

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA  
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. NO. 682, RELATING TO ANIMAL FUR PRODUCTS.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND ON  
WAYS AND MEANS

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 1, 2023                      **TIME:** 9:30 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 211

**TESTIFIER(S):**        **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**

(For more information, contact Jennifer D. Waihee-Polk,  
Deputy Attorney General, at (808) 586-1198)

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Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General offers the following comments on this measure.

The purpose of this bill is create a new chapter prohibiting the sale, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, or distribution for monetary or nonmonetary consideration of certain animal fur products in the State and providing for the imposition of civil penalties for violations.

As the bill does not identify the agency responsible for implementing the new chapter, it is unclear how the chapter would be enforced. To remove confusion, we recommend the bill identify a department to enforce the prohibition.

We note that the Department of Land and Natural Resources currently enforces a similar statute prohibiting the sale of animal products (including fur) of certain exotic wildlife under section 183D-66, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) (commonly known as the "Ivory Law"). If the Committees wish to similarly place the enforcement of this prohibition with the Department of Land and Natural Resources, we recommend amending page 2, line 15, to page 5, line 14, to read as follows:

SECTION 2. [~~The~~] Chapter 183D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding to part V a new [~~chapter~~] section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

**["CHAPTER  
ANIMAL FUR PRODUCTS]**

~~"§ 1 Definitions."~~ **"§183D- Animal fur products. (a)** As used in this ~~[chapter:]~~ section:

"Fur" means any animal skin with hair, fleece, or fur fibers attached, either in its raw or processed state.

"Fur product" means any article of clothing or covering for any part of the body, or any fashion accessory, including but not limited to handbags, shoes, slippers, hats, earmuffs, scarves, shawls, gloves, jewelry, keychains, toys or trinkets, or home accessories and decor that is made in whole or in part of fur. "Fur product" does not include any of the following:

- (1) An animal skin or part thereof that is to be converted into leather, or which in processing will have the hair, fleece, or fur fiber completely removed;
- (2) Cowhide with the hair attached thereto;
- (3) Deerskin with the hair attached thereto;
- (4) Lambskin or sheepskin with the fleece attached thereto; or
- (5) The pelt or skin of any animal that is preserved through taxidermy or for the purposes of taxidermy.

"Nonprofit organization" means any entity exempt from federal taxes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, for charitable, religious, philanthropic, educational, or similar purposes.

"Taxidermy" means the practice of preparing and preserving the skin of an animal that is deceased and stuffing and mounting it in lifelike form.

"Ultimate consumer" means a person who buys a fur product for the person's own use, or for the use of another, but not for resale or trade.

"Used fur product" means a fur product that has been worn or used by an ultimate consumer.

~~["§ 2 Trade of animal fur products prohibited; exemptions.~~

~~(a)]~~ (b) It shall be unlawful to sell, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, or otherwise distribute for monetary or nonmonetary consideration a fur product in Hawaii. For purposes of this section, the sale of a fur product shall be deemed to occur in Hawaii if:

- (1) The buyer takes physical possession of the fur product in Hawaii; or
- (2) The seller is located in Hawaii.

~~(b)]~~ (c) This section shall not apply to the sale, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, or distribution of:

- (1) A used fur product by a person (excluding a retail transaction), nonprofit organization, or second-hand store, including a pawn shop;

(2) A fur product used in the exercise of traditional and customary rights protected pursuant to article XII, section 7, of the Hawaii State Constitution; or

(3) A fur product where the activity is expressly authorized by federal law.

~~§ 3 Penalties.~~ (d) A person in violation of this ~~chapter~~ section shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000. Each fur product sold, offered for sale, displayed for sale, traded, or distributed in violation of this ~~chapter~~ section and every day upon which any such violation shall occur shall constitute a separate offense.

(e) The department of land and natural resources may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to further implement or enforce this section."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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March 1, 2023

**Memorandum of Support – SB682**

*An Act relating to animal fur products.*

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Ways and Means,

The Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF), the nation's preeminent legal advocacy organization for animals, appreciates the opportunity to submit this memorandum in support of SB682, a bill to prohibit the sale of new fur products in the state of Hawai'i. The organization's mission is to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the legal system. We are working nationwide to combat the cruel fur industry across multiple legal channels.

SB682 would make it unlawful to sell a new fur product in the state. If passed, Hawai'i would be the second state in the country to take a strong stance against the cruel and unnecessary fur trade within its borders.

**Fur requires significant animal cruelty.**

Millions of animals, including foxes, wolves, minks, and rabbits, are brutally killed every year so people can wear their fur. Whether trapped in the wild or bred to die on fur farms, animals exploited by the fur industry endure tremendous suffering. Animals on fur farms are confined to tiny wire cages for their entire lives.

Oftentimes, these cages are outdoors – stacked in wooden sheds that provide no protection from the heat or cold. Unable to engage in any of their natural behaviors, these animals routinely resort to self-mutilation, obsessive pacing, and infanticide. Fur farms kill animals through gassing, electrocution, neck-breaking, and poisoning. Undercover investigations on fur farms have documented egregious cruelty – including animals being skinned alive.

Wild animals trapped for their fur also suffer. Trapping is largely regulated at the state level, and most states provide minimal protections for fur-bearing animals. In some states, it is legal to set a trap and not check it for days. Desperate and terrified, animals will sometimes chew their own legs off in an attempt to escape. Trappers shoot, strangle, and bludgeon trapped animals.

**Fur puts our environment at risk.**

The fur industry also poses serious environmental threats. On fur factory farms, waste runoff from animals pollutes the soil and waterways. The tanning and dyeing process uses toxic and carcinogenic chemicals, like chromium and formaldehyde, to prevent the skin from decaying.

Studies have found that among synthetic and natural textiles, fur is the worst-offending in 17 of the 18 environmental categories considered. The studies also found that the climate change impact of mink fur is five times higher than the second worst-offending textile (wool) and six times higher than a faux-fur alternative. This is largely due to the feed, land use, toxicity, and manure of the fur industry.

**All our clients are innocent**

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Fortunately, innovative technology has produced an array of alternatives with the same warmth, look and feel as fur – without the cruelty or environmental concerns.

**Fur alternatives exist.**

There is no justification to continue to breed or trap and kill animals for their fur considering the availability of faux fur and alternative products that are virtually indistinguishable from animal fur. So indistinguishable that, in 2017, we called for a Baltimore furrier to be investigated for false advertising when they used an image of a faux fur jacket from the HBO series Game of Thrones to advertise the animal furs in their store.

**Fur-free policies are on the rise.**

Consumers' concern for the animal cruelty and environmental threats from fur is leading fashion brands and legislators away from animal fur.

Hundreds of retailers, brands, and designers at all price points have announced fur-free policies, including: Macy's, Bloomingdale's, Gucci, Prada, Chanel, Coach, Burberry, Versace, Michael Kors, Armani, Calvin Klein, Kenneth Cole, Ralph Lauren, and JCPenney.

In 2019, California became the first state in the nation to ban the sale of fur, which went into effect this year. Abroad, multiple European countries, including Germany, Austria, Croatia, and the United Kingdom are in the process of phasing out or have already banned fur farming. São Paulo, Brazil also banned the sale of fur products in 2015.

**Hawai'i, time to go fur-free.**

The sale of fur products in Hawai'i is inconsistent with its position as a leader on animal welfare and environmental issues. By passing SB682, Hawai'i will lead the fur-free charge while reinforcing the shift to fur-free products that is occurring in the fashion industry. Hawai'i should seize this opportunity to more closely align the state's laws with its values. Please help make Hawai'i the next state to go fur-free by advancing this important legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Vierheilig  
Legislative Affairs Program Fellow  
Animal Legal Defense Fund  
[lvierheilig@aldf.org](mailto:lvierheilig@aldf.org)



Animal Defenders International

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**In support of Hawaii HB215/ SB682  
to prohibit the sale, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, or distribution of certain  
animal fur products in the State**

[Animal Defenders International](#) (ADI)<sup>1</sup> offers the following in strong support of HB215/ SB682, to prohibit the sale, offer for sale, display for sale, trade or distribution of certain animal fur products in the state, with our thanks to its numerous introducing sponsors (Representatives Takayama, Amato, Cochran, Ganaden, Hussey-Burdick, Ichiyama, Kitagawa, Lowen, Marten, Matayoshi, Nishimoto, Perruso, Poepoe, Takenouchi, Tam, Tarnas, Todd, Chun, and Kapela and Senators Keohokalole, McKelvey, and Rhoads). If passed, Hawaii would join a growing list of nations,<sup>2</sup> the state of California, and numerous fashion leaders in saying no to fur industry cruelty and its public health risks.

[Michael Kors and Jimmy Choo debuted a luxurious cruelty-free alternative](#) in 2018, noting that with “*technological advances in fabrications, we now have the ability to create a luxe aesthetic using non-animal fur.*”<sup>3</sup> Other design icons who have committed to innovative fur-free fashion include Armani, Banana Republic, Burberry, Burlington Coat Factory, Calvin Klein, Coach, Diane von Furstenberg, DKNY, Dolce and Gabbana, Gucci, H&M, Hugo Boss, Ralph Lauren, Stella McCartney, Tommy Hilfiger, Valentino, Versace, and Zara. The fashion world can and is already moving on.

Covid-19 exposed this industry as a serious contagion risk, and the reactionary culling of millions is a tragedy that ignores the real problem. The terrible events of the past couple of years have underscored the need and stirred calls worldwide for transformational change in the way humans trade in, consume, impact, and too often abuse nature.

**The farming, trade and consumption of wildlife and wildlife-derived products (for ... fur and other products) have led to biodiversity loss, and emerging diseases, including SARS and COVID-19. ... high pandemic risk consumption patterns (e.g. use of fur from farmed wildlife)<sup>4</sup>**

**There is no future for business as usual ... To successfully address [these challenges] will require tackling the ... drivers of nature loss - ... trade, production and consumption ... and the values and behaviours of society.<sup>5</sup>**

Studies show the fur industry presents high climate and environmental costs, with significant emissions and land use requirements, as well as air and water pollutants emanating from animal waste (nitrogen, phosphorus), incineration (carbon monoxide, hydrochloric acid, sulphur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides), and tanning processes. Industrial animal farms are “extremely energy intensive ... requir[ing] disproportionately large inputs of fossil fuels.”<sup>6</sup> In 2012, the Advertising Standards Authority banned a fur ad (run by the European Fur Breeders Association), concluding that the ad’s claim that fur is ‘eco-friendly’ was misleading.<sup>7</sup>

**To produce 1 kg of fur requires more than 11 animals. ... Compared with textiles, fur has a higher impact on 17 of 18 environmental themes, including climate change, eutrophication and toxic emissions. In many cases fur scores markedly worse than textiles. ... The climate change impact of 1 kg of mink fur is five times higher than that of the highest-scoring textile ... This impact is not only high compared with other textiles. There are not many raw materials scoring this high per kg on climate change; the score of mink fur is similar to that of materials involving high fuel consumption, or solvents for extraction (e.g. precious**

metals). With an emission factor of about 110 kg CO<sub>2</sub> eq. per kg fur, the impact on climate change equals a car drive of over 1,250 km. ... For land occupation, fur scores far higher than the other textiles. ... Two environmental impacts affect (local) air quality ... On both of these, fur scores far higher than the other textiles. ... Even in a conservative approach, the environmental impacts of 1 kg fur ... are a factor 2 to 28 times higher than those of common textiles. This is a very clear and consistent result, with indicator categories all pointing in the same direction.<sup>8</sup>

When people buy fur, they buy cruelty, not luxury or beauty. ADI investigations reveal nightmarish fur industry standard practices, where animals' miserable lives in cramped, filthy cages meet brutal, abrupt ends, by electrocution (to their anus or genitals), suffocation, broken necks, or worse. We include here for your consideration, links to several ADI reports and videos ~ [A Lifetime: living and dying on a fur farm report](#)<sup>9</sup> and its [related video](#);<sup>10</sup> [Never Humane: Tragedy of the fox who almost got away](#);<sup>11</sup> and [Bloody Harvest: the real cost of fur](#).<sup>12</sup> It's time to end this horrific practice.

We hope this informs your review, and we urge you to support HB215/ SB682, to join other leaders toward cruelty-free fashion innovation. Many thanks for your time and consideration.

**Animal Defenders International**  
[www.ad-international.org](http://www.ad-international.org)

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<sup>1</sup> [www.ad-international.org](http://www.ad-international.org)

<sup>2</sup> Fur Farming bans: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands (moved up from a 2024 effective date due to covid outbreaks on fur farms there), Slovenia, and the UK. Similar measures under consideration: Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Estonia, Ireland, Lithuania, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine. Ban on breeding for fur: Hungary. Ban on mink imports: New Zealand. Ban on mink, fox, chinchilla fur skins imports: India. Fur trade/sales ban: California (US), Sao Paolo (Brazil).

<sup>3</sup> As reported by Georgia Murray in *Is this the Biggest Move in Banning Fur to Date?* yahoo!/sports (January 16, 2018), available at <https://sports.yahoo.com/biggest-move-banning-fur-date-180000485.html>.

<sup>4</sup> IPBES Pandemics Report on Biodiversity and Pandemics, Executive Summary (2020), available at <https://ipbes.net/pandemics>

<sup>5</sup> World Economic Forum's *New Nature Economy Report* series: *The Future of Nature and Business* (2020), available at [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_The\\_Future\\_Of\\_Nature\\_And\\_Business\\_2020.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_The_Future_Of_Nature_And_Business_2020.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production, *Putting Meat on the Table: Industrial Farm Animal Production in America, Executive Summary* (2008), available at [https://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/assets/2008/pcfap\\_exec-summary.pdf](https://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/assets/2008/pcfap_exec-summary.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> As reported by Mark Sweney in *'Eco-friendly' fur ad banned. Fur breeders' campaign ruled misleading by ASA*, The Guardian (March 2012), available at <https://www.theguardian.com/media/2012/mar/21/eco-friendly-fur-ad-banned>.

<sup>8</sup> Bijleveld, Korteland, Sevenster. *The Environmental impact of mink fur production*. Delft. (January 2011), available at [https://www.cedelft.eu/publicatie/the\\_environmental\\_impact\\_of\\_mink\\_fur\\_production/1131](https://www.cedelft.eu/publicatie/the_environmental_impact_of_mink_fur_production/1131).

<sup>9</sup> *A Lifetime: living and dying on a fur farm*, Animal Defenders International Report (2017), available at [https://www.ad-international.org/admin/downloads/adi\\_f4d655d1c535636ff5fab85010358c7d.pdf](https://www.ad-international.org/admin/downloads/adi_f4d655d1c535636ff5fab85010358c7d.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> *Exposed: The tragic short lives of foxes on a fur farm*, Animal Defenders International (2017), available at <https://www.ad-international.org/fur/go.php?id=4440&ssi=19>.

<sup>11</sup> *Never Humane: tragedy of the fox who almost got away*, Animal Defenders International (2017), available at <https://www.ad-international.org/fur/go.php?id=4455&ssi=19>.

<sup>12</sup> *Bloody Harvest: the real cost of fur*, Animal Defenders International (2010), available at <https://www.ad-international.org/publications/go.php?id=1836>.

**SB-682**

Submitted on: 2/24/2023 6:43:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

ARH strongly supports SB682, which will put an end to the sale of cruelly obtained skins of fur bearing animals that are obtained from cruel battery farms or from horrific traps and snares.

Mahalo



# Animal Fur Product Bill

## Testimony regarding Bill SB682, to ban the sale of new fur products

My name is Emma Hakansson, I'm the founding director of Collective Fashion Justice, a not-for-profit working for a total ethics fashion system prioritising the life and wellbeing of people, our fellow animals and the planet before profit. Today I speak on behalf of the organisation and our supporters.

I'd like to extend our sincere thanks to the Hawai'i State Legislature for engaging with a bill as important and progressive as this one. Fashion is often shunned as vapid and unimportant, but fashion is both a powerful form of expression and utterly serious in its impact on the planet and those we share it with. I would like to spend some time highlighting the intersecting harms the fur industry contributes to, and which the State will continue to co-sign until this proposed Act is passed.

As much as 95% of all fur comes from animals who spend their short, miserable lives confined to factory-farms. Foxes are commonly kept in wire cages just a square metre small, despite naturally roaming a territory 10,000 times greater. While mink naturally live nearby the water they so love to dive in, those engaged by the fur industry will never fulfil their most basic and natural instinct of swimming.

The lives of these animals, as well as raccoon dogs, chinchillas and other confined fur-bearing species, are those of total deprivation. The unnatural conditions they suffer through mentally break them, shown through common signs of serious psychological distress like hours upon hours of repetitive head nodding and pacing, severe self mutilation and even cannibalism.

The slaughter of these animals is no better. In SLAY, a documentary film our organisation contributed to, a fur industry CEO refers to what their sector considers 'humane slaughter': for foxes, and I apologise for the confronting nature of this, but really, this is what we're here to discuss the legal acceptability of, this means forcing an electrode into the mouth and anus of the animals, before flicking an 'on-off' switch. For minks, it's death by gassing, taking a whole 15 minutes.

Some American companies have referred to their use of 'farm-free' fur, the implication being that such products may be more ethical. But footage from across the United States shows us trapped animals so frightened they uncontrollably urinate just before their killing. Native animals like coyotes, raccoons and muskrats have been known to break their teeth gnawing their own feet off in frantic efforts to free themselves from metal traps.

Every single product containing fur is a kind of ghost of this unimaginable suffering. They are what these complex, clever, thinking and feeling individuals are reduced to. A fur trim, a bobble on a beanie, a coat, a key ring.

In my opinion, and in the opinion of the organisation I represent, this should be enough to justify unanimously passing this Bill. But the fur industry is not done.

The production of fur is also an environmental disaster. Fur trapping is totally indiscriminate, capturing and killing all kinds of native species, including those governments across the US work to protect. Meanwhile, fur factory-farms are major ammonia and phosphorus emissions contributors, and these emissions can lead to eutrophication which can strangle aquatic ecosystems, even creating dead zones.

Once fur has been ‘dressed’ – the industry term equivalent to ‘tanning’ for leather, it is no longer biodegradable, even according to industry studies. In France, advertisements referring to fur as ‘natural’ and ‘eco-friendly’ have been banned, recognised to be ‘strongly misleading’. The carbon equivalent impact of a mink fur coat is nearly 250 kilograms more harmful than even the least sustainable synthetic faux fur, and today we have wholly recycled, even biodegradable and bio-based fur alternatives to take their place.

Finally, fur-dressing is so toxic and filled with carcinogenic substances that people who work processing furs face higher risks of acute and chronic conditions: skin complaints, eye irritation, cancer, and in the most egregious cases of poor workplace safety, death. Across numerous countries, fur products, including those sold for children, have been substantially contaminated with hazardous chemicals at levels which breached legal industry standards.

Today, nearly 70% of the most profitable luxury fashion brands have banned fur, and a number of global fashion week events have too. The vast majority of large retailers and high street fashion brands have also banned fur. Numerous countries have banned fur farming, a growing number of councils have banned fur sales. Just some months ago I spoke at the European Parliament, where a ban on all fur farming and related product sales is being considered. The proposed Bill is in line with a global move towards more responsible, just and sustainable fashion production – and we cannot accept anything less than that.

Thank you very much for your time, for your openness and consideration.

*(All information and references available via [collectivefashionjustice.org](http://collectivefashionjustice.org))*



Animal Welfare.  
Worldwide.

February 27, 2023

**Re: Testimony in support of SB 682, Relating to Animal Fur Products**

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Cruz, and Members of the joint Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Committee on Ways and Means,

Four Paws USA respectfully urges all committee members to vote yes on SB 682, which would end the sale of new fur products in Hawaii.

Consumers today have become more aware of how animals are inhumanely treated and cruelly killed for their fur, along with the environmental degradation caused by the fur industry, and they are seeking to buy clothing, shoes, and accessories that are as ethically produced as they are functional and stylish. This momentum is prompting cities, states, and countries around the world to ban the sale and production of fur, and is leading fashion brands, retailers, and designers to end the use of fur in fashion once and for all.

It is well established that animal cruelty is inherent in the fur industry and over 100 million animals are killed annually for their fur. On fur factory farms, wild animals spend their entire lives in cramped cages, deprived of the ability to engage in natural behaviors. These animals are then killed in inhumane ways - such as crude gassing, anal/genital electrocution and neck breaking - to preserve the quality of their pelts.

In the wild, animals are often caught in crippling leg-hold traps for days without food or water. These animals often die slowly by drowning, predation, shock, injury or blood loss. If they are found alive, they are frequently clubbed or suffocated to death in order to preserve their pelt's value. These archaic traps are indiscriminate, often maiming and killing non-target animals, like endangered species and even pets.

The fur industry poses serious environmental threats and risks to public safety as well. On fur factory farms, waste runoff from animals pollutes the soil and waterways. The tanning and dying process uses toxic and carcinogenic chemicals, like chromium and formaldehyde, to prevent the skin from decaying. Furthermore, it is vitally important to consider the zoonotic risk factors and public health concerns posed by fur farms. Like humans, minks are incredibly sensitive to respiratory illnesses, and mink farms have proved to be a perfect breeding ground for the spread of COVID-19. Millions of minks on fur farms around the world, including at least 18 farms in the U.S., were infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus which causes COVID-19. Mutated strains of the virus in minks then infected dozens of people, resulting in warnings from disease prevention experts that the evolution of the virus in mink could undermine the effectiveness of future vaccines in humans.

By passing SB 682 and eliminating the sale of new fur products, Hawaii has the opportunity to continue as a leader in supporting animal welfare, public health, and environmental protection in the U.S.

Sincerely,

Melanie Lary  
*Research and Campaigns Officer*

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## Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waiialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826  
808.356.2200 • [HawaiianHumane.org](http://HawaiianHumane.org)

Date: Feb. 27, 2023

To: Chairs Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole and Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz  
Vice Chairs Sen. Carol Fukunaga and Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran  
and Members of the Committees on  
Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Ways and Means

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Director of Community Engagement  
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in support of SB 682: Relating to Animal Fur Products  
Wednesday, March 1, 2023, 9:30 a.m., Room 211 & Videoconference

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On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for Senate Bill 682, which prohibits the sale, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, or distribution of certain animal fur products in the State effective Jan. 1, 2024.

The Hawaiian Humane Society works to protect animals from cruelty, neglect and suffering. The fur industry confines animals in inhumane conditions only to slaughter them for use by the fashion industry.

Most of the animals harvested for their pelts are undomesticated. Hawaiian Humane believes that wild animals generally should be permitted to exist undisturbed in their natural environments. While this is primarily out of concern for animal welfare, it is also appropriate from a One Health perspective, which recognizes the relationships between threats to people, domestic animals, wildlife, and their shared environment. Shrinking the consumer market for these goods discourages the existence of fur farms, protecting people and animals from a source of zoonotic disease transmission.

Mahalo for your consideration of our support for this measure.



**HUMANE SOCIETY  
VETERINARY MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION..**

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February 27, 2023

**Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

**Committee on Ways and Means**

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: VETERINARY SUPPORT for Banning Fur Sales in Hawaii: SB 682**

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees:

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.

**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,

Barbara Hodges, DVM, MBA  
HSVMA Program Director, Advocacy & Outreach

**SB-682**

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 8:44:39 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kekoa McClellan	Testifying for Humane Society of the United States	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Chair Dela Cruz and Honorable members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Ways and Means.

Mahalo for scheduling this measure for decision making and for your strong consideration in **support of SB682.**

**Request to incorporate the Attorney General's amicable amendments:**

We would like to draw your attention to amicable amendments offered by the Attorney General's office. Specifically, the Attorney General provided guidance in their testimony relating to placement and enforcement. We fully support these recommended amendments and ask for your joint committee's adoption of these amicable amendments to SB682. As written, these amendments will ensure the enforcement activity will be properly placed along side similar statutory provisions, like our State's ivory ban.

Thank you for your time and **support of SB682.**

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Kekoa McClellan, Advocate for The Humane Society of the United States



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

**Support for SB682 Prohibiting the Sale of Fur Products  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Susan Rhee, Hawai'i State Director, The Humane Society of the United States  
March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

Good morning Chairman Keohokalole, Chairman Dela Cruz, 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 SB 682. 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.

Recent polling shows that a supermajority of Hawai'i voters support legislation in Hawai'i to end the sale of new fur products, including at least 80% of Democrats and 75% of Republicans.<sup>1</sup>

Each year, more than 100 million animals are killed solely to be turned into fur coats, keychains, and poms on hats. 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. 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, injuries, 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.

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. Every 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 dying 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. Additionally, fur farms enable dangerous diseases, like COVID and avian flu, to spread like wildfire, threatening public health.

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 Hawai'i 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 with





**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

environmentally-friendly alternatives. Most fur products come in the form of small, cheap accessories that can now be easily replaced with humane alternatives without hurting businesses.

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 joint committee support the passage of SB 682. Thank you for your consideration.

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

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<sup>i</sup> Remington Research Group, 2023. Hawai'i Public Opinion, February 2023. Survey conducted February 1 through February 5, 2023. 801 likely 2024 General Election voters participated in the survey.

February 28, 2023

To: Hawaii Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife

From: Katie Nolan, General Campaigner, In Defense of Animals  
katie@idausa.com / (601) 207-0076

Re: Written Testimony in Support of SB 682, a Bill to Ban Fur Sales

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Keohokalole and Committees,

I am writing on behalf of In Defense of Animals and our over 900 supporters in Hawaii to support SB 682, which would prohibit the sale of fur products. I ask for your support in passing this bill.

Fur is an outdated fashion trend that contributes to immense animal suffering and pollution of our ecosystems. Animals like minks and foxes spend their short lives cramped in small cages, and often spread disease that pose risks to both humans and wild animal populations. Waste runoff from fur farms causes degradation of water systems, and toxic chemicals are used to treat the furs. Additionally, the bill is not too restrictive as it will not prohibit the sale of leather or shearling, and allows for used fur products to still be sold at secondhand businesses.

To conclude, our organization respectfully requests your support of SB 682 to ban the sale of new fur products in Hawaii. Thank you for your careful consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

Katie Nolan  
In Defense of Animals



**SB-682**

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 5:42:32 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Beal	Testifying for Last Chance for Animals	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**To the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Ways and Means,**

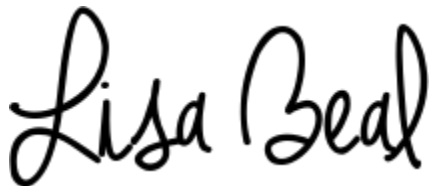
**My name is Lisa Beal, Campaigns Manager, Last Chance for Animals (LCA). I am writing to you on behalf of LCA and its supporters. LCA supports SB 682, to ban the sale of fur in Hawaii. LCA is an international non-profit organization based in Los Angeles that advocates for animals through legislation, investigations, and education. LCA has an active base of members in Hawaii who support our mandate to eliminate animal exploitation.**

**The inherent cruelty of the fur industry has been well-documented throughout the years by animal welfare organizations such as LCA. Animals on fur farms spend their entire lives in tiny cages, subjected to horrendous cruelty and neglect - only to be killed for a piece of fashion. In 2018, LCA released an undercover investigation into Millbank Fur Farm, a mink fur farm – the practices documented were so cruel they led to 14 charges levied against the farm.**

**The environmental and public health risks the fur industry poses cannot be ignored either. Fur farming causes environmental damage in surrounding areas, including polluted lakes and watersheds. Fur farms also pose a public health risk; the spread of COVID-19 on mink farms has been well documented in countries throughout the world.**

**LCA believes the state of Hawaii is a compassionate state that cares about the welfare of all animals. By enacting a fur sale ban, Hawaii will set a historic precedent that animal abuse will not be tolerated. Please do not hesitate to reach out for further information.**

**For the animals,**



**Lisa Beal**

**Campaigns Manager**

**Last Chance for Animals**

**campaigns@lcanimal.org**

**Phone: 818-681-3672**

**www.LCAAnimal.org**



February 28, 2023

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Sen. Keohokalole, Sen. Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally, including more than 21,000 in Hawaii—to urge the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means to support SB 682. This lifesaving legislation would ban the sale of new fur products, preventing countless animals from being violently killed.

For decades, PETA entities have exposed horrific cruelty to animals on fur farms around the world. Investigators have documented that animals are electrocuted, bludgeoned, gassed, and even skinned alive—all just to make a coat, a collar, or a trinket. Minks and other animals exploited for fur are typically confined to filthy, cramped wire cages for their entire lives, and the intensive confinement causes many to exhibit symptoms of “zoochosis,” or captivity-induced insanity, such as frantic pacing, circling, gnawing on cage bars, and even self-mutilation. Virologists and epidemiologists confirm that cramming sick and stressed animals together in unsanitary conditions creates the perfect breeding grounds for dangerous zoonotic diseases, which can jump to humans. It's no surprise that the horrid conditions on fur factory farms have led to mink-related outbreaks of COVID-19 in a number of countries, including the U.S. as well as Canada, Denmark, Greece, the Netherlands, and Spain. Denmark alone killed all *17 million* minks on its fur factory farms after a mutant strain of the virus spread from minks to humans.

Passing SB 682 would send a strong message to the rest of the world that killing animals for their fur has no place in a compassionate society. Even before the pandemic, fur was a dying industry, and the movement against it is gaining momentum. Hundreds of major designers and retailers—such as Dolce & Gabbana, Saks Fifth Avenue, Macy's, Chanel, Prada, Gucci, Versace, and Michael Kors—have banned it, and so has the state of California. In addition, more than a dozen countries have banned fur farming.

Hawaii is forward-thinking, as you've proved by banning wild-animal acts in circuses. You now have another opportunity to set a compassionate example, by supporting SB 682.

Sincerely,

Tracy Reiman  
Executive Vice President

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

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- [PETA Asia](#)
- [PETA India](#)
- [PETA France](#)
- [PETA Australia](#)
- [PETA Germany](#)
- [PETA Netherlands](#)
- [PETA Foundation \(U.K.\)](#)

**SB-682**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 10:45:42 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Seacor	Testifying for Project Coyote	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 27, 2023

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Committee on Ways and Means

Via <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>

Re: Fur Products Ban SB682


Dear Chair Craven and Members of House Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of Project Coyote's Hawaii supporters, we wish to express our strong support for SB682 to ban fur sales statewide. The vast majority of the public supports a ban on fur sales, as evidenced by bipartisan support for bans in states such as California and cities in Massachusetts, Michigan, and Florida. In addition, there is increasing unpopularity among both consumers and designers globally for fur products, including an increasing number of department stores banning the sale of fur items. Wildlife and indeed all animals have significant intrinsic value and are valued alive by the majority of Americans. Increasingly their welfare and rights to exist are prioritized over trivial fashion trends.

SB682 would help put an end to outdated and cruel practices where animals are raised in tiny cages or trapped for pelts, thereby saving the lives of countless captive animals and free-ranging wildlife. This bill also supports human health and safety because fur farms are linked to the spread of COVID-19, and trapping endangers humans and companion animals. The global pandemic has exposed how the disease risks from sources of fur (e.g., mink fur farms) far exceed any benefits.

We ask that you support this commonsense bill because it aligns with the values of our cherished and diverse state.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Camilla H. Fox". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'C'.

Camilla H. Fox

Founder & Executive Director

**SB-682**

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 1:49:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support. Thank you.



**SB-682**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 3:57:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carole R. Richelieu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support prohibiting the sale, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, or distribution of certain animal fur products in Hawaii.

**SB-682**

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 4:39:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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: 2/27/2023 7:50:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Margaux Mongue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Margaux Mongue and I am a student at the University of Hawai'i.

I'd like to thank the Committee Chair and Members for considering my written testimony in support of this bill which bans the manufacture and sale of new fur products in Hawai'i.

The bill not only ends the outrageous extreme suffering of animals but also protects the environment and health of Hawai'i and its citizens, fostering a safer and compassionate environment.

There already exist extensive faux fur products welcomed in the fashion industry, that have every aesthetic benefit, without the killing involved; leaving no reason for this brutally violent practice to continue. Other states and countries have already enacted legislation banning these barbaric practices, and it is time for the State of Hawai'i to join them. I have seen firsthand the unspeakable cruel treatment of caged animals being harvested for their fur. Seeing the terror in their eyes as they waited for their turn made me realize that no piece of fashion accessories could ever be equal to their suffering. The images of such horrific conditions can never be unseen.

Here we are in 2023 with full knowledge of the mistreatment and unfathomable slaughtering of these animals and you have the opportunity to stop this once and for all. Save these animals. Protect the environment of Hawai'i. Keep your citizens safer from Covid and other deadly diseases these fur farms expose us to.

Support S.B. No. 682.

**SB-682**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 8:45:58 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alyssa Neri	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because the use of animals for fur is no longer necessary to us as a society. The only purpose fur serves is to further cause cruelty and torment to animals. Additionally, fur production is a toxic and energy consuming process. We are an island culture, so we are more aware than most how scarce our natural resources are. If we allow fur production to continue to prosper, we are contributing to the degradation of natural resources in the United States caused by waste runoff from the factory farms where animals are kept before their fur is used.

Please support this bill, Hawai'i needs to be a leader in this area.



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, legislation like this could be ruled to violate the dormant commerce clause. Currently, the US supreme is hearing a case based on a 2018

California ballot initiative that banned the sale of pork in California, unless pregnant pigs were allowed at least 24 square feet (2.2 square meters) of space. The intent of the ballot initiative was to force out-of-state producers to make costly changes to pen sizes even though California imports more than 99% of the pork it consumes.

Supreme court justices have now asked whether allowing the California law would mean other states could impose their own demands -- such as requiring that workers be paid a certain wage, vaccinated, or be allowed to opt out of a union -- before products could be sold.

Banning the retail sale of fur in Hawaii potentially violates the dormant commerce clause, that says the US Constitution limits the power of states to regulate commerce outside their borders without congressional authorization.

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, Hawaii 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.