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February 8, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 695
RELATING TO FENCES**

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
9:45 AM

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, 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 695, which allows the use of battery-charged security fences under certain circumstances.

Hawai'i farmers are begging for help against theft, vandalism, and trespass. Something must be done to stop criminals from taking advantage of the hard work of agricultural producers, especially during this pandemic when many are on the verge of going out of business. Ag crime must be taken more seriously by the county police departments, prosecutors, and judges. If we want agriculture to be successful in Hawai'i, we need to do more to catch criminals and penalize them enough to deter repetition.

The latest USDA agricultural crime statistics show a grim picture for Hawai'i farmers and ranchers trying to stay in business. Ag theft and other crimes cost Hawai'i farm producers **\$14.4 million, or 10% of the 2018 Hawai'i net farm income of \$142 million.**

This includes theft of farm commodities, materials, equipment, and other property. Statewide vandalism costs were over half a million dollars. Security costs to prevent theft and/or vandalism were over \$11 million. According to the report, nearly 4,000 incidents of theft, 1,112 incidents of vandalism, and 14,262 trespassing incidents occurred in 2019. In some counties, 25% of all farms report being vandalized or stolen from.

Farmers are spending millions of dollars to install expensive security measures that haven't been effective in stopping crime, and ironically, in some cases are themselves stolen. Ag crime is increasing and farmers cannot solve this problem on their own.

Thank you for your efforts to protect and support Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

HB695

RELATING TO FENCES

Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 9:45 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 **opposes HB695** which allows the use of battery-charged security fences under certain circumstances.

The restrictions in this bill may cause undue burden on ranchers who already use electric fences to manage livestock. Livestock managers have been using electric fences without issue, and the fences are effective in managing rotational grazing of goats and cattle. Electric fences are extensively implemented and an essential component to nearly every commercial cattle producer in the state. Hindering the utilization of electric fences will severely hamper the viability of the cattle industry and effectively steward resources.

We respectfully oppose this measure, and if this is intended to just address fences used as an alarm system for unauthorized entry, we ask for an exemption to agricultural entities.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



Time/Date: 9:45 a.m., February 8, 2023
Committee: House on Agriculture and Food Systems
Bill: HB 695, Relating to Battery-Charged Security Fences
Position: Support

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloe, and members of the committee!

We are writing in support of HB 695, relating to battery-charged security fences which allows for the use of security alarm fences under certain circumstances.

Property crimes, burglaries, car thefts, arson, and theft of metals such as copper wire are among the many physical security concerns of Hawaii's businesses. Last year, the legislature sought to address skyrocketing thefts of catalytic converters by enacting tougher laws for their resale. Based on the most recent statistics available, approximately \$85 million in property value was reported stolen in the State of Hawaii, an increase of 6.6% from the figure reported in the prior year. Building suppliers, auto collision parts and repair shops, large equipment rental companies, utilities, freight terminals and trucking sales and service companies, among others, located in industrial, often isolated, areas are seeking effective security solutions.

Commercial security fencing companies provide perimeter security for business sites in local jurisdictions and many states across the country. Security fencing strategies include deterring crime with physical infrastructure and warning signs, as well as activating a monitored and audible alarm system when a trespass is detected. If an alarm is detected and verified, responders are contacted and deployed to investigate. The authority of Hawaii's counties to grant permits to battery-charged security fences even in remote industrial areas has been clouded by a state law that does not clearly differentiate between battery-charged security fences and electrical fences which are permissible in an agricultural setting.

This bill will allow counties the authority to grant permits for battery-charged security fences meeting certain conditions. We believe it is an important tool to help businesses avert theft and crime.

Amarok provides perimeter security fencing to more than 6,000 customers in 48 states, preventing 98% of theft after installation. We respectfully request that you pass HB 695.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Cindy Williams Lundy
Director, Government Relations
Mobile: 919-740-5033



01/13/2023

To Whom it May Concern;

My name is Vincent A. Carranza. I am the Corporate Manager – Physical. I have worked with Penske for 5 years and have been in the physical security industry for over 18 years. My role deals directly with security and trying to keep our assets secure so that we can be a good partner to our customers. During the time that I've worked in this role, we have tried various camera solutions, mobile camera trailers, coaxial "listening" cables, guard services, and have even created our own bait truck. Because of this, I consider myself very knowledgeable about the different options available to limit commercial theft.

During this same time, we have worked with AMAROK and utilized the battery charged fence. We currently have this solution at 94 locations throughout the country, and it is our default security solution when we are dealing with pervasive theft. While we do not utilize this solution at locations that are low crime, it is DEFINITELY our first choice when it comes to stopping crime quickly and effectively in our areas of high risk.

This is the only solution that we trust to keep thieves off our property. It provides peace of mind to me, our center managers, our customers, and our bottom dollar.

I strongly encourage you to vote favorably to allow this system to be utilized as the effective tool that it is.

Sincerely,

Vincent A. Carranza Digitally signed by
Vincent A. Carranza
Date: 2023.01.13
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