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LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

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CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN  
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
and  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Wednesday, February 24, 2021  
9:15 a.m.  
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
S.B. 969, S.D. 1, RELATING TO ANIMAL FUR PRODUCTS**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Chair Baker, Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA or Department). The Department appreciates the intent of this bill and offers comments.

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the manufacture for sale, offer for sale, display for sale, sale, trade, or distribution of certain animal fur products in the State. The measure also requires the DCCA director to: issue a warning notice to a person who violates the proposed statutory chapter; impose fines for violations; and adopt rules to carry out the regulation of animal fur products.

The Department appreciates S.D. 1's intent to eliminate fur farming and the manufacture, sale, and distribution of fur products in Hawaii to foster a more humane environment. However, the regulation of animal fur products would require oversight by

a department or an agency that is well-versed in matters involving fur farming, fur trade industries, and animal rights, or that can effectively enforce the ban on animal fur products as a crime. These matters are outside the jurisdiction of the DCCA, which protects consumers through business registration and professional licensure, monitoring the financial solvency of local financial institutions and insurance companies, and investigating complaints of unfair business practices and license violations. Given the tailored mission of the DCCA—to protect consumers and service its business community with respect and fairness to the interests of both—it would be difficult to use existing staff expertise to regulate the manufacture, sale, and distribution of animal fur products in Hawaii.

In addition, the Department notes that in Stand. Com. Rep. No. 585, the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs amended H.B. 32, H.D. 1, Relating to Animal Fur Products, to specify that the responsibility of administering that measure shall lie in the jurisdiction of another department.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



Animal Defenders International

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www.adiusa.org usa@ad-international.org

***In support of Hawaii SB969/ HB32  
to ban the manufacture, sale, display, trade, or distribution of fur products***

[Animal Defenders International](#) (ADI)<sup>1</sup> offers the following in strong support of [SB969](#) / [HB32](#), to prohibit the sale, display for sale, trade or distribution of fur products in the state, with our thanks to its numerous introducing sponsors (Senators Keohokalole, Gabbard, Kidani, Lee, San Buenaventura, Fevella, Moriwaki, Shimabukuro, and Wakai; and Representatives Takayama, Gates, Hashimoto, Ichiyama, Kapela, Kitagawa, Lowen, Matayoshi, Nakamura, Perruso, Tokioka, Wildberger, Woodson, LoPresti, and Marten). If passed, Hawaii would join a growing list of nations,<sup>2</sup> the state of California, and numerous fashion leaders in saying no to fur industry cruelty and its public health risks.

[Michael Kors and Jimmy Choo debuted a luxurious cruelty-free alternative](#) in 2018, noting that with “*technological advances in fabrications, we now have the ability to create a luxe aesthetic using non-animal fur.*”<sup>3</sup> Other design icons who have committed to innovative fur-free fashion include Armani, Banana Republic, BCBG, Burberry, Burlington Coat Factory, Calvin Klein, Coach, Diane von Furstenberg, DKNY, Gucci, H&M, Hugo Boss, Ralph Lauren, Stella McCartney, Tommy Hilfiger, Versace, and Zara. The fashion world can and is already moving on.

Covid-19 exposed this industry as a serious contagion risk, and the reactionary culling of millions is a tragedy that ignores the real problem. The terrible events this past year have underscored the need and stirred calls worldwide for transformational change in the way humans trade in, consume, impact, and too often abuse nature.

**The farming, trade and consumption of wildlife and wildlife-derived products (for ... fur and other products) have led to biodiversity loss, and emerging diseases, including SARS and COVID-19. ... high pandemic risk consumption patterns (e.g. use of fur from farmed wildlife)<sup>4</sup>**

**There is no future for business as usual ... To successfully address [these challenges] will require tackling the ... drivers of nature loss - ... trade, production and consumption ... and the values and behaviours of society.<sup>5</sup>**

Studies show the fur industry presents high climate and environmental costs, with significant emissions and land use requirements, as well as air and water pollutants emanating from animal waste (nitrogen, phosphorus), incineration (carbon monoxide, hydrochloric acid, sulphur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides), and tanning processes. Industrial animal farms are “extremely energy intensive ... requir[ing] disproportionately large inputs of fossil fuels.”<sup>6</sup> In 2012, the Advertising Standards Authority banned a fur ad (run by the European Fur Breeders Association), concluding that the ad’s claim that fur is ‘eco-friendly’ was misleading.<sup>7</sup>

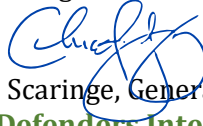
**To produce 1 kg of fur requires more than 11 animals. ... Compared with textiles, fur has a higher impact on 17 of 18 environmental themes, including climate change, eutrophication and toxic emissions. In many cases fur scores markedly worse than textiles. ... The climate change impact of 1 kg of mink fur is five times higher than that of the highest-scoring textile ... This impact is not only high compared with other textiles. There are not many raw materials scoring this high per kg on climate change; the score of mink fur is similar to that of materials involving high fuel consumption, or solvents for extraction (e.g. precious**

metals). With an emission factor of about 110 kg CO<sub>2</sub> eq. per kg fur, the impact on climate change equals a car drive of over 1,250 km. ... For land occupation, fur scores far higher than the other textiles. ... Two environmental impacts affect (local) air quality ... On both of these, fur scores far higher than the other textiles. ... Even in a conservative approach, the environmental impacts of 1 kg fur ... are a factor 2 to 28 times higher than those of common textiles. This is a very clear and consistent result, with indicator categories all pointing in the same direction.<sup>8</sup>

Fur is a cruel industry. ADI investigations reveal nightmarish fur industry standard practices, where animals' miserable lives in cramped, filthy cages meet brutal, abrupt ends, by electrocution (to their anus or genitals), suffocation, broken necks, or worse. We include here for your consideration, links to several ADI reports and videos ~ [A Lifetime: living and dying on a fur farm report](#)<sup>9</sup> and its [related video](#);<sup>10</sup> [Never Humane: Tragedy of the fox who almost got away](#);<sup>11</sup> and [Bloody Harvest: the real cost of fur](#).<sup>12</sup> It's time to end this horrific practice.

We hope this informs your review, and we urge you to support [SB969](#) / [HB32](#), to join other leaders toward cruelty-free fashion innovation. Many thanks for your time and consideration.

All my best regards,



Christina Scaringe, General Counsel  
**Animal Defenders International**  
[www.ad-international.org](http://www.ad-international.org)

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<sup>1</sup> [www.ad-international.org](http://www.ad-international.org)

<sup>2</sup> Fur Farming bans: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands (moved up from a 2024 effective date due to covid outbreaks on fur farms there), Slovenia, and the UK. Similar measures under consideration: Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Estonia, Ireland, Lithuania, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine. Ban on breeding for fur: Hungary. Ban on mink imports: New Zealand. Ban on mink, fox, chinchilla fur skins imports: India. Fur trade/sales ban: California (US), Sao Paolo (Brazil).

<sup>3</sup> As reported by Georgia Murray in *Is this the Biggest Move in Banning Fur to Date?* yahoo!/sports (January 16, 2018), available at <https://sports.yahoo.com/biggest-move-banning-fur-date-180000485.html>.

<sup>4</sup> IPBES Pandemics Report on Biodiversity and Pandemics, Executive Summary (2020), available at <https://ipbes.net/pandemics>

<sup>5</sup> World Economic Forum's *New Nature Economy Report* series: *The Future of Nature and Business* (2020), available at [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_The\\_Future\\_Of\\_Nature\\_And\\_Business\\_2020.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_The_Future_Of_Nature_And_Business_2020.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production, *Putting Meat on the Table: Industrial Farm Animal Production in America, Executive Summary* (2008), available at [https://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/assets/2008/pcfap\\_exec-summary.pdf](https://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/assets/2008/pcfap_exec-summary.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> As reported by Mark Sweney in *'Eco-friendly' fur ad banned. Fur breeders' campaign ruled misleading by ASA*, The Guardian (March 2012), available at <https://www.theguardian.com/media/2012/mar/21/eco-friendly-fur-ad-banned>.

<sup>8</sup> Bijleveld, Korteland, Sevenster. *The Environmental impact of mink fur production*. Delft. (January 2011), available at [https://www.cedelft.eu/publicatie/the\\_environmental\\_impact\\_of\\_mink\\_fur\\_production/1131](https://www.cedelft.eu/publicatie/the_environmental_impact_of_mink_fur_production/1131).

<sup>9</sup> *A Lifetime: living and dying on a fur farm*, Animal Defenders International Report (2017), available at [https://www.ad-international.org/admin/downloads/adi\\_f4d655d1c535636ff5fab85010358c7d.pdf](https://www.ad-international.org/admin/downloads/adi_f4d655d1c535636ff5fab85010358c7d.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> *Exposed: The tragic short lives of foxes on a fur farm*, Animal Defenders International (2017), available at <https://www.ad-international.org/fur/go.php?id=4440&ssi=19>.

<sup>11</sup> *Never Humane: tragedy of the fox who almost got away*, Animal Defenders International (2017), available at <https://www.ad-international.org/fur/go.php?id=4455&ssi=19>.

<sup>12</sup> *Bloody Harvest: the real cost of fur*, Animal Defenders International (2010), available at <https://www.ad-international.org/publications/go.php?id=1836>.



# InStyle

## **Statement of Support of SB 969**

Dear Chair Baker, Chair Rhoads and CPN/JDC committee members:

I'm writing to show our support for SB 969, which prohibits the manufacture and sale of new fur products in Hawaii.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LB', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Laura Brown  
Editor-In-Chief  
*InStyle*  
Laura.Brown@instyle.com

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 8:33:21 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>  | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Felix Poza Pena     | Testifying for Industria de DiseÃ±o Textil S.A. (INDITEX S.A.) | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**Statement of Support of SB 969**

Dear Chair Baker, Chair Rhoads and CPN/JDC committee members:

I'm writing to show our support for SB 969, which prohibits the manufacture and sale of new fur products in Hawaii.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Felix Poza Pena

INDITEX

Dear Chair Baker, Chair Rhoads and CPN/JDC committee members –

Thank you for your time. My name is Dr. Gail Hansen and I am speaking on behalf of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association and our 9,000 members nationwide. I have over 25 years experience in infectious disease epidemiology, 12 years in private veterinary practices, five years as the Veterinary Senior Officer at the Pew Charitable Trusts and a former state epidemiologist and state public health veterinarian for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Today I'm speaking in support of Senate Bill 969, Hawaii's fur sales ban.

Since this pandemic began, I've been closely following the link between animals – specifically animals raised for fur – and the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 in humans. We already knew that mink, foxes and raccoon dogs, all species farmed for their fur, were susceptible to infection with SARS-CoV-1 viruses, but now we know that SARS-CoV-2 has a particularly devastating impact on fur farmed mink.

Genetic analysis from the fur farms in the Netherlands and Denmark has shown that sick workers had introduced SARS CoV-2 to mink, the virus mutated in the mink and then that new variant was passed back to people. Given the high density of the animals and the stressful conditions they are enduring on the farms, it appears that the virus is mutating rapidly among the mink.

There is also the possibility that the SARS-CoV-2 virus not only circulates on the farms but that the farms could also spread the virus to other species in the local environment. In fact, the virus was detected in wild mink near infected farms in Utah and Oregon. This creates the potential for a reservoir for the disease, creating a long-term risk of the virus recirculating and mutating not only in mink, but in people as well.

SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks on fur farms around the world represents a serious public health risk, and it is my expert opinion that this demonstrates the need to end the fur trade to protect the public.

Hawaii can be among the leaders on this by ending fur sales. I hope you support SB 969.

Thank you.



## **IN DEFENSE OF ANIMALS**

**Hearing date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021

**Time & Location:** 9:15am HST

**To:** Senate Consumer Protection/Judiciary Committee

**Submitted by:** Julie Massa, Fur Campaigner, In Defense of Animals, 828-320-0059

**Re: Testimony in strong SUPPORT of the Fur Sales Ban SB 969**

Dear Members of the Committee,

We are writing to respectfully urge support for SB 969 to make it unlawful to sell, give, or manufacture a new fur product in the state. If passed, SB 969 would make Hawaii the second state in the nation to ban the cruel and unnecessary fur trade within its borders.

Simply put, the sale of fur products in Hawaii is inconsistent with its position as a world leader on animal welfare and environmental issues.

Regarding animal welfare, it is well-accepted that animal cruelty is inherent in the fur industry. Each year, more than 100 million animals are killed for their fur. Most are raised on fur factory farms where they spend their entire lives in cramped cages and are deprived of everything wild animals need to thrive. They are bludgeoned, gassed, and genitally or anally electrocuted before their fur is ripped from their bodies. They may even be skinned alive.

In the wild, animals are often caught in crippling leg-hold traps for days without food or water. These archaic traps are indiscriminate, often maiming and killing non-target animals, including threatened species and household pets.

The fur industry also poses serious environmental threats. On fur factory farms, waste runoff from animals pollutes the soil and waterways. The tanning and dying process uses toxic and carcinogenic chemicals, like chromium and formaldehyde, to prevent the skin from decaying. Fortunately, innovative technology has produced an array of alternatives with the same warmth, look and feel as fur but without cruelty or environmental concerns.

The fur industry also endangers public health. Mink are highly susceptible to COVID-19, and animals on mink farms worldwide have tested positive for the deadly virus. Mink raised and killed for their fur are forced to live with thousands upon thousands of other mink, making the spread of the novel coronavirus inevitable. The Danish government discovered COVID-19 mutations were being passed from mink to fur farm workers and back again. Millions of mink were killed, and the mutated strains of the novel coronavirus threaten the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines.

Moreover, consumers' growing concern for animal welfare and environmental degradation caused by the fur industry is leading fashion brands, cities, and countries to move away from animal fur once and for all. With an abundance of high-quality faux furs available, animal fur is outdated and unnecessary. Bloomingdale's, Macy's, Nordstrom, and TJ Maxx have all committed to going fur-free. In 2019, California became the first state in the nation to ban fur sales.

By supporting SB 969, you can increase community awareness of animal welfare, mitigate the environmental harm and public health issues caused by the fur industry, and bolster the demand for sustainable and innovative alternatives.

For the foregoing reasons, we kindly request your support of SB 969.

Sincerely,

Julie Massa

Wild Animal Project Manager & Volunteer Director

e: [julie@idausa.org](mailto:julie@idausa.org)

# PROJECT COYOTE

F O S T E R I N G   C O E X I S T E N C E



February 22, 2021

Hawaii State Legislature  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Committee on Judiciary

*Re: SB 969 – Ban on Fur Sales*

Dear Chair Baker, Chair Rhoads and committee members,

On behalf of Project Coyote's Hawaii supporters, we wish to express our support for SB 969 to ban fur sales. The vast majority of the public supports a ban on fur sales as evidenced by bipartisan support for bans in other states, such as California, and the increasing unpopularity among both consumers and designers globally. We ask that you support this commonsense bill because it aligns with the values of our cherished and diverse state.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Camilla H. Fox".

Camilla H. Fox  
Founder & Executive Director

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 10:24:59 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                                    | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| PJ Smith            | Testifying for THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Dear Chair Baker, Chair Rhoads and CPN/JDC committee members,

Thank you for considering this important bill. My name is PJ Smith, and I'm the Director of Fashion Policy for the Humane Society of the United States.

For over a decade, I've worked with dozens of the top apparel companies – including Nordstrom, Bloomingdale's, Gucci and Prada – to create fur-free policies that are good for animals and the environment. Consumers understand there is no way to humanely source fur and companies are responding by ending fur sales. But last year has shined a new light on the fur trade and its risk to public health.

Fur farmed mink are the only species known to transmit the coronavirus to humans. Last year, outbreaks occurred on over 400 fur farms in 11 countries – including the U.S. in Oregon, Utah, Wisconsin and Michigan. The virus mutates on these farms, and the mink variant has now been found in humans around the globe and among wild mink in Utah and Oregon. Due to this risk, 20 million mink were killed, Sweden and Denmark have suspended production, France and the Netherlands announced the end of mink farming.

The World Health Organization recently released a report saying the overall risk of introduction and spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the virus that causes COVID-19, from the fur-farming system to humans and to susceptible wildlife populations is considered high.

Luckily, awareness is leading to innovative alternatives like Stella McCartney's new biodegradable, corn-based faux fur or faux fur made from recycled ocean plastic, which are just stylish and better for the environment and animals. California banned fur sales in 2019, and this year, Oregon, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York and Connecticut will be joining Hawaii by introducing fur sales bans of their own.

Consumers care about animal welfare, the environment and innovation more than ever.

With the passage of SB 969, Hawaii will solidify its position as one of the nation's most humane states and signal to the rest of the world that it will not contribute to this cruelty or risk to public health.

We hope you'll vote yes for this important bill. Thank you.





**HUMANE SOCIETY  
VETERINARY MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION..**

February 22, 2021

Hawaii State Capitol  
[Senate Consumer Protection/Judiciary committee](#)  
Honolulu, HI

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- Erin Spencer, M.Ed.,  
CVT, VTS (ECC)  
*Derry, NH*

**RE: VETERINARY SUPPORT for Banning Fur Sales in Hawaii (SB 969)**

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Baker and members of the Senate Consumer Protection and Judiciary Committees:

On behalf of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA), I am writing to express our strong support for SB 969 to ban fur sales and manufacturing in the state of Hawaii. HSVMA is an association of more than 9,000 veterinary medical professionals worldwide focused on the health and welfare of all animals, including those species raised for their fur.

As experts in the field of animal health and welfare, we recognize that there are severe animal welfare deficiencies inherent in the fur trade, including the ways in which the animals are cruelly trapped, housed, and killed. We also have serious concerns about disease transmission through susceptible fur-farmed animal populations, such as mink, fox and raccoon dogs, as well as the possibility of contagious disease spread between these animal species and humans. For these reasons, we support ending this archaic and inhumane industry and strongly endorse passage of a statewide fur sales ban in Hawaii.

**Inhumane Housing and improper Husbandry at Fur Farms**

More than 100 million animals worldwide, including foxes, chinchillas, minks, raccoon dogs and rabbits, are killed for their fur every year. The majority of these animals (around 85%) are raised in very small cage systems that fail to satisfy many of their most basic needs, particularly their need to display normal behaviors essential to their mental and physical well-being.

Investigations on fur farms worldwide--including those considered "certified" to maintain higher animal welfare standards--reveal distressing evidence of persistently poor welfare conditions. Species such as fox and mink retain their basic wild needs regardless of being bred and kept in captivity, and it is highly inaccurate for the fur industry to refer to an arctic fox bred on a fur farm as a 'domesticated' animal that has environmental and behavioral needs different from its wild relatives.

Wild animals on fur farms spend their lives in wire-floored cages thousands of times smaller than their natural territories. They are denied the opportunity to express natural behaviors such as hunting, digging and swimming. They are often kept in unnatural social groups; for example, mink are forced to live in extremely close proximity to one another which would be highly unlikely in the wild. The contrived and inhumane living conditions on fur farms inevitably lead animals to suffer severe psychological distress. Instances of unproductive repetitive behaviors, a sign of

compromised psychological well-being, have been well-documented on fur farms, as have cannibalism, untreated wounds, foot deformities and eye infections.

**Cruel Trapping of Fur-Bearers in the Wild and Inhumane Slaughter on Fur Farms**

Other welfare deficiencies inherent in the fur industry include the trapping methods used to capture animals in the wild. Some species are targeted with crippling leg-hold traps which are not sanctioned by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) or the HSVMA. Once trapped, animals are often left to languish for long periods of time without food or water before they are killed. Meanwhile, fur factory farms crudely gas or even anally electrocute animals.

**One Health Concerns for Disease Transmission through Fur Farming**

During the current global pandemic, SARS-CoV-2, the virus which causes COVID-19 in humans, has spread through hundreds of fur farms in 11 countries – including the U.S. – and has resulted in government-ordered killing of nearly 20 million mink to date in order to try to stem the outbreak. Genetic analysis from some of these fur farms has shown that sick workers introduced SARS-CoV-2 to mink and, at least in the Netherlands and Denmark, that mink had passed it back to fur farm workers. In addition, USDA-confirmed outbreaks on farms in Oregon, Utah, Wisconsin, and Michigan have similarly resulted in the deaths of thousands of mink.

Given the structural design of fur farms SARS-CoV-2 can not only circulate on the farms but the farms could also spread the virus to wild mink and other species in the local environment, creating the potential for a reservoir for the disease. This creates a long-term risk of the virus recirculating--not only in mink, but in people as well. Based on all these factors, mink farms present a serious public health hazard in the United States.

**Fashion Industry Turns to Fur Alternatives to Satisfy Consumer Demand**

Consumer concern for animal welfare has already led many fashion brands to stop using animal fur once and for all. These companies recognize that contemporary alternatives to fur provide luxury, warmth and style without animal cruelty. In 2018 alone, well-known brands such as Chanel, Coach, Burberry, Versace and Donna Karan joined Gucci, Michael Kors and Armani in announcing fur-free policies. Legislative bans help hasten and solidify this positive transition while driving the development of more humane alternatives to fur.

Hawaii has a progressive history regarding animal welfare measures and we hope it will soon include banning fur sales in the Aloha State.

Sincerely,

*Ranaella K. Steinberg, DVM*

Ranaella K. Steinberg, DVM  
HSVMA Hawaii State Representative



Eric Jayne, DVM  
HSVMA Hawaii State Representative

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 10:39:55 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>             | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Debra Guo           | Testifying for Stella McCartney | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**Statement of Support of SB 969**

Dear Chair Baker, Chair Rhoads and CPN/JDC committee members,

I'm writing to show our support for SB 969, which prohibits the manufacture and sale of animal fur products in Hawaii.

There is a growing concern for animal welfare and the environment and major fashion companies, like us, have responded by switching to innovative materials instead of fur. The passage of SB 969 will help drive the demand for innovation leading to a more sustainable and cruelty-free future.

We're excited to support the passage of SB 969.

Yours faithfully,

Stella McCartney

Creative Director

Stella McCartney Ltd

3 Olaf Street London, W11



525 East Cotati Avenue  
Cotati, California 94931

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February 22, 2021

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

**Re: Testimony in support of *An Act Relating to Animal Fur Act (SB 969)***

Chair Baker, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Stanley, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and honorable members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Senate Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) and our supporters in Hawaii, thank you for this opportunity to submit a letter of support for *An Act Relating to Animal Fur Products (SB 969)*. We thank Senators Keohokalole, Gabbard, Kidani, Lee, and San Buenaventura for introducing this important legislation. We respectfully urge your support for SB 969 and help making Hawaii the next state to go fur-free.

ALDF is the nation's preeminent legal advocacy organization for animals. The organization's mission is to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the legal system. We are working nationwide to combat the cruel fur industry across multiple legal channels.

SB 969 would prohibit the sale and manufacture of new fur products, including clothing, fashion accessories, and home décor, in the state. Every year, millions of animals, including foxes, wolves, minks, and rabbits, are brutally killed so people can wear their fur. The vast majority of the animals exploited by the fur industry are raised on fur farms, often in factory-farm-like conditions, and some are trapped in the wild. If passed, Hawaii could be the second state in the country to take a strong stance against the cruel and unnecessary fur trade within its borders.

**Fur production spreads COVID-19 and is a breeding ground for the next pandemic.**

Intensive confinement systems on fur farms present conditions ripe for disease transmission. Recent reports from mink fur farms abroad have revealed dangerous links between the fur industry and the further spread of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) to humans. In 2020, minks on hundreds of fur factory farms in Canada, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, and the United States tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. In Denmark and the Netherlands, research shows that farmed minks spread a mutated form of the virus to humans—the only known animal-to-human transmission outside the original source—and such mutations might reduce the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines.

**All our clients are innocent**

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To protect public health, European governments have killed nearly 20 million minks and France, Hungary, and the Netherlands passed laws to ban fur farming. In the United States, COVID-19 has been found on fur farms in at least four states— Michigan, Oregon, Utah, and Wisconsin — and as many as 15,000 minks in Utah and Wisconsin have died from COVID-19. In December, a wild mink in Utah tested positive for the virus during a screening of wildlife surrounding infected fur farms, highlighting the risk of viral spill-over to wildlife populations.

Research has shown that other animals commonly farmed for their fur, such as raccoon dogs, palm civets, and foxes, may also serve as intermediate hosts of other coronaviruses, including SARS-CoV (the virus that causes SARS).

### **Fur requires significant animal cruelty.**

Whether trapped in the wild or bred to die on fur farms, animals exploited by the fur industry endure tremendous suffering.

Animals on fur farms are typically confined to tiny wire cages for their entire lives. Oftentimes, these cages are outdoors— stacked in wooden sheds that provide no protection from the heat or cold. On other farms, animals are kept in cages in barns that are poorly ventilated and high concentrations of ammonia — a byproduct of animals' waste — burns the eyes and throats of animals and workers alike. Unable to engage in most of their natural behaviors, these animals routinely resort to self-mutilation, obsessive pacing, and infanticide. Fur farms kill animals through gassing, electrocution, neck-breaking, and poisoning. Undercover investigations on fur farms have documented egregious cruelty — including animals being skinned alive.

Wild animals trapped for their fur also suffer. Trapping is largely regulated at the state level, and most states provide minimal protections for fur-bearing animals. In some states, it's legal to set a trap and not check it for days. Desperate and terrified, animals will sometimes chew their own legs off in an attempt to escape. Trappers shoot, strangle, and bludgeon trapped animals.

### **Fur puts our environment at risk.**

The fur industry also poses serious environmental threats. On fur factory farms, waste runoff from animals pollutes the soil and waterways. The tanning and dyeing process uses toxic and carcinogenic chemicals, like chromium and formaldehyde, to prevent the skin from decaying.

Studies have found that among synthetic and natural textiles, fur is the worst-offending in 17 of the 18 environmental categories considered. The studies also found that the climate change impact of mink fur is five times higher than the second worst-offending textile (wool) and six times higher than a faux-fur alternative. This is largely due to the feed, land use, toxicity, and manure of the fur industry. Fortunately, innovative technology has produced an array of alternatives with the same warmth, look and feel as fur – without the cruelty or environmental concerns.

### **Fur alternatives exist.**

There is no justification to continue to breed or trap and kill animals for their fur considering the availability of faux fur and alternative products that are virtually indistinguishable from animal fur. So indistinguishable that, in 2017, we called for a Baltimore furrier to be investigated for false advertising when they used an image of a faux fur jacket from the HBO series Game of Thrones to advertise the animal furs in their store.

### **Fur-free policies are on the rise.**

Consumers' concern for the animal cruelty and environmental threats from fur is leading fashion brands and legislators away from animal fur.

Hundreds of retailers, brands, and designers at all price points have announced fur-free policies, including: Macy's, Nordstrom, Bloomingdale's, Adidas, Michael Kors, Armani, Calvin Klein, Kenneth Cole, Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfiger, The North Face, and JCPenney.

In 2019, California became the first state in the nation to ban the sale of fur. This year, states like Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, and Rhode Island are considering similar bans. Abroad, at least eighteen European countries, including Germany, Austria, Croatia, and the United Kingdom are in the process of phasing out or have already banned fur farming. India has banned the importation of fur pelts, and São Paulo, Brazil, also banned the sale of fur products in 2015.

### **Hawaii, time to go fur-free.**

The sale of new fur products in Hawaii is inconsistent with its position as a leader on animal protection and environmental issues. By passing SB 969, Hawaii will lead the fur-free charge while reinforcing the shift to fur-free products that is occurring in the fashion industry.

Hawaii should seize this opportunity to more closely align the state's laws with its values. Please help make Hawaii the next state to go fur-free by advancing *An Act Relating to Animal Fur Products* (SB 969).

Thank you for your time and consideration. Mahalo nui.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Harris

--

**Stephanie J. Harris** | Senior Legislative Affairs Manager  
Animal Legal Defense Fund | [aldf.org](http://aldf.org)  
[sharris@aldf.org](mailto:sharris@aldf.org) | 617-955-7500





PEOPLE FOR  
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TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

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PETA.org

February 22, 2021

The Honorable Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Members of the Committee on Judiciary  
Hawaii State Legislature

Dear Sen. Baker, Sen. Rhoads, and Committee Members:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our more than 6.5 million members and supporters worldwide—including more than 20,000 in Hawaii—to urge committee members to vote “yes” on SB 969. This lifesaving legislation would ban the manufacture and sale of fur products, preventing countless animals from being violently killed.

For decades, PETA and our international affiliates have exposed horrific cruelty to animals on fur farms around the world. Investigators have documented that animals are electrocuted, bludgeoned, gassed, and even skinned alive—all just to make a coat, a collar, or a trinket. Minks and other animals exploited for fur are typically confined to filthy, cramped wire cages without enough room to turn around or even fully stretch out. As a result of severe stress, animals on fur farms often resort to self-mutilation or cannibalization of their cagemates. It's no surprise that these horrid fur factory farm conditions have led to a growing number of countries with mink-related outbreaks of COVID-19.

Passing SB 969 would send a strong message to the rest of the world that killing animals for their fur has no place in a compassionate society. The movement against fur is gaining momentum. Macy's and Bloomingdale's recently joined hundreds of other major retailers and fashion brands—including Chanel, Prada, Gucci, Versace, Burberry, and Michael Kors—in banning fur, and the state of California has banned the manufacture and sale of fur items. In addition, more than a dozen countries have banned fur farms.

Hawaii is forward-thinking, as you've proved by banning wild-animal acts in circuses. You now have another opportunity to set a compassionate example by voting in favor of SB 969.

Sincerely,

Tracy Reiman  
Executive Vice President

**Affiliates:**

- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 5:10:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>             | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Susana Crow         | Testifying for Advanced Pacific | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

As residents of Hawaii, we urge the members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Judiciary to vote yes on SB 969. The bill would protect animals exploited in the fur trade, the majority of whom spend their lives in cramped cages before they're beaten, gassed, or electrocuted; their necks are broken, or they're skinned alive.

Thank you for your compassion!

Respectfully,

David Crow, MD, PhD

Susana Crow





**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI, PRESIDENT  
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII  
February 24, 2021**

**Re: SB 969 SD1 Relating to Animal Fur Products**

Good morning Chair Baker and Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection; and the Senate Committee on Judiciary. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii was founded in 1901, RMH is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. Our membership includes small mom & pop stores, large box stores, resellers, luxury retail, department stores, shopping malls, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between.

While we understand the intent of SB 969 SD1 Relating to Animal Fur Products, we are opposed to this measure. This measure prohibits the manufacture for sale, offer for sale, display for sale, sale, trade, or distribution of certain animal fur products in the State.

We recognize that many top designer brands are already ceasing to use fur in its designs. We are also aware that many of the animals are humanely raised on farms, just like cows, chickens and pigs that end up in our grocery stores. We want to also point out that many of the alternatives to fur - faux/vegan fur - are more hazardous to the environment as they are made from petroleum-based materials like liquid plastic.

We also have a concern for resellers who may not be well versed in determining real fur from faux fur. Fur products would include not only coats, and fur trim on clothing, but shoes, hair accessories, purses, adornment on keepsakes, and more. Some faux fur almost resembles real fur.

Retailers are no longer the driving engine for trends. Customers determine the trends, and the type of inventory items retailers have in their stores.

Retailers like many businesses are struggling to survive and keep their employees employed. This type of ban would hurt our retailers during a time when they are struggling to remain open. Businesses cannot afford any more hardship as we are seeing more and more retailers closing their doors forever. And as a result, many of our friends, family and neighbors no longer have jobs and are not contributing to Hawaii's high rate of unemployment. We hope that you will hold this bill.

Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify.

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 1:46:08 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                   | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Laurelee Blanchard  | Testifying for Leilani Farm Sanctuary | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

As founder and president of Leilani Farm Sanctuary in Hawaii, I urge the members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Judiciary to vote "yes" on SB 969. The bill would protect animals exploited in the fur trade, the majority of whom spend their lives in cramped cages before they're beaten, gassed, or electrocuted; their necks are broken; or they're skinned alive.

Laurelee Blanchard, President

Leilani Farm Sanctuary

260 E. Kuiaha Road, Haiku, HI 96708



# Neighborhood Cats

*the community cat experts!*

## Board of Directors

Emma Cobb

February 22, 2021

Anitra Frazier

Lisa Labrecque, DVM

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Nancy Peterson

Re: SB969 (Relating to Animal Fur Products)

Susan Richmond  
Executive Director

Meredith Weiss  
NYC TNR Director

Neighborhood Cats wishes to express our **support** for SB969 (Relating to Animal Fur Products).

## National Programs Director

Bryan Kortis, Esq.

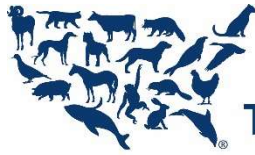
Neighborhood Cats is an animal welfare nonprofit which focuses on reducing overpopulation of cats through spay/neuter and other progressive management approaches. Since 2016, we have operated a chapter on Maui.

While our focus is on cats, our mission encompasses the compassionate treatment of all animals. The fur trade is inherently cruel, causing animals to suffer terribly just to produce decorative products. The concentration of what should be wildlife in fur farms has also led to severe public health consequences, including recent outbreaks of COVID-19 at mink farms.

As a nonprofit registered in Hawaii, we urge the Committee to approve this important bill.

Thank you for considering our views,

Bryan Kortis, Esq.  
National Programs Director



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY**  
OF THE UNITED STATES

**To:** Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

**Date:** February 23, 2021

**Re:** Support SB 969, Relating to Animal Fur Products

Dear Chair Baker, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees on CPN/JDC,

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States, the nation's largest animal protection organization, and our supporters across Hawaii, we are respectfully asking for your support of SB 969. This bill would make it unlawful to sell a new fur product in the state. The fur trade is cruel and unnecessary, and SB 969 would ban it within Hawaii, solidifying the state as a progressive leader in the fight against cruelty.

There is simply no way to humanely produce fur. Every year, over 100 million animals, including chinchillas, foxes, mink, coyotes and racoon dogs are killed for their fur. Eighty-five percent of all fur comes from fur factory farms, where undomesticated animals spend their entire lives in cramped cages, deprived of the ability to engage in natural behaviors. Living in these tiny cages causes enormous stress, which can lead to self-mutilation and other issues. Fur-bearing animals are then killed by neck-breaking, crude gassing or anal-electrocution. Fur producers have even been documented skinning animals alive.

In the wild, fur-bearing animals are caught in cruel and indiscriminate leghold traps, where they often languish for days without food or water. Since no federal laws protect animals on fur farms, and fur-bearing animals are not protected by humane slaughter laws, we need further legislation to safeguard animals against cruelty.

The concern for animal welfare continues to grow in Hawaii and globally, and consumers increasingly want products that do not involve animal cruelty. Fashion brands are accordingly moving away from fur products and providing customers with more humane alternatives. Nordstrom, Bloomingdale's, Burberry, Chanel, Gucci, Macy's, Michael Kors, and so many other top brands and retailers have announced fur-free policies. Legislation like SB 969 would help drive the demand for innovation in clothing, leading to a more sustainable and cruelty-free future.

The fur industry also causes major environmental pollution. Not only does the tanning and

dying process use toxic chemicals like formaldehyde and chromium to prevent skin decay, but the runoff from animals on fur factory farms pollutes waterways and soil. In 2018, the French advertising authority said, “numerous reliable reports show that the production of fur is extremely cruel and polluting, and that the final product contains toxic substances.”

As well, fur production is responsible for the spread of COVID-19 and is a breeding ground for the next pandemic. In 2020, mink on hundreds of fur factory farms in 11 countries – including four states in the U.S. – tested positive for coronavirus. Research shows that farmed mink can spread the mutated virus to humans—the only known animal-to-human transmission, and the mutations might reduce the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines. To protect public health, European governments decided to kill nearly 20 million mink at infected farms, France and the Netherlands passed laws to ban mink fur farming, and Sweden and Denmark have suspended production. Wild mink near fur farms have also tested positive.

While there are no fur farms in the state, as we have seen Hawaii is not immune from the effects of viral outbreaks elsewhere in the world. If retailers are allowed to continue to sell fur products in the state, even the small amounts currently being imported, it is condoning a very real risk to public health that could have devastating effects on the state if the virus continues to spread and mutate as it has been. Hawaii’s citizens and the economy are still reeling from the current pandemic – we cannot risk any further harm, especially from such an unnecessary and cruel industry.

Hawaii now has the chance to mitigate this environmental harm and public health risk while protecting animals from cruelty by passing SB 969. For all of these reasons, we respectfully ask that the members of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary Committees support the passage of SB 969.

Sincerely,



PJ Smith  
Campaign Director, Fashion Policy  
The Humane Society of the United States  
[pjsmith@humanesociety.org](mailto:pjsmith@humanesociety.org)



Lindsay Vierheilig  
Hawaii State Director  
The Humane Society of the United States  
[lvierheilig@humanesociety.org](mailto:lvierheilig@humanesociety.org)

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 6:45:20 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Abigail Kammerzell  | Testifying for H&M  | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Dear Chair Baker, Chair Rhoads and CPN/JDC committee members:

I'm writing to show our support for SB 969, which prohibits the manufacture and sale of new fur products in Hawaii.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Abigail Kammerzell

H&M US

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 8:05:12 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ginny Tiu           | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Baker, Chair Rhoads, and committee members,**

**I ask you to please support SB 969. The way fur is obtained is beyond inhumane. The innocent animals are not just killed for their skin/furs, they suffer excruciatingly before they are killed, with steel jaw traps, some are even skinned alive. And all for greed, pure vanity and status. We should not support this kind of self serving interest, with such a high price for innocent and helpless animals to pay.**

Thank you very much for your kind consideration to support SB 969.

Ginny Tiu

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 10:50:28 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gerrit B Osborne    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I'm writing to show support for SB 969, which prohibits the manufacture and sale of new fur products in Hawaii.

It is appalling that over 100,000,000 animals are killed annually just for their fur, even more so that more are killed for clothing decoration than for warmth. Options not involving cruelty are both available and affordable.

There are other concerns involving human health, the use of toxic chemicals in the fur trade, etc. But the overriding concern must be animal welfare.

Let's get on the international bandwagon and stop fur farming!



**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 12:52:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melinda Walker      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

- I was born and raised in Hawaii. I hope the Legislature will do the right thing; the humane thing, and pass SB969. I support SB 969 because it will eliminate Hawaii's contribution to horrific animal cruelty and abuse in the fur industry by making it illegal to sell a new fur product in the state. Who needs to wear fur in Hawaii? No one. Let's set an example of aloha for ALL mankind.

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 12:07:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mary Lu Kelley      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha,

- As a resident of Hawaii, I urge the members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Judiciary to vote “yes” on SB 969. The bill would protect animals exploited in the fur trade, the majority of whom spend their lives in cramped cages before they’re beaten, gassed, or electrocuted; their necks are broken; or they’re skinned alive.
- Several major U.S. cities as well as the state of California have already banned the sale of fur in their jurisdictions, and hundreds of fashion houses have shunned fur in favor of innovative and luxurious faux-fur materials that spare millions of animals intense suffering and a violent death.
- 
- I support SB 969 because it will eliminate Hawaii’s contribution to horrific animal abuse in the fur industry by making it illegal to sell a new fur product in the state.
- 
- Please support and pass SB969.

Thank you,

Mary Lu Kelley

3644 Lawaiuka Road

Lawai, HI 96765

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 12:57:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kathren Rosales     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

As a resident of Hawaii, I urge the members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Judiciary to vote “yes” on SB 969. The bill would protect animals exploited in the fur trade, the majority of whom spend their lives in cramped cages before they’re beaten, gassed, or electrocuted; their necks are broken; or they’re skinned alive.

Several major U.S. cities as well as the state of California have already banned the sale of fur in their jurisdictions, and hundreds of fashion houses—such as Versace, Chanel, Gucci, Donna Karan, and Burberry—have shunned fur in favor of innovative and luxurious faux-fur materials that spare millions of animals intense suffering and a violent death.

I support SB 969 because it will eliminate Hawaii’s contribution to horrific animal abuse in the fur industry by making it illegal to sell a new fur product in the state.

Sincerely,

Kathren Rosales

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 1:26:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jennifer Miller     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

- As a resident of Hawaii, I urge the members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Judiciary to vote “yes” on SB 969. The bill would protect animals exploited in the fur trade, the majority of whom spend their lives in cramped cages before they’re beaten, gassed, or electrocuted; their necks are broken; or they’re skinned alive.
- Several major U.S. cities as well as the state of California have already banned the sale of fur in their jurisdictions, and hundreds of fashion houses—such as Versace, Chanel, Gucci, Donna Karan, and Burberry—have shunned fur in favor of innovative and luxurious faux-fur materials that spare millions of animals intense suffering and a violent death.
- I support SB 969 because it will eliminate Hawaii’s contribution to horrific animal abuse in the fur industry by making it illegal to sell a new fur product in the state.

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 1:47:46 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mike Brown          | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

I am writing to oppose SB 969

Designers and consumers recognize the value of fur as a natural, sustainable and renewable resource. And they recognize that unlike mass-produced fake fur apparel and other alternatives, real fur garments are produced by hand, requiring the artistry and skilled handiwork of talented craftsmen. The amount of energy and fossil fuel required for fabrication is relatively low when compared to large, automated factories. The fur trade supports land-based cultures and local indigenous populations contributing to environmental conservation. Fake fur, on the other hand, is not renewable, sustainable or biodegradable, and when washed these man-made materials release thousands of tiny plastic lint fibers into waste water that are then released into oceans and rivers where they are ingested by fish, mammals and sea birds.

In an era when the public is overwhelmingly aware of the environmental and social costs of mass-produced fast fashion we should be promoting natural, renewal, recyclable products that can last generations such as real fur, rather than the plastic materials and other synthetics such as petroleum based fake fur. This ban directly contradicts the many positive environmental moves Hawaii has taken to establish the state as a leader in addressing the environmental threats posed by plastics and Styrofoam.

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 2:00:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Suyin Phillips      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. The fur industry is one of the most inhumane industries I have ever learned about. It is truly atrocious. To maintain the integrity of the animal's skin and fur, they are usually killed via suffocation, electrocution, gassing, or poisoning. Sometimes, they are bludgeoned in the head or face repeatedly. Animals are sometimes skinned alive while still conscious. I have seen undercover video of the procedures and methods. The images are burned into my conscience and I will never wear or purchase fur.

In 2019, California became the first state to ban the sale of new fur products. Fur bans are currently being considered in multiple state legislatures including Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island. People are becoming aware and demanding change all over the country and world! Make us proud, Hawaii!

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 2:11:24 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Danielle Spitz      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha. I would like to state my support for SB969 based on the following:

The vast majority of fur items come from animals who are raised on fur farms in factory-like conditions. Animals, including foxes, minks, and rabbits, are typically crammed into tiny wire cages and unable to engage in most of their natural behaviors. They frequently resort to self-mutilation, obsessive pacing, and infanticide.

To maintain the integrity of their skin and fur, animals are usually killed via suffocation, electrocution, gassing, or poisoning. Sometimes, they are bludgeoned in the head or face repeatedly. Animals are sometimes skinned alive while still conscious. This level of cruelty is heinous and unacceptable. It does not belong in civilized society.

Whenever animals are intensively confined without regard for their health or welfare, public health is endangered. Fur farms often confine thousands of animals to small barns or open-air cage systems. Sanitation is typically poor, and veterinary care is almost non-existent. As a result, these fur factory farms are breeding grounds for pathogens that can result in zoonotic diseases. Mink fur farms in the U.S. and around the globe have become hot spots for COVID-19. Minks are the only animal known to both catch the virus from people and transmit it to them.

Mahalo for taking the time to read and consider my comments.

Danielle Spitz (Waimea, Big Island)

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 2:17:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gerry Lee           | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Dear Chair Baker, Chair Rhoads and Committee members:

I'm writing in very strong SUPPORT of SB 969, which prohibits the manufacture and sale of animal fur products in Hawaii. The fur industry is unbelievably cruel to the helpless sentient animals suffering horrendous conditions while alive, and ultimately brutally slaughtered. And for what? A fashion statement? It's sickenly inhumane, and of no benefit to society. It must be banned immediately to prevent needless animal suffering.

It's also bad for the environment, and is also now a significant risk to our public health due to the documented transmission of the coronavirus on fur farms.

I strongly SUPPORT the passage of SB 969. Thank you for your kind consideration. Animals are depending upon your help. Please don't let them down. And don't let down your thousands of constituents, who overwhelmingly love animals and oppose needless animal cruelty.

Sincerely,

Gerry Lee

Honolulu, Hawaii



**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 2:53:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| David A LILLEY      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Please accept this comment as strong support for SB969. It represents a unique opportunity for the citizens of Hawaii to set an example that is long overdue. The incalculable suffering of millions of animals solely for human vanity and greed must be stopped. Thank you

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 4:03:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Girard Lau          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Dear Chair Baker, Chair Rhoads & Committee Members:

I write in strong SUPPORT of SB969, to ban the manufacture and sale of animal fur products in Hawaii. The fur industry inflicts horrifying cruelty on millions of sentient animals every year. This heartless animal suffering is especially egregious when it is carried out simply to placate a few persons' fashion sense. Many European countries have accordingly banned fur production. Furthermore, fur farming increases the risk of creating or exacerbating global pandemics. Already, there has been rampant coronavirus spreading among animals raised for their fur in Denmark and other countries.

Claims the industry is good for animals and the environment are utter nonsense. Cries of "freedom" are as absurd as the reckless refusal to wear masks to protect others. No one should have the "freedom" to inflict cruelty on innocent animals. There is simply no excuse for supporting an industry that needlessly inflicts horrendous suffering on millions of sentient animals by forcing them to spend their lives in cramped wired cages, only to be painfully executed in the end.

Thank you for your consideration. Please pass SB969. You'll save so many animals from unnecessary and inhumane suffering. You may even prevent the next worldwide pandemic.

Girard Lau

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 4:32:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mary Masters        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

As a resident of Hawaii, I urge the members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Judiciary to vote “yes” on SB 969. The bill would protect animals exploited in the fur trade, the majority of whom spend their lives in cramped cages before they’re beaten, gassed, or electrocuted; their necks are broken; or they’re skinned alive.

Several major U.S. cities as well as the state of California have already banned the sale of fur in their jurisdictions, and hundreds of fashion houses—such as Versace, Chanel, Gucci, Donna Karan, and Burberry—have shunned fur in favor of innovative and luxurious faux-fur materials that spare millions of animals intense suffering and a violent death.

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 4:38:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kelly Deese         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

As a resident of Hawaii, I urge the members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Judiciary to please vote "YES" on SB 969. The bill would protect animals exploited in the fur trade, the majority of whom spend their lives in cramped cages before they're beaten, gassed, or electrocuted; their necks are broken; or they're skinned alive.

Several major U.S. cities as well as the state of California have already banned the sale of fur in their jurisdictions, and hundreds of fashion houses—such as Versace, Chanel, Gucci, Donna Karan, and Burberry—have shunned fur in favor of innovative and luxurious faux-fur materials that spare millions of animals intense suffering and a violent death.

I strongly support SB 969 because it will eliminate Hawaii's contribution to horrific animal abuse in the fur industry by making it illegal to sell a new fur product in the state.

Thank you for your time,  
Kelly Deese

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 5:01:03 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <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 SB969.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 5:09:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| Submitted By     | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Beverly Shintaku | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

As a resident of Hawaii, I urge the members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Judiciary to vote "yes" on SB 969. The bill would protect animals exploited in the fur trade, the **majority of whom spend their lives in cramped cages before they are beaten, gassed, or electrocuted; their necks are broken; or they are skinned alive.**

Several major U.S. cities, as well as the state of California, have already banned the sale of fur in their jurisdictions, and hundreds of fashion houses - such as Versace, Chanel, Gucci, Donna Karan, and Burberry - have shunned fur in favor of innovative and luxurious faux-fur materials that spare millions of animals intense suffering and a violent death.

I support SB 969 because it will eliminate Hawaii's contribution to **horrific animal abuse** in the fur industry by making it illegal to sell a new fur product in the state.

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 6:46:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Stephanie Lee       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

MÄ• lama.

That is what we are called to do as the people of Hawai'i. MÄ• lama means that we care for this place, this land, this ocean, these people, these plants, these animals, that we are entrusted with as stewards.

As a resident of Hawai'i, I support SB 969 because it will eliminate Hawaii's contribution to horrific animal abuse in the fur industry by making it illegal to sell a new fur product in the state. The fur trade, and any trade that exploits those who are disadvantaged in advocating for themselves, be they persons, or animals, is not in alignment with what I believe is in the best interest of the State of Hawai'i, or its people.

Mahalo for your consideration

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 6:55:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sam Mullins         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

- As a resident of Hawaii, I urge the members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Judiciary to vote “yes” on SB 969. The bill would protect animals exploited in the fur trade, the majority of whom spend their lives in cramped cages before they’re beaten, gassed, or electrocuted; their necks are broken; or they’re skinned alive.
- Several major U.S. cities as well as the state of California have already banned the sale of fur in their jurisdictions, and hundreds of fashion houses—such as Versace, Chanel, Gucci, Donna Karan, and Burberry—have shunned fur in favor of innovative and luxurious faux-fur materials that spare millions of animals intense suffering and a violent death.
- I support SB 969 because it will eliminate Hawaii’s contribution to horrific animal abuse in the fur industry by making it illegal to sell a new fur product in the state.
- Thank you for your consideration!



**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 7:15:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lory Ono            | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I support SB 969 because it will eliminate Hawaii's contribution to horrific animal abuse in the fur industry by making it illegal to sell a new fur product in the state. The extremely cruel fur trade needs to be a thing of the past, the sooner the better. Mahalo.

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 7:28:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bryan Walston       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

As a resident of Hawaii, I urge the members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Judiciary to vote “yes” on SB 969. The bill would protect animals exploited in the fur trade, the majority of whom spend their lives in cramped cages before they’re beaten, gassed, or electrocuted; their necks are broken; or they’re skinned alive.

I support SB 969 because it will eliminate Hawaii’s contribution to horrific animal abuse in the fur industry by making it illegal to sell a new fur product in the state.

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 7:33:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jeffrey Eshima      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I support SB 969 because it will eliminate Hawaii's contribution to horrific animal abuse in the fur industry by making it illegal to sell a new fur product in the state.

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:42:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melissa Lockyer     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I am a Hawaii resident and I strongly support the ban of fur products. The fur industry is cruel, archaic, and obsolete. Animals are confined to cages their ENTIRE LIVES where they undergo mental insanity. Living creatures are tortured and manipulated for nothing more than an article of clothing. There are many alternatives out there to animal fur and more and more top designers in the apparel industry are switching to such alternatives. Fur products are antiquated and there is no need for them. The fur industry is also extremely polluting to the environment. I hope you will consider the positive impact you could have on so many animals' lives by supporting this bill. Thank you, Melissa Lockyer

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 11:16:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kelly Yogi          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I support SB969 and urge members to vote yes. As a lifelong resident for 38 years, I have seen Hawai'i value our 'Ā• ina in numerous ways and continue to make strides in the betterment for ALL. We protect our native plants and animal species at great lengths, which is something I've always been so proud of. We must mā• lama other animals and their rights to live. I still recall Tyke the elephant years ago and the progress we have made as a state, emphasizing that we put the welfare of animals over entertainment and I'm hoping we will do the same for this bill. It is our kuleana, our responsibility, yet at the same time, our privilege to do this - not only to stop the sale of fur and the cruelty to animals, but to make an impactful statement to our keiki...that we put the rights of innocent, living animals before fashion. They will see what decisions we make and what we value by our choices. This will influence the way they see and value the world. Please vote yes to the bill.

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 12:42:25 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Lana Rapoza  | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

Good day everyone, YOU have the power to stop the cruel and barbaric practice of animals being tortured for its fur.

Please be remembered as the greatest pioneers of Hawaii that made a monumental difference in the world!

Once and for all STOP, the people/companies that hurt all animals for \$\$\$\$\$. I understand people need a job/\$ to live, and killing animals for it's fur put food on the table. And you realize, there would be no animal advocates if humans treated animals with compassion, kindness and respect.

Unfortunately, from the time the animal is born, its entire life is tormented until its horrifically killed in the end. The people/companies appear to enjoy seeing what they do, its nothing to them tearing/skinning the fur off while the animal is alive. Hearing the animal scream & cry in inscrutiating pain! Slamming, hitting, stabbing, and doing other unthinkable acts to the animal in the name of corporate evil \$\$\$\$.

Those people/companies are absolutely desensitized! It's a fact, once a person becomes desensitized, the person is insensitive towards animals & other people's feelings.

Scary! How a human treat an animal is how the human will treat another human being. I must be graphic so you understand the reason I'm write this testimony to you. If an animal is being tortured for \$\$\$\$... Hawaii, please send out a malama pono message to the world! Its not right to kill animals for it's fur or for any parts of the body for \$\$\$\$.

Hawaii, lead and have the world follow, boycott the fur trade. It's time to STOP it, once and for all! Standing strong together to end animal cruelty in Hawaii and beyond!

Thank you very much for your time. Be well and take care.

Respectfully, Mrs. Lana Rapoza

808-499-5005

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 6:06:29 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Karen Roberts       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I am begging the legislators to please support SB 969 in the interests of humanitarianism. Let's make Hawaii a leader in this area.

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 8:02:37 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Diane Ware          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Dear chair and committee,

As a resident of Hawaii, I urge the members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Judiciary to vote "yes" on SB 969. The bill would protect animals exploited in the fur trade, the majority of whom spend their lives in cramped cages before they're beaten, gassed, or electrocuted; their necks are broken; or they're skinned alive. I am amazed this inhumane practice still persists.

Please act to support the passage of this bill.

With compassion for all creatures,

Diane Ware 99-7815 Kapoha Place Volcano HI 96785



**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 8:19:55 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jane E Arnold       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I am a resident of Hawaii, and I am requesting that you pass SB969. Nowadays faux fur looks so good that there is no good reason to continue fur farming. Fur farming is exceptionally cruel to the animals and bad for public health.

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 8:54:54 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b>  | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| River Marilou Penner | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha , here on Maui Hawaii we are responsible to the malama of the aina and all the residents here. It is unnecessary for anyone, other than the animals that the fur grows on to have fur. I support the baning of fur manufacturing. River Marilou Penner

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 10:43:13 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM



| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Todd Yukutake | Individual   | Comments           | No                 |

Comments:

I am providing COMMENTS ONLY for SB969.

There can be unforeseen problems with this bill that can lead to lost income for residents and a waste of good animal products. For example, people grow rabbits to harvest for food and the skins could be sold as clothing products and ornaments. This bill would outlaw the sale of the rabbit furs which would then be thrown away, wasting a resource.

Please take this into consideration.

Mahalo.

Todd Yukutake  
Resident SD 16  
toddykutake@gmail.com

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2021 4:17:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gerard Silva        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

This is just a big wast of time. How many people in Hawaii are going to be wareing Furr in 80 degree wether any way.

Just Stuped

More important things to Deal with then this rubbish.

**LATE**

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 11:51:20 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cindy               | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Whenever animals are intensively confined without regard for their health or welfare, public health is endangered. Fur farms often confine thousands of animals to small barns or open-air cage systems. Sanitation is typically poor, and veterinary care is almost non-existent. As a result, these fur factory farms are breeding grounds for pathogens that can result in zoonotic diseases. Mink fur farms in the U.S. and around the globe have become hot spots for COVID-19. Minks seem to both catch the virus from people and transmit it to them.



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1019 AZ Amsterdam  
The Netherlands  
E: [info@furfreealliance.com](mailto:info@furfreealliance.com)  
W: [www.furfreealliance.com](http://www.furfreealliance.com)

Amsterdam, 23 February 2021

Dear Sir, Madam,

I write to you on behalf of the Fur Free Alliance, an international coalition of more than fifty animal protection organisations who work together to end the exploitation and killing of animals for their fur. We believe that fur factory farming is inherently cruel and encourage governments around the world to bring about legislation to end this practice.

We were delighted to hear that a proposal to prohibit the inhumane and unnecessary fur trade in Hawaii is presently under consideration. The Fur Free Alliance respectfully urges you to commit to adopting this forward-thinking and widely-supported legislation to make fur history in Hawaii.

The growing citizen concerns about animal welfare is increasingly leading to fashion brands, cities and states deciding to reject the use of animal fur. In the last few years, major international fashion brands, such as Gucci, Prada, Versace, Chanel and Michael Kors, have all announced that they would no longer be producing real fur apparel and instead transitioning to other materials, which are more humane and better for the environment.

Public opinion polls from a large number of countries around the world have consistently demonstrated that the majority of citizens consider the keeping and killing of animals for fur to be unacceptable. In addition, polling in the USA shows that a considerable majority (71%) of the population opposes killing animals for fur<sup>1</sup>.

Around the globe, the tide is turning against the barbaric fur trade. In October 2019, California made history by becoming the first state in the United States of America to adopt a ban on the sales and manufacture of animal fur products. The legislation will go into effect in 2023 and follows similar sale or import bans in the cities of Los Angeles (2018), San Francisco (2018), Berkeley (2017), West Hollywood (2011) and also in India in 2017.

The import and sale of seal, dog and cat fur has already been prohibited in the European Union. Recently, it was reported in the press<sup>2</sup> that the Minister for the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is spearheading plans to make Britain the world's first fur-free country once Brexit comes into force.

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<sup>1</sup> Research Co., Sept 2020. <https://researchco.ca/2020/09/22/canada-us-animals/>

<sup>2</sup> Evening Standard, Sept 2020. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/fur-sales-banned-uk-post-brex-it-plans-a4555901.html>



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Furthermore, over the past two decades, twenty countries have either voted to ban the practice, have prohibited the farming of particular species, or have introduced stricter regulations that have effectively curtailed the practice, including Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Croatia, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. As concerns about animal welfare and the ethics of fur continue to grow, proposals to prohibit fur production are presently being considered in Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland and Ukraine.

On fur factory farms around the world, millions of foxes, mink and other wild animals spend their entire lives in cramped cages, deprived of the ability to engage in natural behaviours, only to be cruelly gassed or electrocuted to death. In the wild, animals are caught in crippling leghold traps where they can be left for days without food or water. These archaic traps are indiscriminate, often maiming and killing non-target animals, including threatened species and even pets.

In addition to the fur industry being inherently inhumane, the confinement of thousands of wild animals in unsanitary, crowded and stressful conditions is an ecological disaster and a breeding ground for infectious diseases. To date, coronavirus infections have been confirmed on more than 400 mink fur farms in eleven countries around the world and it is estimated that around 18 million animals have been killed due to the virus. In the United States, coronavirus outbreaks have been documented on 16 mink farms, in the states of Utah, Wisconsin, Oregon, and Michigan.

**This is a cruel and outdated industry, which produces a luxury product for which there are today many warm and beautiful alternatives that do not involve animal suffering. We, the members of the Fur Free Alliance, strongly encourage you to be on the right side of history and prohibit the widely-condemned trade of animal fur products in Hawaii.**

We thank you in advance for your consideration of our request. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require additional information, or would like to arrange a video conference to discuss this important matter in greater detail.

Yours faithfully,

Joh Vinding  
Chairman of the Fur Free Alliance



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The Fur Free Alliance is an international coalition of over 50 animal protection organisations representing millions of supporters worldwide.







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NOAH | for dyrs  
rettigheter



OE  
oikeutta  
eläimille



adčynienyja  
klietki

tušti  
narvai

otwarte  
klatki

открытые  
клетки

відкриті  
клітки

respect for animals  
FIGHTING THE INTERNATIONAL FUR TRADE



svoboda  
zviřat  
organizace  
na ochranu zviřat



UNIQUE PLANET  
UP  
ЕДИНА ПЛАНЕТА



Veganstvo



world  
animalnet



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W: [www.furfreealliance.com](http://www.furfreealliance.com)

- ACTAsia
- Anima
- Anima Mundi
- Animal Friends Croatia
- Animal Rights Center Japan
- Animalia
- Animals Friend Fund Latvia
- Associação ANIMAL
- Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals
- Beauty Without Cruelty
- Bont voor Dieren
- Born Free USA
- Campaigns and Activism for the Animals in Industry (CAAI)
- CARE
- Change for Animals Foundation
- Deutscher Tierschutzbund
- Djurens Rätt
- Dyrenes Alliance
- Dzīvnieku Brīvība
- Ecoetica
- Ecoveg
- Four Paws
- GAIA
- Galop
- Humane Society International
- Humánny Pokrok
- Hungarian Anti-Fur League
- JAVA
- LAV
- Loomus
- NOAH
- Observatorio
- Oikeutta Eläimille
- One Voice
- Open Cages Belarus
- Open Cages Lithuania
- Open Cages Poland
- Open Cages Russia
- Open Cages Ukraine
- Respect for Animals
- RSPCA
- Sloboda za Životinje
- Svoboda zvířat
- Swiss Animal Protection
- The Humane Society of the United States
- Tu Abrigo Su Vida
- UAnimals
- Unique Planet
- VEGAIA
- Vegan Initiative
- Vier Pfoten
- Voices for Animals
- World Animal Net

**SB-969-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 3:55:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2021 9:15:00 AM

**LATE**

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Donna Thelander     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

- As a resident of Hawaii, I urge the members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Judiciary to vote “yes” on SB 969. The bill would protect animals exploited in the fur trade, the majority of whom spend their lives in cramped cages before they’re beaten, gassed, or electrocuted; their necks are broken; or they’re skinned alive.
- Several major U.S. cities as well as the state of California have already banned the sale of fur in their jurisdictions, and hundreds of fashion houses—such as Versace, Chanel, Gucci, Donna Karan, and Burberry—have shunned fur in favor of innovative and luxurious faux-fur materials that spare millions of animals intense suffering and a violent death.
- I support SB 969 because it will eliminate Hawaii’s contribution to horrific animal abuse in the fur industry by making it illegal to sell a new fur product in the state.