

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



WENDY L. GADY
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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**TESTIMONY OF WENDY L. GADY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

BEFORE THE

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM**

and

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

1:01 p.m.

Conference Room 229

& Videoconference

**SENATE BILL NO. 2801
RELATING TO FOOD SUPPLY**

Chairs DeCoite and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Wakai and Richards and
Members of the joint Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2801 relating to food supply. The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) supports this measure, which requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to identify sites throughout the State that are suitable for the development of slaughterhouses and requires the Agribusiness Development Corporation to plan, design, construct, and operate certain animal slaughterhouses throughout the State.

There's a growing need for slaughterhouses throughout the state and farmers and ranchers cannot overcome the government regulations and a high development cost to build their own. ADC supports the intent of the measure which is to identify potential sites and develop slaughterhouses accordingly to support our cattle, hogs, sheep, and goat producers. The development of more slaughterhouses will provide fresh, clean locally sourced meat, which will allow Hawaii's farmers and ranchers to pursue new market opportunities and better meet consumer and producer's demand along the supply chain.

We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



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January 30, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2801
RELATING TO FOOD SUPPLY

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
1:01 PM

Aloha Chairs DeCoite and Gabbard, Vice-Chairs Wakai and Richards, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 2801, which requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to identify sites throughout the State that are suitable for the development of slaughterhouses and requires the Agribusiness Development Corporation to plan, design, construct, and operate certain animal slaughterhouses throughout the State.

Hawai'i's livestock industry faces numerous challenges. These challenges have been a contributing factor to the decline of the state's livestock industry. Many small family farmers who have found a demand for their small animal livestock have difficulty accessing slaughter and processing facilities. The challenge for many of these small producers is that they often do not have USDA-inspected processing facilities available within a practical distance and at an affordable cost.

Hawai'i's small animal farms are small with limited land, limited resources, and limited economies of scale. The primary competition for local pork is inexpensive mainland pork. Slaughter costs at current slaughter facilities are high and the pork industry is concerned about future slaughter capacity.

To support our small animal livestock producers, we need dedicated slaughterhouses for hogs, sheep, goats, and deer.

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



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Executive Officers

Gary Okimoto, Safeway Hawaii, *Chair*
Maile Miyashiro, C&S Wholesale Grocer, *Vice Chair*
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Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Advisor*
Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism, and Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: January 30, 2024
TIME: 1:01pm
PLACE: Conference Room 229

RE: SB2801 Relating to Food Supply

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee,
Identifying additional sites for slaughterhouses is an important step in increasing the amount of protein that can be produced locally. Improving and supporting local food production is a goal we all share. Increasing local food production helps diversify our economy and makes our state more self sufficient and resilient. Specifically, increasing the amount of local protein that can be processed in our state makes our local food supply more diverse and creates opportunities for more types of local agriculture to thrive.

We encourage the committee to pass this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM
Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND
ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

SB2801
RELATING TO FOOD SUPPLY

Tuesday, January 30, 2024, 1:01 PM
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Chairs DeCoite and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Wakai and Richards, and Members of the Committees,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB2801** which requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to identify sites throughout the State that are suitable for the development of slaughterhouses. It also requires the Agribusiness Development Corporation to plan, design, construct, and operate certain animal slaughterhouses throughout the State.

Increased access to harvest and processing facilities for livestock is a vital aspect of improving the supply chain and increasing local food production. Identifying sites that are suitable for harvest facilities is an important first step to ensuring we can continue to build capacity for livestock harvest. Responsibly raised livestock can provide a high-quality protein to our community while also keeping agricultural land in agricultural production, resulting in managed lands across the state.

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-2801

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:25:43 PM

Testimony for EET on 1/30/2024 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqui Hoover	Testifying for Hawaii Leeward Planning Conference	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This testimony is submitted on behalf of Hawaii Leeward Planning Conference (HLPC) a private, member-based 501(c)3 organization incorporated in 1974 by a group of forward-looking individuals who saw the need for an organization which would work with government and the community to promote sound planning decisions for West Hawaii (since expanded to Hawaii Island).

The 100+members and affiliates of HLPC strongly support SB2801 and appropriation of funds to respond to identify sites suitable for development of livestock slaughter facilities in the State of Hawaii.

Mahalo for this opportunity to speak on behalf of this important issue.

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SB-2801

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 10:54:01 PM

Testimony for EET on 1/30/2024 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wienczek	Testifying for Hawaii Young Republicans	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

Hawaii has a longtime ranching tradition. We should not lose it. Support for ranchers includes support for slaughterhouses. We urge the committee to pass this legislation to help enhance our economic diversification and our food systems sustainability.

SB-2801

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 11:45:18 AM

Testimony for EET on 1/30/2024 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sunny Savage	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong support

SB-2801

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 10:20:56 AM

Testimony for EET on 1/30/2024 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Serves the purposes of food self-sufficiency and ecosystem protection.

LATE

SB-2801

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 4:16:40 PM

Testimony for EET on 1/30/2024 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gordon LaBedz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a retired Family Physician and Med School professor living on West Kaua'i. I spent my entire career advocating the Kaiser Permanente preferred diet: a plant based, whole food diet. We are living in a terrible pandemic of arteriosclerosis. Americans have a heart attack every seven minutes. Eating animal fat is a major cause of high cholesterol, a known cause of heart disease and strokes. The state should not be subsidizing a known unhealthy food.

Animal agriculture is a major cause of the current climate crisis, causing methane release, a known greenhouse gas.

A slaughterhouse should not be subsidized. Please vote NO.