

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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**FEBRUARY 5, 2020  
8:35 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

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

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2041, 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. As such, if a meat processing plant were approved for operation in Hawaii, the USDA-FSIS would be the only regulatory agency that can conduct inspections for the plant's meat production activities at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**HB-2041**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 5:31:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bobby Farias	Hawaii Meats LLC	Support	Yes

Comments:

I support this bill to reintroduce the State Meat inspector. This 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 harvest and further processing location. 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 that are being passed on due 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 heard numbers on Maui, Molokai and Lanai.



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

February 5, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2041**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 312  
8:35 AM

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice-Chair DeCoite, 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**, 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 Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair

Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

**HB2041**

Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 9:15 a.m.

Conference Room 312, State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture,

My name is Nicole Galase and I am the Managing Director for the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. We are writing to **support 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.

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



**HB-2041**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 11:15:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments: