

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

FEBRUARY 3, 2020
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

SENATE BILL NO. 2719
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2719, relating to feral swine control. The bill appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for fiscal year 2020-2021 for feral pig control, including: grants for fencing; grants for corral traps; and a program to reduce feral pig populations.

The Department supports the bill's intent to provide funds for feral swine control and offers the following comments. Fencing and trapping are useful means to reduce the effects of feral swine on farms. The most effective use of these control measures is when they are integrated into a focused control program.

Other agencies, however, such as the Department of Land and Natural Resources and USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, that have jurisdiction over and extensive experience with design and managing feral swine control programs, would be the more appropriate recipient for these funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



SB-2719

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 8:41:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2020 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nicole K Galase | Testifying for Hawaii Cattlemen's Council | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2719

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 3:12:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2020 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| David Z. Arakawa | Testifying for Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2719

Submitted on: 1/31/2020 9:42:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors 2018 - 2020

President
Joshua Uyehara

Vice-President
Warren Mayberry

Secretary
Dawn Bicoy

Treasurer
Laurie Yoshida

Directors-at-Large
Alan Takemoto
Leslie Campaniano
Michelle Starke
Joshua Uyehara
Warren Mayberry

President Emeritus
Alan Takemoto

TESTIMONY FROM THE HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

In Support of SB2719 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Monday, 02-03-20 1:15PM
Senate conference room 224

Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee:

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) is in support of SB2719, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture for feral pig control.

Feral pigs are a substantial threat to agriculture in Hawaii. Over the years, local farmers have watched as the population of these environmental and agricultural pests has grown and extended beyond the wild and into urban areas.

The risk to agricultural crops and livestock is substantial. Invasive feral hogs destroy agriculture crops by digging up the soil for food and creating niche spaces for other non-native species. The requested funding will allow the Department of Agriculture to develop and implement a much-needed control plan to limit the negative impacts produced by these animals.

HCIA respectfully requests that this committee vote in support of SB2719 to help local farmers protect their businesses and livelihoods.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Emmanuel Zibakalam, Program Director
Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy economy.



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

February 3, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2711
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF 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 SB 2719, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for feral pig control.

Feral pigs can cause major damage to property, agriculture (crops and livestock), Hawaii's native species and ecosystems, and Hawaii's cultural and historic resources. Feral pigs can also threaten the health of people, wildlife, pets, and other domestic animals. As Hawaii's feral pig populations continue to expand, these damages, costs, and risks will only keep rising.

Feral pigs cause tremendous damage to agriculture, including crops, nursery, livestock, and pasture. They damage crops by consuming them or by their rooting and trampling of crops. They will eat almost any crop. Feral pigs damage pasture grasses, killing desired plant species and often encouraging the growth of undesired weed species. They can also devastate orchards by consuming fruit, citrus, and nuts and their rooting can severely damage, or even kill saplings, shrubs, and vines directly or by facilitating the spread of soil-based fungal diseases. Feral pigs can also break irrigation lines, rip or tear nets, drying racks, and other agricultural structures and equipment.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers appreciate any effort to help control the feral pig population and the negative impacts that feral pigs have on Hawaii's agriculture industry.

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

SB-2719

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 8:05:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2020 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D. | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2719

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 3:29:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2020 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Megan Blazak | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

gabbard2 - Sydney

From: Robert Paull <robertepaull@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2020 12:19 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Subject: I support SB2719

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support SB2719, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for feral pig control.

This measure supports farmers and ranchers impacted by feral pigs. Feral pigs are destructive animals, destroying farm crops across the state. Feral pigs are a common sight and are now extending their reach from wild regions into urban areas. Invasive feral hogs destroy agriculture crops by digging up the soil for food and creating niche spaces for other non-native species.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Robert Paull
5393 Poola St
Honolulu, HI 96821
robertepaull@gmail.com

Multiple Testifier list for SB 2719

Phil Becker
Kim Kawahara
Frederick Mencher
Luana Beck
Domingo Loero
Brian Bushe
Stephanie Iona
Corey Barth
Richard Ogoshi
Paul Troy
Sandi Kato-Klutke
Ken Hirata
Randy Cabral
Randall Francisco
Glen Toyama
Karen Dickinson
Beth Webb
Randall Francisco
Susan Cabral
Marlene Jarvis
Brian Watanabe
Stephanie Whalen
James Tavares
Robert Paull
Alan Gottlieb
Dusty Alderks
James Gomes