



**Support for HB215/SB682 Prohibiting the Sale of Fur Products
Testimony**

**Susan Rhee, Hawai'i State Director
The Humane Society of the United States**

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Susan Rhee and I am the Hawai'i State Director for the Humane Society of the United States. On behalf of my organization and our Hawai'i supporters, I ask you to please vote in favor of HB215/SB682. This important bill will end the sale of new fur products in Hawai'i, while providing commonsense exemptions such as for used fur products as well as for cultural use.

Each year, more than 100 million animals are killed solely to be turned into fur coats, keychains, and poms on hats. The majority of these animals, like foxes, mink, and chinchillas, are held captive by the thousands in fur factory farms where they suffer from extreme neglect in cramped cages. Investigations from multiple countries, including China, the world's largest exporter of fur products, show these animals in deplorable conditions, riddled with disease, open wounds, and dead animals left for extended periods of time in cages alongside other animals. The methods for killing these animals are just as gruesome, including electrocution and gassing, to keep costs low and not damage pelts.

Even in the U.S., fur factory farms are not subject to required inspections and little to no federal regulations hold these facilities accountable to basic animal welfare standards that other farm-raised animals benefit from. In the wild, fur-bearing animals are caught in cruel and indiscriminate steel-jawed leghold traps, where they often languish for days without food or water and may chew off their own limbs in an effort to escape. Ever trapping season, we hear of endangered or threatened species, as well as people's pets, that are killed or maimed in these archaic traps.

The fur industry also causes major environmental pollution. Not only does the tanning and dyeing process use toxic chemicals like formaldehyde and chromium to prevent skin decay, but the runoff from animals on fur factory farms pollutes waterways and soil. Many of these chemicals are known carcinogens and are harmful to their surrounding communities.

While it's disturbing to hear the reality of where fur comes from, Hawai'i has a chance to take an affirmative stand against the cruel practices and environmental harm inherent in the fur industry. The concern for animal welfare continues to grow in Hawaii and across the States, and consumers increasingly want products that do not involve animal cruelty. Major fashion brands across the world are hearing this consumer demand and adopting fur-policies, along with developing innovative, bio-based materials that can replace fur and other fabrics with environmentally-friendly alternatives.

This statewide legislation to end the sale of new fur products is essential for Hawai'i to do our part to help end animal suffering at the hands of the fur industry. For all of these reasons, we respectfully ask that the members of this committee support the passage of HB215/SB682. Thank you for your consideration.

SB-682

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 9:55:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Nickerson	Testifying for Hawaii Island Humane Society	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As Chief Executive Officer of Hawaii Island Humane Society (HIHS), I stand with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) to oppose the sale of fur products in the State of Hawaii. Data from the HSUS shows that the inhumane and cruelty practices of fur farming result in over 100 million animals being killed for fur each year. It can take approximately 100 animals or more to be killed from one single coat. In addition to the number of animals killed, millions of animals - farmed for fur - spend their entire lives in cramped cages, deprived of the ability to engage in natural behaviors—only to be crudely gassed or electrocuted at the end. Besides being cruel, fur farms also represent a public health concern as they pose a serious risk to human health and have been link to the spread of COVID-19. By preventing the sale of fur products in the state of Hawaii, the lack of demand will result in a diminished supply and reduce cruelty to animals and risks to human health.

HIHS supports SB 682.



February 4, 2023

To: Chair Sen. Mike Gabbard
Vice Chair Sen. Herbert M. Richards, III
And Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Submitted By: Nicole Schafer

RE: SB682: Relating to animal fur products; trade; prohibition

Testimony in support.

I support the Senate Bill 682 and the campaign to prohibit the sale of certain fur products because of the crowded and inhumane manner of which animals harvested for their coats, like rabbits and chinchillas, are housed in a captive environment. Due to these crowded conditions of fur farms, they act as reservoirs for deadly diseases and viruses and have the potential to also establish new strains, further threatening animals and humans. The harvesting of the fur is performed inhumanely, through gassing and electrocution. If a pet rabbit or chinchilla was in need of euthanasia these two methods of extermination would in no way be deemed acceptable by the pet owner or the veterinarian performing the procedure. The rabbit that brings joy to the classroom is no different than the rabbit that adorns a keychain.

The harvesting of animals for a coat, hat, or keychain is irrelevant to our society today. Hawai`i banned the sales of new cosmetic products tested on animals demonstrating that Hawai`i will not tolerate unnecessary cruelty to animals, like what is seen in fur farms. I urge you to pass Senate Bill 998. Thank you for considering our testimony.

Respectfully,
Nicole Schafer
Executive Director
Kaua`i Humane Society
nicole@kauaihumane.org



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Feb 4th 2023

TO: THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Chair: Senator Mike Gabbard

Vice Chair: Senator Herbert M Tim Richards III

CONCERNING: SB640 (Relating to Agriculture), SB682 (Relating to Animal Fur Products), SB967 (Relating to Taxation), SB998 (Relating to Spaying and Neutering of Animals), SB1009 (Relating to Neonicotinoids), SB1011 (Related to Pesticides), SB1551 (Relating to Invasive Species)

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT OF ALL LISTED BILLS

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards III, and all the Committee Members

The Environmental Caucus is testifying in support of all the listed bills above.

SB998: One of our priority issues concerns continuing and expanding all programs to humanely control the feral cat and dog populations by funding as many Spay and Neutering programs as are possible. Sadly there are many people who have rescued abandoned pets, or are willing to care for or adopt pets but who cannot afford timely spaying/neutering of them. The Humane Society is doing what it can but the waiting list for private persons to get their pets fixed is often months long and people cannot take the time from work to get it done or have no means for transporting their animals to such services. More funding is vital and amongst other things, might provide for more service options like mobile clinic spay and neuter services. They have been very successful in the past.

SB640 & 967 & 1551: We support all legislation which assists local farmers who provide us with local food sources, with special support for organic farming whenever the type of crop allows for it. Food independence from imported products rests with local farmers. In addition, the damage done to our agricultural industry and our native flora by invasive species has been devastating over the years. We need to do more in all possible ways to prevent these environmental disasters.

SB682: In principle, we are against the harvesting and selling of any animal skins although they are a number of commercially raised animals only for their skins. We feel that Americans, at least do not or should not require animals to die for our fashion egos.

SB1009 & 1011: We support all bills which eliminate and/or monitor the use of pesticides which poison the land and are dangerous to animals and humans alike.

Martha E Randolph
DPH Environmental Caucus SCC Representative



ROAR

RESCUE OF ANIMAL RIGHTS

to
the Senate
Committees
AEN

The Hawaii State
Legislature

from
Zhizi Xiong
(Angela
Melody
Young)
Creator

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair & the AEN Committee,

CARES testifies in strong support for SB 682. Animals are slaughtered for fur and endure tremendous suffering during the process. Each year, PETA says, 100 million animals are slaughtered for fur. The farms that produce animal fur are inhumane and cruel to animals. Animals that are caught in the wild are trapped in inhumane ways such as with weights that crush their necks, water-set traps that leave animals struggling for 9 minutes before drawing and traps that breaks their bones. Rabbits are usually killed for their fur when they're just 6 months old. A lot of the animal are kept outside in extreme weathers such as snow. The animals do not receive vet care and many of them have injuries. When the animals are killed for fur, they are killed in torturous ways. Many of them are still alive when they get skinned for their fur.

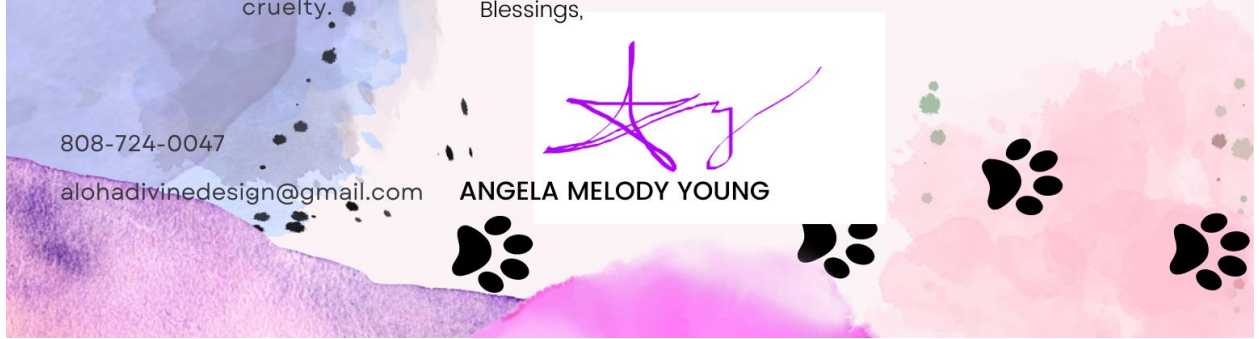
PETA has many videos of investigators that go into the farms to catch the farmers in the act of such heinous crimes against animals. These practices are illegal in the US as we have a very high standard of ethics, however, although the farms are illegal, buying the fashion products and condoning practices through retail is not. It is imperative to put a stop to inhumane farms and fashion productions. that support animal cruelty.

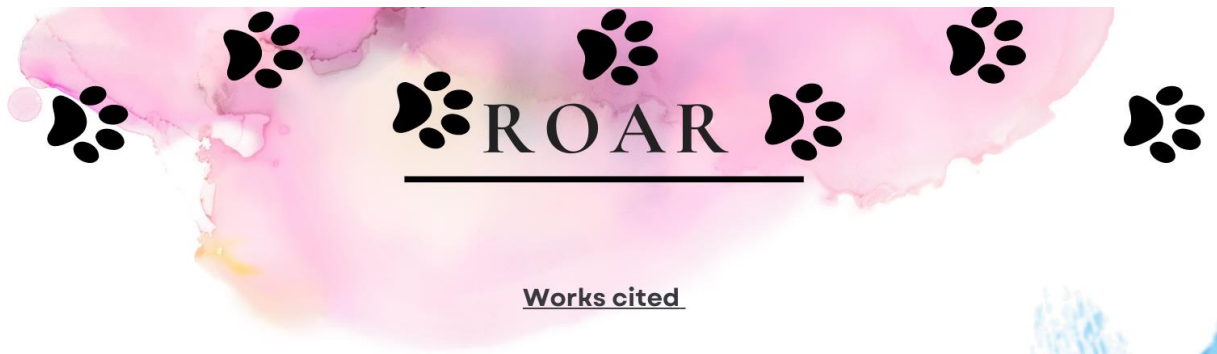
Blessings,

ANGELA MELODY YOUNG

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Works cited

“The Fur Industry: Animals Used for Their Skins.” PETA, 13 Dec. 2022,
<https://www.peta.org/issues/animals-used-for-clothing/fur/>.





**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI, PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
February 6, 2023
Re: SB 682 Relating to Animal Fur Products**

Good afternoon, Chair Gabbard and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii was founded in 1901 and is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to supporting the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. Our membership includes small mom & pop stores, large box stores, resellers, luxury retail, department stores, shopping malls, on-line sellers, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between.

While we understand the intent, we are **OPPOSED** to SB 682 Relating to Animal Fur Products. This measure prohibits the sale, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, or distribution of certain animal fur products in the State.

We do not feel this measure is necessary as stores in Hawaii are already phasing out fur items and trying to liquidate their current inventory. Retailers are no longer the driving engine for trends. Customers determine the trends, and the type of inventory items retailers have in their stores.

We recognize that many top designer brands are already ceasing to use fur in their designs. We are seeing more faux fur being used or no fur like products at all in their collections. We want to also point out that many of the alternatives to fur – faux/vegan fur – are more hazardous to the environment as they are made from petroleum-based materials like liquid plastic. We are also aware that **many of the animals are humanely raised on farms**, just like cows, chickens and pigs that end up in our grocery stores. It is also our understanding that the other parts of the animals are used for consumption.

With Hawaii's average temperature in the 80s, **there is NOT a large demand for fur in Hawaii and is mostly purchased by visitors who live in colder climates.** Unlike the mainland, there are NOT a lot of stores in Hawaii who are selling fur items. **We are already seeing more and more stores throughout Hawaii no longer carrying fur and are trying to liquidate their current inventory.** This includes **not only coats, and fur trim on clothing, but shoes, hair accessories, purses, belts, adornment on keepsakes, and more.**

This measure would also impose hardship for those retailers who are unable to comply with the January 2024 deadline. Not all stores are able to send their fur merchandise outside of Hawaii to a sister store. This would mean that the goods would either have to be sold at loss or trashed. We have seen since last year that sales are down and awfully slow for many of our retailers who are dependent on the foreign customer. Certain types of merchandise are not moving fast due to the lack of visitors to our islands.

Retailers are one of the hardest hit industries due to the pandemic and this type of ban would hurt our retailers during a time when many are still struggling to remain open. Stores had to endure astronomical increases in shipping costs and in the price of goods from manufacturers and wholesalers. And last year with the unexpected increase in employee wages at the end of the year when the minimum wage was raised. Many retailers are still struggling to pay back the debt incurred during the pandemic. **Businesses cannot afford any more hardship as we are seeing more and more retailers closing their doors forever.** And as a result, many of our friends, family and neighbors no longer have jobs and are contributing to Hawaii's unemployment.

We hope that you will hold this bill.

Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify.



Testimony of Mike Brown

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

Bill: SB682

Dear Sen. Keohokalole and members of the Committee of Agriculture and the Environment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB682, a bill that would Prohibits the sale, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, or distribution of certain animal fur products in the State.

The Natural Fibers Alliance is a 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 is a direct attempt to shut down one of the nation's oldest and most highly regulated industries. There are NO FUR FARMS in Hawaii, therefore this bill does nothing to stop the production. Rather than let the market dictate the demand for legally made and sourced materials. SB682 seeks to have the government decide what products a person can wear.

Fortunately, there is no movement from the public to have the government create such regulation or level of intervention. In fact, legislation like this runs counter to the district's motto, as it takes away the freedom of CHOICE by residents.

Second, 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. This same group has even advocated for the end of animal-based food products in

cities like Berkely, California. This proposal is a slippery slope with no clear end in sight.

Third, banning natural fibers such as fur will harm current efforts to improve environmental sustainability. Natural fibers provide a viable, biodegradable alternative to those synthetic materials associated with landfill, microplastics, overconsumption, and pollution.

Forth, fur products are long-lasting and made to a circular, rather than a linear model, in which products can be reused, remodeled and recycled. People cherish high-quality natural fiber clothing. In contrast, plastic-based synthetic fibers are part of the throwaway culture of “fast fashion” that creates pollution and consumer waste.

Lastly, some activists have been found to repeatedly exaggerate or even fabricate COVID on mink farm claims. After some initial farm infections in the fall of 2020, the industry now boasts a vaccination rate of nearly 100% of certified mink farms. Leaders, to include the Prime minister of Denmark have also since apologized for misleading the public over the issue.

Please don't fall for the misinformation. This bill is an overreach that intentionally closes small businesses. This bill does not serve the public interest and will subsequently lead to the banning of leather dress shoes and other products.

Proposals like this have real intended and unintended consequences that have led to decades of harassment against retailers and manufactures. To include the most recent violent attacks against farmers in Ohio and Michigan. Rather than gaslight extremist behavior, the District of Columbia must send a message and promote natural animal-based fibers as the state of New York has done with the recent passage and promotion of the New York Textile Act of 2022.

I urge you to vote no.

SB-682

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 1:43:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Animal Rights Hawai'i strongly supports SB682. There are still so many euthanasias at open admission facilities., particularly community cats, who are cared for by compassionate persons who are unable to absorb the costs of surgery. This will assist in controlling the populations which have been been accused of degrading native species. Please pass SB682

SB-682

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 2:56:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ARH supports HB1041. Fireworks started on Halloween and continues still yet. People with breathing difficulties, those suffering from PTSD, nervous disorders, suffer greatly from the noise and dirty air. Our bird population, other wildlife and companion animals - all at put at risk by the uncontrolled flagrant lawbreakers, and after living in Hawai'i for over 50 years, I've come to believe that proper enforcement is dealt with a wink and a nod. Please help end this nightmare!

Mahalo,

Cathy Goeggel

SB-682

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 10:51:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stong support. Thank you.

SB-682

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 11:05:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Boscole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support SB682

SB-682

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 12:43:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerrit B Osborne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No reasonable humane being (get it?) would support the sale of animal fur in Hawaii (or anywhere else, for that matter.) My entire family and I support SB 682 (as much as my wife likes "nice clothes.") Please PASS SB 682!

And while you are at it, PROVIDE FOR THE LAW'S ENFORCEMENT! Laws without enforcement are worse than useless, they are harmful.

SB-682

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 6:03:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Sunahara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We should not support the sale of fur.

SB-682

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 12:19:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

I am Jennifer Chiwa and have lived on Oahu my whole life. I currently reside in Makiki.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I absolutely support SB 682 and its statements on support for animal welfare, reduction in harm to the environment and public health risks that would result from banning animal fur products. I especially support the point brought up in this bill that Hawaii's stature would be enhanced to have this bill passed. Hawaii should continue to be a leader in animal welfare and environmental advancement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

SB-682

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:23:46 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Soyejima-Nordstrom	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 682 to make certain fur products illegal in Hawaii.

SB-682

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 11:20:42 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Alexander	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii has the opportunity to ban goods that are the product of unspeakable cruelty by passing this bill. Other municipalities and countless businesses have recognized the ethical responsibility to prevent avoidable suffering to animals by eliminating fur farming and production practices. As a constituent, I ask you to vote in support of this bill.

SB-682

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 11:37:30 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SB-682

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 12:07:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill that prevents unnecessary suffering of animals. The breeding and treatment of animals at fur farms is appalling, inhumane, and unsanitary. Hawaii should join other states in banning fur, it is long overdue.

SB-682

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 1:27:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Animals that are slaughtered for their fur endure tremendous suffering. Animals raised on fur farms typically spend their entire lives in cramped and filthy cages. Fur farmers typically use the cheapest killing methods available, including suffocation, electrocution, gas, and poison.

Furthermore, fur farms are known reservoirs and transmission vectors for dangerous zoonotic disease, including SARS coronaviruses, that threaten public health. COVID—19 infections have been confirmed at fur farms in Europe and the United States, and scientific studies have linked mink, raccoon dogs, and foxes, animals most commonly farmed for fur, to a variety of coronaviruses.

The fur production process is energy intensive and has a significant environmental impact, including air and water pollution. Runoff from the fur production process contains high concentrations of phosphorus and nitrogen, which are among the most common forms of water pollution in the United States.

The demand for fur products does not justify the unnecessary killing and cruel treatment of animals, harm to the environment, and the public health risks created by these practices. Banning the sale of fur products in Hawai‘i will decrease the industry demand for these cruel and environmentally harmful products and promote community awareness of animal welfare.

SB-682

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:16:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Heithaus	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non-human animals have the same capacity to suffer as we do, unfortunately, and in a sane world, their bodies should not be sold for some fashion trend!

Animals that are slaughtered for their fur endure tremendous suffering. Animals raised on fur farms typically spend their entire lives in cramped and filthy cages. Fur farmers typically use the cheapest killing methods available, including suffocation, electrocution, gas, and poison.

Furthermore, fur farms are known reservoirs and transmission vectors for dangerous zoonotic disease, including SARS coronaviruses, that threaten public health. COVID—19 infections have been confirmed at fur farms in Europe and the United States, and scientific studies have linked mink, raccoon dogs, and foxes, animals most commonly farmed for fur, to a variety of coronaviruses.

The fur production process is energy intensive and has a significant environmental impact, including air and water pollution. Runoff from the fur production process contains high concentrations of phosphorus and nitrogen, which are among the most common forms of water pollution in the United States.

The demand for fur products does not justify the unnecessary killing and cruel treatment of animals, harm to the environment, and the public health risks created by these practices. Banning the sale of fur products in Hawai‘i will decrease the industry demand for these cruel and environmentally harmful products and promote community awareness of animal welfare.

SB-682

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:26:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fatima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill!