



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
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 Agriculture and Environment  
Monday, February 8, 2021  
1:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference**

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

Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

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 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 the bill'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 well-versed in matters involving fur farming, fur trade industries, and animal rights. These matters are outside the jurisdiction of the DCCA, which protects consumers through business registration and professional licensure,

Testimony of DCCA

S.B. 969

Page 2 of 2

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**SB-969**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 10:15:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
melanie calandra	Testifying for International Fur Federation	Oppose	No

Comments:

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chair, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify against the proposed ban SB 969.

My name is Melanie Calandra and I am a Managing Director at the International Fur Federation. The International Fur Federation was established in 1949 and is the only organisation to represent the international fur industry and regulate its practices and trade.

The federation promotes the business of fur, establishing certification and traceability programmes on welfare and the environment.

The international Fur Federation represents 56 members associations in over 40 countries around the world. The members encompass all parts of the fur trade including farmers, trappers, dressers, manufacturers, brokers, auction houses, retailers and designers. Each of these members have signed a strict code of conduct committing them to upholding the industry-relevant laws they fall under in their home countries.

Many of you and your colleagues, have been given a great amount of misinformation. Fur is part of our resource based economy, with animal welfare at its core. It is important to note that trapping will exist even with a fur ban.

Trapping contributes to:

- Protecting and monitoring endangered species
- Reintroduction of species into their original habitats, like the American River Otter for example.
- Public Safety
- Prevention of Property Damage
- Protection of crops and livestock

- Protection of ecosystems and habitat
- Disease management to protect animal and human health
- 

I find this Bill complexing, as the United States and Canada, have long worked very closely together on animal management and ensuring the highest globally recognized animal welfare standards for decades. We currently have the best wildlife management model in the world as a result.

You may be interested to know that the tested and approved traps used for live capture by trappers are also used by biologists in wildlife monitoring and tagging programs. And you should know that both the US and Canada have invested over \$50 million and counting to ensure that all traps are humane and meet globally recognized standards.

I can tell you firsthand, trapping is a critical activity that actually supports all elements of protection and conservation.

Trappers are required to adhere to strict rules; 100 percent of the wild fur harvest in North America is part of strict, science-based government wildlife management programs. These programs are controlled, monitored and strictly enforced by government.

The fact remains, if you ban fur, it doesn't protect ANY animals. It makes matters worse for them and for their ecosystems.

The commercial trade of fur pays for a great deal of wildlife management. If you ban commercial trade, the animal populations will still need to be controlled — but taxpayers will foot the bill for wildlife culls. And then you will get what they have in Europe, where millions of animals are just captured, killed and discarded in landfills at public expense as part of animal control.

In North America, the responsible use of wildlife resources is a crucial part of successful management. And that's a service we currently get for free thanks to commercial trade.

Trapping also supports our indigenous and rural communities all over North America. I am sure that aboriginal Hawaiin's wouldn't want to cause stress and undue hardship to other bands across the continent.

So in short, I strongly ask you to reconsider this ban.

Hello Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair and members of the Agriculture and Environment committee – 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.

**SB-969**

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 7:50:36 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
PJ Smith	Testifying for THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair and members of the Agriculture and Environment committee –

Thank you for your time. 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 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 how deadly the fur trade is, not to just animals but humans too.

Fur farmed mink are the only species known to transmit the coronavirus to humans, and foxes and raccoon dogs have also tested positive. When thousands of undomesticated animals are confined to small, barren cages for their entire lives unable to engage in natural behaviors like running, digging or swimming, the fear and psychological torment leads to self-mutilation and cannibalism. At the end of their short lives, to keep costs low and to not damage pelts, mink are gassed and raccoon dogs and foxes are anally electrocuted. Bludgeoning animals to death and skinning them while they're still alive has also been well-documented. Add human workers to the mix, fur farms are a breeding ground for infectious diseases and potentially the next pandemic.

Last year, outbreaks occurred on over 400 fur farms in 11 countries – including the U.S. in Oregon, Utah, Wisconsin and Michigan – after mink and humans tested positive. 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 and Hungary preemptively announced a ban on fur production to prevent fur farmers from moving there.

Luckily, awareness and innovative alternatives that are just as warm and stylish, are leading to positive change. 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.

On behalf of HSUS, and our supporters across Hawaii, we urge you to vote YES on SB 969, which will ban new fur sales within the state. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
PJ Smith  
Fashion Policy Director, HSUS



# InStyle

The Honorable Mike Gabbard  
Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

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

Dear Chair Gabbard:

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. Thank you

Sincerely,

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

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



**HUMANE SOCIETY  
VETERINARY MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION..**

February 5, 2021

**Hawaii State Capitol  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Honolulu, HI**

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

Dear Chairman Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA), I am writing to express our strong support for banning 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.



**HUMANE SOCIETY  
VETERINARY MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION.**

**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*

Eric Jayne, DVM  
HSVMA Hawaii State Representative

**SB-969**

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 12:48:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jay a. DeLeon	Testifying for WHITE FOX FUR & FEATHER CO.	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Legislature. beautiful people of Hawaii I am writing to OPPOSE SB969

We supply a few individuals and small manufactures that use furs, feathers and leather. these are all renewable resources and NONE of them are endanger. The good LORD gave these animals to us to use and not waste The good LORD supplies us with these animals every year so we can make use of the animal gifts we receive. We as hunters, ranchers, and trappers harvest the EXCESS crop of these wild and ranch fur animals and birds. We always leave seed for the next year crop of animals. that's why we have an abundance of fur animals to harvest. .

If you pass SB969 it will have a great effect on the small businesses that depend on a livelihood from furs will be wiped out. a trade that has been going on since time began. We all need SMALL BUSINESSES TO KEEP OUR ECONOMY GOING TO GENERATE INCOME AND TO PAY TAXES.

PLEASE DO NOT PASS SB969

THANK YOU

Jay A. De Leon

WHITE FOX FUR & FEATHER CO.

STELLA MCCARTNEY

The Honorable Mike Gabbard  
Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

**Statement of Support of SB 969**

Dear Chair Gabbard:

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

**SB-969**

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 4:28:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Larry P. Meyer	Testifying for Wisconsin Trappers Association	Oppose	No

## Comments:

I am opposed to SB969. When you vote on this bill please base your decision on science, knowing that good wildlife habitat produces a harvestable surplus of fur bearing animals which generates funds for managing our natural resources and wildlife areas from regulated hunting and trapping. Sale of trapping and hunting license, sale of registered trap lines, and sale of lots on wetland areas for trapping all generate funds for managing our natural resources. If this harvestable surplus is not taken each year, surplus furbearers such as raccoons, coyotes, muskrat and beaver cause damage, carry disease and have to be eradicated at a cost to landowners and the furbearers are killed, many during birthing season. I will be the first one to tell you that these furbearing animals are "cute", but if we manage our furbearing animals on some peoples emotions, and not on science, we are doing a serious injustice to our furbearing animals and negate the generation of funds for managing our wildlife areas.

February 7, 2021

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Senate Bill 969

Dear Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara, and Committee Members:

My name is Bryant White. I am representing the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Association). The Association is the professional association that serves as the collective voice of North America's state, provincial, and territorial fish and wildlife agencies on a broad spectrum of biodiversity and conservation issues from migratory bird conservation to invasive species management to engagement in international treaties and conventions. All 50 state wildlife agencies support regulated trapping as a necessary part of modern wildlife management and conservation.

I am a professional wildlife biologist. I have overseen the wild furbearer management program for the Association since 2002. As a wildlife biologist, I have trapped many species for research and damage control, and I have extensive experience with traps and trapping having coordinated over 500 research projects that used trapping across 43 U.S. States. We recently published much of this research in the peer reviewed scientific journal *Wildlife Monographs* [Best Management Practices for Trapping Furbearers in the United States \(White et al. 2020\)](#).

Senate Bill 969 is being promoted as pro-animal welfare. In fact, trapping today is managed through science-based regulations that address animal welfare. Trapping regulations are put in place by state fish and wildlife agencies and implemented by biologists who care deeply about animals and have dedicated their lives to the conservation of wildlife.

The U.S. and Canada have spent over \$50 million in recent decades conducting trap research and promoting the best and most humane traps in existence. This effort has been effective. Recent trapper surveys indicate the vast majority of the animals captured by trappers in the U.S. are captured in traps that pass international humane trapping standards. These are the highest animal welfare standards in place for the take of any wildlife species and were developed by the International Organization for Standardization. As a result, trapping today is done humanely.

In addition, the same traps used today by fur trappers are also used by biologists for research and reintroductions. The reintroduction and restoration of wolf and river otter populations in the U.S. would not have been possible without trapping. This was only possible because traps usually cause minimal or no injury to captured animals.

Recognizing this, the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians has a position statement recognizing foothold traps, “when used properly, are humane, safe and practical.” In addition, The Wildlife Society, the professional society of wildlife biologists and researchers, recognizes the importance of the use of trapping in wildlife management and has a standing position statement that supports it.

It is also worth noting that the species that are trapped today are abundant. In fact, some, like coyote, beaver, and raccoon are more abundant than they have ever been in history. These abundant populations must be managed by trapping to reduce the potential to damage property, to protect the public health and safety of millions of Americans, and to protect more vulnerable threatened and endangered species like sea turtles, least terns, the beautiful and majestic whooping crane, the Atlantic Puffin, and some thirty other threatened or endangered species.

Without the fur trade, harvested furbearing animals will be disposed of and wasted, rather than producing a durable, beautiful, environmentally friendly product that can be used by people. In other countries where the fur trade has been banned, like the European Union, millions of muskrats and hundreds of thousands of foxes are killed by trapping each year to protect human health, safety and property and these animals are simply destroyed. This is a shameful waste and violates the North American model of wildlife management. The fur trade is a responsible use of wildlife.

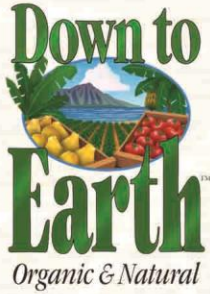
We appreciate the opportunity to share science-based information about trapping from the wildlife professionals that manage our wildlife resources on a day-to-day basis. We hope that the information we provided about trap testing and the international humane trapping standards will help inform your discussion and decision regarding Senate Bill 969.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the  
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Bryant White  
Program Manager of Trapping Policy  
bwhite@fishwildlife.org



Love Life!



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#### SB 969 RELATING TO ANIMAL FUR PRODUCTS

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment, Judiciary, and Commerce and  
Consumer Protection

February 8, 2021, 1:00pm State Capitol

Aloha Sen. Mike Gabbard, AEN Chair, Clarence K. Nishihara, AEN Vice Chair, Sen. Karl Rhoads, JDC Chair, Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole, JDC Vice Chair, Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, CPN Chair, Sen. Stanley Chang, CPN Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

#### **Down to Earth Organic and Natural testifies in support of SB 969.**

*Down to Earth Organic and Natural has six locations on Oahu and Maui. Since we opened in 1977, we have supported healthy lifestyles and preservation of the environment by selling local, fresh, organic and natural products, and by promoting a healthy, plant-based and vegetarian lifestyle.*

We are in support of SB 969. Down to Earth has been an all-vegetarian store since our first store opened over 40 years ago. We have become a hub for many Hawaii residents that are compassionate to all animals. We appreciate this opportunity to testify on behalf of these community members in support of this bill.

Each year, more than 100 million animals are raised and killed for their fur. Wild animals spend their entire lives in cramped cages, deprived of the ability to engage in natural behaviors. Animals on fur factory farms are killed in extremely inhumane ways – such as crude gassing, anal/genital electrocution, and neck-breaking – to preserve the quality of their pelts. In our warm climate, fur for fashion is not a necessity and it does not reflect the aloha of our people.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Alison Riggs  
Public Policy & Government Relations Manager  
Down to Earth

2525 S. King St., Suite 309  
Honolulu, HI 96826

Phone (808) 824-3240  
Fax (808) 951-8283  
E-mail: [alison.riggs@downtoearth.org](mailto:alison.riggs@downtoearth.org)

**SB-969**

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 7:14:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

The fur industry is dying out due to peer pressure as well as the existence of covid-19 in multiple fur farms around the world. This is the pono thing to support.

**SB-969**

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 4:13:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eric Kaneshiro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I enjoy the outdoors, the outdoor lifestyle and hunting. I've hunted in Hawaii, the U.S. mainland and internationally. Hunting involves killing but it's not all about killing. I don't particularly enjoy killing but when I do, I bring the trophy parts home to make more tangible the memories of the whole experience. I don't intend to ever manufacture or sell fur products, but I don't believe there should be laws against it in the State of Hawaii. I value freedom and respecting differences amongst citizens. The way I see it, this bill is about telling people what they cannot do because the supporters disagree with the practice. Let people be free.

**SB-969**

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 8:24:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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  
Toddyukutake@gmail.com  
Resident of Senate District 16

**SB-969**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 1:54:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Gabbard:

I'm writing in 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 animals suffering horrendous conditions while alive, and ultimately brutally slaughtered. And for what? A fashion statement? It's sickeningly inhumane, and totally 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 potential for 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 constituents, who overwhelmingly love animals and oppose needless animal cruelty.

Sincerely,

Gerry Lee

Honolulu, Hawaii

**SB-969**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 2:57:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
challis	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing to you to urge you to **oppose SB 969**.

I am the fourth generation in my family that has worked in the fur trade. My family has raised mink and fox on a family farm in Idaho. I grew up working on that farm through my childhood and during my undergraduate at Brigham Young University. Now I work for one of international fur marketing companies while being an MBA candidate at Idaho State University. I have visited essentially every farm operation that has fur bearing animals involved in the US. These farms are certified, and the owners truly have a passion for creating beautiful furs.

In my opinion, animals can be used for food and clothes humanly. The standards for raising fur bearing animals are some of the highest in animal agricultural that I have seen.

Opposing parties make claims based on a narrow perspective and out of context information. I have seen the content those parties are paid to make. It is very misleading and deceitful. I would ask that you let the market vote with their dollars and not displace hundreds of farmers in the US. I hope to continue my career in this amazing industry that I love. I kindly ask you to consider opposing SB 969.

Challis Hobbs

**SB-969**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 10:09:11 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
greg zuckerman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello,

I am writing to oppose SB969.

Designers (such as myself) 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 in the past.

I would also like to add, that it is morally wrong for governments to legislate what citizens can and cant wear. We should be allowed to decide what we want to wear, the government can regulate the process, But not prohibit me from wearing something.

I urge you to vote against SB969.

Regards,

Greg Zuckerman

**SB-969**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 1:30:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Angela S Billings	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing to oppose SB969.

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 in the past.

I urge you to vote against SB969.



**SB-969**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 2:40:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nathan Beck	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear ,

I am writing to oppose SB969.

Designers & consumers recognize the value of fur as a natural, sustainable and renewable resource & they recognize that unlike mass-production fake fur apparel & other alternatives, real fur garments are produced by hand, requiring the artistry & skilled handwork 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 & local indigenous populations contributing to environmental conservation or biodegradable, & when washed these man-made materials release thousands of tiny plastic lint fibers into waste water that are then released into oceans & rivers where they are ingested by fish mammals & sea birds.

In an era when the public is overwhelmingly aware of the environmental & social cost of mass-produced fast fashion we should be promoting natural, renewable, recyclable products that can last generations such as real fur, rather than the plastic materials & other synthetics such as petroleum-based fake fur. This ban directly contradicts the many positive environment moves Hawaii has taken in the past.

I urge you to vote against SB969

THANK YOU Nathan Beck

**SB-969**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 4:10:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brian Hugo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Senators,

I am writing to oppose SB969.

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 in the past.

I urge you to vote against SB969.

Sincerely,

Brian Hugo

**SB-969**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 5:29:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eric Wieland	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

I am writing to oppose SB969 which would effectively ban the sale and production of a highly RENEWABLE and ethically sourced resource in Hawaii. Those who have drafted this bill no nothing about how fur is truly harvested in a humane, ethical and renewable manner. As a hunter and trapper myself, I can tell you with first-hand experience and knowledge that fur is a great resource. The bill claims that it is a luxury item not a necessity. However, the by-products of producing "modern" clothing is far worse for the environment than harvesting fur and producing it into garments. Many people still wear fur and refuse to contribute to the deterioration of the environment by recklessly mass-producing modern clothing. Furbearers are in no short supply and this ethically sourced product is renewable, due to reproduction every year, without overharvesting. There is a nice balance right now and banning the sale and production of fur will ultimately lead to the immediate overpopulation of furbearers. When populations become too great, disease spreads among the furbearers and takes out the vast majority of them, ultimately leaving less furbearers in nature, than if they were allowed to be continued to be managed and ethically harvested, as they have been for many years in modern history. Thank you for taking the time to hear what I have to say.

-Eric Wieland

**SB-969**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 6:32:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Daniel Burkhart	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am against any laws that limit peopl from free choice to use surplus renewable resources. Natural fur has much less impact our enviroment than use of synthetic fur or fabric.

Groups like PETA and HSUS have working for many years to spread false information to persuade consumers not to use fur and other natural animal products. The groups dont seem to care how many animals die from contact with byproducts of the fake things they promote the use of.

**SB-969**

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 9:21:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Noble Armstrong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing to oppose SB969.

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 in the past.

I urge you to vote down this bill. Thank you,

Noble Armstrong

Testimony of Mike Brown

Organization: Head of Sustainability and Public Affairs, Natural Fibers Alliance



Bill: SB 969

Dear Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice Chair Clarence Nishihara

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 969. The Natural Fibers Alliance is an environmental justice coalition comprised of producers and associations that support the use of natural sustainable materials in clothing, accessories, and other goods. We oppose this bill for several reasons:

First, this bill infringes on personal choice. What clothing a person chooses to wear is a private and personal decision. What we wear is an expression of ourselves as individuals. There is no movement from the public to have the government regulate what people can and can't wear.

This bill is the work of a very small group of individuals who have made it no secret that they want to ban leather, wool, and even silk. We should not go down this slippery slope of inserting the government into people's closets.

Second, banning natural fibers such as fur will harm current efforts to improve environmental sustainability.

According to scientists at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), microplastic pollution in our waterways is a major threat to marine life. Researchers estimate that synthetic fabrics alone are responsible for up to 35 percent of microplastic pollution in our oceans. Synthetic fibers, which are derived from fossil fuels, are the same materials that are used to make "faux" fur, "faux" wool, and other alternatives to natural fibers.

People cherish high-quality natural fiber clothing. In contrast, plastic-based synthetic fibers are part of the throwaway mindset of "fast fashion" that creates pollution and consumer waste.

Lastly, animal activists have been found repeatedly to exaggerate or even fabricate claims. Just recently, a media watchdog blasted one such activist-driven anti-fur story as "significantly misleading."

One common trick activists do is to show pictures of things occurring in China and claim we are taking part in this. Nothing could be further from the truth. The US, Canada, and Europe have their own regulated farms and regulated supply chains. We have science-based certification programs for animal welfare and sustainability. Our products are both humanely and ethically produced.

Please don't fall for misinformation. This bill is an overreach into personal choices, creates problems, and does not serve the public interest. I urge you to vote no.

**SB-969**

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 4:31:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
jonathan scheid	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing to oppose SB969.

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 in the past.

I urge you to vote against SB969.

**SB-969**

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 4:52:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
AMANDA HENSON	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In the midst of the global COVID-19 crisis, an unforeseen issue has arisen: farming animals—including minks—for their fur. Not only is this practice toxic to our environment, but it has also been discovered that minks can act as a reservoir for SARS-CoV-2, including a mutated version of the virus: the cluster 5 variant, which has the potential to cause a new pandemic wave due to its decreased sensitivity to antibodies. At least nine countries have experienced outbreaks amongst the animals and employees on fur farms: Denmark, the Netherlands, Canada, Italy, Spain, Greece, Germany, Lithuania, and Sweden. Several US states have as well, including Michigan, Wisconsin, Oregon, and Utah, with Utah now reporting infected wild animals around the immediate vicinity of farms.

Additionally, the animals' manure and the incineration of their bodies (a common method of disposal) release air pollutants, which include carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NOx), sulfur dioxide (SO2), hydrochloric acid (HCl), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), dioxins, particulates, and heavy metals. Nitrogen and phosphorus in factory farms' manure runoff lead to toxic algae growth in waterways, causing biodiversity loss and rendering lakes unswimmable. When algae blooms occur, it limits the amount of oxygen for other aquatic species and causes dead zones, killing indigenous species.

Fur farming is not only a wildlife concern but also an ethical concern. "Numerous scientific reports have indicated that severe health problems are inherent to fur production and that animals on all fur farms have been found to display physical and behavioral abnormalities, such as infected wounds, missing limbs from biting incidents, eye infections, bent feet, mouth deformities, self-mutilation, cannibalism of dead siblings or offspring, and other stress-related stereotypical behavior, such as

pacing along the cage wall, repetitive circling or nodding of the head." Fur harvesting methods including gassing, neck breaking, and anal or genital electrocution—none of which are reliable at killing the animals before they are skinned or live-plucked for their fur while still conscious, a process which causes extreme pain.





## Greetings

It has come to my attention that it is being suggested Hawaii SB No 969 is going to ban the sale of fur.

Please I urge you to vote against SB969

There are working poor people along with Native Ingenious people who harvest furbearing animals for food and pet-food sources along with selling fur for purchasing heating fuel for the homes during the regulated trapping season. Why are elite city and suburban people along with deep pocket non-profits, think they know all the answers while families who harvest, wildlife as part of their food-insecurity budget are punished. There are many missing class family households who will lose from the stopping the sale of fur”

Hawaiians care about the environment should know a dirty little secret these activists won't tell you:

### **Fake Fur Pollutes.**

“Generally composed of nylon and polyester, faux fur is designed to have tiny “hairs” that mimic its natural counterpart. The trouble is, plastic clothing leaches micro plastic particles when cleaned. According to one study, a single fake fur coat could shed 100,000 of these micro particles in the wash. These tiny particles then get into the water supply.

This matters because micro plastics are a major pollution threat to our oceans. In fact, the notorious Great Pacific Garbage Patch is principally composed of these tiny micro plastics.

Micro plastics impact us too. It's not unheard of for these tiny particles to be found in fish or shellfish that end up on your dinner plate. What's more, scientists aren't even fully aware of the negative effects these micro plastics have once they're ingested in the human body.

Faux fur is also a part of the trend towards “fast fashion,” which encourages consumers to dispose more clothes than ever before. But what happens when faux fur is disposed? While real furs will biodegrade in less than a year, faux fur can take more than 1,000 years to break down.

Advocates of banning real fur who champion faux fur as “sustainable” are misleading at best. This is especially obvious when it's pointed out that real fur is already sustainable. Fur comes from a renewable resource, whether from farms or as part of wildlife population management. This is not to mention that a fur coat can be passed down through the generations—quite different from the faux fur of fast fashion that only lasts a season or two.

Some people don't want to wear fur, and that's absolutely their choice. But why should state lawmakers meddle in the personal decisions of Hawaiians who want to buy the real McCoy? As a Gallup poll documents, a majority of Americans view natural fur as morally acceptable.

Hawaiians want animals to be treated well, yes requiring all fur in Hawaii to be humanely certified by an independent third-party body under a program that is strictly designed for animal welfare and sustainability.

One thing's for sure: it's difficult to see how people being forced to switch to fake fur is going to actually improve living conditions for the animals on land and sea that rely on a pollution-free ecosystem to thrive.

Banning fur would be two steps back for Hawaii, dealing a blow not just to the environment but also to consumer choice. Along with supporting hunger and cold nights for Native Ingenious children and the working poor children of North America

Please I urge you to vote against SB969

<https://humanewatch.org/update-hsus-was-on-the-hook-for-nearly-11-million-to-settle-rico-lawsuit/>

<https://legaltimes.typepad.com/files/sullivan-opinion-2.pdf>

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/BL-LB-48057>

Sincerely,

Daniel J Mac Gilvray

**SB-969**

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 5:53:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bob Steinmetz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing to oppose SB969 because I care about the environment and real fur is not only much more beautiful than faux fur but it is natural, sustainable, and renewable and biodegradable.

Faux fur is a plastic made with petroleum products and pollutes the environment we live in because it doesn't fully degrade and threatens our oceans, fish, and animals.

Keep Hawaii beautiful by outlawing faux fur and by allowing the sale and utilization of real fur which is much more environmentally friendly. Using real fur also allows our beautiful furbearers to be scientifically managed and harvested to protect the species for future generations for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.

**SB-969**

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 6:27:46 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JAMES A ENGEL	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Senator,

I am writing to you to urge you to oppose SB 969.

For over 40 years groups like PETA and HSUS have been hard at work to convince consumers to stop buying fur. Consumers have been bombarded, more than any other product category. Still, they are buying fur. In fact the global industry is a \$30 billion dollar industry. Consumers have listened, perhaps they have done their research and they have made up their own minds. And no matter what claims are thrown at you about consumer attitudes and research, the cash register tells the truest story. If nobody was buying fur retailers wouldn't be selling it and manufacturers wouldn't be producing it.

What comes next? I wear leather shoes. I love to wrap myself in my cozy wool blanket, and I look forward to a grilled burger or juicy steak. There are members of my family who would not be with us today were it not for the medicines available to them through animal testing protocols. Which of these will be the next target of these animal extremist groups?

Because of a small group of very vocal activists you are making a choice for the rest of us. You are taking away our freedom of choice.

I urge you to vote against SB 969.

Sincerely,

James Engel

**SB-969**

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 11:56:10 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kadin p	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB969 because it is biased and hypocritical, for the following reasons:

1) It claims to promote animal rights, but it only bans animal products from certain species and industries (dog, cat, cow, sheep and other animal hide products are still allowed). This shows that the bill is really driven by industry bias rather than ethics.

2) Sec 1 of the bill is filled with unsubstantiated claims, such as A) environmental impact of fur farming- where did these numbers come from? B) Lack of regulation/oversight of the fur industry- patently false. There are extensive federal and state regulations on the industry.

3) The bill makes claims of environmentalism, but these are hypocritical. The only alternatives to fur clothing products are petroleum products and mass-agriculture products, such as cotton and hemp. Fur has the lowest net environmental impact, lasts the longest and is the most sustainable clothing source available. Taking a stand against fur means taking a stand for petroleum products and/or large-scale agriculture which destroys jungles and forests. Is that a stand Hawaii is prepared to make?

**SB-969**

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 12:03:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

<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 your committee vote YES on SB 969. Nowadays faux fur looks so good that there is no good reason to continue fur farming. Fur farming is extremely cruel to the animals and very bad for public health.

In order that the “introducers” of this bill, SB969, may correct themselves in their errant lack of logical consistency I have provided a re-write of their introductory “rationale” (“SECTION 1”) for the bill. I'm sure they (or their lawyers) will be able to fill in the blanks as appropriate for the remainder of the details.

If, as the “introducers” claim, that “Due to serious animal welfare concerns” and that due to the lack of “necessity” involving certain non-human animal products, continued sale of those products “does not justify the cruel treatment and unnecessary killing of animals”, then certainly, to be logically consistent, the “introducers” must re-write the bill to cover the non-human animal-based food industry (there is no necessity in human nutrition for any non-human animal-based product), as the cruelty and environmental damage from the non-human animal-based food industry is at least HUNDREDS, and more realistically, THOUSANDS OF TIMES more damaging than the “fur” industry.

If the “introducers” truly believe the rationale they exposit for banning “fur”, then they must extend the rationale to a far more cruel and damaging industry: non-human animal-based foods.

Please amend the bill to account for the far more insidiously cruel, environmentally damaging, and totally unnecessary non-human animal-based food industry.

RELATING TO ANIMAL-BASED FOOD PRODUCTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that non-human animals were historically hunted and trapped for food and other purposes, and their flesh was used to provide nutrition. Over time, nutritional and food technology has developed, making non-human animal-based food (their flesh (aka “meat”) and “dairy products”, “eggs”, etc.) a cruelty-based whim item, rather than a necessity. Non-human animal-based foods are typically used to satisfy “taste” and “habit” preferences, rather than for genuine nutrition and/or necessity, as non-human animal-based foods are completely unnecessary for human health, and far more non-human animals are now cruelly raised and killed to satisfy human tastes and habits than for any other purposes (including the “fur” industry). Due to serious non-human animal welfare concerns, more and more countries are phasing out “factory” non-human animal farming and enacting non-human animal factory farming bans.

The legislature recognizes that more than fifty BILION non-human animals are violently killed every year solely for their flesh. More than ninety-five per cent of flesh in the world's non-human animal flesh trade come from factory farms, while the remaining five per cent of the non-human animals are raised prior to slaughter in conditions labeled “free range”, which are still inhumane, including the slaughter process itself . The legislature finds that, especially considering the wide array



of non-human animal-free based food alternatives, the demand for non-human animal-based food products does not justify the cruel treatment and unnecessary killing of non-human animals.

Eliminating the sale of non-human animal-based food products in Hawaii will foster a more humane environment in the State.

The legislature further finds that the non-human animal-based food trade poses serious human health and non-human animal welfare concerns. Recent reports from non-human animal farms have revealed dangerous links between the industry and the further increase of antibiotic resistant diseases, due to heavy use of antibiotics in factory farms due to highly unsanitary conditions.

The legislature further finds that non-human animal-based food farming can be damaging to the environment and contributes to water and air pollution in multiple ways. Factory farming often involves the problem of vast tonnage of manure processing, which can seep into ground water and other water sources. For each kilogram of factory-farmed non-human animal-based food produced, one hundred ten kilograms of carbon dioxide are released into the atmosphere. Non-human animal-based food farming also consumes significant quantities of energy, water, and other resources; producing a pound of flesh food protein uses more than seven pounds the plant protein being fed to the non-human animals.

The legislature acknowledges that existing laws provide relatively little oversight of the non-human animal-based food industries. Compliance with guidelines issued by the American Veterinary Medical Association is not mandatory, and factory farms are not monitored or inspected by any government agency having any authority to end obviously cruel practices. Requiring an end to the sale of factory-farmed non-human animal-based food products would allow Hawaii consumers to choose whether to purchase cruelty-based or cruelty-free food products.

As human, non-human animal, and ecosystem health are inextricably linked, it is vital for our health, economy, and security that Hawaii, the United States, and countries across the globe shut down the cruel, risky, and unpopular non-human animal farming industry and end the non-human animal-based food trade by banning non-human animal-based food sales. Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to prohibit the manufacture for sale, offer for sale, display for sale, sale, trade, or distribution of all non-human animal-based food products in the State.

**SB-969**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 1:49:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hunter Mikuletzky	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

Please oppose Bill SB969, Fur is a natural renewable resource, which is a Business that employs a great deal of workers across the globe, from Lure and trap makers to the Harvesters to Fur buyers to Auction houses and then on to the buyers and fur dressers that make a finished garment, Unlike a Natural renewable and Biodegradable resource of Fur, Faux fur is made of Petroleum and is not biodegradable. Also made by machines it does not employ the work force Natural Fur does.

Please Oppose Bill SB969

**SB-969**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 2:40:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Luke Wiedel	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to you to urge you to oppose SB 969.

For over 40 years groups like PETA and HSUS have been hard at work to convince consumers to stop buying fur. Consumers have been bombarded, more than any other product category. Still, they are buying fur. In fact the global industry is a \$30 billion dollar industry. Consumers have listened, perhaps they have done their research and they have made up their own minds. And no matter what claims are thrown at you about consumer attitudes and research, the cash register tells the truest story. If nobody was buying fur retailers wouldn't be selling it and manufacturers wouldn't be producing it.

What comes next? I wear leather shoes. I love to wrap myself in my cozy wool blanket, and I look forward to a grilled burger or juicy steak. There are members of my family who would not be with us today were it not for the medicines available to them through animal testing protocols. Which of these will be the next target of these animal extremist groups?

Because of a small group of very vocal activists you are making a choice for the rest of us. You are taking away our freedom of choice.

I urge you to vote against SB 969.