

HB-1266

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 5:04:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colehour Bondera	Kanalani Ohana Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for your support!

Colehour Bondera

KANALANI OHANA FARM

colemel2@gmail.com



MAUI COUNTY FARM BUREAU

PO Box 148, Kula, HI 96790
mauicountyfarmbureau.org

TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS & COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS

February 13, 2023
2:05 PM
Conference Room 312

HB 1266

RELATING TO FOOD DONATIONS

Maui County Farm Bureau (MCFB) appreciates this opportunity to testify on this important issue. MCFB is a general agriculture advocacy organization representing farm and ranch families and organizations on the island of Maui.

MCFB STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1266 seeking to amend the Hawaii Good Samaritan law to include wild game.

Wild game provides an inexpensive source of protein for the needy. States across the country have been updating their Good Samaritan laws to include wild game as an authorized donation. A recent article from Illinois demonstrates the potential of a Deer Donation program to assist SNAP and other programs for the needy. <https://chronicleillinois.com/news/mclean-county-news/deer-donation-program-provides-nearly-25000-meals-across-12-counties/>

Long term sustainable solution to our feral animal problem lies in a comprehensive plan involving various government and private parties. It requires cooperation. Along with hunting rules, slaughter and processing capacity, and working with NGOs, this is one step of a process to address our increasing feral animal problem. MCFB respectfully requests your support of this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this matter. Please contact Warren Watanabe at 8082819718 if there are any questions.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

HB1266

RELATING TO FOOD DONATIONS

Monday, February 13, 2023, 2:05PM

Conference Room 312 & Videoconference

Chairs Gates & Au Belatti, Vice Chairs Kahaloa & Takenouchi, and Members of the Committees,

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 HB1266** which allows wild game to be donated as food.

Allowing for the donation of wild game to under-resourced communities allows us to feed these communities high quality sources of protein, while also creating an outlet for efforts to remove invasive species such as deer, goat, sheep, and pigs from the environment. Unmanaged ungulates damage our ecosystems and cause detriment to farming and ranching operations. Expanding access to meat processing will help us to meet both environmental and social needs.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director





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February 13, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

TESTIMONY ON HB 1266
RELATING TO FOOD DONATIONS

Conference Room 312 & Videoconference
2:05 PM

Aloha Chairs Gates and Belatti, Vice-Chairs Kahaloa and Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

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

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 1266, which allows wild game to be donated as food.

Across the State, various invasive species are creating havoc in agriculture as well as the ecosystems in which they exist. Maui County's Axis Deer population is a good example of nature getting out of control with populations exploding due to abundant forage following rainfall events. They continue to destroy crops and pasture lands by devouring any living vegetation as they continue to spread. Feral pigs damage crops by consuming them or by their rooting and trampling of crops. They will eat almost any crop. Feral pigs damage pasture grasses, killing desired plant species and often encouraging the growth of undesired weed species. They can also devastate orchards by consuming fruit, citrus, and nuts and their rooting can severely damage, or even kill saplings, shrubs, and vines directly or by facilitating the spread of soil-based fungal diseases. Feral pigs can also break irrigation lines, rip or tear nets, drying racks, and other agricultural structures and equipment.

These and other 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 bovine tuberculosis spread from feral pigs have been documented in Molokai.

Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers are working to provide Hawai'i with an increased level of self-sufficiency, but will not be able to do so if their products are consumed or damaged by feral animals. Axis Deer, feral pigs, and other invasive species can cause major damage to property, agriculture (crops and livestock), Hawai'i's native species and ecosystems, and Hawai'i's cultural and historic resources. They can also threaten the health of people, wildlife, pets, and other domestic animals. As Hawai'i's feral animal populations continue to expand, these damages, costs, and risks will only keep rising

Current state law specifically prohibits the inclusion of meats as a donation. Wild game can be a significant source of protein for Hawai'i's residents in need. Wild game can provide a beneficial outlet for meat harvested from invasive species and provide a tool for long-term sustainable invasive management for Axis Deer and Feral Pigs.

Several states have amended their Good Samaritan laws to use as a tool for invasive white-tail deer management programs. Wild game meat donated under this provision does not need to undergo antemortem inspection requirements as long as stated conditions are met. Conditions for donations can be specified to allow the donation of this important protein source for our neighbors in need. Utah is the most recent state that passed such a measure and can be used as a model for Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-1266

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 3:47:13 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a good common sense bill. Please support it.

HB-1266

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 4:11:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
penny levin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure. Meat from feral animals has helped many families in Hawaii survive through difficult financial times, especially on the Island of Molokai. On top of that, it's ono! There is a growing need to reduce the numbers of feral animals in conservation lands and a growing demand at food banks for quality food. It would be a shame to waste this opportunity.

HB-1266

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 5:06:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael I Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in support of this bill, it can help to ensure Hawaii's food security and help those in need while encouraging the culling of out of control species such as Deer and Pig which would otherwise go to waste.

While I am not a hunter, I would like to eventually get myself in shape enough to do so. My personal ethics have me somewhat opposed to being wasteful when it comes to the taking of game. Hunting and taking 2 wild pigs would probably last me and my family over 6 months and I would be reluctant to hunt more despite their numbers being a problem especially with how rapidly they breed. Now if I can say take 10 pigs at a time, keep one for myself and donate the rest to food drives or those in need.

HB-1266

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 7:33:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wayne Asam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Please allow the ability to donate meat.

In **Opposition** of H.B. 1266

Dear Honorable, Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee:

I am Jessicamæ Carvalho residing on the Big Island of Hawai'i. As a community member and affiliate of social service agencies that accept food donations for community members in need, I oppose H.B. 1266 – REALTING TO FOOD DONATIONS.

H.B. 1266 seeks to amend Section 145D-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes to include “The donation of wild game; provided that the good faith donor or distributor reasonably believes that the food is fit for human consumption.” There are no standards of “reasonably” to guide the donor in providing wild game for safe human consumption. Furthermore, H.B. 1266 seeks to exclude wild game from the standard of “prepared and packaged in a facility meeting all relevant food safety guidelines, certifications, and requirements and has passed all food safety inspections.” This clause further ignores the safety of food handling and distribution.

This measure will create health risks for vulnerable members of our community that rely on food donations.

I ask that you, all, stand in opposition of this measure.

Respectfully,

Jessicamæ Carvalho



February 12, 2023

Rep. Cedric Gates and Rep. Della Bellati, Chairs
Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa and Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committees on Agriculture & Food Systems and Health & Homelessness

RE: Testimony in support of HB 1266, Relating to Food Donations

Dear Chairs Gates and Bellati, Vice Chairs Kahaloa and Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Foodbank, **I support HB 1266**, which would allow wild game to be donated as food.

Food security is a critical issue in Hawai'i, where one in six residents lacks comprehensive access to healthy, nutritious food. The Hawai'i Foodbank benefits from the generosity of farmers and producers whose donations allow many families access to healthy, local foods. Allowing wild game donations would further expand the availability of healthy protein for people we serve.

The Hawai'i Foodbank gathers donated, rescued, and purchased food and distribute it to those in need through our network of more than 200 agency partners. We support this program as a win-win for food security and invasive species management.

Mahalo for your consideration.

With aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Miller Marvin".

Amy Miller Marvin
President and CEO, Hawaii Foodbank

HB-1266

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 2:47:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Sullivan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahalaloa, and Members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee & the Members of the Health & Homelessness Committee,

I SUPPORT the measure to provide donation of wild game to under-resourced communities.

Wild game provides an inexpensive source of protein for people in need. The establishment of a task force for the development, implementation and oversight of this type of program is critical to this bill, so to ensure that the donated wild game is processed and distributed safely and efficiently. Here are some examples of programs across the U.S. that provide similar service:

<https://cms.agr.wa.gov/WSDAKentico/Documents/Pubs/559-WildGameDonationGuide.pdf>

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8351.html>

<https://www.h4hungry.org/donating-deer/click-here-to-learn-how-to-donate-deer/>

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/hunt/donation.html> - From their website, “Venison from donated deer is processed and distributed to food pantries across the state. Since the program began in 2000, hunters have donated over 94,000 deer, which were processed into over 3.8 million pounds of ground venison.”

Allowing for the donation of wild game will help alleviate Hawai'i hunger problem for those individuals of under resourced communities, while providing high quality sources of protein. This also creating an outlet a way to remove invasive species such as deer, goat, and pigs from the environment, as they have already caused damage our ecosystems and caused detriment to farming and ranching operations in various parts of the state. I feel this is a win-win, battling hunger and the problem of over population of invasive wild game.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo, Ann Sullivan

HB-1266

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 7:33:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ramiro Noguerol	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support because that meat can be used to feed people in need instead of left to rot in the field.

HB-1266

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 11:57:46 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2023 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce R. Faulkner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Those of us that live on the outside islands enjoy the rural lifestyle and recognize our game animals as a valuable & sustainable resource. We are fully aware that our game animal resources need to be properly managed to be kept healthy and sustainable. However we do not want to see these resources wasted. We have a long tradition of sharing our hunting successes with family, friends and neighbors. As such we would like to also share these resources with nonprofits as a tool for game management rather than wasting the resource. The fact is that game animals such as our axis deer are recognized as one of the healthiest and most delicious meats in the world and there are already programs all across the continental United States such as the "Hunters for the hungry" where hunters can drop off game meat for distribution to people. So let's get with it and support HB1266 which adds the ability to donate wild game meat as another method of properly managing our game animals without wasting the valuable and sustainable resources that we are so fortunate to have.