

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2022
1:00 P.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2621
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2621 that appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to establish bovine tuberculosis control operations on Molokai, including staff, facility, and equipment.

The Department supports this measure provided it does not adversely impact the Department's priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget request. The recurrence of bovine Tuberculosis (bTB) in livestock on the island of Molokai after 25 years without detections, requires a concerted effort with facility and personnel on the island. In addition to surveillance testing and expanded outbreak response activities, on-island personnel improves monitoring and information gathering activities needed to identify areas of disease risk and effectively mitigate disease spread. Flying in staff from other islands to set up temporary areas for processing cattle and swine and to conduct bTB testing creates significant delays that can be eliminated for timely response and assessment. A facility on island also increases efficiency and safety to process animals for testing.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important measure.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2621

January 31, 2022
1:00 p.m.
Room 224 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2621 appropriates \$500,000 in general funds in FY 23 for the Department of Agriculture to control the spread of bovine tuberculosis among livestock and feral ungulates on Moloka'i. The bill further provides that the appropriation be used for the establishment of 1.00 Veterinary Medical Officer II position and 1.00 Livestock Inspector II position; the procurement of land for the construction of a portable field office; and for one new vehicle.

B&F notes that the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

SB2621
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Monday, January 31, 2022, 1:00 PM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **strongly supports SB2987** to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture to establish bovine tuberculosis control operations on Molokai. It is imperative that we stay ahead of any bovine tuberculosis outbreaks, and the 2021 incident of bovine tuberculosis shows that the Department of Agriculture has the protocols in place to identify cases and prevent the spread. Providing the funding so that there is staff, a facility, and equipment on Molokai is prudent, as this is where bovine tuberculosis needs to be monitored. Our ability to detect and contain any bovine tuberculosis is extremely important to the survival of Hawaii's cattle industry. Permanent staffing and equipment is needed on the island to ensure that there is uninterrupted, focused attention on the issue to contain outbreaks and prevent further spread.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this critical matter for our industry.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director





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JANUARY 31, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2621
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

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

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 2621, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to establish bovine tuberculosis control operations on Molokai, including staff, facility, and equipment.

Across the State, various invasive species are creating havoc in agriculture as well as the ecosystems in which they exist. The axis deer population on Molokai is a good example of nature getting out of control with populations exploding due to abundant forage following rainfall events.

These feral populations can pose a danger, especially as populations grow and their health is put into jeopardy due to inadequate food. Diseases that they normally tolerate will become serious debilitating illnesses that could put our domestic livestock industry in jeopardy. Such fears are not unreasonable, as incidences such as the bovine tuberculosis spread from feral pigs and cattle have been documented in Molokai.

<https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/blog/news-releases/news-release-january-26-2006-nr06-01/>

Developing a comprehensive strategy can become an example of how the HDOA and other government agencies, the research community, and the public can jointly work together solve a problem. We urge that the communities in the various areas be included as strategies are developed.

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

SB-2621

Submitted on: 1/28/2022 7:17:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gene Ross K. Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairman Gabbard and Honorary Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony, I am a resident and homesteader of the island of Molokai. This island has a long history of livestock having TB, even to the extent of having the island's cattle depopulated back in the mid 1980s. It's 40years later and once again our Farmers and Ranchers are experiencing hardships due to TB.

I strongly support SB2621, it is good that the Department of Agriculture's Division of Animal Industry have a presence in our community. Please Consider and Support SB2621 to better help and serve the people of Molokai.

Mahalo,

Gene Ross Davis

SB-2621

Submitted on: 1/28/2022 9:22:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rosie F Davis	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha,

The huge setback of animals with TB testing positive has really hurt our community. We need the support on Molokai, and I support the \$500,000 of funding, ongoing to help control and prevent this from happening again.

Mahalo nui, Rosie

SB-2621

Submitted on: 1/28/2022 8:43:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Iolani Kuoha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I support SB2621, to the appropriation of funds to the Department of Agriculture to establish bovine tuberculosis control operations on Moloka'i by including a Veterinarian, staff, facility, and equipment appropriate funds to the sum of \$500,000mor so much for the fiscal year 2022 - 2023.

Mahalo,

‘Iolani Kuoha

SB-2621

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 8:44:37 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
NOEMI VILLAFANIA CASTRO	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the Department of Agriculture for the needs funds and support to establish bovine tuberculosis control operations on Molokai, including staff, facility, and equipment. I support this Bill.

SB-2621

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 11:23:30 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Casey Castro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2621.

SB-2621

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 1:44:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Winona Kaawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a Hawaiian Homesteader, back in the 1980's I had 22 heads of animals that had to be slaughtered because of the assumption that all of the cattle on Molokai had TB. I would like an office established on Molokai and staff on-island to assist with TB detection.

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Gabe Johnson
Kelly Takaya King
Michael J. Molina
Tamara Paltin
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Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

January 30, 2022

TO: Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

DATE: January 30, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF SB 2621, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture to establish bovine tuberculosis control operations on Molokai, including costs incurred related to staffing, facilities, and equipment.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **SUPPORT** this measure for the following reasons:

1. The Hawai'i Department of Agriculture reported cow herd infections with bovine tuberculosis on Molokai. This is a contagious, infectious, communicable disease of animals that can infect humans.
2. Funding is needed to control the spread of the bovine tuberculosis among livestock and feral ungulates on the island of Molokai.
3. Funds would assist with continued efforts to monitor cattle herds and wildlife to contain and eradicate infections.

For the foregoing reasons, I **SUPPORT** this measure.

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SB-2621

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 3:55:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Russell DeCoite	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha My name is Russell DeCoite and I am a third generation rancher on the island of Molokai I am in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2621. As a rancher I have been supplying Molokai for years with cattle. Bovine, TB has hit this island twice with full eradication and again we have it here on Molokai. This will help us to monitor and test breakouts on the island to protect our herds. We cannot continue to go on and think if cattle here on Molokai has Bovine, TB. We need to make sure we have the proper people and equipment so that we continue to raise and feed people. Along with our over burdening axis deer problems that had also ere hit with cases TB we need to make sure that the state of Hawaii plays a role in making sure we can prevent future breakouts on the island of Molokai.

I humbly ask for the passage of SB2621.

Mahalo,

Russell DeCoite, Rancher on Molokai

SB-2621

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 8:15:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Faith Tuipulotu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Molokai is in desperate need of Staff and all things needed to help them complete tasks in an efficient and professional manner. We've been through this scenario with cattle and now swine! Our farm is impacted by this disease and we are waiting for our results to see what will happen next.

Thank you, Faith Tuipulotu of Tuipulotu Organics LLC