

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



**LATE**

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

FEBRUARY 20, 2020  
10:35 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

SENATE BILL NO. 2824, SD 1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2824, SD1 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 single facility. A facility must be either state only or FSIS only. In order for the state to successfully resurrect its meat inspection program, in addition to inspectors, it must include supervisors, support staff, and adequate operating costs because a state facility must maintain at least the same operational, reporting and other requirements as an FSIS program.



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 responsive and timely manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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February 20, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2824, SD1**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 211  
10:35 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 2824, SD1**, 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.

**SB-2824-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 7:49:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2020 10:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nicole K Galase	Individual	Support	No

Comments: