

HB-2028

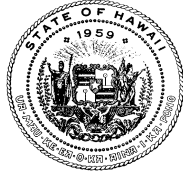
Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:53:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Morris Atta	Hawaii Department of Agriculture	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Available for questions.



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in OPPOSITION on HB2028
RELATING TO RAW MILK**

REPRESENTATIVE MARK M. NAKASHIMA, CHAIR

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: 2/8/2022 pm

Room Number: Rm 325

VIDEO CONF

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure has substantial fiscal implications that is not included in the
2 executive budget.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (department) **STRONGLY OPPOSES** this
4 measure.

5 The department opposes this bill, as does the United States Food and Administration's (FDA),
6 and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) due to the public health concerns
7 surrounding the sale/consumption of raw milk. According to the CDC, between 1993 and 2006
8 more than 1500 people have gotten ill from consuming raw milk, or raw milk cheese and other
9 products containing raw milk. In addition, the CDC reported that consuming unpasteurized milk
10 is 150 times more likely to cause foodborne illness and 13 times more hospitalizations than
11 drinking pasteurized milk products.

12 The State of Hawaii currently prohibits the sale of raw milk in any form. Hawaii Administrative
13 Rules, Title 11, Chapter 15, "Milk", Section 11-15-45, Milk and Milk Products which may be
14 sold, states in part that "Only Grade "A" pasteurized milk and milk products shall be sold to the
15 final consumer"...

16 Please be advised that FDA and other federal and state health agencies have documented a long
17 history of the risks to human health associated with the consumption of raw milk. Clinical and
18 epidemiological studies from FDA, state health agencies, and others have established a direct
19 causal link between gastrointestinal disease and the consumption of raw milk. The microbial
20 flora of raw milk may include human pathogens present on the cow's udder and teats. Further,
21 the intrinsic properties of milk, including its pH and nutrient content, make it an excellent media
22 for the survival and growth of bacteria.

1 On August 10, 1987, FDA published in 21 CFR Part 1240.61, a final regulation mandating the
2 pasteurization of all milk and milk products in final package form for direct human consumption.
3 This regulation addresses milk shipped in interstate commerce and became effective September
4 9, 1987.

5 In this Federal Register notification for the final rule to 21 CFR Part 1240.61, FDA made a
6 number of findings including the following:

7 "Raw milk, no matter how carefully produced, may be unsafe."

8 "It has not been shown to be feasible to perform routine bacteriological tests on the raw
9 milk itself to determine the presence or absence of all pathogens and thereby ensure that
10 it is free of infectious organisms."

11 "Opportunities for the introduction and persistence of *Salmonella* on dairy premises are
12 numerous and varied, and technology does not exist to eliminate *Salmonella* infection
13 from dairy herds or to preclude re-introduction of *Salmonella* organisms. Moreover
14 recent studies show that cattle can carry and shed *S. dublin* organisms for many years and
15 demonstrated that *S. dublin* cannot be routinely detected in cows that are mammary gland
16 shedders."

17 During this rulemaking process, the American Academy of Pediatrics and numerous others
18 submitted comments in support of the proposed regulation.

19 In deciding upon mandatory pasteurization, FDA determined that pasteurization was the only
20 means to assure the destruction of pathogenic microorganisms that might be present. This
21 decision was science-based involving epidemiological evidence. FDA and the CDC have
22 documented illnesses associated with the consumption of raw milk, including "certified raw
23 milk" and have stated that the risks of consuming raw milk far outweigh any benefits.

24 In light of research showing no meaningful difference in the nutritional value of pasteurized and
25 unpasteurized milk, FDA and CDC have also concluded that the health risks associated with the
26 consumption of raw milk far outweigh any benefits derived from its consumption.

27 There are numerous documented outbreaks of milkborne disease involving *Salmonella* and
28 *Campylobacter* infections directly linked to the consumption of unpasteurized milk in the past 20
29 years. Since the early 1980's, cases of raw milk-associated campylobacteriosis have been
30 reported in the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Kansas, Maine, Montana, New
31 Mexico, Oregon, and Pennsylvania. An outbreak of Salmonellosis, involving 50 cases was
32 confirmed in Ohio in 2002. Recent cases of *E. coli* O157:H7, *Listeria monocytogenes* and
33 *Yersinia enterocolitica* infections have also been attributed to raw milk consumption.

1 In the court case *Public Citizen v. Heckler*, 653f. Supp. 1229 (D.D.C. 1986), the federal district
2 court concluded that the record presents "overwhelming evidence of the risks associated with the
3 consumption of raw milk, both certified and otherwise". The court stated that the evidence FDA
4 has accumulated concerning raw milk "Conclusively shows that raw and certified raw milk are
5 unsafe" and "There is no longer any question of fact as to whether raw milk is unsafe".

6 State health and agricultural agencies routinely use the U.S. Public Health Service/FDA
7 Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) as the basis for the regulation of Grade "A" milk production
8 and processing. The PMO has been sanctioned by the National Conference on Interstate Milk
9 Shipments (NCIMS) and provides a national standard of uniform measures that is applied to
10 Grade "A" dairy farms and milk processing facilities to assure safe milk and milk products.
11 Section 9 of the PMO specifies that only Grade "A" pasteurized milk be sold to the consumer.

12 In summary, since raw milk may contain human pathogens, the consumption of raw milk
13 products increases the risk of gastrointestinal illness due to the likelihood that it may contain
14 infective doses of human pathogens. Other pathogens known to be transmitted by raw milk
15 consumption could lead to serious illness, or even death, in the segment of our population that is
16 the most vulnerable. This includes children and infants, our elderly, and any person who is
17 immunocompromised due to illness or treatment of illnesses. The only method proven to be
18 reliable in reducing the level of human pathogens in milk and milk products is by those milk
19 products being produced and processed under sanitary conditions and subsequently being
20 properly pasteurized. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration; therefore, strongly advises
21 against the consumption of raw milk.

22 References related to this subject may be found in the following documents:

- 23 • *American Journal of Public Health*, -- November 21, 1997
- 24 • *Journal of the American Medical Association* -- October 1984, May 1999, March 3, 1989
- 25 • *Journal of Public Health Policy, Inc.* -- September 1981
- 26 • *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly* -- June 28, 2002
- 27 • *Journal of Food Protection* -- Volume 61, Number 10, 1998
- 28 • *United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)* -- Fact Sheet -- July 1995

29
30 Proposals to allow for both cow sharing and raw milk for animal/pet consumption are being
31 proposed to "back-door" existing regulations and the intent is to divert consumption to humans.

32 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

33 **Offered Amendments:** None

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 8, 2022

2:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 2028
RELATING TO RAW MILK

Chairperson Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2028. This measure authorizes and decriminalizes the sale of raw milk and raw milk products directly to consumers for human consumption, with certain restrictions, requires the Board of Agriculture to adopt rules governing the direct sale of raw milk and raw milk products, establishes labeling requirements. The Department respectfully opposes this bill.

The State of Hawaii currently prohibits the sale of raw milk in any form. Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 15, "Milk", Section 11-15-46, Milk and milk products which may be sold, states in part that "Only Grade "A" pasteurized milk and milk products shall be sold to the final consumer."

The consumption of raw milk and raw milk products is a public health and milk safety issue. As such, the placement of this bill under Chapter 157 HRS is not



appropriate. Raw milk is unsafe because it can contain disease causing pathogens according to Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and American Academy of Pediatrics. This bill states that a label is required that warns about the risks of consuming raw milk by stating that raw milk “Contains pathogens that may be unsafe to consume.”

In addition to food safety issues, there are concerns with licensing and enforcing the maximum two-cow requirement on these many small producer-distributors, and there are potential problems with determining and collecting licensing fees. The revenues collected from monitoring the small producer-distributors containerizing their own raw milk and raw milk products for sale directly to consumers will be insufficient to sustain operations. The Department is unable to enforce the proposed amendments to Chapter 157 HRS in this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

LATE

HB-2028

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 11:35:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Leo Obaldo	Hawaii Dept of Agriculture	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

I am available to respond to questions on behalf of Hawaii Department of Agriculture



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 8, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY ON HB 2028
RELATING TO RAW MILK

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau opposes HB 2028, which authorizes and decriminalizes the sale of raw milk and raw milk products directly to consumers for human consumption, with certain restrictions and requires the Board of Agriculture to adopt rules governing the direct sale of raw milk and raw milk products.

Farm Bureau policy states: "We support only pasteurized fluid milk being sold or distributed for human consumption"

Farm Bureau policy was developed after intense discussion. Ultimately the decision was made based on FDA's website on raw milk, and studies conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showing that the majority of dairy-related disease outbreaks have been linked to raw milk.

We recognize the niche market opportunities associated with raw milk. However, we also have a responsibility to protect the public. The FDA reports that the risk of getting sick from drinking raw milk is greater for infants and young children, the elderly, pregnant women, and people with weakened immune systems, such as people with cancer, an organ transplant, or HIV/AIDS than it is for healthy school-aged children and adults. The CDC finds that foodborne illness from raw milk especially affects children and teenagers. But, it is important to remember that healthy people of any age can get very sick or even die if they drink raw milk contaminated with harmful germs."

Food safety is a priority for HFB. We have seen serious health consequences and successful enterprises fail when food safety issues arise.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HB-2028

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 3:02:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Pete Kennedy	WAPF	Support	Yes

Comments:

My name is Pete Kennedy. I am an attorney with the Weston A. Price Foundation (WAPF), an international nonprofit whose primary mission is to restore nutrient-dense foods to the American diet through research, education and activism. WAPF has members in all 50 states, including Hawaii, and is the leading raw milk advocacy organization in the U.S. I have worked on legal issues governing raw milk distribution for the past 19 years. I have consulted on state and federal milk legislation and have drafted raw milk bills as well (including Hawaii). I am familiar with the raw milk laws in every state.

At this time 44 states have legalized the sale and/or distribution of raw milk through statute, regulation or policy.

- Eleven (11) states allow the sale of raw milk for human consumption in retail stores: AZ, CA, CT, ID, ME, NH, NM, PA, SC, UT, and WA.
- Seventeen (17) states allow the sale of raw milk for human consumption direct from the producer to the consumer: AR. IL. KS. MA. MN, MS, MO, MT, NE, NY, OK, OR, SD, TX, VT, WI, and WY.
- Ten (10) states allow distribution raw milk through heedshare agreements: AK, CO, KY, MI, NC, ND, OH, TN, VA, WI, and WV. A herdshare agreement is an arrangement where an individual purchases an ownership interest in a dairy animal or herd of dairy animals and obtains a percentage of the raw milk production proportionate to that ownership interest.
- The remaining six (6) states allow the sale of raw pet milk by farmers: AL, FL, GA, IN, MD, and NJ.

Hawaii is clearly an outlier. There is significant demand for raw milk in Hawaii; for many years, bills legalizing its sale or distribution have been before the legislature but rarely, if ever, have received a fair hearing. Consumption of raw milk is legal in Hawaii but most consumers do not have the resources and/or know-how to own and board their own dairy animal(s), leaving them with no way to legally exercise that right.

It is far past time for Hawaii to legalize raw milk sales or distribution. Raw milk has a good track record for safety; there is documentation that, as demand for raw milk has increased over the last 15 to 20 years, the number of foodborne illnesses attributed to raw milk consumption has declined.

WAPF supports the passage of HB 2028 but recommends amendments to the bill. The bill's required statement on the label, "Contains pathogens that may be unsafe to consume", is not accurate. Raw milk has a better track record for safety than a number of legal foods, such as Romaine lettuce. The statement on the label could instead read: "May contain harmful organisms."

Given that farmers are only allowed to have two milk-producing cows, the rulemaking power that the bill gives the board looks to be setting up the farmer for overregulation. Other states, such as Montana and Oregon, that limit the herd size for raw milk sales or distribution codify most (or all) of the few requirements for producers in statute. The requirements should not be so great that it makes no sense economically for a farmer to produce raw milk for sale. The rulemaking power under HB 2028 should be narrowed and more clearly defined.

Passage of HB 2028 can help improve food security and self-sufficiency in Hawaii; the state currently has only one dairy legally producing milk for sale. It would lead to more of the food dollar staying in the community and would expand consumer choice by the enabling consumers to purchase not only raw milk but other dairy products as well. It would enable family farmers to further diversify their operations; in other states raw milk is often the food that draws the consumer to the farm, leading to sales of other farm products such as meat, poultry, eggs, and produce.

For all these reasons, I urged the committee to pass HB 2028.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete Kennedy, Esq.

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Stan Brown, Acosta Sales & Marketing, *Advisor*
Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair



FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 8, 2022
TIME: 2pm
PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: HB2028 Relating to Raw Milk

Position: Oppose

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA is in opposition to this measure to authorize the sale of raw milk and raw milk products directly to consumers for human consumption. Consuming raw milk and raw milk products carries an unnecessary risk for consumers. Both the Centers for Disease Control and the Food and Drug Administration have consistently warned against the dangers of raw milk products. We ask that this measure be held and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2028

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 8:08:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
jennifer weinert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the decriminalizing of raw milk. I support farms and the choice to support local. I support moving our agriculture to be more sustainable right here, right now. Please support this bill. Mahalo!

Personal Testimony Presented to the
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
February 8, 2022, 2:00 pm
By
Jenee S. Odani, DVM, DACVP

HB 2028: relating to raw milk

Personal testimony

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the committee:

My name is Jenee Odani, and I am the Extension Veterinarian with the University of Hawaii at Manoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. I am grateful for the opportunity to provide personal testimony on HB 2028. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawaii nor CTAHR.

The pasteurization process was developed in 1864 and has been credited with saving the lives of millions of people since that time. Pasteurization kills harmful bacteria that can be found in milk such as *Brucella* spp., *Salmonella* spp., *Campylobacter* spp., *E. coli*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Yersinia enterocolitica*, and *Mycobacterium* spp. (including tuberculosis). Infections with these pathogens can cause serious disease, possibly resulting in death or chronic conditions. Importantly, it is the most vulnerable of our population that is most susceptible to these infections: babies, children, pregnant women, older adults, and those with weakened immune systems.

In 2015, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) published a scientific article that showed there were increasing numbers of outbreaks in the US caused by non-pasteurized milk: from 30 during 2007-2009 to 51 during 2010-2012.¹ **Most outbreaks occurred in states in which non-pasteurized milk sale was legal** (see Figure 1: Legal Status of the Sale of Raw Milk and Outbreaks Linked to Raw Milk, by State, 2007-2012). **The CDC advises that people should only consume pasteurized milk and milk products.**

Similarly, **the Food and Drug Administration also states that “unpasteurized milk can pose a serious health risk”** and considers foods such as non-pasteurized milk and many types of milk products made from non-pasteurized milk to be high risk choices.²

With these facts in mind, I oppose House Bill 2028.

¹ Mungai EA, Behraves C, Gould L. Increased Outbreaks Associated with Nonpasteurized Milk, United States, 2007–2012. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. 2015;21(1):119-122. doi:10.3201/eid2101.140447.

² <https://www.fda.gov/food/buy-store-serve-safe-food/dangers-raw-milk-unpasteurized-milk-can-pose-serious-health-risk>, Accessed 01/31/2021.

Legal Status of the Sale of Raw Milk and Outbreaks* Linked to Raw Milk, by State, 2007-2012

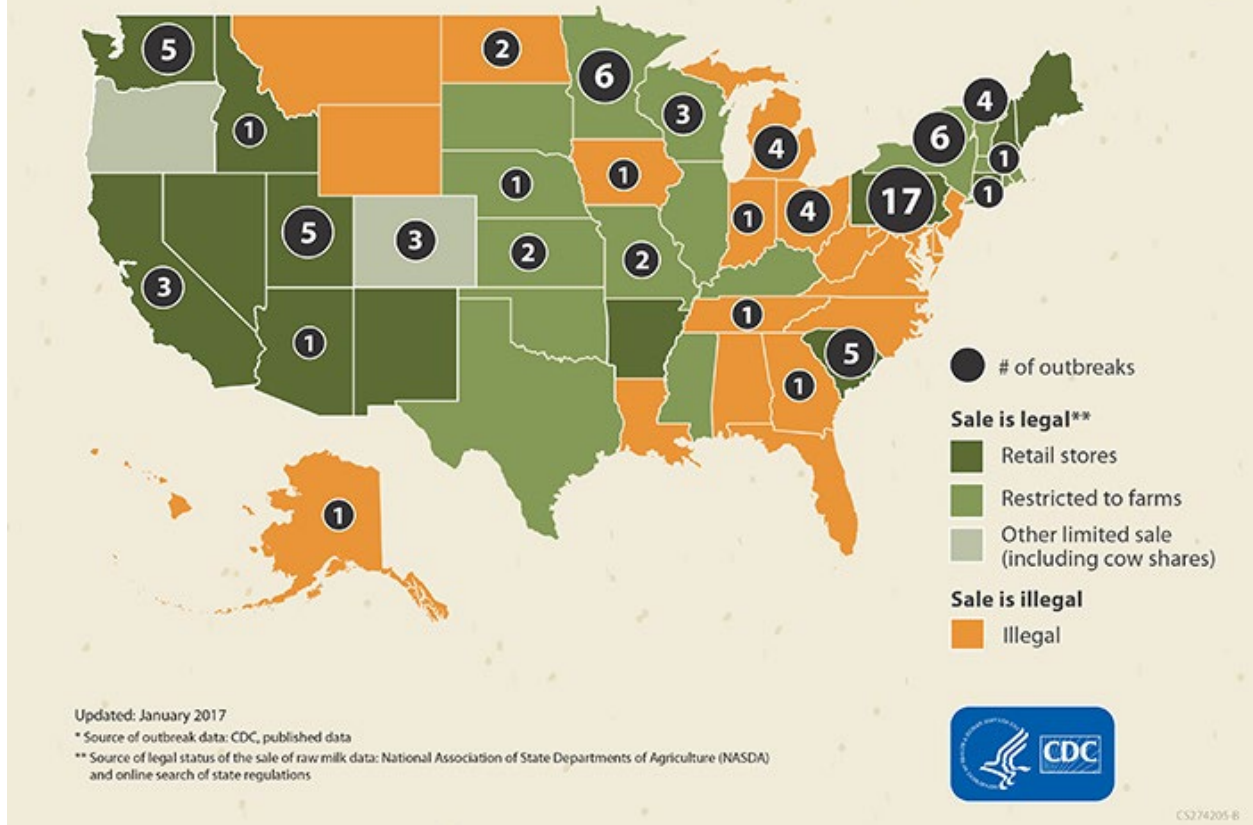


Figure 1: Legal Status of the Sale of Raw Milk and Outbreaks Linked to Raw Milk, by State, 2007-2012. <https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/rawmilk/nonpasteurized-outbreaks-maps.html>

HB-2028

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:26:38 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kimberly Ino	Mauna Kea Tea	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill. As small farmers looking to simplify crop production, lowering labor costs while increasing efficiency of field maintenance techniques, we have found livestock to be essential to the farm's survival. Producing meat and milk for our family is an excellent byproduct of keeping livestock to eat grass in the tea fields, and selling milk would be another good addition to our farm's income. Since sales of raw milk has never been legal, it is not something we've ever only considered doing for personal consumption. This legislation introduced by Nakashima could support us to create a system to safely expand operations to also provide milk to the community.

Sales of raw milk would be a great way to diversify farm product offerings.

HB-2028

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 12:11:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Antonia Barnhart	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Support HB2028. It gives us more choice to eat locally. I am all for it!

Aloha,

Antonia Barnhart

HB-2028

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 12:17:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Erika Kuhr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The ability for small farmers to have the legal right to sell raw milk and cottage industry products like butter and yogurt is imperative to support small famers and to help grow food sustainability in Hawaii. I have personal experience as beggining farmers of fruit and vegetable in Hawaii, needing the income from our one dadiry cow to survive as farmers and have income while we wroked to get the vegetable and fruit established.

HB-2028

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 12:54:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Emma-Lei Gerrish	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a farmer on the big island and I support this bill. Please pass it to help support local agriculture. Most states in the US already allow raw milk sales. Why is Hawaii stuck in the past? When will we join the rest of the states that have already safely legalized raw milk sales? Allowing raw milk sales will support local ag, food security, and diversified ag. Additionally, small farms are usually more humane (often treating their cows like pets) than industrial dairies. Consumers can go straight to the farm, meet the cows, and buy fresh raw milk.

Please support this bill.

Emma

HB-2028

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 1:54:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hattie Gerrish	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, and members of the committee,

I am a 3rd generation Hawai'i farmer and 4th generation dairy farmer. I write to you today in support of HB 2028, and I thank my representative, Mark Nakashima, for introducing this bill.

I support small-scale dairy and the legalization of direct on-farm sales of raw milk from farmer to customer because objections to raw milk are based on outdated science and prejudices from the early 20th century. A large majority of states have seen fit to legalize the sale of raw milk in some form, including California, a state famous for consumer protection. Current dairy regulations are designed for large, industrial scale dairies and should not be applied to small farms where the conditions are completely different.

Some people, like myself, prefer the quality and purity of raw milk. Some people, like myself, are unable to consume pasteurized milk without suffering ill effects. Pasteurized milk is a processed food, and I think most people understand that food is better for you and the planet when it is in a state closer to nature. Please allow consumers to make their own choice about whether to drink pasteurized or unpasteurized milk.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-2028

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:01:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hannah.urrego@gmail.com	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

Grazing animals are not native to the Hawaiian islands. In the 1700s animals such as goats and pigs were introduced, causing ecological damage and change in complex plant systems long in place on the islands. Today, places like Maui and Moloka'i face overpopulation of non-native axis deer causing similar types of ruin to private agricultural land. And yet, Native Hawaiians and locals alike have learned the power of adaptation and survival to make systems previously working against them, work greatly in their favor.

From Maui Nui on Maui offering up Kama'aina discounted boxes of freshly harvested deer meat to families struggling in a long- standing pandemic food shortage, to Hawai'i Island Goat Dairy in Honokaa selling fresh cheeses at nearby farmer's markets as well as shipping to the mainland—no longer are Hawai'i residents assumed as having to be at the mercy of mainland food trends. We are showing that sustainable food systems are our replicable birthright that can generate income for generations to come. Raw dairy is no exception. From California to South Carolina, several states in the Union have proven not only the demand for raw milk as being high, but the political will and individual representatives of the people as being able to execute one of the fundamental most important changes in our modern times—moving towards sustainable health.

Food choice, like bodily autonomy and the right to vote, is a fundamental principle to a thriving and healthy democracy. There is no state in the United States where issues of sustainability and freedom of access are more important than Hawaii. Our post-pandemic food processing systems, shipping and supply chain throttles and rapid increase in nutrition-related diseases in Hawaii provide plenty of evidence to make healthy, safe, and alternative food choices widely available.

I implore this legislative body to consider that natural and raw products are not only *not* a large contributor to food borne illness but are a way to mitigate and control disease through healthy and active bacterial cultures, rich supply of bioavailable amino acids, non-denatured levels of Vitamin D, etc. Why should our residents be restricted to only trendy dairy products shipped from afar with added bacterial cultures for gut health, when we can provide those here? Locally. Dairy as a whole, pasteurized or not, has low incidences of food borne illness as a food

product when compared to other groups like lettuce and canned foods. Small, locally produced food has a short supply chain by nature. This short supply chain allows for quality control. Entire nations in the European Union allow raw dairy in all spectrums and in fact are even encouraged. Many states in our union allow and regulate these products well. I believe both in the capacity of local farmers and families to sustain natural foods systems as well as the capacity of our regulatory bodies to ensure their safety.

What came first: metabolic illness and mass industry-scale outbreaks of listeria and the like, or raw food products such as cow and goat's milk? I argue that these natural food systems have always been comparatively safe and will bring another stream of income, sustainability and most importantly *health* to the residents of Hawai'i. We cannot claim to be in support of our "kama" if we ignore the potential of the 'aina to produce good food for our use. Food is life. Water is life. Raw milk is both.

Mahalo Nui Loa and in good health,

Hannah Urrego

HB-2028

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 3:01:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jennifer Rodwell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members, as a long time Hawaii resident and educator in our schools, I strongly urge the passing of this Bill. Thank you!

HB-2028

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 3:11:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lucas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Consuming raw milk should be as common place as serving raw fish.

HB-2028

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:09:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Helmut Klauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support

HB-2028

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:13:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Charles Matthew Shofman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I hereby support HB2028 to decriminize sale and distributinon of raw milk and raw milk products. We live in the land of paradise, capable of our producng own milk and honey, why continue over regulating local farmers out of the markets to supply the Island's wants and needs. Island self-sustainability is a goal we can all rally around. Resonable, non-prohibitive, milk safty measures should be in place. Mahalo.

LATE

HB-2028

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:25:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Deborah Umiamaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB2028.

Sincerely, Deborah Umiamaka.

LATE

HB-2028

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:25:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Teresa Gardner	Art Farm	Support	No

Comments:

As a farmer I am in STRONG SUPPORT of decriminliazing the sale of raw milk and porducts

LATE

HB-2028

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:37:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Karen Reid	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha - I fully support this bill that authorizes and decriminalizes the sale of raw milk and raw milk products directly to consumers for human consumption, with certain restrictions. Mahalo, Karen

LATE

HB-2028

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 6:18:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

LATE

HB-2028

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 7:26:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Austin Campbell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Raw milk is medicine for the people.

and should be legalized to support the health of every individual.

LATE

HB-2028

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 8:49:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Victoria El-Swaify	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Nakashima and Committee Members,

I support HB2028.

As autonomous beings with the capacity to make informed decisions, we should have the freedom and the right to the foods we *choose* to eat, and the opportunity to access them. Farmers should also have the freedom to make a profit from their valuable commodities, such as raw milk, if they *choose* to do so.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration bans anyone from selling or distributing unpasteurized milk for human consumption via interstate commerce. But there is no ban on actually consuming raw milk and raw milk products. If you're a dairy farmer, you can drink the milk however you like it and you can give it away. Legalizing the sales of raw milk would allow for the regulation of it. If it is the government's desire to protect people from 'dangerous' foods, then legalization and regulation would be the better option. If raw milk sales were legalized our local farmers could also make a profit.

But I do understand there are concerns. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that raw milk can carry dangerous bacteria such as Salmonella and E. coli. The CDC also has countless records of Salmonella and E. coli outbreaks which include romaine lettuce and tomatoes, yet we do not ban these foods from the market.

Often outbreaks occur because of mass production and over-industrialized farms, but HB2028 will allow for a *very* small-scale production of raw milk, where our trusted local farmers will handle the process with great care and the highest standards. I trust our local farmers to have the knowledge and competency to create small batches of raw milk which can then be sold straight from farmer to consumer. The push for supporting local businesses and becoming more sustainable has increased over the years, and this bill offers an opportunity to do just that. I am in support of this bill and our local farmers.

Me ha'aha'a,
Victoria El-Swaify

LATE

HB-2028

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:58:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Drew Wilkinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in Strong support of HB2028.

thank you,

Drew Wilkinson

LATE

HB-2028

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:50:39 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rivah Winter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am in strong support of this bill, which will empower our local food system and make it more sustainable. #FixOurFoodSystem

LATE

HB-2028

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:16:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sunny Savage	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

in strong support