

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
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 AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

MARCH 11, 2020
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

HOUSE BILL NO. 1654 HD2 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1654 HD2, relating to feral swine control. The bill proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture for fiscal year 2020-2021 for feral pig control, including: grants for fencing; grants for corral traps; and a program to reduce feral pig populations.

The Department supports the bill's intent to provide funds for feral swine control and provides the following comments: Article VII, section 4, of the State Constitution provides that no grant of public money or property shall be made except pursuant to standards provided by law. As such, the Department believes it will not be able to expend the funds appropriated as grants since this measure does not establish any standards by which any grant may be awarded. In the alternative, we suggest deleting the words "grants for" in lines 5 and 6 of the bill, in order to allow the Department to expend the funds for fencing and corral traps using other funding arrangements.

Fencing and trapping are useful means to reduce the effects of feral swine on farms. The most effective use of these control measures is when they are integrated into a focused control program. The Department of Land and Natural Resources and USDA APHIS Wildlife Services have extensive experience with design and management of feral swine control programs and would be best suited to direct and implement the efforts contemplated by this measure. The Department notes that a similar measure, SB2719 SD2, appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to work in collaboration with the Department of Land and Natural Resources to increase feral pig control.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





March 5, 2020

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Support of HB 1654, HD2, Relating to Agriculture (Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture [DOA] for feral pig control; takes effect on 07/01/2150.)

Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 1:15 p.m., in Conference Room 224

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and utility companies. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of HB 1654, HD2.**

HB 1654, HD2. This bill proposes to appropriate funds to the DOA for feral pig control including grants for fencing and corral traps; and a program to reduce the population of feral pigs.

LURF's Position. LURF understands that feral pigs are destructive animals, destroying farm crops throughout the State, and now extending their reach into urban areas. These invasive animals destroy agriculture crops by digging up the soil for food and creating niche spaces for other non-native species.

Invasive species and animals such as insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and other pests pose the greatest threat to Hawaii's economy, tourism, agriculture, the natural environment, and to the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people, and already cause millions of dollars in crop losses, the extinction of native species, the destruction of native wet, moist and dry land forests, and the spread of disease. More harmful

animals and pests increasingly threaten to invade all the Hawaiian Islands and wreak further damage.

Support of and assistance to local farmers is essential to mitigate the threats and impacts of invasive animals in Hawaii and to effectively protect Hawaii's natural resources and native species. HB 1654, HD2 will assist local agricultural stakeholders by appropriating funds for the DOA in its efforts to control the population of feral pigs, including grants for fencing and corral traps; and the establishment and operation of a program to reduce feral pig populations, thereby aiding in the prevention and control of these invasive animals and ultimately, the protection of Hawaii's environment and economy.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports HB 1654, HD2** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.

HB-1654-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/5/2020 6:52:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Ruderman, Vice Chair

HB1654

Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 1:15 p.m.

Conference Room 312, State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB1654.**

Feral pigs can cause major damage to property, negatively impact the watershed, and interrupt well-managed grazing practices. Feral pigs damage pasture grasses, killing desired plant species and often encouraging the growth of undesired weed species. Feral pigs can also threaten the health of people, wildlife, pets, and other domestic animals. As Hawaii's feral pig populations continue to expand, these damages, costs, and risks will only keep rising. Hawaii's cattlemen appreciate any effort to help control the feral pig population and the negative impacts that feral pigs have on Hawaii's agriculture industry.

We support HB1654 and appreciate the chance to comment on this matter.

HCC is committed to supporting our civic leaders promote a coherent state-wide policy for sustainable development. Using the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a framework, we advocate policy that; increases local food production to promote food security, protects agricultural lands, promotes carbon neutrality, models sustainable land use, protects our watersheds, supports long-term stable employment that embraces technology and innovation, contributes to the health and well-being of the community, and encourages public, private and civic partnerships.

Nicole Galase
Managing Director



From: [Emily Taaroa](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support HB1654 HD2
Date: Monday, March 9, 2020 11:40:14 AM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support HB1654 HD2, appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for feral pig control.

I own a 25 acre farm in Kurtistown, Hawaii and also have worked at W.H. Shipman leasing land to farmers for the last 13 years. Feral pigs make it nearly impossible to farm without proper fencing or other control measures that can be cost prohibitive to many small farmers. Pigs can destroy orchard crops, vegetable crops, flower crops, and we've even had pigs attack our young chickens in their pens, ripping the wire right off the frame. Electric fencing and traps supported by grant funds would be an affordable solution and a huge help to small farmers fighting this frustrating battle. Hard field fencing fencing would most likely be cost prohibitive, as not many acres can be fenced for \$1,000,000, but other more affordable options could help more farmers across the board.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and your attention to this important problem.

Sincerely,

Emily Taaroa
owner
Punachicks Farm, LLC
PO Box 492552
Keeau, HI 96749
punachicksfarm@yahoo.com

**LARRY JEFTS FARMS, LLC
PO BOX 27
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759
(808) 688-2892**

HB1654hd2, Relating to Agriculture
Senate AEN Hearing
Wednesday, March 11, 2020
1:15 pm
Conference Room 224

Testimony by: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Senate AEN Committee:

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC, which is part of our family-run business of farms on Oahu and Molokai, under the administrative umbrella of Sugarland Growers, Inc. We have more than 35 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu. I am a volunteer director for the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

Feral pigs have gotten out of control, moving from forests to agricultural lands and urban areas as they seek food. Through their aggressive rooting for food, almost all aspects of agriculture are destroyed, from crops, pasture grasses, trees and shrubbery, to the tearing up of irrigation lines, nets, and other agricultural structures. The damage to soil and root systems opens the way for bacterial and fungal infection of plants.

Clearly, funds are needed for the control of feral pigs. Please support HB1654hd2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

HB-1654-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 2:35:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:



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

March 11, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 1654, HD2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 224
1:15 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, 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 1,800 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 1654, HD2, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for feral pig control.

Feral pigs can cause major damage to property, agriculture (crops and livestock), Hawaii's native species and ecosystems, and Hawaii's cultural and historic resources. Feral pigs can also threaten the health of people, wildlife, pets, and other domestic animals. As Hawaii's feral pig populations continue to expand, these damages, costs, and risks will only keep rising.

Feral pigs cause tremendous damage to agriculture, including crops, nursery, livestock, and pasture. They damage crops by consuming them or by their rooting and trampling of crops. They will eat almost any crop. Feral pigs damage pasture grasses, killing desired plant species and often encouraging the growth of undesired weed species. They can also devastate orchards by consuming fruit, citrus, and nuts and their rooting can severely damage, or even kill saplings, shrubs, and vines directly or by facilitating the spread of soil-based fungal diseases. Feral pigs can also break irrigation lines, rip or tear nets, drying racks, and other agricultural structures and equipment.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers appreciate any effort to help control the feral pig population and the negative impacts that feral pigs have on Hawaii's agriculture industry.

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



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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TESTIMONY FROM THE HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

In Support of HB1654 HD2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, 03-11-2020, 1:15PM
Senate Conference Room 224

Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee:

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) is in support of HB1654 HD2, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture for feral pig control.

Feral pigs are a substantial threat to agriculture in Hawaii. Over the years, local farmers have watched as the population of these environmental and agricultural pests has grown and extended beyond the wild and into urban areas.

The risk to agricultural crops and livestock is substantial. Invasive feral hogs destroy agriculture crops by digging up the soil for food and creating niche spaces for other non-native species. The requested funding will allow the Department of Agriculture to develop and implement a much-needed control plan to limit the negative impacts produced by these animals.

HCIA respectfully requests that this committee vote in support of HB1654 HD2 to help local farmers protect their businesses and livelihoods.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Emmanuel Zibakalam
Program Director, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association 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.

HB-1654-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 4:50:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zachary Mermel	Testifying for Director of Agroforestry, Shaka Forest Farms LLC	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

As the farm manager of a 30 acre mamaki operation in Volcano Village (Hawaii Island), we are constantly battling the scourge of pigs within our farm system. Of the more than 2500 plants we have installed over the past 3 years, feral pigs have damaged nearly half of these endemic plants, and caused major erosion issues across our farmscape. I wholeheartedly support the passage of HB1654 HD2, to allocate funds to the State of Hawaii Department of Agriculture for feral pig control.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Zach Mermel

HB-1654-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2020 11:55:16 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

I write in support of House Bill 1654, House Draft 2.

This measure would fund feral pig control across the state.

Feral pigs are a particularly deleterious invasive species for the Hawaiian Islands for several reasons.

1. First, they can contribute to crop loss, either by direct damage or incidental damage, such as exposing tree roots during regular rooting for invertebrates in the soil.
2. Second, they provide major facilitation of other invasive species, most notably strawberry guava and mosquitos, which are the other two top threats to the ecosystem. Feral pigs readily spread viable strawberry guava seeds; guava covers about one-quarter of the main islands as a canopy species, and eliminates over 90 percent of biodiversity underneath. Pigs' rooting and wallowing creates breeding habitat for mosquitos, which are the single biggest contributor to the decline and/or loss of endemic bird species.
3. Pigs have a large spatial range, as a foraging ungulate and high fertility, producing litters of viable offspring multiple times over an individual pig's lifespan. This means that, without predation, for which they are no native predators for pigs, that feral pigs exhibit exponential population growth, including out-migration to new habitats.

For these economic and environmental reasons, eradication of pigs is highly desirable. Hunters, while entitled to a culturally-signifiant activity, are not comprehensive management by themselves. Recreational and subsistence hunting has not been found to cause population decline. Therefore, the state must fully support continued strategic prongs to manage feral pigs. These include eradication and fencing of those areas which are the most pristine native habitats.

In summary, please support HB1654 HD2.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Dylan P. Armstrong

From: [Robert Paull](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support HB1654 HD2
Date: Monday, March 9, 2020 11:30:12 AM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support HB1654 HD2, appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for feral pig control.

This measure supports farmers and ranchers impacted by feral pigs. Feral pigs are destructive animals, destroying farm crops across the state. Feral pigs are a common sight and are now extending their reach from wild regions into urban areas. Invasive feral hogs destroy agriculture crops by digging up the soil for food and creating niche spaces for other non-native species.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony!

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Robert Paull
Professor/researcher
5393 Poola St
Honolulu, HI 96821
robertepaull@gmail.com

HB-1654-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 12:42:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB-1654-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 4:05:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please oppose HB1654 unless humane methods, including training, are used to control the feral pig populations.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, Maui

Multiple Testifier List for HB 1654

Stephanie Whalen – KVTCH
Kylie Matsuda-Lum – Kahuku Farms, Inc.
Alan Gottlieb – Ponololo Ranch
Greg Askew – Ono Pop's Kauai
Judith Huber – Hole in the Mountain Farm LLC
Paul Huber – Hole in the Mountain Farm LLC
Jill Coombs – Bayer
Alvin Tsuruda – Waihale Products
Wendell Lum – A Special Touch Flowers
Leann Lum – A Special Touch Flowers
Lewis DuBois – Tropical Dreams Ice Cream
Christian Mathias – Pioneer Hi-Bred
Hiromichi Nago – Em Hawaii, LLC
Ray Nakamura – M Nakamura Nursery LLC
Randy Cabral – KHK Ranch LLC
Patricia E Iwamoto – Yee's Orchard
Robert Main – Main Family Farm
John Giblin – Ohana Farm Orchards
Adam P. Killermann – Ajar Inc.
County Farm Bureau – Kapaa
Aileen Yeh – Aileen's Nursery
Phil Becker – Aikane Plantation
Lorie Obra – Rusty's Hawaiian
Alex Franco- Maui Cattle Company
Kaohi Mokuhalii – KM Farm and Ranch
Danette Llanos – Hartung Brothers Hawaii LLC
Leslie Tadios – Hartung Brothers Hawaii LLC
Joe Munechika – Wines of Kauai
Clyde Fukuyama – Matsuda-Fukuyama Farms
James Tavares – The Grassmaster
Colin Yamamoto – Bayer Crop Science
Justin Cadiz
Paula Carroll
Brian Watanabe
Francis Takahashi
Sandi Kato-Klutke
Bruce Schnicker
Susan Cabral
Kenneth Kaneshiro
Frederick Mencher
Megan Kono
Dustin Alderks
Donald Lau
Stephen Takamiyashiro
Marlene Jarvis
Roy Asao

Philippe Visintainer
Ronald Mckeehan
Richard Ogoshi
Luana Beck
Tyler Yonemori
Luly Unemori
Martha Peterson

From: [Stephanie whalen](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I support HB1654 HD2
Date: Monday, March 9, 2020 9:30:06 AM

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support HB1654 HD2, appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for feral pig control.

This measure supports farmers and ranchers impacted by feral pigs. Feral pigs are destructive animals, destroying farm crops across the state. Feral pigs are a common sight and are now extending their reach from wild regions into urban areas. Invasive feral hogs destroy agriculture crops by digging up the soil for food and creating niche spaces for other non-native species.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony!

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Stephanie whalen
VP
KVTHC
PO Box 64
Kunia, HI 96759
whaleinn1944@gmail.com