



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

**‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII**

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, March 29, 2023 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 1488 SD2 HD2 – RELATING TO LIVESTOCK

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1488 SD2 HD2 relating to livestock. The bill requires the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH/CTAHR), to conduct a study to assess the effects of heat stress on beef cattle during interisland ocean transportation.

UH/CTAHR possesses the expertise to conduct the beef cattle interisland ocean transportation study. 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the measure.

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

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**MORRIS M. ATTA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**MARCH 15, 2023**  
**3:00 P.M.**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**SENATE BILL NO.1488, SD2, HD2**

**RELATING TO LIVESTOCK**

Chairperson Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1488, SD2, HD2. Senate Bill 1488, SD2, HD2 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.

The Department supports this measure and appreciates that funding was added back into this version. Objective studies to analyze interisland transport on livestock is needed to evaluate effects and determine optimum processes for the animals and industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**SB-1488-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 12:49:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please restore funding. This needs financial support to be effective.

Mahalo



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March 29, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON SB 1488, SD2, HD2**  
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference  
3:00 PM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, 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 1488, SD2, HD2**, which requires the University of Hawaii 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 Hawaii 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 Hawaii 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.

**SB-1488-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 6:39:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alan Gottlieb	Ponoholo Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important measure

**SB-1488-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 8:35:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sara Moore	Kealia Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1488 as the research this bill would fund has direct importance to our industry and the inter-island shipping of cattle. Animal welfare is a priority to ranchers throughout the lifetime of these animals. It is extremely important that inter-island shipping remain stress-free.

Inter-island shipping of livestock is necessary to support local food production, and needs to be important to all of us.



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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

**SB1488, SD2 HD2**  
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK

Wednesday, March 29, 2023, 3:00 PM  
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

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.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB1488, SD2 HD2** which requires the University of Hawaii 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 and appropriate funds.

Ocean transport is a vital part of the cattle industry supply chain for Hawaii 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 Hawaii 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.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council





# Animal Welfare Institute

900 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20003

March 29, 2023, 3pm

House Finance Committee

**Re: SB 1488 SD2 HD2 RELATING TO LIVESTOCK**

Dear Chair Yamashita and Finance Committee members,

On behalf of the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI)<sup>1</sup> the following testimony is submitted:

AWI would like to take this opportunity to express its **support for SB 1488 SD2 HD2**, which directs the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to conduct a study to assess the effects of heat stress on beef cattle during interisland ocean transportation. CTAHR is supportive of this measure and has the faculty and expertise to conduct this study. We greatly appreciate the House Agriculture Committee reinserting the necessary funding (\$62,500) for this important research to be conducted. This is a small amount of funding to ensure the best outcomes for Hawaii's cattle, based on scientific study, and to benefit the industry and the animals themselves.

The perils of overseas animal transport were underscored in December 2019 when 21 cows perished on a barge traveling from Honolulu to Kauai. Unfortunately, the containers holding the animals were placed too closely together, limiting ventilation, and causing the cattle to slowly die of suffocation during their journey. The cattle were inspected at the port in accordance with Hawai'i regulations for preventing the transmission and introduction of disease, but there were no regulations mandating their care or even requiring that their deaths be reported—the incident only came to light because of a whistleblower. Pressure following this incident prompted the department to propose rules to safeguard the safety of cattle and other ruminants in interisland transport.

For the past year, AWI has led efforts to encourage and assist the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture in promulgating regulations intended to mitigate risks associated with interisland transport, including ventilation restriction and heat stress. In October, the Board of Agriculture considered AWI's proposed amendments to the draft regulations that would have mandated lower stocking density within shipping containers and the provision of shade and water at harbor staging areas—measures that mitigate the risk of severe heat stress in transported animals. The Board concluded that it would not adopt the proposed amendments because it lacked the basic research needed to determine how climactic conditions affect temperatures and humidity inside transport containers. At that meeting, both industry representatives and the Department supported the need for data. SB 1488 would allow the Department to collect the data it needs to determine what measures are necessary to ensure that animals shipped between the islands do not needlessly suffer or die.

AWI would like to highlight for the committee, as it did the Department, an important facet of this issue making the study even more essential. While industry stakeholders and ocean carriers consider a

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<sup>1</sup> The Animal Welfare Institute, founded in 1951 and headquartered in Washington DC, is dedicated to reducing animal suffering and advancing the welfare of all animals, including those raised for food. As part of our mission, we work to improve conditions for farmed animals, including during slaughter. AWI has participated extensively in the development of regulations related to the interisland transport of livestock in Hawai'i.



successful transport one where the animals make it alive from one island to the other, a true understanding of animal welfare is one that accounts for more than just mortality or extreme injury in assessing success. This understanding is based in science, centered on a global one-health perspective advocated most prominently by the World Organisation for Animal Health. The data from this study is necessary to ensure future regulations preclude not only death but also suffering and poor welfare due to heat stress.

AWI believes these measures will become even more necessary in the future because climate change is projected to increase Hawai'i's air and surface water temperatures considerably in the coming decades. In the last 40 years, air temperature in Hawai'i has been increasing by about 0.3°F (0.17°C) per decade and models predict that Hawai'i's temperatures will increase by 4 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit (2.2-2.8 °C) by 2085. The study proposed by HB 1488 is an important first step in ensuring that animals shipped between the islands are not subject to entirely preventable suffering and death resulting from heat stress.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrienne Craig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Adrienne Craig  
Staff Attorney, Farmed Animal Program

**SB-1488-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 5:45:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

comments

**SB-1488-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 11:27:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janet Ashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this important measure which will help determine best practices for keeping livestock healthy during transport.

Thank you for your support of Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

**SB1488, SD2 HD2**  
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK

Wednesday, March 29, 2023, 3:00 PM  
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

By  
Melelani A. Oshiro

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Melelani Oshiro and I am an Extension Agent of livestock programs with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawai'i or CTAHR.

I **strongly support SB1488, SD2 HD2** which requires the University of Hawaii 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.

Transport of livestock via interisland ocean transport is vital to our local livestock industry. Livestock producers put animal welfare at forefront, which this study will support our producers better understand environmental conditions during transport and the impacts post-transport. Furthermore, funding this study will help support the research efforts and dissemination of study findings. Findings from this study can be used to make data-driven decisions pertaining to interisland livestock transport and improve best management practices.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this process.

**SB-1488-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 2:16:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support

**SB-1488-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 5:13:28 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Woody Child	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1488.