

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
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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. 2041, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2041, HD1 relating to meat inspection and meat processing. The bill appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to support the establishment of three full time equivalent meat inspection positions to perform meat inspection services. The Department offers comments on this measure.

The Department is in support of the bill's intent to provide meat inspection services and promote the state's livestock industries. States may operate their own meat inspection programs if they meet and enforce requirements "at least equal to" those imposed under the Federal Meat Inspection Act, Poultry Products Inspection Act and Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1978, under a cooperative agreement with USDA- Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS). However, the Department notes that its previous meat inspection program was discontinued in the mid-1990s due to cuts in budget and staffing mandated by the reduction in force directives. The USDA- Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) assumed responsibility for those obligations thereafter and has been the sole entity performing meat inspection services in Hawaii since that time. It is not legal to combine state and federal meat inspection in any single facility. A facility must be either state-inspected or FSIS-inspected only. Therefore, for the inspector positions to have utility, the state must additionally commit to funding

supervisors, support staff, and ongoing operating costs to comply with operational, reporting, and other requirements per FSIS regulations. The Department has not had the opportunity to obtain a cost estimate for these additional necessities.

At this time, USDA-FSIS is the only regulatory agency that operates an established meat inspection program in the state that can conduct inspections for a plant's meat production activities in a timely manner. The executive branch has engaged with federal counterparts at the USDA on the topic of filling federal vacancies in the State. The Department believes that continued federal meat inspections is the more advantageous option for the State going forward in a timely manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Ruderman, Vice Chair

HB2041

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 HB2041**. 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.

The demand for local beef is an opportunity for the cattle industry to work towards increasing beef production in Hawaii. In order to do this successfully, our producers must have access to processing facilities that can grow with the increased capacity. This bill will support the state's goals to increase local food production. Additional inspectors would also assist with growing capacity for processing deer, sheep, and pigs, which are feral ungulates that damage property and disrupt a well-managed grazing plan.

We support HB2041 and appreciate the chance to comment on this matter.

Nicole Galase
Managing Director





Bobby Farias
President
Hawaii Meats LLC
91-319 Olai Street
Kapolei, HI 96707

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

Re: HB 2041

Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 1:15pm
Conference Room 224, State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha e Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bobby Farias, and I am the President and Partner of Hawaii Meats, LLC, a locally vertically-integrated ranch. I am writing in **support of HB 2041**.

I support this bill to reintroduce the State Meat inspector because it will increase the ability to have Local inspection of harvest facilities and help drive the growth of the local protein space. In Hawaii, we are in need of more local inspectors at all of the local harvests and further processing locations. Hawaii has recently grown its local meat production to the point of the lack of available Federal Inspection. The current inspectors are overworked and just don't have enough to go around. Currently, there are opportunities to grow the meat business but are being passed on due to the lack of inspectors. This Local inspector program will also help grow other local harvest opportunities like the deer and sheep. The need for management of the Deer population could really be helped by having more inspectors available to cover the growing herd numbers on Maui, Molokai and Lanai.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this important matter.

Mahalo,

Bobby Farias
President - Hawaii Meats, LLC



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March 11, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 2041, HD1
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 2041, HD1, which appropriates moneys to the Department of Agriculture for 3 full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) inspectors to perform meat inspection services.

Many 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 some of these producers is that they often do not have USDA inspected processing facilities available within a practical distance and an affordable cost.

Reviving State Meat Inspectors program will help promote the state's livestock industries. This will increase the ability to have Local inspection of harvest facilities and help drive the growth of the local protein production.

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

HB-2041-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2020 12:00:15 PM

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: