



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS
Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

SB316
RELATING TO DOGS

Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four 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 **supports SB316** which establishes additional penalties for dog owners whose dog destroys property while on land zoned for agricultural use.

Establishing an additional penalty to the damages the dog owner is responsible for will motivate dog owners to take more initiative in securing their dogs and preventing loss. Enforcement of this is critical, and in the past it has been difficult to identify the owners of dogs that have trespassed and caused damage. In addition to establishing the additional penalty, more clarity is needed on the appropriate entities to contact when damage is done.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director

