

Testimony of Ku'uhaku Park  
On Behalf of Matson  
Opposition to SB2715  
Before the Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Transportation  
February 10, 2020

Dear Chair Gabbard, Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and Members of the Committees,

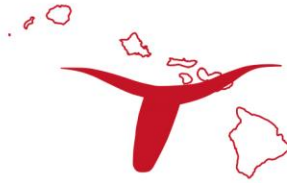
Matson respectfully opposes SB2715, Relating to Livestock Transportation. This measure requires the Department of Agriculture to adopt rules to protect the welfare of livestock transported to, from, or between any island of Hawaii. It also requires the Department of Agriculture to adopt interim rules.

There are many regulations in place to ensure the safety and welfare of livestock throughout the shipping process. Federal rules set forth many requirements for shipping livestock, including inspection of livestock, facilities in which the livestock are held, and the vessel on which the livestock will be transported; mandatory rest periods for livestock prior to shipping; and provision of adequate feed and water. (*See* 9 CFR 91). There are also state administrative rules in place.

The American Association of Bovine Practitioners issued best management practices, which include procedures for cattle destined for air and ocean transportation with input from Hawaii's cattlemen. The American Association of Bovine Practitioners' membership consists of approximately 6,000 veterinarians and their best management practices are recognized nationally and internationally.

Matson takes great care in following existing law and best management practices. Requiring the Department of Agriculture to adopt new rules in addition to the existing federal and state rules and well-recognized best management practices is not necessary.

Thank you for considering this testimony in opposition.



## Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

### COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

### COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair  
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

### **SB2715**

Requires the Department of Agriculture to adopt rules to protect the welfare of livestock transported to, from, or between any island of Hawaii. Requires the department to adopt interim rules.

Monday, February 10, 2020, 1:15 pm.  
Conference Room 224, State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Harimoto, and members of the committees,

My name is Nicole Galase and I am the Managing Director for the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. We are writing to **oppose SB2715 relating to livestock transportation**, as this issue is currently being addressed by the combined efforts of our Department of Agriculture, industry association leadership and transportation partners.

In 2020, Hawaii Cattlemen's Council continues to focus on establishing a safe, secure and sustainable food source for Hawaii. Interisland transportation is critical to achieving this goal.

Since 1990, HCC's Animal Health and Well-being Committee has regularly published guidelines for the movement of livestock, specifically by ocean transport. This work is continually reviewed and evolves with changes in technology and methods. In addition, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association also provides Beef Quality Assurance, a training program that demonstrates proper management techniques and promotes a commitment to quality within every segment of the beef industry.

Although rare, in an instance in which animals are injured or die during shipment, HCC investigates and uses this information to identify and address factors which lead to the event. Communication between producers, shippers and receivers is vital to the safe transport of our livestock. HCC leadership has met with Young Brothers and Matson Navigation to develop a livestock advocacy position within their organizations. We are committed to working with all our transportation partners to place the highest priority on animal welfare.

Hawaii's State Department of Agriculture, Animal Industry Division, is in the process of amending its administrative rules that contain sections regarding carrier responsibilities. HCC will collaborate with DOA to ensure that carriers transport our livestock in a safe manner that meets and reflects best management practices and the core values of our community. We understand the need to build and maintain public trust in our stewardship. We are committed to productive dialogue that moves us closer to providing safe, secure and wholesome food for our community.

We **oppose SB2715** relating to livestock transportation and respectfully ask that this bill be deferred, as this issue is currently being addressed by the combined efforts of our Department of Agriculture, industry association leadership and transportation partners.



**SB-2715**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 9:00:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jimmy Gomes	Testifying for Ulupalakua Ranch	Oppose	No

Comments:



# Animal Welfare Institute

900 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20003

To: The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair  
Senate Committee on Transportation  
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Erin Sutherland, Staff Attorney, Farm Animal Program  
Animal Welfare Institute

Subject: **SB2715, Bill Relating to Livestock Transportation**

Hearing: Monday, February 10, 2020, 1:15 PM  
Conference Room 224, State Capitol

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of SB2715, which requires the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to adopt rules for the care of livestock transported to, from, or between the islands of Hawai'i. The Animal Welfare Institute, founded in 1951 and headquartered in Washington DC, is dedicated to reducing animal suffering and advancing the welfare of all animals, including those raised for food. As part of our mission we work to improve conditions for farm animals, including during transport.

The Animal Welfare Institute strongly supports SB2715, a modest measure which if adopted would provide needed protections to farm animals during transportation. Currently, there are no regulations governing the care of livestock transported between the islands and from Hawai'i to the mainland. A tragic incident last November highlights the need for the regulations. Twenty-one cattle died while being transported on a barge from Honolulu to Kauai. Prior to departure, the Department of Agriculture veterinarians inspected the animals for parasites and diseases, but did not ensure the conditions on the vessel were suitable for the humane transport of the animals. Unfortunately, the containers holding the animals were placed too closely together, limiting ventilation and causing the cattle to slowly die of suffocation during their journey to Kauai. The hours of suffering endured by these animals, which eventually led to their deaths, is unacceptable and preventable.

SB2715 offers a framework based on the federal government's international animal export regulations, and would improve the care of animals transported by sea and prevent similar types of incidents as the one noted above. The federal standards are based upon international standards set by the World Organization for Animal Health (known by its French acronym the "OIE"). The federal standards only apply to shipments from the US to foreign ports, even though animals could be transported on much longer journeys from Hawai'i to the mainland. This law seeks to apply those standards to animal shipments to, from, and between the islands of Hawai'i.

According to our prior discussion with the Department of Agriculture, it intends to revise the department's regulations governing the prevention, control and eradication of livestock diseases in Hawai'i. However, these regulations do not currently address animal care, and the department has not indicated that it will be addressing animal care in the revised regulations.

The basic provisions of SB2715 provide for access to food and water, proper ventilation, care for sick animals, and other requirements to make sure the vessels are suitable for transporting animals. These requirements ensure that animals do not suffer or die from preventable

causes. The bill also gives the Department of Agriculture the flexibility to provide for unique circumstances that exist for shipments involving Hawai'i. Finally, because the Department typically inspects for parasites and diseases at present, only a modest amount of resource investment would be necessary, as inspectors are already making inspections prior to transport. The measure would merely broaden this oversight.

Animals traveling from Hawai'i to destinations like California face journeys of over 2,000 miles, and need basic care. As we have recently seen, even animals traveling short distances can be faced with disaster. With the passage of this bill, Hawai'i would hold a unique position of being the nation's leader in ensuring animals transported by sea vessel are properly cared for. We respectfully request that you support SB2715. Thank you for your consideration.



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 10, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2715**  
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK TRANSPORTATION

Room 224  
1:15 PM

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Harimoto, and Members of the Committees:

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 opposes SB 2715**, which requires the Department of Agriculture to adopt rules to protect the welfare of livestock transported to, from, or between any island of Hawaii.

Hawaii's Livestock Industry's concern about the welfare of their animals is of utmost importance. They are committed to working with all transportation partners to place the highest priority on animal welfare.

HFB respectfully opposes SB 2715, as this issue is currently being addressed by the combined efforts of the Department of Agriculture, industry association leadership and transportation partners.

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

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

SB2715, Relating to Livestock Transportation  
Senate AEN/TRS Hearing  
Monday, February 10, 2020  
1:15 pm  
Conference Room 224

Testimony by: Larry Jeffs  
Position: Oppose, Request Deferral

Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Harimoto, and Members of the Senate AEN/TRS 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).

I am in support of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council request to defer this measure. I understand that discussion is underway with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council to amend its administrative rules about carrier responsibilities for safe transport of livestock. The Department will seek input during the administrative rules public hearing process from the various livestock industries, livestock transporters and others with concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**From:** [Kane-Parry, Tanya](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support SB2715: Farm Animal transport  
**Date:** Saturday, February 8, 2020 11:10:15 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Following the recent tragedy of the needles death of cows enroute to Hawaii, I urge you to support the passage of SB2715: Farm Animal transport to prevent this from ever happening again.

Thanks,  
Tanya



[Tanya Kane-Parry](#)  
[Department of Theatre and Dance](#)  
California State University, Los Angeles  
5151 State University Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90032  
tkanepa@calstatela.edu  
[calstatela.edu](#) | ***Pushing Boundaries***



**SB-2715**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 7:53:20 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	Yes

Comments:

Animal Rights Hawai'i  
Advocates for Animals since 1977  
1511 Nu'uau Ave. # 173  
Honolulu, HI, 96817  
808.721.4211  
cathyg@animalrightshawaii.org

Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Hearing : February 10, 2020 Room 224  
Hawai'i State Legislature  
January 29, 2020

In re: SB2715. Position: strongly support

Chair Gabbard , and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee:

I am Cathy Goeggel, President of Animal Rights Hawai'i. I am pleased to ask your support for SB 2715.

ARH has been monitoring livestock transport for over 25 years. We have found the Dept. Of Agriculture to be unwilling to provide information regarding several issues, including transport documentation. We recently discovered through a whistleblower that 21 pregnant heifers perished on a Young Bros. barge in November, 2019. The value of these pregnant heifers was \$5,000 each. The torture that those cows suffered whilst suffocating is unimaginable, and yet DoA did nothing to address this lapse in animal care. We would like to know more about the transport in order to ensure welfare protection for the animals. The rancher was reimbursed - nothing was done to ensure that this will not happen again.

Using UIPA, we were able to access mortality data for pigs shipped to Hawai'i; we have been unable to access information regarding out shipments of cattle (the main animals sent live to the US mainland.) The pig imports ceased two years ago. There had been many deaths en route over the years. There are no data available for outbound or inter island shipments for any livestock in Hawai'i

The Cattlemen's Council has established guidelines for preparation and shipping of cattle inter island and to the mainland. These are merely suggested guidelines. There is no State regulation regarding the welfare of livestock . We have no access to the mortality records from Young Brothers or Matson.

The President of the Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council, Jason Moniz, DVM, also is an employee of the Hawai'i DoA. We have concerns about this nexus. Dr. Moniz has stated several times that animal welfare is not his brief. You, the Legislature, can make humane treatment of livestock a priority and bring Hawai'i into the 21st century by requiring the DoA to do the right thing-

At the hearing in the House, DoA officials opposed the bill, assuring the Committee that they would voluntarily consider improvement in oversight and reporting. Fully aware that voluntary changes made in house have a tendency to move glacially (although with climate change that may not be the best simile) I ask this Committee to mandate that Hawai'i, our island state, establish regulations for ocean transport that meet the federal rules for ocean export.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy Goeggel

**Veterinary Associates, Inc**

**PO Box 839**

**Kamuela, Hawaii 96743**

**808-885-7941**

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

**SB2715**

Requires the Department of Agriculture to adopt rules to protect the welfare of livestock transported to, from, or between any island of Hawaii. Requires the department to adopt interim rules.

Monday, February 10, 2020, 1:15 pm.

Conference Room 224, State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Harimoto, and members of the committees,

My name is Lisa Wood and I am a practicing veterinarian on the Big Island. I have worked with our island ranches for over 30 years and regularly inspect cattle for shipment. Ocean transport is a vital part of the livestock industry and we have worked very hard to develop guidelines to ensure the safety and welfare of our animals. These guidelines address everything from food, water and space requirements to preconditioning of animals, sorting, and communication. We continually refine these guidelines and share them with our ranchers and transportation partners. No one is more concerned about the welfare of our animals than the people who care for them daily.

Although rare, in an instance in which animals are injured or die during shipment, our practice investigates and uses this information to identify and address factors which lead to the event. Communication between producers, shippers and receivers is vital to the safe transport of our livestock. Our veterinarians are actively involved with Hawaii Cattlemen's Council and have met with Young Brothers and Matson Navigation to develop a livestock advocacy position within their organizations. We are committed to working with all our transportation partners to place the highest priority on animal welfare.

Hawaii's State Department of Agriculture, Animal Industry Division, is in the process of amending its administrative rules that contain sections regarding carrier responsibilities. HCC will collaborate with DOA to ensure that carriers transport our livestock in a safe manner that meets and reflect best management practices and the core values of our community. We understand the need to build and maintain public trust in our stewardship. We are committed to productive dialogue that moves us closer to providing safe, secure and wholesome food for our community.

I oppose HB 1898 as this issue is currently being addressed at the grassroots level by the combined efforts of our local producers, veterinarians, Department of Agriculture, industry association leadership and transportation partners.

**SB-2715**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 4:47:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Moran	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair and senators. Please support this measure. It is long past time HI expressed concern for welfare and reasonable treatment of these sentient beings Mahalo,

Mike Moran Kihei

**SB-2715**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 7:47:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ryuko Miura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2715**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 5:02:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB2715, which will help make livestock transportation more humane thus alleviating their suffering.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

**SB-2715**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 5:52:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **oppose SB2715** relating to livestock transportation and respectfully ask that this bill be deferred, as this issue is currently being addressed by the combined efforts of our Department of Agriculture, industry association leadership and transportation partners.



**SB-2715**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 6:13:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gregory FRIEL	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**SB-2715**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 7:15:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Fernandes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2715**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 7:55:20 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Harry von Holt	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**SB-2715**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 11:13:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Woody Child	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

It will become to costly to ship animals inter island.

**SB-2715**

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 11:26:22 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rynette Keen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of SB2715 and ask that you also support this bill to ensure the safety of inter-Island, International, and Intra-State transport of livestock.

**SB-2715**

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 2:39:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bud & Katy Gibson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

We oppose SB2715 relating to livestock transportation and respectfully ask that this bill be deferred, as this issue is currently being addressed by the combined efforts of the D.O.a., industry leadership and our transportation partners.

We care deeply for the health and well being of the animals in our care and already follow guidelines that are already in place for their hauling and shipping.

Mahalo

**SB-2715**

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 2:03:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Franz Weber	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**From:** [Lahela Hekeia](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** "Support SB2715: Farm Animal transport"  
**Date:** Saturday, February 8, 2020 6:18:37 PM

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Please support more humane care of farm animals. "Support SB2715: Farm Animal transport"

Mahalo,

Lahela



**From:** [Lacey](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Please support for SB2715  
**Date:** Saturday, February 8, 2020 10:46:07 AM

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I was horrified to read of the death of 21 pregnant cows enroute from Oahu to Kauai. Hawaii has needs laws to prevent another similar incident. I support SB2715 which would provide basic welfare standards for animals shipped to, from, and within Hawaii.

>

> Sincerely,

>

> Lacey Levitt, Ph.D.

**From:** [Belinda Pate](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** support Sb 2715 farm animal transport  
**Date:** Sunday, February 9, 2020 8:25:59 AM

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To whom it may concern,

We don't have enough protections in place for animals. Please at least provide this one

Belinda Pate  
96740

**From:** [Karen Coyne](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support SB2715: Farm Animal transport  
**Date:** Saturday, February 8, 2020 10:18:46 AM

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If we're going to interfere with the lives of animals, we must do so responsibly.

Thank you,

Karen Coyne

**From:** [Megan Jones](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support SB2715: Farm Animal transport!!!  
**Date:** Saturday, February 8, 2020 3:42:30 PM

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**From:** [Lana Uhlin](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support SB2715: Farm Animal transport  
**Date:** Saturday, February 8, 2020 10:04:06 AM

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I support SB2715, to enact basic welfare standards for animals shipped to/from and between Hawaii!  
Mahalo

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Sayhayhome](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support SB2715: Farm Animal transport  
**Date:** Saturday, February 8, 2020 3:48:11 PM

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QUICK ACTION! Following the death of 21 pregnant cows enroute from Oahu to Kauai, we exposed that Hawaii has NO laws or rules to prevent another similar incident, given current laws only apply to disease control, not basic care or handling. Please take a moment to submit your support for SB2715, to enact basic welfare standards for animals shipped to/from and between Hawaii. Simply email [AENTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:AENTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov) with "Support SB2715: Farm Animal transport" in the subject line. The bill is up Monday at 115pm. Mahalo!

Sarah

**From:** [Corby Hettler](#)  
**To:** [AEN Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support SB2715  
**Date:** Monday, February 10, 2020 7:40:39 AM

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Support SB2715

Sent from my iPhone