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**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

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CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, February 25, 2020
11:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 1689, H.D. 1, RELATING TO ANIMAL FUR PRODUCTS**

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA or Department). The Department appreciates the intent of this bill and offers comments.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) task the DCCA with prohibiting the manufacture, sale, or distribution of certain animal fur products in the State, with certain exceptions; and (2) allow the DCCA Director to impose penalties and administrative fines upon any person who violates the statutory chapter regulating animal fur products.

The Department appreciates the bill's intent to eliminate fur farming and the sale or distribution of fur products in Hawaii to foster a more humane environment. The Department notes, however, that the regulation of animal fur products would require oversight by a department or an agency well-versed in matters involving fur farming, fur trade industries, and animal rights. These matters are well outside the jurisdiction of the DCCA, which protects consumers through business registration and professional

licensure, monitoring the financial solvency of local financial institutions and insurance companies, and investigating complaints of unfair business practices and license violations. Given the tailored mission of the DCCA to protect consumers, as well as the limitations placed on the use of the Department's funds for licensure, it would be difficult to use existing staff expertise to regulate the manufacture, sale, and distribution of animal fur products in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

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Hearing date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Time & Location: 11:00am in Conference Room 308

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Submitted by: Ashley Doyle, Public Policy Specialist, the Humane Society of the United States

Re: Testimony in strong SUPPORT for HB 1689

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

On behalf of the Humane Society of the United States, the nation's largest animal protection organization, and our supporters across Hawaii, we are writing to respectfully urge you to vote yes on HB 1689, introduced by Representative Takayama. HB 1689 would make it unlawful to sell or manufacture a new fur product in the state.

First and foremost, the sale of fur products is inconsistent with Hawaii's position as a world leader on animal welfare and environmental issues.

Animal cruelty is inherent in the fur industry. Each year more than 100 million animals are raised and killed for their fur. On fur factory farms, undomesticated animals spend their entire lives in cramped cages, deprived of the ability to engage in natural behaviors. These animals are then killed in inhumane ways - such as crude gassing, anal/genital electrocution and neck breaking - to preserve the quality of their pelts. In the wild, animals are often caught in crippling leg-hold traps for days without food or water. These archaic traps are indiscriminate, frequently maiming and killing non-target animals, including threatened species and pets.

Hawaii residents and lawmakers have repeatedly shown deep concern about the well-being of animals. In 2016, Hawaii passed the nation's most comprehensive anti-wildlife trafficking legislation. The law banned the selling of the body parts of 17 species, including elephants, rhinos, lions, leopards, monk seals, whales and turtles. In 2018, Hawaii became the second state in the nation to ban the importation of dangerous wild animals for exhibition in circuses or carnivals.

The fur industry also poses serious environmental threats. On fur factory farms, waste runoff from animals pollutes the soil and waterways. The tanning and dyeing process uses toxic and carcinogenic chemicals, like chromium and formaldehyde, to prevent the skin from decaying. Fortunately, innovative technology has produced an array of alternatives with the same warmth, look and feel as fur but without the cruelty and with less environmental impact.



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

Moreover, consumers' growing concern for animal welfare is leading fashion brands, cities, states, and countries to move away from animal fur once and for all. In 2019, California became the first state to ban the sale of fur products, after four of its cities – Los Angeles, San Francisco, Berkeley and West Hollywood - passed ordinances outlawing fur sales. Internationally, Norway and Belgium joined the Netherlands, United Kingdom, and Austria in banning fur production. India banned fur imports in 2017. This past year, Macy's and Bloomingdales joined numerous top brands and retailers – including Chanel, Coach, Burberry, Versace, Donna Karan, Gucci, Michael Kors, and Armani – in announcing fur-free policies.

By passing HB 1689 and eliminating the sale of new fur products in Hawaii, we have the opportunity to increase community awareness of animal welfare, mitigate the environmental harm caused by the fur industry, bolster the demand for sustainable and innovative alternatives, and foster a more humane environment in Hawaii.

For the foregoing reasons, the Humane Society of the United States kindly requests the House Finance committee members vote yes on HB 1689.

Sincerely,

Ashley Doyle

Ashley Doyle
Public Policy Specialist, Farm Animal Protection
The Humane Society of the United States



**HUMANE SOCIETY
VETERINARY MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION.**

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020

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Time & Location: 11:00 AM in Conference Room 308

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J. K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Submitted by: Dr. Barbara Hodges, DVM, MBA; HSVMA Director of Advocacy and Outreach; Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association; 707.678.4794

RE: Testimony in Strong VETERINARY SUPPORT of HB 1689, An Act Relating to Animal Fur Products

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

On behalf of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA), I am writing to express our strong support for HB 1689, an act relating to animal fur products. This bill would make it unlawful to sell or manufacture a new fur product in Hawaii. As experts in the field of animal health and welfare, we recognize that there are severe animal welfare deficiencies inherent in the fur trade, including the ways in which the animals are cruelly trapped, housed and killed. As a result, we support ending this archaic and inhumane industry and strongly endorse the passage of HB 1689.

Background:

More than 100 million animals worldwide, including foxes, chinchillas, minks, raccoon dogs and rabbits, are killed for their fur every year. The majority of these animals (around 85%) are raised in very small cage systems that fail to satisfy some of their most basic needs, particularly their need to display normal behaviors essential to their mental and physical well-being.

Investigations on fur farms worldwide reveal distressing evidence of persistently poor welfare conditions. Species such as fox and mink retain their basic wild needs regardless of being bred and kept in captivity. It is highly inaccurate for the fur industry to refer to an arctic fox bred on a fur farm as a 'domesticated' animal that has environmental and behavioral needs different from its wild relatives.

Wild animals on fur farms spend their lives in wire-floored cages thousands of times smaller than their natural territories. They are denied the opportunity to express natural behaviors such as hunting, digging and swimming. They are often kept in unnatural social groups; for example, mink are forced to live in

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HUMANE SOCIETY
VETERINARY MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION.

extremely close proximity to each other which would be highly unnatural in the wild. The contrived and inhumane living conditions on fur farms inevitably lead animals to suffer severe psychological distress. Instances of overly unproductive repetitive behavior, a sign of compromised psychological well-being, have been well-documented on fur farms, as have cannibalism, untreated wounds, foot deformities and eye infections.

Other welfare deficiencies inherent in the industry include the trapping methods used to capture animals in the wild. Some species are targeted with crippling leg-hold traps which are not sanctioned by the American Veterinary Medical Association or the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association. After being trapped, animals are often left for long periods of time without food or water before they are killed. Meanwhile, fur factory farms crudely gas or even anally electrocute animals.

Need for Legislation:

Consumer concern for animal welfare has already led many fashion brands to stop using animal fur once and for all. These companies recognize that contemporary faux-fur options provide luxury, warmth and style without animal cruelty. Numerous well-known brands and retailers—including Macy's, Bloomingdales, Gucci, Burberry, Chanel, Versace, Armani, St. John Knits, Net-a-Porter, Farfetch, Michael Kors and so many others— have announced fur-free policies. Legislative bans, such as HB 1689, help hasten and solidify this positive transition while driving the development of more humane alternatives.

Hawaii has shown itself to be a leader regarding progressive animal welfare measures. The use of animal fur is inconsistent with this reputation. If passed, Hawaii will be only the second state in the country, following California, to ban the cruel and unnecessary fur trade within its borders. For all these reasons, HSVMA is in strong support of HB 1689, which will ban the sale and manufacture of fur in Hawaii and foster a more humane environment in the Aloha State.

We strongly encourage your humane leadership in supporting HB 1689.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Eric Jayne DVM'.

Eric Jayne, DVM
HSVMA Hawaii State Representative



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February 25, 2020

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Legislature
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Testimony in support of *An Act Relating to Animal Fur Products* (HB 1689)

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and honorable members of the House Committee on Finance,

On behalf of the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) and our supporters in Hawaii, thank you for this opportunity to submit a letter of support for *An Act Relating to Animal Fur Products* (HB 1689). We thank Representative Gregg Takayama for introducing this legislation and Senators Mike Gabbard, Russell E. Ruderman, Laura H. Thielen for introducing companion legislation. We respectfully urge the Committee to support HB 1689 and help make Hawaii the next state to go fur-free.

ALDF is the nation's preeminent legal advocacy organization for animals. The organization's mission is to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the legal system. We are working nationwide to combat the cruel fur industry across multiple legal channels.

HB 1689 would make it unlawful to sell or manufacture a new fur product in the state. If passed, Hawaii would be the second state in the country to take a strong stance against the cruel and unnecessary fur trade within its borders.

Fur requires significant animal cruelty.

Millions of animals, including foxes, wolves, minks, and rabbits, are brutally killed every year so people can wear their fur. Whether trapped in the wild or bred to die on fur farms, animals exploited by the fur industry endure tremendous suffering. Animals on fur farms are confined to tiny wire cages for their entire lives. Oftentimes, these cages are outdoors – stacked in wooden sheds that provide no protection from the heat or cold. Unable to engage in any of their natural behaviors, these animals routinely resort to self-mutilation, obsessive pacing, and infanticide. Fur farms kill animals through gassing, electrocution, neck-breaking, and poisoning. Undercover investigations on fur farms have documented egregious cruelty – including animals being skinned alive.

All our clients are innocent

Printed on recycled paper

Wild animals trapped for their fur also suffer. Trapping is largely regulated at the state level, and most states provide minimal protections for fur-bearing animals. In some states, it's legal to set a trap and not check it for days. Desperate and terrified, animals will sometimes chew their own legs off in an attempt to escape. Trappers shoot, strangle, and bludgeon trapped animals.

Fur puts our environment at risk.

The fur industry also poses serious environmental threats. On fur factory farms, waste runoff from animals pollutes the soil and waterways. The tanning and dyeing process uses toxic and carcinogenic chemicals, like chromium and formaldehyde, to prevent the skin from decaying.

Studies have found that among synthetic and natural textiles, fur is the worst-offending in 17 of the 18 environmental categories considered. The studies also found that the climate change impact of mink fur is five times higher than the second worst-offending textile (wool) and six times higher than a faux-fur alternative. This is largely due to the feed, land use, toxicity, and manure of the fur industry.

Fortunately, innovative technology has produced an array of alternatives with the same warmth, look and feel as fur – without the cruelty or environmental concerns.

Fur alternatives exist.

There is no justification to continue to breed or trap and kill animals for their fur considering the availability of faux fur and alternative products that are virtually indistinguishable from animal fur. So indistinguishable that, in 2017, we called for a Baltimore furrier to be investigated for false advertising when they used an image of a faux fur jacket from the HBO series Game of Thrones to advertise the animal furs in their store.

Fur-free policies are on the rise.

Consumers' concern for the animal cruelty and environmental threats from fur is leading fashion brands and legislators away from animal fur.

Hundreds of retailers, brands, and designers at all price points have announced fur-free policies, including: Macy's, Bloomingdale's, Gucci, Prada, Chanel, Coach, Burberry, Versace, Michael Kors, Armani, Calvin Klein, Kenneth Cole, Ralph Lauren, and JCPenney.

In 2019, California became the first state in the nation to ban the sale of fur. Abroad, multiple European countries, including Germany, Austria, Croatia, and the United Kingdom are in the process of phasing out or have already banned fur farming. São Paulo, Brazil also banned the sale of fur products in 2015.

Hawaii, time to go fur-free.

The sale of fur products in Hawaii is inconsistent with its position as a leader on animal welfare and environmental issues. By passing HB 1689, Hawaii will lead the fur-free charge while reinforcing the shift to fur-free products that is occurring in the fashion industry.

Hawaii should seize this opportunity to more closely align the state's laws with its values. Please help make Hawaii the next state to go fur-free by advancing the HB 1689 out of committee.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Mahalo nui.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Harris

--

Stephanie J. Harris | Senior Legislative Affairs Manager

Animal Legal Defense Fund | aldf.org

sharris@aldf.org | 617-955-7500



HB-1689-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 12:30:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Inga Gibson	Pono Advocacy, Animal Welfare Institute	Support	Yes

Comments:



IN DEFENSE OF ANIMALS

Hearing date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Time & Location: 11:00am in Conference Room 308

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Submitted by: Julie Massa, Fur Campaigner, In Defense of Animals, 828-779-2748

Re: Testimony in strong SUPPORT of HB 1689

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

We are writing to respectfully urge support for HB 1689 to make it unlawful to sell, give, or manufacture a new fur product in the state. If passed, HB 1689 would make Hawaii the second state in the nation to ban the cruel and unnecessary fur trade within its borders.

Simply put, the sale of fur products in Hawaii is inconsistent with its position as a world leader on animal welfare and environmental issues.

Regarding animal welfare, it is well-accepted that animal cruelty is inherent in the fur industry. Each year, more than 100 million animals are killed for their fur. Most are raised on fur factory farms where wild animals spend their entire lives in cramped cages, deprived of the ability to engage in natural behaviors, only to be killed in horrific ways at the end. In the wild, animals are often caught in crippling leg-hold traps for days without food or water. These archaic traps are indiscriminate, often maiming and killing non-target animals, like threatened species and even pets.

The fur industry also poses serious environmental threats. On fur factory farms, waste runoff from animals pollutes the soil and waterways, and the tanning and dying process uses toxic and carcinogenic chemicals, like chromium and formaldehyde, to

prevent the skin from decaying. Fortunately, innovative technology has produced an array of alternatives with the same warmth, look and feel as fur but without the cruelty or environmental concerns.

Moreover, consumers' growing concern for animal welfare and environmental degradation caused by the fur industry is leading fashion brands, cities, and countries to move away from animal fur once and for all. In 2018, Chanel, Coach, Burberry, Versace, Donna Karan, Diane Von Furstenberg, and *InStyle* magazine joined Gucci, Michael Kors, and Armani by announcing fur-free policies. Internationally, Norway and Belgium joined the Netherlands, United Kingdom, and Austria in banning fur production. Also, India banned fur imports in 2017.

By passing HB 1689 and eliminating the sale of new fur products in Hawaii, we have the opportunity to increase community awareness of animal welfare, mitigate the environmental harm caused by the fur industry, bolster the demand for sustainable and innovative alternatives, and, in turn, foster a more humane environment in Hawaii.

For the foregoing reasons, we kindly request the members of the House Finance Committee to support the passage of HB 1689.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marilyn Kroplick, MD". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Marilyn Kroplick M.D.

President

e: marilyn@idausa.org

t: 415-448-0072

Cc: Members of the House Committee on Finance

HB-1689-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 4:37:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberly C. Moore, Esq.	Fur Free Society, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf of Fur Free Society, Inc., we strongly urge lawmakers to support HB1689.

Fur farming is, by its nature, inherently cruel. Approximately ninety-five percent (95%) of all fur comes from fur farms, where more than 100 million animals are brutally killed each year. This estimate does not include rabbit fur from China, where it is reported that over a billion rabbits are slaughter just for their fur. The extreme confinement of land roaming animals is contrary to every natural instinct that animals have, and the slaughter of animals for vanity sake is abhorrent. That public opinion has turned strongly against fur farming is evidenced not only by major designers that have banned the use of fur (including Armani, Gucci, Versace, Chanel, Coach, Burberry, Ralph Lauren, Michael Kors, Diane Von Furstenberg, Hugo Boss, Donna Karan & DKNY, Furla, von Holzhausen, The Kooples, Zhivago, Maison Margiela, Bottega Veneta, Nicholas K., TJ Maxx/Marshalls and Farfetch.com, Jimmy Choo, BCBMaxazria, and Jean Paul Gaultier, who called fur farming “absolutely deplorable”), but also by entire countries that have banned fur farming, including the U.K., Austria, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Belgium, Ireland and others. Germany effectively regulated fur farming out of existence by raising standards to a level not financially sustainable, and Luxembourg banned fur farming because “*animals are no longer considered as a thing, but as gifted non-human living beings....*” Fashion weeks, magazines and model agencies are also adopting fur free policies, including Nordic Fashion Week Association, London Fashion Week, InStyle Magazine, and others, reflecting a strong public sentiment against the farming of animals for their fur. The fashion industry itself has come out against the use of fur. In the *Pulse of the Fashion Industry 2017*, published by Global Fashion Agenda & The Boston Consulting Group, the report concluded that animal products are not only unjustified and cruel, but are also worse for the environment, concluding that among 14 common fashion materials, animal products were listed among the top most environmentally detrimental materials.

In that regard, our strongest argument for banning the sale and manufacture of fur is the adverse impact that fur farming has on the environment. The marketing of fur as “natural”, “sustainable”, “eco-friendly” and “green” is deceptive and misleading, meant to greenwash the real environmental impact, and Fur Free Society, Inc. has asked the Federal Trade Commission to ban these advertising claims. In fact, fur farming has the same adverse environmental impact as factory farming, polluting rivers and waters with

industrial and animal waste. According to a 2013 Water Quality Survey commissioned by Nova Scotia Environment, lakes near mink farms in Nova Scotia, Canada are seriously degraded primarily from high phosphorus inputs resulting from releases emanating from mink farming operations. The David Suzuki Foundation report, *The Impacts of the Mink Industry on Freshwater Lakes in Nova Scotia*, concluded that lakes and rivers are under “serious threat”, with several lakes “eutrophied” with some developing blue-green algae. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency warns that nutrient pollution from excess nitrogen and phosphorus from animal manure is a “leading cause of degradation of U.S. water quality” causing depletion of dissolved oxygen that fish and aquatic life need in order to survive, and that algal blooms endanger human health. I have attached a Groundbreaking Independent Research Study on the Environmental Impact of Mink Fur Production (CE Delft, January 2011), which concluded that in 17 of the 18 environmental impacts studied, mink scored *worst* than other textiles, and that carcinogens like chromium and formaldehyde used in the dressing and dyeing process compromise a fur’s biodegradability. I have also attached a subsequent report (CE Delft, June 2013), which concludes that the environmental impact of a natural mink fur coat is at least 3 times higher than the impact of a faux fur coat. As indicated in the *Pulse of the Fashion Industry 2017*, the fashion industry itself acknowledges the detrimental impact of fur.

In addition, chemical and organic compounds used to “dress” and “dye” fur are highly detrimental to the environment and are known to be carcinogenic to humans, including formaldehyde, chromium, aluminum, ammonia, chlorine, lead, methanol, sulfuric acid, toluene, chlorobenzene and ethylene glycol. The World Health Organization (2001, 79:7809) has warned that tannery pollution threatens the health of Bangladesh residents, finding that approximately 90% of people who live and work in the Kamrangirchar and Hazaribagh regions of India, where hazardous chemicals are discharged into the air, streets and river, suffer from diseases of occupation and environmental toxicity and die before the age of 50. An Italian investigation also found Chrome VI (Hexavalent), Chrome III (Trivalent), Formaldehyde and Nonylphenol Ethoxylate on clothing intended for children under the age of 36 months. At each stage of production, fur is detrimental to the environment and detrimental to human health.

For the foregoing reasons, we strongly support passage of HB 1689.

We thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Kimberly C. Moore, Esq.

Director of Public Relations, Fur Free Society, Inc.

The Honorable Chris Lee
Chair, House Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 433
Honolulu, HI 96813

Cc: Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

Statement of Support of HB 1689

Dear Chair Lee:

As a fur-free company, we're writing to show our support for HB 1689, which prohibits the manufacture and sale of animal fur products. If passed, Hawaii will be the second state in the country to take a strong stance against the cruelty of fur.

We proudly support the passage of HB 1689. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LB', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Laura Brown
Editor-In-Chief
InStyle
laura.brown@instyle.com

HB-1689-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 11:23:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
leslie farnel	for forgotten felines	Support	No

Comments:

I support this measure. It is antiquated and barbaric to kill another living thing for personal ego and narcissism. Following a strict no kill policy on our resident creatures be they mammals sea life or fowel and protesting that practice in other parts of the world by not importing these items provides a stellar example to other states and countries and will encourage like minded visitors to continue to support Hawaii. The quality of the country is shown in how the residents treat their animals.



Hearing Date: February 25, 2020

Time & Location: 11:00am in Conference Room 308

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Submitted by: Melanie Lary, Director of Research and Advocacy, Four Paws USA

RE: Testimony in strong SUPPORT for HB 1689

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

Four Paws USA respectfully urges all committee members to vote yes on HB 1689 at the upcoming committee hearing. HB 1689 would make it unlawful to sell or manufacture a new fur product in the state.

If passed, HB 1689 would make Hawaii the second state in the nation (following California) to ban the cruel and unnecessary fur trade within its borders.

Regarding animal welfare concerns, it is well-accepted that animal cruelty is inherent in the fur industry. Over 100 million animals are killed annually for their fur. On fur factory farms, wild animals spend their entire lives in cramped cages, deprived of the ability to engage in natural behaviors. These animals are then killed in inhumane ways - such as crude gassing, anal/genital electrocution and neck breaking - to preserve the quality of their pelts.

In the wild, animals are often caught in crippling leg-hold traps for days without food or water. These animals often die slowly by drowning, predation, shock, injury or blood loss. If they are found alive, they are frequently clubbed or suffocated to death in order to preserve their pelt's value. These archaic traps are indiscriminate, often maiming and killing non-target animals, like endangered species and even pets.

The fur industry also poses serious environmental threats. On fur factory farms, waste runoff from animals pollutes the soil and waterways. The tanning and dyeing process uses toxic and carcinogenic chemicals, like chromium and formaldehyde, to prevent the skin from decaying. Fortunately, innovative technology has produced an array of alternatives with the same warmth, look and feel as fur but without the cruelty or environmental concerns.



Moreover, consumers' growing concern about the cruelty and environmental degradation caused by the fur industry is leading fashion brands to move away from animal fur once and for all. Numerous top brands and retailers—including Macy's, Bloomingdales, Gucci, Burberry, Chanel, Versace, Armani, St. John Knits, Net-a-Porter, Farfetch, Michael Kors and so many others—have announced fur-free policies, opting instead for alternatives that are warm and fashionable, without the cruel consequences.

By passing HB 1689 and eliminating the sale of new fur products throughout Hawaii, we have the opportunity to increase community awareness of animal welfare, bolster the demand for sustainable and innovative alternatives, and foster a more humane environment in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Melanie Lary
Director of Research and Advocacy
FOUR PAWS USA

FOUR PAWS USA is part of a global animal welfare organization that has, for over 30 years, consistently and successfully focused on improving the lives of animals around the world. We fight cruelty through education and advocacy, rescue and refuge. Four Paws works to change laws and social behavior through research, undercover investigations, reports, education and mobilization campaigns, coalitions, and advocacy work on national and international levels. Four Paws focuses on animals that are directly under human influence: stray dogs and cats, farm animals, companion animals, and wild animals in captivity including bears, big cats, elephants, and orangutans orphaned in the wild. With offices in 15 countries—including the U.S. office in Boston, MA, Four Paws aims to help animals in need directly and quickly.



February 24, 2020

Sylvia Luke, Chair
Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

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

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our more than 19,500 members and supporters in Hawaii to urge you to vote "yes" on HB 1689. This lifesaving legislation would ban the manufacture and sale of fur products, preventing countless animals from being violently killed.

For decades, PETA and our international affiliates have exposed horrific cruelty to animals on fur farms around the world. Investigators have documented that animals are electrocuted, bludgeoned, gassed, and skinned alive—all just to make a coat, a collar, or a pompom keychain. Much of the world's fur comes from China, where millions of dogs and cats are killed for their fur and skin, which are intentionally mislabeled and sold to unsuspecting customers here in the U.S. and elsewhere.

Fur is not sustainable—producing an animal-fur product is up to 10 times more harmful to the environment than producing a faux-fur item. The chemicals used to prevent animals' flesh from rotting are highly toxic and carcinogenic and commonly end up polluting rivers and other freshwater sources.

Passing HB 1689 would send a strong message to the rest of the world that killing animals for their fur has no place in a compassionate society. The movement against fur is gaining momentum. Just last year, Macy's and Bloomingdale's joined hundreds of other major retailers and fashion brands—including the likes of Chanel, Prada, Gucci, Versace, Burberry, Michael Kors, and many others—in banning fur and the state of California banned fur. In addition, more than a dozen countries around the world have banned fur farms.

Hawaii is forward-thinking, as you've recently proved by banning wild-animal acts in circuses. You now have another opportunity to set a compassionate example, by voting in favor of HB 1689.

Sincerely,

Tracy Reiman
Executive Vice President
PETA

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

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- PETA Australia
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- PETA Netherlands
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February 24, 2020

House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Legislature
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Letter of Support from Born Free USA on House Bill 1689

Dear Representative Sylvia Luke, Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support on house bill, H.B. 1689. My name is Julie Kluck, and I am the Campaigns Associate at Born Free USA, a non-profit organization that works tirelessly to end the suffering of wild animals in captivity, rescue individual animals in need, and protect wildlife in their natural habitats – by keeping wildlife in the wild and encouraging compassionate conservation globally. Born Free is a leader in the anti-fur movement, having devoted years to investigating the fur trade industry. Among other work, we have produced reports on the fur trade focused on North America, where the reports analyze fur farm legislation and fur farm animal welfare practices.

On behalf of Born Free and its Hawaii supporters, we would like to support the introduced House Bill 1689, Animal Fur Products; Manufacture and Sale; Prohibition. We respectfully urge the House Judiciary Committee members to vote yes on H.B. 1689, which will, “make it unlawful to sell, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, or otherwise distribute for monetary or nonmonetary consideration, a fur product in the state.”¹ This bill will also make it unlawful to manufacture a fur product in the state for the purpose of sale.²

Currently, there is very little oversight on fur farming and the fur trade industries in the United States. The few federal bills prohibit the import and export of dog and cat fur products into the U.S. and in interstate commerce, prohibit deceptive labeling of fur products, and require products made with real fur be properly labeled as such.

Animal cruelty is the norm in the fur industry. The vast majority of fur is not a byproduct of the meat industry; instead, it comes from animals who are factory-farmed specifically for their fur, or trapped in the wild. More than 100 million animals are raised and killed for their fur each year. On these factory fur farms, wild animals spend their entire lives in cramped cages, deprived of the ability to engage in natural behaviors. These animals are then killed in inhumane ways such as crude gassing, anal electrocution, and neck breaking in order to preserve the quality of their pelts. In the wild, a majority of animals are caught in crippling leg-hold traps and snares for days without food, water, shelter, or the ability to defend themselves against

¹ “HB 1689 Relating to Animal Fur Products.” *Hawaii State Legislature*, https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2020/bills/HB1689_.htm. Accessed February 24, 2020.

² *Id.*

predators. These archaic traps are indiscriminate, often maiming and killing non-target animals, like threatened and endangered species and even pets.

If passed, Hawaii would be the second state (following California) in the country to ban the cruel and unnecessary fur trade within its borders. Consumers throughout the nation are showing growing concern about the cruelty, leading iconic fashion brands and retailers such as Gucci, Chanel, Versace, Macy's, and Bloomingdales to go fur-free moving away from using animal fur once and for all.

By passing H.B. 1689, Hawaii will help lead the charge against animal cruelty while reinforcing the shift to fur-free products that is already occurring in the fashion industry. Born Free USA respectfully request that Hawaii's House Judiciary Committee members pass House Bill 1689. We must work together to create a more humane and sustainable environment that will better serve both the state and its public.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie J. Kluck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Kluck
Campaigns Associate
Born Free USA
Email: julie@bornfreeusa.org
Phone: (202) 450-3168



Hearing date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Time & Location: 11:00am in Conference Room 308

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Re: Testimony in strong SUPPORT of HB 1689

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

Submitted by: The International Anti Fur Coalition (IAFC)

RE: Testimony in strong SUPPORT for HB 1689

We, the undersigned of the International Anti Fur Coalition (IAFC) are writing to respectfully urge committee members to vote yes on HB 1689 at the upcoming committee hearing.

HB 1689 would make it unlawful to sell or manufacture a new fur product in the state of Hawaii. If passed, Hawaii will be the second state in the country (following California) to ban the cruel and unnecessary fur trade within its borders.

There's proof beyond all doubt that animal cruelty is inherent in the Blood Fashion fur industry. Each year more than 100 million animals are raised on fur factory farms, where wild animals are born into unimaginable horror and spend their entire lives in cramped cages, deprived of the ability to engage in natural behavior. Their stress from living in a tiny cage causes serious welfare problems, such as self-mutilation and infected wounds. These animals are then killed in inhumane ways, such as crude gassing or anal/genital electrocution. Animal protection organizations have even documented animals being skinned alive by the Blood Fashion fur industry.

In the wild, animals are often caught in crippling leg-hold traps for days without food or water. These archaic traps are indiscriminate, often maiming and killing non-target animals, like threatened species and even pets.

The fur industry also poses serious environmental threats. On fur factory farms, waste runoff from animals pollutes the soil and waterways, and the tanning and dying process uses toxic and carcinogenic chemicals, like chromium and formaldehyde, to prevent the skin from decaying. Fortunately, innovative technology has produced an array of alternatives with the same warmth, look and feel as fur but without the cruelty or environmental concerns.

Moreover, consumers' growing concern for animal welfare and environmental degradation caused by the fur industry is leading fashion brands, cities, and countries to move away from animal fur once and for all. Numerous top brands and retailers—including Macy's, Bloomingdales, Gucci, Burberry, Chanel, Versace, Armani, St. John Knits, Net-a-Porter, Farfetch, Michael Kors and so many others— have announced fur-free policies, opting instead for alternatives that are warm and fashionable, without the cruel consequences. Internationally, Norway and Belgium joined the Netherlands, United Kingdom, and Austria in banning fur production. Also, India banned fur imports in 2017.

By passing HB 1689 and eliminating the sale of new fur products throughout Hawaii, we have the opportunity to increase community awareness of animal welfare, bolster the demand for sustainable and innovative alternatives, and foster a more humane environment in Hawaii.

Throughout history ethical evolution has brought about moral change. Here too, it is evidenced that the fashion world evolved to embrace Fashion with Compassion. An ever increasing impressive list of leading names of the fashion industry have declared themselves Fur Free, giving their logical and ethical reasoning to ditch fur to be founded on the discovery of the Hidden Horror of the Blood Fashion Fur Industry and the well documented environmental harm.

Hence the IAFC applaud Hawaii and their ethical public who support the ban and all the ethical people and organizations who are tirelessly working to put an end to the shameful atrocity that is BLOOD FASHION FUR. THE FUTURE IS FUR FREE!!

Respectfully,

Jane Moreno Halevy

Director of the International Anti Fur Coalition

Mitzi Ocean

Global Coordinator of the International Anti Fur Coalition

<https://www.antifurcoalition.org/>

HB-1689-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 12:36:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Jayne	HSVMA	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am a Hawaii licensed veterinarian who works on Oahu, Molokai and the Big Island. I support passing the fur ban bill. This would be a statement against the use of fur in our society. I have lived in Alaska until 2015 and know many people who are fur trappers. I also have run a trap line in Alaska. It is a brutal profession and seeing animals that have slowly died over a period of days, as they hang by a leg in a trap and suffer, leaves a lasting trauma even in the fur trapper's mind. Fur trapping is a brutal unnecessary thing in these modern times. There are many alternatives to fur. Please support this bill.

STELLA McCARTNEY

Hearing date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Time & Location: 11:00am in Conference Room 308

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Re: Testimony in strong SUPPORT of HB 1689

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

I am writing to you to voice my resolute support for bill #, a bill that would prohibit the sale and manufacture of fur products in Hawaii making it the second state in the country ban the cruel and unnecessary fur trade within its borders.

At Stella McCartney, we have never used fur or leather in our collections and we do not believe that animals should die for the sake of fashion. We are no longer the only company that feels this way. Over the past few years countless brands and designers have woken up to the unequivocal cruelty of the fur industry and have subsequently stopped using fur in their collections. More and more consumers believe it is unacceptable to buy or sell any animal fur. The world is moving in a more positive direction and it is time for Hawaii to take the vital next step.

Hawaii has an opportunity to present itself as a world-leader regarding progressive animal welfare measures. The current state of fur products is inconsistent with Hawaii's values and its reputation as a humane and kind state. Bill # is a response to these public values and will foster a more humane environment in Hawaii.

Fur has no place in any compassionate society and today its use is unnecessary and inexcusable. Plainly, fur is immoral, cruel and barbaric. Whether the animal lived on a fur farm or was trapped in the wild, each fur coat, trinket, and trim is the result of tremendous animal suffering and a life cruelly taken away. Fur is not a by-product; it is an industry that capitalises on death, slaughtering more than 100 million animals per year. The majority of these animals live out their lives in battery-cage farm systems filled with barren, filthy, wire-floored cages that are too small. Such conditions cause psychological stress to the animals and lead to cannibalism, illness and deformities.

The caged raccoon dogs, rabbits, foxes, mink, chinchillas, and other animals are killed by anal electrocution, neck breaking or gassing. The excruciating live skinning of raccoon dogs has been documented, whose fur is widely sold, commonly advertised and falsely labelled – or not labelled at all. These are the fur farms we know about; the ones visited and audited. We can safely assume far crueler mistreatment of animals in the farms that go unchecked and unseen. These processes refer solely to fur farming: wild animal trapping, however, is equally brutal. Steel leg clamps, neck snares, head-crushing and body-gripping traps that come certified under international treaties cause unthinkable suffering and a slow, lingering death. If there are those who claim this is a compassionate and legitimate industry, we

STELLA McCARTNEY

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 230 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

are calling on you to open your doors and grant us complete transparency into your methods and conditions so we can openly see what takes place.

In addition to the overwhelming ethical reasons for banning the sale of fur, evidence and research proves that fur is completely unsustainable. A common defense deployed by the fur industry is that fur is natural and therefore inextricable with sustainability. This claim is false and misleading. First, fur is natural only in the sense that it comes from an animal; however, in order to be sellable fur has to be tanned in a process contaminated by toxic chemicals and heavy metals. This stops the natural decomposition process. It is important to highlight that something from natural origins does not inherently make it sustainable and innocuous.

There are indeed environmental implications where faux fur is concerned, however when compared to real fur, the cruelty-free alternative has a significantly reduced impact to the planet. Taking into account the wide availability of alternative faux fur products on the market with the look and feel of real fur, the need to slaughter animals becomes redundant and archaic. We no longer need to kill in the name of fashion.

We continue to innovate sustainable and biodegradable solutions as part of our modern ethos and are focused on creating the next generation of faux furs that match this ethos to further demonstrate the redundancy of the fur trade. Our ethical stance continues to resonate with the growing number of young people who we employ across the world. These ethics feel particularly potent in Hawaii, a state recognised for an enduring kindness and affection.

We hope that a more progressive attitude will galvanise the fashion industry into supporting creative, new and alternative ideas, leading to prosperous business opportunities in Hawaii. We promise to lead the way in finding new and environmentally friendly ways of creating animal free and cruelty free fashion.

I urge you support bill #, which will ban the sale and manufacture of fur in Hawaii. Let's create a fur free world today!

Yours faithfully,

Stella McCartney
Creative Director
Stella McCartney Ltd
3 Olaf Street London, W11

HB-1689-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2020 1:02:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Austen Stone, MPH	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HB1689, as the fur industry is hugely inhumane and totally unnecessary. Animals are killed via anal or genital electrocution, and often skinned alive. The fur industry is unconscionably cruel and not needed. Please support HB 1689, and thank you.

HB-1689-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 8:47:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matt	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Unless the animal is endangered or the killing is inhumane, there is no reason to ban the use of its hide for products. If these animals are killed for food then preventing the use of their hide is just a big waste. It also criminalizes people who make various products out of these hides that would otherwise go to waste.

LATE

HB-1689-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 12:22:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kekoa McClellan	The Humane Society of the United States	Support	Yes

Comments:

LATE

HB-1689-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 10:41:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2020 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments: