

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 COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024
1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 100 REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A WORKING GROUP TO DISCUSS AGRICULTURE-RELATED ISSUES**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution 100 that resolves that a working group is requested to be convened to discuss the parameters for legislation that will protect Hawaii's farmers and ranchers from unscrupulous hunters on their property while still protecting the cultural practices of hunters. It further resolves that the Speaker of the House of Representatives is requested to appoint the member of House District 46 to serve as the chairperson of the working group and requests the working group consist of 10 members from the organizations listed and provides for any other entity the chairperson of the working group deems appropriate and invites them to participate.

The Department of Agriculture supports this resolution. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.



Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi
Director

Shawn K. Nakama
First Assistant

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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 446
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Written Comments

SCR100

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING GROUP TO DISCUSS AGRICULTURE-RELATED ISSUES

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Director
Legislative Reference Bureau

Presented to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Wednesday, March 27, 2024, 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 224 & Via Videoconference

Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon Chair Gabbard and members of the Committee, my name is Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi, and I am the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau (Bureau). Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written **comments** on S.C.R. No. 100, Requesting the Establishment of a Working Group to Discuss Agriculture-Related Issues.

The purpose of this measure is to request the convening of a Working Group to discuss the parameters for legislation that will protect Hawaii's farmers and ranchers from unscrupulous hunters on their property while still protecting the cultural practices of hunters. The measure requests that the Speaker of the House of Representatives appoint the representative of the forty-sixth House district to serve as the Chairperson of the Working Group. The measure also requests that the members of the Working Group include one Senator, as appointed by the President of the Senate, and representatives of various governmental and private entities.

The measure also requests the Working Group to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025.

The measure further requests the Bureau to assist the Working Group in preparing its report and any proposed legislation; provided that the Working Group submits a draft of the Working Group's proposals to the Legislative Reference Bureau no later than November 1, 2024.

The Bureau takes no position on the merits of this measure but submits the following comments for your consideration.

The Bureau believes that the services requested of the Bureau under the measure are manageable, provided that the Bureau's interim workload is not adversely impacted by too many other additional responsibilities, such as conducting studies, writing or finalizing other reports, drafting legislation, or any combination of these for the Legislature or for other state agencies, task forces, or working groups that may be requested or required under other legislative measures.

The Bureau also notes that the measure requests a representative from "[t]he police department of each county" to serve on the Working Group (see page 2, lines 24-25 and 27). Although the measure includes the Chief of the Honolulu Police Department among the recipients of certified copies of the measure (see page 3, lines 18-19 and 26), the Chiefs of Police for the Counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai are not included among those recipients. The Committee may wish to amend the measure accordingly.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit written comments.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND
ENVIRONMENT

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

SCR100

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING GROUP TO DISCUSS AGRICULTURE-RELATED
ISSUES

Wednesday, March 27, 2023, 1:00 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SCR100** which requests the establishment of a working group to discuss agriculture-related issues.

Hunting access is important as a food source, recreation, and to remove unmanaged ungulates from the land. However, proper management of hunting is paramount, and we need to recognize the difference between hunters and poachers. Hunters get permission and act responsibly on working lands, while poachers do not get permission and create potentially dangerous situations.

In an incredibly tragic incident on Oahu on February 17th, Cranston Pia lost his life when confronting trespassing poachers. He was a responsible, respected rancher who will be missed in the community. We need to protect our producers so that they can focus on producing food and taking care of the land, rather than living in fear of dangerous situations. Deterring poachers and trespassers requires actual prosecution so criminals think twice before breaking the law.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council supports this resolution and we are prepared to provide a representative to serve on the working group.

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 almost 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



SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 12:59:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Holcomb	Testifying for Pig Hunters Association of Oahu	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We only seem to hear about illegal hunters in the news when something goes wrong which creates a negative public perception, but there are a lot of responsible hunters out there who try and do their best to coordinate with stakeholders to help reduce feral animal populations and protect assets and natural resources. It is our hope that if this working group is approved that the Pig Hunters Association of Oahu will have a seat at the table so that we can help guide the decision making process in a collaborative direction that increases legal hunting options so that the next generation of hunters are more inclined to follow the rules rather than engaging in poaching out of frustration.



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March 27, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SCR 100
REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING GROUP TO DISCUSS
AGRICULTURE-RELATED ISSUES

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, 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 SCR 100, which requests the establishment of a working group to discuss agriculture-related issues.

Agricultural crime is a persistent problem facing agriculture. Weather, drought, pests, weeds, disease, unstable markets, transportation, labor issues, and a changing climate all contribute to uncertainty for farmers and ranchers. Few businesses face such challenges, yet we are charged with producing food, feed, fiber, fuel, and flowers for the 99% of non-farmers. Add in the constant threat and impacts of trespass, theft, and vandalism, and it's a wonder farms and ranches remain viable.

Sadly, agricultural crime is a growing trend in Hawai'i. Farmers and ranchers are often victims of those looking for easy targets. Despite our efforts to install cameras, form community ag watch groups, and patrol our farms, these criminals know that being caught and prosecuted is unlikely. Our police departments are trying to help but don't have the staffing and resources to be everywhere at all times.

In recent years, not only crops and livestock have been stolen, but also tractors, trucks, farm equipment, and tools. Too often, a farmer or rancher has sweated, worried, and worked to the bone to produce a crop or raise livestock, only to wake up one morning to find that an opportunistic criminal has helped themselves to the harvest. Farmers and ranchers are fed up with this activity and frankly, deserve better. We understand that law enforcement resources are often prioritized for public health and safety. Is a farmer's and his family's health, safety, and livelihood any less important? We think not.

HFB suggests that the Department of Law Enforcement be included as part of the Working Group.

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

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/23/2024 12:22:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Yes to; REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING
GROUP TO DISCUSS AGRICULTURE-RELATED ISSUES.

SCR-100

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 11:42:05 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT.

MAHALO!