

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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**FEBRUARY 20, 2020
12:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2041, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Luke 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 is in support of the bill's intent to provide meat inspection services and promote the state's livestock industries. 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 and has been performing meat inspection services statewide in Hawaii since that time. It is not possible to combine state and federal meat inspection in any facility. A facility must be either state only or FSIA only. The state must be willing to commit to resurrecting a meat inspection program that includes supervisors, support staff, and operating costs in addition to inspectors because a state facility must maintain at least the same operational, reporting and other requirements as FSIS.



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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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February 20, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2041, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 308
12:00 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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.



HAWAII MEATS

Bobby Farias
President
Hawaii Meats, LLC
91-319 Olai Street
Kapolei, Hawai'i 96707

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Re: HB 2041
Thursday, February 20, 2020, 12:00pm
Conference Room 308, State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha e Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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 over worked 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



February 19, 2020

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance
Thirtieth Legislature
Regular Session, 2020

RE: House Bill 2041, HD 1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE
Hearing date: February 20, 2020 at 12:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on behalf of Young Brothers in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 2041, HD 1 – Relating to Agriculture. House Bill 2041, HD 1 appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to support the establishment of three full time equivalent meat inspection positions to perform meat inspection services.

House Bill 2041, HD 1 will provide increased local inspection of harvest facilities and support the growth of the local protein production. Hawaii needs more local inspectors at all harvest and processing locations. Current inspectors are undermanned and unable to meet the demand of local protein producers who do not have access to a USDA inspected processing facility within a practical distance and at an affordable rate. Reviving the State meat inspection program will help promote the state's livestock industries.

For these reasons, Young Brothers strongly supports House Bill 2041, HD 1, and we humbly ask that you move this measure.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jay Ana
President

HB-2041-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 5:37:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Robert Hanson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Ke Akua, members of Legalization, in the name of the aloha spirit law.

We need this bill to go in effect, in 2021, not 2150.

Please pass this bill, Without HD1.

Or it is no help, to anyone. Do your job. Stop passing the Buck!

Aloha Mark Hanson the Sandalwoodman