

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

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DEXTER KISHIDA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER**  
**PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**FEBRUARY 13, 2024**  
**9:10 AM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 229**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2174**  
**RELATING TO MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION**

Chairs Keohokalole and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Richards, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2174. The bill requires that the Department of Agriculture establish, implement, and administer a meat and poultry inspection program; and submit a report of its findings and recommendations relating to activities conducted pursuant to this Act, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session. The bill also appropriates money. The Department supports the intent of this bill to provide meat inspection to promote the state's livestock and game industries. The USDA-Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) assumed responsibility and has been performing meat inspection services statewide in Hawaii since the 1990s when Hawaii discontinued its state meat inspection program due to budget cuts reduction in force directives. FSIS maintains that they are capable of expanding inspection where needed, upon request by the processor including inspection of poultry. In addition, poultry slaughter facilities



processing less than 20,000 birds annually can be exempted from bird-by-bird inspection and the presence of FSIS Inspectors at the facility.

The associated costs for inspectors, supervisor veterinarians, training, laboratory testing, reporting requirements, and operation must be taken into account. The Department estimates approximately one million dollars will be required, however, specifics on laboratory testing, travel, and office space/renovation costs are variables. To accomplish these expenditure levels, the Department sees a state program as supplementing the existing federal program rather than replacing it. Therefore, long term financial commitment and support by the state is necessary to restore and operate an effective program because it is not possible to combine state and federal meat inspection in a single facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

**SB2174**

RELATING TO MEAL AND POULTRY INSPECTION

Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 9:10 PM  
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Chairs Keohokalole & Gabbard, Vice Chairs Fukunaga & Richards, and Members of the Committees,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB2174** which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish, implement, and administer a Meat and Poultry Inspection Program and annually report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds for the establishment, implementation, and administration of the Meat and Poultry Inspection Program.

Access to inspectors to validate safety of harvest and processing of livestock is a necessary part of Hawaii's local meat supply chain. The creation of a state administered meat and poultry inspection could increase access to inspectors that facilities can utilize, which would increase the capacity of meat that could be processed. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council supports the establishment and funding of a meat and poultry inspection program. The state program should be supplemental to the existing federal inspection, allowing for more options for processors to choose from to get the job done.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter. 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.

Nicole Galase  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council  
Managing Director



**SB-2174**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 2:37:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Inga Gibson	Testifying for Animal Welfare Institute	Comments	In Person

Comments:

COMMENTS ON SB2147; Relating to Meat & Poultry Inspection

Dear Chairs Gabbard & Keohokalole and Committee Members,

We understand that one of the aims of the Inspection Program is to address the Axis deer issue. We ask that the Department, in their review of existing laws and regulations, and in proposing measures to the state legislature next year, please ensure that all exotic animals (ie deer) handled under any such program also be subject to humane handling regulations and requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

Inga Gibson

On Behalf of Animal Welfare Institute

**SB-2174**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 4:12:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 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 of SB2174 for food security. Thank you.

**SB-2174**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 3:36:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2024 9:10:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Olderr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. We can't and shouldn't be lax on the food we prepare for our families. And with more and more meat processing plants coming under scrutiny, we have to make sure what we eat is safe.