



## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAI‘I

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō‘ike Mana‘o I Mua O Ka ‘Aha‘ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education and Technology  
Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Anna Wieczorek, Interim Dean  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Michael Bruno, Provost  
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

SB 1488 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO LIVESTOCK

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education and Technology:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1488 SD2 HD1 relating to livestock. The bill requires the University of Hawai‘i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH/CTAHR), to conduct a study to assess the effects of heat stress on beef cattle during interisland ocean transportation.

UH/CTAHR possesses the expertise to conduct the beef cattle interisland ocean transportation study. As appropriate, we will request assistance and feedback from the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture and other relevant departments, and we will consult with livestock industry stakeholders and seek their cooperation in gathering information and data. We are convinced with adequate resources, the findings of this study will help us better understand the impact of interisland ocean transport, as presently practiced, on animal welfare and meat quality.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the measure.

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**MORRIS M. ATTA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON  
HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY**

**MARCH 22, 2023  
2:00 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 309**

**SENATE BILL NO.1488, SD2, HD1**

**RELATING TO LIVESTOCK**

Chairperson Peruso and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1488, SD2, HD1. Senate Bill 1488, SD2, HD1 requires the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, in consultation with livestock industry stakeholders, to conduct a study to assess the effects of heat stress on beef cattle during interisland ocean transportation.

The Department supports this measure and appreciates that needed funding was added back into this version. Objective studies to analyze interisland transport on livestock is needed to evaluate effects and determine optimum processes for the animals and industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





**Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Chair  
Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

**SB1488, SD2 HD1**  
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK

Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 2:00 PM  
Conference Room 309 & Videoconference

Chair Perruso, Vice Chairs Kapela, 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 SB1488, SD2 HD1** which requires the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, in consultation with livestock industry stakeholders, to conduct a study to assess the effects of heat stress on beef cattle during interisland ocean transportation and appropriates funds.

Ocean transport is a vital part of the cattle industry supply chain for Hawaii as an island state. Cattle producers prioritize animal health and well-being above all else, and this study will help livestock shippers understand the environmental conditions inside shipping devices during transport, and the carcass quality after transport. This study will also be a useful tool in allowing for data-driven decision making for potential future legislation relating to interisland cattle transportation. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council is prepared to assist with providing producers to participate in the study, and we look forward to learning more to better inform our practices.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council





# Animal Welfare Institute

900 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20003

March 22, 2023, 2pm

House Higher Education & Technology Committee

**Re: SB 1488 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO LIVESTOCK**

Dear Chair Perruso, Vice-Chair Kapela and Committee members,

On behalf of the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI)<sup>1</sup> the following testimony is submitted:

AWI would like to take this opportunity to express its **support for SB 1488**, which directs the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to conduct a study to assess the effects of heat stress on beef cattle during interisland ocean transportation. CTAHR is supportive of this measure and has the faculty and expertise to conduct this study. We greatly appreciate the House Agriculture Committee reinserting the necessary funding (\$62,500) for this important research to be conducted. This is a small amount of funding to ensure the best outcomes for Hawaii's cattle, based on scientific study, and to benefit the industry and the animals themselves.

The perils of overseas animal transport were underscored in December 2019 when 21 cows perished on a barge traveling from Honolulu to Kauai. Unfortunately, the containers holding the animals were placed too closely together, limiting ventilation, and causing the cattle to slowly die of suffocation during their journey. The cattle were inspected at the port in accordance with Hawai'i regulations for preventing the transmission and introduction of disease, but there were no regulations mandating their care or even requiring that their deaths be reported—the incident only came to light because of a whistleblower. Pressure following this incident prompted the department to propose rules to safeguard the safety of cattle and other ruminants in interisland transport.

For the past year, AWI has led efforts to encourage and assist the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture in promulgating regulations intended to mitigate risks associated with interisland transport, including ventilation restriction and heat stress. In October, the Board of Agriculture considered AWI's proposed amendments to the draft regulations that would have mandated lower stocking density within shipping containers and the provision of shade and water at harbor staging areas—measures that mitigate the risk of severe heat stress in transported animals. The Board concluded that it would not adopt the proposed amendments because it lacked the basic research needed to determine how climactic conditions affect temperatures and humidity inside transport containers. At that meeting, both industry representatives and the Department supported the need for data. SB 1488 would allow the Department to collect the data it needs to determine what measures are necessary to ensure that animals shipped between the islands do not needlessly suffer or die.

AWI would like to highlight for the committee, as it did the Department, an important facet of this issue making the study even more essential. While industry stakeholders and ocean carriers consider a

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<sup>1</sup> The Animal Welfare Institute, founded in 1951 and headquartered in Washington DC, is dedicated to reducing animal suffering and advancing the welfare of all animals, including those raised for food. As part of our mission, we work to improve conditions for farmed animals, including during slaughter. AWI has participated extensively in the development of regulations related to the interisland transport of livestock in Hawai'i.

successful transport one where the animals make it alive from one island to the other, a true understanding of animal welfare is one that accounts for more than just mortality or extreme injury in assessing success. This understanding is based in science, centered on a global one-health perspective advocated most prominently by the World Organisation for Animal Health. The data from this study is necessary to ensure future regulations preclude not only death but also suffering and poor welfare due to heat stress.

AWI believes these measures will become even more necessary in the future because climate change is projected to increase Hawai'i's air and surface water temperatures considerably in the coming decades. In the last 40 years, air temperature in Hawai'i has been increasing by about 0.3°F (0.17°C) per decade and models predict that Hawai'i's temperatures will increase by 4 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit (2.2-2.8 °C) by 2085. The study proposed by HB 1488 is an important first step in ensuring that animals shipped between the islands are not subject to entirely preventable suffering and death resulting from heat stress.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrienne Craig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Adrienne Craig  
Staff Attorney, Farmed Animal Program

**SB-1488-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 5:44:52 PM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                            | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| John Morgan         | Kualoa Ranch and Hawaii<br>Cattlemen's Council | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is John Morgan. I am the president and general manager of Kualoa Ranch and the current president of the Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council (HCC). HCC is an organization that represents about 75% of the beef cattle raised in Hawai'i and we ranchers are the stewards of about 20% of the land in the state of Hawai'i.

I am in full support SB1488 SD2 HD1. With this kind of support, Hawai'i ranchers will have additional data to continue to improve the care and handling of our precious livestock and be able to provide a stable supply of locally grown food for our island communities.

Mahalo

John Morgan



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e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

March 22, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

**TESTIMONY ON SB 1488, SD2, HD1**  
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK

Conference Room 309 & Videoconference  
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Perruso, Vice-Chair Kapela, 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 SB 1488, SD2, HD1**, which requires the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, in consultation with livestock industry stakeholders, to conduct a study to assess the effects of heat stress on beef cattle during interisland ocean transportation.

Ocean transport is a vital part of the cattle industry supply chain for Hawaii as an island state. Cattle producers prioritize animal health and well-being above all else, and this study will help livestock shippers understand the environmental conditions inside shipping devices during transport and the carcass quality after transport. This study will also be a useful tool in allowing for data-driven decision-making for potential future legislation relating to interisland cattle transportation. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council is prepared to assist with providing producers to participate in the study, and we look forward to learning more to better inform our practices.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
SB1488, SD1  
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK  
Thursday, March 2 2023, 10:00 AM  
Conference Room 415 & Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Lisa Wood and I serve as the chair of the Animal Health and Well-being Committee for Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC). HCC is the Statewide umbrella organization which represents the interests of our state's beef producers. I have practiced as a livestock veterinarian in Hawaii for over 30 years.

I **strongly support SB1488** which directs the University of Hawaii in cooperation with industry stakeholders to study the effects of heat stress on interisland ocean transportation of cattle.

Since the early 1800's, Hawaii's producers have always sought creative, innovative and safe ways to bring livestock to market. They are among the most experienced and are committed to best practices for raising and delivering cattle to markets.

This study will help us to collect data which may be used in developing guidelines to maintain our high standards of care. This information, along with improved genetics, production, and shipping methods, all contribute to progressive decision-making that supports the health and well-being of our livestock.

We respectfully request the legislature provide the needed funding for this project and continue to support Hawaii's food security goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Lisa B. Wood, DVM  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council  
Animal Health and Well-being



**SB-1488-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 3:29:07 PM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Theresa M Thompson  | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support this Bill SB1488.

Mahalo,

Theresa Thompson

**SB-1488-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 9:03:26 PM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Randy Cabral        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Strong support

**SB-1488-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 7:03:51 PM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jenee S Odani       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair and members of the committee: My name is Jenee Odani, and I am the Extension Veterinarian with the University of Hawaii at Manoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. I am grateful for the opportunity to provide personal testimony in SUPPORT of SB1488. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawaii or CTAHR. A study to assess the effects of heat stress on beef cattle during interisland ocean transportation would provide the necessary data to understand how animal health and carcass quality are affected by environmental conditions under current practices. These findings will inform potential future guidelines and legislation with the overarching goal of supporting animal health. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

**SB-1488-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 5:59:39 AM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Taylor Kellerman    | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill as a necessary step to improve overall livestock maritime logistics.

Mahalo

Taylor Kellerman

**SB-1488-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 6:14:04 AM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Woody Child         | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I strongly support SB1488.

**SB-1488-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 7:14:29 AM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jason Moniz         | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Chair

Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

**SB1488, SD2 HD1**

RELATING TO LIVESTOCK

Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 2:00 PM

Conference Room 309 & Videoconference

Chair Perruso, Vice Chairs Kapela, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 1488, SD2, HD1. I strongly support SB 1488, SD2, HD1 that proposes to provide funding necessary for the University of Hawaii to conduct this important study on the interisland transportation of livestock.

1. 38 years of service, I am recently retired from the HDOA as the Veterinary Program Manager in charge of its Animal Disease Control Branch within the Animal Industry Division. The Board of Agriculture recently approved amendments to the Division's Administrative Rule, Chapter 4-16 titled Cattle, Sheep and Goats that regulates certain infectious diseases of these livestock. The amendments also updated a section of the rule

pertaining to the inter-island transportation of livestock which increases the division's ability to monitor these shipments and the wellbeing of livestock being transported inter-island. This section received a lot of input and scrutiny from Hawaii's cattle industry and animal rights groups. It is important that recommendations made and any additional recommendations proposed going forward are evaluated and supported by scientific fact. The purpose of this Bill is to scientifically measure parameters that evaluate the wellbeing of livestock being shipped inter-island. I believe a study of this nature is necessary to give the department, industry, welfare groups and the public confidence that the methods used to transport livestock ensures their wellbeing and may also result in new recommendations to improve their wellbeing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important Bill.

JASON D. MONIZ, DVM

**SB-1488-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 7:58:07 AM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jimmy Gomes         | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I am in support of SB1488 and stand with testimony from Hawaii Cattlemen's Council