each time we had a heavy rain. Dead animals were seen flowing down the stream. The practices were abusive to the animals. New born calves were taken from the cows, given artificial milk or if a bull calf, allowed to die. The female calves were grown until they are able to be impregnated so they could give milk too. Do we really want to encourage this type of industry in Hawaii? If we do, there must be external oversight and VERY STRICT rules about animal abuse. Hawaii Lava Flow Animal Rescue, an organization instrumental in saving many animals during the lava event, raise \$30,000 to buy many of the cows and calves, headed for slaughter when the dairy closed down its operations. There are many more to save, but not enough time or money to save them all. PLEASE, let's not create an environmentally destructive and animal cruel industry. Mahalo.

SCR-118-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2019 6:18:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2019 10:20:00 AM

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

Comments:

SCR-118-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2019 1:13:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2019 10:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please oppose SCR118

Thank you for your time.

Andrea Quinn

Kihe

SCR-118-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 10:02:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2019 10:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mackenna Cady	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SCR-118-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 9:05:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2019 10:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald Mckeehan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Agriculture is essential to the survival of our community. Dairy is needed for self reliance from the mainland

Thank you very much Ronald McKeehan

SCR-118-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 7:27:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2019 10:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Blake Thompson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

SCR-118-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2019 3:56:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2019 10:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doora Shin	Testifying for Surfrider Foundation	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

This testimony is in opposition to SCR118 on behalf of Surfrider Foundation and our wide network of volunteers and community members. Our organization works to protect our oceans, waves, and beaches.

Dairy production, even sustainable or local dairy production, proves over and over again to be a leading polluter of streams, waterways, and oceans. With little to no regulation on wastewater treatment, the waste from dairy cows runoff into the nearest streams and waterways and end up in the ocean. This untreated waste pollutes our ecosystems and is not part of a sustainable agricultural future. This is why Big Island Dairy, a local factory farm of dairy cows, was recently shut down after losing a lawsuit around the mass pollution in the O'okala region of the Big Island that polluted the streams and the ocean. More details on that [here](#).

Even non-factory farmed dairy farms, like the one proposed on Kaua'i, faced massive outcry from our communities due to the inevitable pollution and harm on the precious and natural ecosystem there on that beloved coastline. Whether the farm claims to be sustainable or not, dairy farms cannot be beneficial for the land and for our water and they are inefficient in comparison to farming fresh fruits and veggies. Therefore, dairy should not be a priority or an investment for the State of Hawai'i when looking towards increasing local agriculture.

The land that would be dedicated to dairy can be alternatively used to grow significantly more plant foods, leading to more food/more calories for people along with more revenue from local agriculture.

Investing in sustainable agriculture for fruits and vegetables and other plant-based crops, like coffee, cacao, and more, is a more sustainable use of land, water, and energy, and it is a better source of revenue for local farmers.

The ethical considerations around dairy farming are also imperative to acknowledge and consider. Even on a pasture of a handful of cows, producing dairy products requires consistent impregnation of female cows, which cause great stress on these animals as

being forcibly impregnated after giving birth is extremely unnatural and quite harmful to the health and wellbeing of animals. Additionally, all male calves that are born are sold to the veal industry to be slaughtered as babies, and all female calves go on to live the same, inhumane lives as their mothers. This is no way of the future, and these are practices that the dairy industry relies upon to maintain production. There is no moral justification for these practices, and therefore, we should, as a State, pursue local agriculture that produces sustainable food AND does not inflict this unnecessary harm to animals.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Doora Shin
Surfrider Foundation O'ahu Chapter Coordinator