

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

680

Honolulu, Hawaii

**FEB 17** , 2023

RE: H.B. No. 609

H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2023  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, to which was referred H.B. No. 609 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate \$250,000 to the Department of Agriculture for three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) inspectors to perform meat inspection services.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Maui County Farm Bureau; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; and four individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from Animal Rights Hawai'i. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Agriculture and one individual.

Your Committee finds that a restoration of the state meat inspection program, which was discontinued in the mid-1990s due to cuts in budget and staffing, could help increase capacity, diversify options, and reduce congestion in the processing of locally produced meat.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

2023-1773 HB609 HD1 HSCR HMSO



- (1) Clarifying that the purpose of the appropriation is for the meat inspection program under chapter 159, Hawaii Revised Statutes, including three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) inspectors to perform meat inspection services;
- (2) Changing its effective date to June 30, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committee requests your Committee on Finance, should it choose to deliberate on this measure, to consider increasing the appropriation amount to \$1,000,000, as requested by the Department of Agriculture.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 609, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 609, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Agriculture & Food  
Systems,



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CEDRIC ASUEGA GATES, Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Thirty-second Legislature

HSCR 680

**Record of Votes of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems**

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> HB609	<b>Committee Referral:</b> AGR, FIN	<b>Date:</b> 2/15/2023		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
AGR Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. GATES, Cedric Asuega (C)	✓			
2. KAHALOA, Kirstin (VC)	✓			
3. COCHRAN, Elle	✓			
4. LOWEN, Nicole E.	✓			
5. PERRUSO, Amy A.	✓			
6. WOODSON, Justin H.	✓			
7. WARD, Gene	✓			
<b>TOTAL (7)</b>	7			
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <small style="margin-left: 150px;">committee acronym(s)</small>				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee     Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office     Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				