

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
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

**FEBRUARY 6, 2024
3:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 229**

**SENATE BILL NO. 3340
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK**

Chairperson Kim, Vice Chairperson Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 3340 that requires the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources conduct a study to assess the effects of heat stress on beef cattle during interisland ocean transport and to inform potential future legislation relating to beef cattle interisland ocean transport and the safety of people, animals, and the environment. Appropriates funds. The Department supports this measure and offers comments.

Objective studies to analyze interisland transport on livestock is needed to evaluate effects, if any, and determine optimum processes for the animals and industry. The department appreciates that consultation with livestock industry stakeholders is included in this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

By

Anna Wieczorek, Interim Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 3340 – RELATING TO LIVESTOCK

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of SB 3340 relating to livestock. The bill requires the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), in consultation with the livestock industry stakeholders, to conduct a study to assess the effects of heat stress on beef cattle during interisland ocean transportation.

CTAHR possesses the expertise to conduct the beef cattle interisland ocean transportation study and we have heard from our farming and ranching stakeholders that they support such a study. CTAHR respectfully requests adequate resources to ensure the completion of the study and a report of findings and recommendation, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2025. As appropriate, we will request assistance and feedback from the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and other relevant departments, and we will consult with livestock industry stakeholders and seek their cooperation in gathering information and data. We are convinced with adequate resources, the findings of this study will help us better understand the impact of interisland ocean transport, as presently practiced, on animal welfare and meat quality.

CTAHR supports the intent of SB 3340 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the measure.



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February 6, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON SB 3340
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
3:00 PM

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

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 3340, which requires the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, in consultation with livestock industry stakeholders, to conduct a study to assess the effects of heat stress on beef cattle during interisland ocean transportation.

Ocean transport is a vital part of the cattle industry supply chain for Hawai'i as an island state. Cattle producers prioritize animal health and well-being above all else, and this study will help livestock shippers understand the environmental conditions inside shipping devices during transport and the carcass quality after transport. This study will also be a useful tool in allowing for data-driven decision-making for potential future legislation relating to interisland cattle transportation. The Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council is prepared to assist with providing producers to participate in the study, and we look forward to learning more to better inform our practices.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

SB3340
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK

Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 3:00 PM
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

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We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure. 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





Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

SB3340
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK

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Nicole Galase
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