

**HB-215**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 9:32:32 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lauren Nickerson	Hawaii Island Humane Society	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As Chief Executive Officer of Hawaii Island Humane Society (HIHS), I stand with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) to oppose the sale of fur products in the State of Hawaii. Data from the HSUS shows that the inhumane and cruelty practices of fur farming result in over 100 million animals being killed for fur each year. It can take approximately 100 animals or more to be killed from one single coat. In addition to the number of animals killed, millions of animals - farmed for fur - spend their entire lives in cramped cages, deprived of the ability to engage in natural behaviors—only to be crudely gassed or electrocuted at the end. Besides being cruel, fur farms also represent a public health concern as they pose a serious risk to human health and have been link to the spread of COVID-19. By preventing the sale of fur products in the state of Hawaii, the lack of demand will result in a diminished supply and reduce cruelty to animals and risks to human health.

HIHS supports SB 682.



February 8, 2023

To: Chair Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates  
Vice Chair Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa  
And Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

Submitted By: Kaua`i Humane Society

RE: HB215: Relating to animal fur products

**Testimony in support.**

I support the House Bill 215 and the campaign to prohibit the sale of certain fur products because of the crowded and inhumane manner of which animals harvested for their coats, like rabbits and chinchillas, are housed in a captive environment. Due to these crowded conditions of fur farms, they act as reservoirs for deadly diseases and viruses and have the potential to also establish new strains, further threatening animals and humans. The harvesting of the fur is performed inhumanely, through gassing and electrocution. If a pet rabbit or chinchilla was in need of euthanasia these two methods of extermination would in no way be deemed acceptable by the pet owner or the veterinarian performing the procedure. The rabbit that brings joy to the classroom is no different than the rabbit that adorns a keychain.

The harvesting of animals for a coat, hat, or keychain is irrelevant to our society today. Hawai`i banned the sales of new cosmetic products tested on animals demonstrating that Hawai`i will not tolerate unnecessary cruelty to animals, like what is seen in fur farms. I urge you to pass House Bill 215. Thank you for considering our testimony.

Respectfully,  
Nicole Schafer Crane  
Executive Director  
Kaua`i Humane Society  
nicole@kauaihumane.org

**HB-215**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 10:57:10 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephen MacKinnon	Maui Humane Society	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Maui Humane Society strongly supports this effort in eliminating the use of animal fur. Research and past practices have all shown there is no need for such a practice and fails to recognize the inhumane and cruel circumstances in which animals are raised and slaughtered to achieve these products. We encourage our legislators to adopt this bill for the welfare of all animals in our care.

Thank you for your consideration.

Stephen MacKinnon, CEO, Maui Humane Society

**HB-215**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 11:39:10 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<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:

The fur industry uses both snares and traps as well as battery cages; It engages in cruel and painful methods of killing such as vaginal electrocution and in some countries, animals are skinned alive. Hawai'i should end its connection with this industry, which also pollutes land and water with chemicals used to tan the hides/fur. Please pass HB215

**HB-215**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 10:37:26 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Tyson-Griffin	Born Free USA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

Bill HB215

On behalf of Born Free USA and our thousands of supporters, I encourage you to pass this important bill in the interests of animal welfare and public health.

Fur farming is undeniably cruel and causes extensive suffering to millions of innocent animals globally each year. Animals in fur farms endure short, miserable lives during which they experience stress, disease, injury, and often painful death by electrocution, among other killing methods. Meanwhile, fur itself is falling out of fashion with designers, retailers and consumers turning their back on it in favor of humane fashion alternatives. Indeed, polling has shown that the majority of Hawaii residents support an end to fur sales.

In addition to the inevitable cruelty of fur farming, the way in which animals are farmed for their fur creates environmental impacts including effluent runoff into the local areas surrounding the farms and presents serious risk of disease spread from animal to human. It is now well known that minks on fur farms have been a source of spread of COVID-19 and health experts have warned in the last few weeks that avian flu may now also be passed on via mammals in fur farms, creating the risk of another pandemic.

Trapping for fur has often been cited by the fur industry as being more humane than fur farming but our undercover investigations have shown that trapping causes different, but equally cruel suffering to its animal victims. An [undercover investigation](#) released by Born Free USA last year showed racoons caught in painful leghold traps being repeatedly bludgeoned with baseball bats by trappers.

There is no humane side to the fur trade and only prohibiting its production and sale will ensure that both animals and people are protected from the myriad harms caused by the industry.

I urge you to make the compassionate choice and allow HB215 to pass.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Tyson-Griffin – Programs Director

Born Free USA



Animal Welfare.  
Worldwide.

## Re: Testimony in support of HB 215, Relating to Animal Fur Products

Dear Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems,

Four Paws USA respectfully urges all committee members to vote yes on HB 215 at the upcoming committee hearing. HB 215, the animal fur products bill, would end the sale of new fur products in Hawaii.

Consumers today have become more aware of how animals are inhumely treated and cruelly killed for their fur, along with the environmental degradation caused by the fur industry, and they are seeking to buy clothing, shoes, and accessories that are as ethically produced as they are functional and stylish. This momentum is prompting cities, states, and countries around the world to ban the sale and production of fur, and is leading fashion brands, retailers, and designers to end the use of fur in fashion once and for all.

It is well established that animal cruelty is inherent in the fur industry and over 100 million animals are killed annually for their fur. On fur factory farms, wild animals spend their entire lives in cramped cages, deprived of the ability to engage in natural behaviors. These animals are then killed in inhumane ways - such as crude gassing, anal/genital electrocution and neck breaking - to preserve the quality of their pelts.

In the wild, animals are often caught in crippling leg-hold traps for days without food or water. These animals often die slowly by drowning, predation, shock, injury or blood loss. If they are found alive, they are frequently clubbed or suffocated to death in order to preserve their pelt's value. These archaic traps are indiscriminate, often maiming and killing non-target animals, like endangered species and even pets.

The fur industry poses serious environmental threats and risks to public safety as well. On fur factory farms, waste runoff from animals pollutes the soil and waterways. The tanning and dying process uses toxic and carcinogenic chemicals, like chromium and formaldehyde, to prevent the skin from decaying. Furthermore, it is vitally important to consider the zoonotic risk factors and public health concerns posed by fur farms. Like humans, minks are incredibly sensitive to respiratory illnesses, and mink farms have proved to be a perfect breeding ground for the spread of COVID-19. Millions of minks on fur farms around the world, including at least 18 farms in the U.S., were infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus which causes COVID-19. Mutated strains of the virus in minks then infected dozens of people, resulting in warnings from disease prevention experts that the evolution of the virus in mink could undermine the effectiveness of future vaccines in humans.

By passing HB 215 and eliminating the sale of new fur products, Hawaii has the opportunity to continue as a leader in supporting animal welfare, public health, and environmental protection in the U.S.

Sincerely,

Melanie Lary  
*Research and Campaigns Officer*

### FOUR PAWS USA

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tax ID: 27-4352918

# Support HB 215/SB 682 to end fur sales which harm animals, people and the planet

Changes in global legislation, fashion industry policy and public perception are swiftly making fur production a piece of unjust history. Hawai'i has an opportunity to align with best global practice policy to protect fur-bearing animals, natural environments, and human health.

## **HB 215 and SB 682 create important and progressive policy in line with public expectations**

The vast majority of luxury and mainstream fashion brands have banned the sale of fur, with a growing number of countries banning its production, while other governments ban its sale. These policies are becoming more common as the fur industry's immense impact becomes clearer to the public, who expect responsible policy-making. On both sides of the political spectrum, [recent polling](#) showed a supermajority of voters in Hawai'i support legislation to end the sale of new fur products, as is proposed.

## **Fur production is an environmental disaster which harms efforts for sustainable production**

Up to six times more CO2 is emitted in the production of a mink fur coat than even a synthetic fur coat, while bio-based and recycled faux fur options are even more environmentally preferred. Fur must be treated before use, rendering it non-biodegradable due to the use of carcinogenic substances including chromium and formaldehyde. While fur factory-farms cause major eutrophication and even waterway 'dead zone' risks due to ammonia and phosphorus pollution, fur trapping negatively impacts critical biodiversity which must be protected, in line with COP15 targets.

## **The sale of fur funds immense cruelty to animals**

Each year, as many as 100 million animals are bred to be killed for fur coats, trimmed jackets, bobble key rings and other items which can be made with alternative materials. 95% of fur comes from factory-farms where wild animals are deprived of their most natural instincts. While foxes are confined to cages as much as one million square meters smaller than their roaming habitat, mink and other confined animals self-mutilate due to their psychological distress. Animals are gassed or inserted with electrodes for slaughter at as young as 6 months old.

While some brands refer to 'farm-free' fur as more ethical, animals like coyotes and lynx are known to chew their own legs off, breaking their teeth in efforts to escape foot-hold traps. These traps are indiscriminate, posing serious risks to endangered species populations.

## **Fur production endangers the health of workers and our global community**

While workers processing furs for use face acute risks of chronic health conditions and even cancer due to chemical exposure, those on fur farms are at risk of zoonotic disease contraction. Zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19 have spread and mutated from countless fur farms, due to the poor conditions animals are kept in. Additionally, product testing across numerous countries has found hazardous chemicals breaching legal standards to be present, rubbing onto the skin of people who purchase fur.

Contact: Emma Hakansson, founding director, Collective Fashion Justice  
[emma@collectivefashionjustice.org](mailto:emma@collectivefashionjustice.org)

All references available at: <https://www.collectivefashionjustice.org/fur>





**HB-215**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 12:18:23 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support. Thank you.

**HB-215**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 1:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephanie McLaughlin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this important bill which will help animals from needless suffering.

**HB-215**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 2:13:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Selene Mersereau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill.  
Thank you Selene - Kailua

**HB-215**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 3:19:00 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elaine Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**In support of this proposal as drafted**



Animal Defenders International

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www.adiusa.org usa@ad-international.org

**In support of Hawaii HB215/ SB682  
to prohibit the sale, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, or distribution of certain  
animal fur products in the State**

[Animal Defenders International](#) (ADI)<sup>1</sup> offers the following in strong support of HB215/ SB682, to prohibit the sale, offer for sale, display for sale, trade or distribution of certain animal fur products in the state, with our thanks to its numerous introducing sponsors (Representatives Takayama, Amato, Cochran, Ganaden, Hussey-Burdick, Ichiyama, Kitagawa, Lowen, Marten, Matayoshi, Nishimoto, Perruso, Poepoe, Takenouchi, Tam, Tarnas, Todd, Chun, and Kapela and Senators Keohokalole, McKelvey, and Rhoads). If passed, Hawaii would join a growing list of nations,<sup>2</sup> the state of California, and numerous fashion leaders in saying no to fur industry cruelty and its public health risks.

[Michael Kors and Jimmy Choo debuted a luxurious cruelty-free alternative](#) in 2018, noting that with “*technological advances in fabrications, we now have the ability to create a luxe aesthetic using non-animal fur.*”<sup>3</sup> Other design icons who have committed to innovative fur-free fashion include Armani, Banana Republic, Burberry, Burlington Coat Factory, Calvin Klein, Coach, Diane von Furstenberg, DKNY, Dolce and Gabbana, Gucci, H&M, Hugo Boss, Ralph Lauren, Stella McCartney, Tommy Hilfiger, Valentino, Versace, and Zara. The fashion world can and is already moving on.

Covid-19 exposed this industry as a serious contagion risk, and the reactionary culling of millions is a tragedy that ignores the real problem. The terrible events of the past couple of years have underscored the need and stirred calls worldwide for transformational change in the way humans trade in, consume, impact, and too often abuse nature.

**The farming, trade and consumption of wildlife and wildlife-derived products (for ... fur and other products) have led to biodiversity loss, and emerging diseases, including SARS and COVID-19. ... high pandemic risk consumption patterns (e.g. use of fur from farmed wildlife)<sup>4</sup>**

**There is no future for business as usual ... To successfully address [these challenges] will require tackling the ... drivers of nature loss - ... trade, production and consumption ... and the values and behaviours of society.<sup>5</sup>**

Studies show the fur industry presents high climate and environmental costs, with significant emissions and land use requirements, as well as air and water pollutants emanating from animal waste (nitrogen, phosphorus), incineration (carbon monoxide, hydrochloric acid, sulphur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides), and tanning processes. Industrial animal farms are “extremely energy intensive ... requir[ing] disproportionately large inputs of fossil fuels.”<sup>6</sup> In 2012, the Advertising Standards Authority banned a fur ad (run by the European Fur Breeders Association), concluding that the ad’s claim that fur is ‘eco-friendly’ was misleading.<sup>7</sup>

**To produce 1 kg of fur requires more than 11 animals. ... Compared with textiles, fur has a higher impact on 17 of 18 environmental themes, including climate change, eutrophication and toxic emissions. In many cases fur scores markedly worse than textiles. ... The climate change impact of 1 kg of mink fur is five times higher than that of the highest-scoring textile ... This impact is not only high compared with other textiles. There are not many raw materials scoring this high per kg on climate change; the score of mink fur is similar to that of materials involving high fuel consumption, or solvents for extraction (e.g. precious**

metals). With an emission factor of about 110 kg CO<sub>2</sub> eq. per kg fur, the impact on climate change equals a car drive of over 1,250 km. ... For land occupation, fur scores far higher than the other textiles. ... Two environmental impacts affect (local) air quality ... On both of these, fur scores far higher than the other textiles. ... Even in a conservative approach, the environmental impacts of 1 kg fur ... are a factor 2 to 28 times higher than those of common textiles. This is a very clear and consistent result, with indicator categories all pointing in the same direction.<sup>8</sup>

When people buy fur, they buy cruelty, not luxury or beauty. ADI investigations reveal nightmarish fur industry standard practices, where animals' miserable lives in cramped, filthy cages meet brutal, abrupt ends, by electrocution (to their anus or genitals), suffocation, broken necks, or worse. We include here for your consideration, links to several ADI reports and videos ~ [A Lifetime: living and dying on a fur farm report](#)<sup>9</sup> and its [related video](#);<sup>10</sup> [Never Humane: Tragedy of the fox who almost got away](#);<sup>11</sup> and [Bloody Harvest: the real cost of fur](#).<sup>12</sup> It's time to end this horrific practice.

We hope this informs your review, and we urge you to support HB215/ SB682, to join other leaders toward cruelty-free fashion innovation. Many thanks for your time and consideration.

**Animal Defenders International**  
[www.ad-international.org](http://www.ad-international.org)

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<sup>1</sup> [www.ad-international.org](http://www.ad-international.org)

<sup>2</sup> Fur Farming bans: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands (moved up from a 2024 effective date due to covid outbreaks on fur farms there), Slovenia, and the UK. Similar measures under consideration: Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Estonia, Ireland, Lithuania, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine. Ban on breeding for fur: Hungary. Ban on mink imports: New Zealand. Ban on mink, fox, chinchilla fur skins imports: India. Fur trade/sales ban: California (US), Sao Paolo (Brazil).

<sup>3</sup> As reported by Georgia Murray in *Is this the Biggest Move in Banning Fur to Date?* yahoo!/sports (January 16, 2018), available at <https://sports.yahoo.com/biggest-move-banning-fur-date-180000485.html>.

<sup>4</sup> IPBES Pandemics Report on Biodiversity and Pandemics, Executive Summary (2020), available at <https://ipbes.net/pandemics>

<sup>5</sup> World Economic Forum's *New Nature Economy Report* series: *The Future of Nature and Business* (2020), available at [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_The\\_Future\\_Of\\_Nature\\_And\\_Business\\_2020.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_The_Future_Of_Nature_And_Business_2020.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production, *Putting Meat on the Table: Industrial Farm Animal Production in America, Executive Summary* (2008), available at [https://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/assets/2008/pcfap\\_exec-summary.pdf](https://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/assets/2008/pcfap_exec-summary.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> As reported by Mark Sweney in *'Eco-friendly' fur ad banned. Fur breeders' campaign ruled misleading by ASA*, The Guardian (March 2012), available at <https://www.theguardian.com/media/2012/mar/21/eco-friendly-fur-ad-banned>.

<sup>8</sup> Bijleveld, Korteland, Sevenster. *The Environmental impact of mink fur production*. Delft. (January 2011), available at [https://www.cedelft.eu/publicatie/the\\_environmental\\_impact\\_of\\_mink\\_fur\\_production/1131](https://www.cedelft.eu/publicatie/the_environmental_impact_of_mink_fur_production/1131).

<sup>9</sup> *A Lifetime: living and dying on a fur farm*, Animal Defenders International Report (2017), available at [https://www.ad-international.org/admin/downloads/adi\\_f4d655d1c535636ff5fab85010358c7d.pdf](https://www.ad-international.org/admin/downloads/adi_f4d655d1c535636ff5fab85010358c7d.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> *Exposed: The tragic short lives of foxes on a fur farm*, Animal Defenders International (2017), available at <https://www.ad-international.org/fur/go.php?id=4440&ssi=19>.

<sup>11</sup> *Never Humane: tragedy of the fox who almost got away*, Animal Defenders International (2017), available at <https://www.ad-international.org/fur/go.php?id=4455&ssi=19>.

<sup>12</sup> *Bloody Harvest: the real cost of fur*, Animal Defenders International (2010), available at <https://www.ad-international.org/publications/go.php?id=1836>.

**HB-215**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 5:30:15 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
AMANDA FOX	Animal Rights Initiative	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Members of the Legislature,

My name is Amanda Fox and I am the Executive Director of Animal Rights Initiative, a 501(c)3 non-profit operating in Hawaii. Thank you for your open-mindedness on this very important legislation, HB 215.

As representatives of Hawaii, you're likely already familiar with the beauty of our natural world. But when it comes to fur, there is an ugly truth hidden behind the luxurious illusions.

Mink, foxes, chinchillas and more are suffering on fur farms. These animals are anally and vaginally electrocuted and their skin is ripped off while they are still conscious. This cruelty is unacceptable, and HB 215 would ban the sale of fur in Hawaii and protect animals from such intense suffering.

This isn't just about preserving animals—it's about preserving our humanity. Recently, a virus (H5N1 "bird flu") was transmitted between mink and later found to have had a 56% mortality rate in humans. In response, with growing calls to close mink farms to prevent an apocalyptic pandemic, Hawaii has the chance to be a leader in animal protection.

We can be a roadpaver in this area by passing HB 215 and standing for the humane treatment of animals. Thank you for joining me in supporting the compassionate solution by passing this bill to protect minks and all animals.

Respectfully,  
Amanda Fox



**Hawaiian Humane Society**  
*People for animals. Animals for people.*

2700 Waiālae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826  
808.356.2200 • [HawaiianHumane.org](http://HawaiianHumane.org)

Date: Feb. 8, 2023

To: Chair Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates  
Vice Chair Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa  
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Director of Community Engagement  
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in support of HB 215: Relating to Animal Fur Products  
Friday, Feb. 10, 2023, 10:00 a.m., Room 325 & Videoconference

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Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for House Bill 215, which prohibits the sale, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, or distribution of certain animal fur products in the State effective Jan. 1, 2024.

The Hawaiian Humane Society works to protect animals from cruelty, neglect and suffering. The fur industry confines animals in inhumane conditions only to slaughter them for use by the fashion industry.

Most of the animals harvested for their pelts are undomesticated. Hawaiian Humane believes that wild animals generally should be permitted to exist undisturbed in their natural environments. While this is primarily out of concern for animal welfare, it is also appropriate from a One Health perspective, which recognizes the relationships between threats to people, domestic animals, wildlife, and their shared environment. Shrinking the consumer market for these goods discourages the existence of fur farms, protecting people and animals from a source of zoonotic disease transmission.

Mahalo for your consideration of our support for this measure.



**HB-215**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 4:45:16 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carole R. Richelieu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill limits the civil liability of good Samaritans who render emergency nonmedical care and emergency nonmedical assistance to animals during an emergency. It goes without saying that such compassion should not be discouraged by fear of civil liability.

**HB-215**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 9:13:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Animals that are slaughtered for their fur endure tremendous suffering. Animals raised on fur farms typically spend their entire lives in cramped and filthy cages. Fur farmers typically use the cheapest killing methods available, including suffocation, electrocution, gas, and poison.

Furthermore, fur farms are known reservoirs and transmission vectors for dangerous zoonotic disease, including SARS coronaviruses, that threaten public health. COVID—19 infections have been confirmed at fur farms in Europe and the United States, and scientific studies have linked mink, raccoon dogs, and foxes, animals most commonly farmed for fur, to a variety of coronaviruses.

The fur production process is energy intensive and has a significant environmental impact, including air and water pollution. Runoff from the fur production process contains high concentrations of phosphorus and nitrogen, which are among the most common forms of water pollution in the United States.

The demand for fur products does not justify the unnecessary killing and cruel treatment of animals, harm to the environment, and the public health risks created by these practices. Banning the sale of fur products in Hawai‘i will decrease the industry demand for these cruel and environmentally harmful products and promote community awareness of animal welfare.

**HB-215**

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:18:58 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

**HB-215**

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:50:53 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marian Hussenbux	Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We would like to strongly support [HB215](#) **Relating to Animal Fur Products:**

This measure prohibits the sale, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, or distribution of certain animal fur products in the State effective Jan. 1, 2024.

Animal Interfaith Alliance campaigns in Britain for a similar Bill. Even if we have no fur farms, condoning the breeding, captivity, lack of care and cruel destruction of defenceless animals should give us all shame.

This is a luxury product it is difficult to defend in a modern and enlightened society.



**Support for HB215/SB682 Prohibiting the Sale of Fur Products  
Testimony**

**Susan Rhee, Hawai'i State Director  
The Humane Society of the United States**

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Susan Rhee and I am the Hawai'i State Director for the Humane Society of the United States. On behalf of my organization and our Hawai'i supporters, I ask you to please vote in favor of HB215/SB682. This important bill will end the sale of new fur products in Hawai'i, while providing commonsense exemptions such as for used fur products as well as for cultural use.

Each year, more than 100 million animals are killed solely to be turned into fur coats, keychains, and poms on hats. The majority of these animals, like foxes, mink, and chinchillas, are held captive by the thousands in fur factory farms where they suffer from extreme neglect in cramped cages. Investigations from multiple countries, including China, the world's largest exporter of fur products, show these animals in deplorable conditions, riddled with disease, open wounds, and dead animals left for extended periods of time in cages alongside other animals. The methods for killing these animals are just as gruesome, including electrocution and gassing, to keep costs low and not damage pelts.

Even in the U.S., fur factory farms are not subject to required inspections and little to no federal regulations hold these facilities accountable to basic animal welfare standards that other farm-raised animals benefit from. In the wild, fur-bearing animals are caught in cruel and indiscriminate steel-jawed leghold traps, where they often languish for days without food or water and may chew off their own limbs in an effort to escape. Ever trapping season, we hear of endangered or threatened species, as well as people's pets, that are killed or maimed in these archaic traps.

The fur industry also causes major environmental pollution. Not only does the tanning and dyeing process use toxic chemicals like formaldehyde and chromium to prevent skin decay, but the runoff from animals on fur factory farms pollutes waterways and soil. Many of these chemicals are known carcinogens and are harmful to their surrounding communities.

While it's disturbing to hear the reality of where fur comes from, Hawai'i has a chance to take an affirmative stand against the cruel practices and environmental harm inherent in the fur industry. The concern for animal welfare continues to grow in Hawaii and across the States, and consumers increasingly want products that do not involve animal cruelty. Major fashion brands across the world are hearing this consumer demand and adopting fur-policies, along with developing innovative, bio-based materials that can replace fur and other fabrics with environmentally-friendly alternatives.

This statewide legislation to end the sale of new fur products is essential for Hawai'i to do our part to help end animal suffering at the hands of the fur industry. For all of these reasons, we respectfully ask that the members of this committee support the passage of HB215/SB682. Thank you for your consideration.

**HB-215**

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 7:51:17 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson Asuega Gates and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems.

I am Jennifer Chiwa, have lived on Oahu my whole life and currently reside in Makiki.

Please support HB 215 relating to animal fur products. I strongly agree with statements and conclusions as expressed in this bill. I agree that animals suffer cruelty when raised only to be slaughtered for their fur, that fur farms aid in the spread of diseases such as coronaviruses and that fur production contributes to air and water pollution. I further agree that prohibiting the trade of certain fur products would be an advancement in animal welfare and would be beneficial to both public health and the environment.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration of support for HB 215.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki



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Cotati, California 94931

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February 9, 2023

**Memorandum of Support – HB215**

*An Act relating to animal fur products.*

The Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF), the nation's preeminent legal advocacy organization for animals, appreciates the opportunity to submit this memorandum in support of HB215, a bill to prohibit the sale of new fur products in the state of Hawaii. The organization's mission is to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the legal system. We are working nationwide to combat the cruel fur industry across multiple legal channels.

HB215 would make it unlawful to sell a new fur product in the state. If passed, Hawaii would be the second state in the country to take a strong stance against the cruel and unnecessary fur trade within its borders.

**Fur requires significant animal cruelty.**

Millions of animals, including foxes, wolves, minks, and rabbits, are brutally killed every year so people can wear their fur. Whether trapped in the wild or bred to die on fur farms, animals exploited by the fur industry endure tremendous suffering. Animals on fur farms are confined to tiny wire cages for their entire lives.

Oftentimes, these cages are outdoors – stacked in wooden sheds that provide no protection from the heat or cold. Unable to engage in any of their natural behaviors, these animals routinely resort to self-mutilation, obsessive pacing, and infanticide. Fur farms kill animals through gassing, electrocution, neck-breaking, and poisoning. Undercover investigations on fur farms have documented egregious cruelty – including animals being skinned alive.

Wild animals trapped for their fur also suffer. Trapping is largely regulated at the state level, and most states provide minimal protections for fur-bearing animals. In some states, it is legal to set a trap and not check it for days. Desperate and terrified, animals will sometimes chew their own legs off in an attempt to escape. Trappers shoot, strangle, and bludgeon trapped animals.

**Fur puts our environment at risk.**

The fur industry also poses serious environmental threats. On fur factory farms, waste runoff from animals pollutes the soil and waterways. The tanning and dyeing process uses toxic and carcinogenic chemicals, like chromium and formaldehyde, to prevent the skin from decaying.

Studies have found that among synthetic and natural textiles, fur is the worst-offending in 17 of the 18 environmental categories considered. The studies also found that the climate change impact of mink fur is five times higher than the second worst-offending textile (wool) and six times higher than a faux-fur alternative. This is largely due to the feed, land use, toxicity, and manure of the fur industry.

Fortunately, innovative technology has produced an array of alternatives with the same warmth, look and feel as fur – without the cruelty or environmental concerns.

**All our clients are innocent**

Printed on recycled paper

**Fur alternatives exist.**

There is no justification to continue to breed or trap and kill animals for their fur considering the availability of faux fur and alternative products that are virtually indistinguishable from animal fur. So indistinguishable that, in 2017, we called for a Baltimore furrier to be investigated for false advertising when they used an image of a faux fur jacket from the HBO series Game of Thrones to advertise the animal furs in their store.

**Fur-free policies are on the rise.**

Consumers' concern for the animal cruelty and environmental threats from fur is leading fashion brands and legislators away from animal fur.

Hundreds of retailers, brands, and designers at all price points have announced fur-free policies, including: Macy's, Bloomingdale's, Gucci, Prada, Chanel, Coach, Burberry, Versace, Michael Kors, Armani, Calvin Klein, Kenneth Cole, Ralph Lauren, and JCPenney.

In 2019, California became the first state in the nation to ban the sale of fur, which went into effect this year. Abroad, multiple European countries, including Germany, Austria, Croatia, and the United Kingdom are in the process of phasing out or have already banned fur farming. São Paulo, Brazil also banned the sale of fur products in 2015.

**Hawaii, time to go fur-free.**

The sale of fur products in Hawaii is inconsistent with its position as a leader on animal welfare and environmental issues. By passing HB215, Hawaii will lead the fur-free charge while reinforcing the shift to fur-free products that is occurring in the fashion industry. Hawaii should seize this opportunity to more closely align the state's laws with its values. Please help make Hawaii the next state to go fur-free by advancing this important legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Vierheilig  
Legislative Affairs Program Fellow  
Animal Legal Defense Fund  
[lvierheilig@aldf.org](mailto:lvierheilig@aldf.org)



**HB-215**

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 8:07:55 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Erin Sunahara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Fur sale should be banned.

**HB-215**

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 8:18:10 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Feel Ideal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

the fur industry is cruel. wearing fur is totally unnecessary, especially in a tropical place like Hawaii. please ban the sale of it here. there is no aloha in it. thanks.



February 9, 2023

The Honorable Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems  
Hawaii House of Representatives

Dear Rep. Gates and Members of the Committee:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally, including more than 21,000 in Hawaii—to urge the House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems to support HB 215. This lifesaving legislation would ban the sale of new fur products, preventing countless animals from being violently killed.

For decades, PETA entities have exposed horrific cruelty to animals on fur farms around the world. Investigators have documented that animals are electrocuted, bludgeoned, gassed, and even skinned alive—all just to make a coat, a collar, or a trinket. Minks and other animals exploited for fur are typically confined to filthy, cramped wire cages for their entire lives, and the intensive confinement causes many to exhibit symptoms of “zoochosis,” or captivity-induced insanity, such as frantic pacing, circling, gnawing on cage bars, and even self-mutilation. Virologists and epidemiologists confirm that cramming sick and stressed animals together in unsanitary conditions creates the perfect breeding grounds for dangerous zoonotic diseases, which can jump to humans. It's no surprise that the horrid conditions on fur factory farms have led to mink-related outbreaks of COVID-19 in a number of countries, including the U.S. as well as Canada, Denmark, Greece, the Netherlands, and Spain. Denmark alone killed all *17 million* minks on its fur factory farms after a mutant strain of the virus spread from minks to humans.

Passing HB 215 would send a strong message to the rest of the world that killing animals for their fur has no place in a compassionate society. Even before the pandemic, fur was a dying industry, and the movement against it is gaining momentum. Hundreds of major designers and retailers—such as Dolce & Gabbana, Saks Fifth Avenue, Macy's, Chanel, Prada, Gucci, Versace, and Michael Kors—have banned it, and so has the state of California. In addition, more than a dozen countries have banned fur farming.

Hawaii is forward-thinking, as you've proved by banning wild-animal acts in circuses. You now have another opportunity to set a compassionate example, by supporting HB 215.

Sincerely,

Tracy Reiman  
Executive Vice President

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

[Washington](#)

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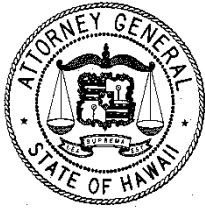
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- [PETA Asia](#)
- [PETA India](#)
- [PETA France](#)
- [PETA Australia](#)
- [PETA Germany](#)
- [PETA Netherlands](#)
- [PETA Foundation \(U.K.\)](#)



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA  
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 215, RELATING TO ANIMAL FUR PRODUCTS.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

**DATE:** Friday, February 10, 2023 **TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 325

**TESTIFIER(S):** Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or  
Jennifer D. Waihee-Polk or Bryan C. Yee, Deputy Attorneys  
General

---

Chair Gates and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General offers the following comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the sale, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, or distribution of certain animal fur products in the State.

As the bill does not identify the agency responsible for the new chapter, enforcement of the prohibition remains unclear. To remove confusion, we recommend the bill identify a department to enforce the prohibition.

We note that the Department of Land and Natural Resources currently enforces a similar statute prohibiting the sale of animal products (including fur) of certain wildlife under section 183D-66, Hawaii Revised Statutes. If the Committee wishes to similarly place the enforcement of this prohibition with the Department of Land and Natural Resources, we recommend amending page 2, line 15, to page 5, line 16, to read as follows:

"SECTION 2. [~~The~~] Chapter 183D, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
is amended by adding to part V a new [~~chapter~~] section to be  
appropriately designated and to read as follows:

**[~~"CHAPTER~~**  
**~~ANIMAL FUR PRODUCTS~~]**

**~~"§183D-[4] [Definitions-] Animal fur products.~~** (a) As used in this [~~chapter-;~~] section:

"Fur" means any animal skin or part thereof with hair, fleece, or fur fibers attached thereto, either in its raw or processed state.

"Fur product" means any article of clothing or covering for any part of the body, or any fashion accessory, including but not limited to handbags, shoes, slippers, hats, earmuffs, scarves, shawls, gloves, jewelry, keychains, toys or trinkets, and home accessories and decor that is made in whole or in part of fur. "Fur product" does not include any of the following:

- (1) An animal skin or part thereof that is to be converted into leather, or which in processing will have the hair, fleece, or fiber completely removed;
- (2) Cowhide with the hair attached thereto;
- (3) Deerskin with the hair attached thereto;
- (4) Lambskin or sheepskin with the fleece attached thereto; or
- (5) The pelt or skin of any animal that is preserved through taxidermy or for the purpose of taxidermy.

"Nonprofit organization" means any corporation that is organized under title 26 United States Code section 501(c)(3) and is created for charitable, religious, philanthropic, educational, or similar purposes.

"Taxidermy" means the practice of preparing and preserving the skin of an animal that is deceased and stuffing and mounting it in lifelike form.

"Ultimate consumer" means an individual who buys a fur product for the individual's own use, or for the use of another, but not for resale or trade.

"Used fur product" means a fur product that has been worn or used by an ultimate consumer.

~~§ 2 Trade of animal fur products prohibited.~~ (a) (b) It shall be unlawful to sell, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, or otherwise distribute for monetary or nonmonetary consideration a fur product in Hawaii.

~~(b)~~ (c) For purposes of this section, the sale, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, or ~~otherwise distribute~~ distribution for monetary or nonmonetary consideration of a fur product shall be deemed to occur in the State if:

- (1) The buyer takes physical possession of the fur product in the State; or
- (2) The seller is located in the State.

~~§ 3 Exemptions.~~ (d) The prohibition in ~~section 2~~ this section shall not apply to the sale, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, or distribution of:

- (1) A used fur product by an individual, excluding a retail transaction; nonprofit organization; or second-hand store, including a pawn shop;
- (2) A fur product used in the exercise of traditional and customary rights protected pursuant to article XII, section 7, of the Hawaii State Constitution; or
- (3) A fur product where the activity is expressly authorized by federal law.

~~§ 4 Penalties.~~ (e) Any person who violates this ~~chapter~~ section shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000. Each fur product sold, offered for sale, displayed for sale, traded, or distributed in violation of this ~~chapter~~ section and each day on which any such violation occurs shall constitute a separate offense."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**HB-215**

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 9:16:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB215, thereby adding Hawaii to the other states and municipalities which prohibit sale of fur products. Production of fur products involves immense suffering of the animals used to produce the fur.

Thank you.

Jane E Arnold

1763 Iwi Way, Apt D

Honolulu, HI 96816

**HB-215**

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 9:22:07 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Courtney Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB215 as I feel strongly that animals should not be used as a fur resource for commercial use. Animals raised as livestock, and even domestic animals within the fur trade (rabbits) deserve to be treated fairly and especially so if raised in situations where other animals are kept (i.e farms, slaughter houses, breeder residencies). Breeding and raising animals for fur could also pose as a health hazard for those working in the field, contracting and spreading illnesses to their community and other animals as well. This bill would be helping animals as well as various communities maintain good health and relationships with animals of all species.





**HUMANE SOCIETY  
VETERINARY MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION.**

February 9, 2023

Hawaii State Capitol  
House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems  
Honolulu, HI

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CVT, VTS (ECC)  
Derry, NH

**RE: VETERINARY SUPPORT for Banning Fur Sales in Hawaii HB 215**

Dear Chairman Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA), I am writing to express our strong support for banning fur sales and manufacturing in the state of Hawaii. HSVMA is an association of more than 9,000 veterinary medical professionals worldwide focused on the health and welfare of all animals, including those species raised for their fur.

As experts in the field of animal health and welfare, we recognize that there are severe animal welfare deficiencies inherent in the fur trade, including the ways in which the animals are cruelly trapped, housed, and killed. We also have serious concerns about disease transmission through susceptible fur-farmed animal populations, such as mink, fox and raccoon dogs, as well as the possibility of contagious disease spread between these animal species and humans. For these reasons, we support ending this archaic and inhumane industry and strongly endorse passage of a statewide fur sales ban in Hawaii.

**Inhumane Housing and improper Husbandry at Fur Farms**

More than 100 million animals worldwide, including foxes, chinchillas, minks, raccoon dogs and rabbits, are killed for their fur every year. The majority of these animals (around 85%) are raised in very small cage systems that fail to satisfy many of their most basic needs, particularly their need to display normal behaviors essential to their mental and physical well-being.

Investigations on fur farms worldwide--including those considered "certified" to maintain higher animal welfare standards--reveal distressing evidence of persistently poor welfare conditions. Species such as fox and mink retain their basic wild needs regardless of being bred and kept in captivity, and it is highly inaccurate for the fur industry to refer to an arctic fox bred on a fur farm as a 'domesticated' animal that has environmental and behavioral needs different from its wild relatives.

Wild animals on fur farms spend their lives in wire-floored cages thousands of times smaller than their natural territories. They are denied the opportunity to express natural behaviors such as hunting, digging and swimming. They are often kept in unnatural social groups; for example, mink are forced to live in extremely close proximity to one another which would be highly unlikely in the wild. The contrived and inhumane living conditions on fur farms inevitably lead animals to suffer severe psychological distress. Instances of unproductive repetitive behaviors, a sign of compromised psychological well-being, have been well-documented on fur farms, as have cannibalism, untreated wounds, foot deformities and eye infections.



HUMANE SOCIETY  
VETERINARY MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION.

**Cruel Trapping of Fur-Bearers in the Wild and Inhumane Slaughter on Fur Farms**

Other welfare deficiencies inherent in the fur industry include the trapping methods used to capture animals in the wild. Some species are targeted with crippling leg-hold traps which are not sanctioned by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) or the HSVMA. Once trapped, animals are often left to languish for long periods of time without food or water before they are killed. Meanwhile, fur factory farms crudely gas or even anally electrocute animals.

**One Health Concerns for Disease Transmission through Fur Farming**

During the current global pandemic, SARS-CoV-2, the virus which causes COVID-19 in humans, has spread through hundreds of fur farms in 11 countries – including the U.S. – and has resulted in government-ordered killing of nearly 20 million mink to date in order to try to stem the outbreak. Genetic analysis from some of these fur farms has shown that sick workers introduced SARS CoV-2 to mink and, at least in the Netherlands and Denmark, that mink had passed it back to fur farm workers. In addition, USDA-confirmed outbreaks on farms in Oregon, Utah, Wisconsin, and Michigan have similarly resulted in the deaths of thousands of mink.

Given the structural design of fur farms SARS-CoV-2 can not only circulate on the farms but the farms could also spread the virus to wild mink and other species in the local environment, creating the potential for a reservoir for the disease. This creates a long-term risk of the virus recirculating--not only in mink, but in people as well. Based on all these factors, mink farms present a serious public health hazard in the United States.

**Fashion Industry Turns to Fur Alternatives to Satisfy Consumer Demand**

Consumer concern for animal welfare has already led many fashion brands to stop using animal fur once and for all. These companies recognize that contemporary alternatives to fur provide luxury, warmth and style without animal cruelty. In 2018 alone, well-known brands such as Chanel, Coach, Burberry, Versace and Donna Karan joined Gucci, Michael Kors and Armani in announcing fur-free policies. Legislative bans help hasten and solidify this positive transition while driving the development of more humane alternatives to fur.

Hawaii has a progressive history regarding animal welfare measures and we hope it will soon include banning fur sales in the Aloha State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Barbara Hodges'.

Barbara Hodges, DVM, MBA  
HSVMA Program Director, Advocacy & Outreach

**HB-215**

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:50:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sara Armstrong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the House Committee on Agriculture

(Relating to Animal Fur Products)

In support of HB215

I am against the sale of fur products as these products are the result of extreme suffering and can therefore never be considered truly beautiful. Please pass HB215

Sara Armstrong

Pearl City Resident

**HB-215**

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 6:51:39 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ali Mize	Neiman Marcus Group	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Honorable Cedric Gates

Chair, House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

Hawaii State Capitol

Honolulu, HI 96813

Cc: Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

Statement of Support of HB 215

Dear Chair Gates:

Since Neiman Marcus is a board member of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii, I'm writing to show our support for HB 215, which will prohibit the sale of animal fur products in Hawaii.

There is a growing concern for animal welfare and the environment and major fashion companies, like Neiman Marcus, have responded by switching to innovative materials instead of animal fur. The passage of HB 215 will help drive the demand for innovation leading to a more sustainable and cruelty-free future.

We strongly support the passage of HB 215 and hope you do as well. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ali Mize

Senior Director, ESG

Neiman Marcus Group



Testimony of Mike Brown

Organization: Head of Sustainability and Public Affairs, Natural Fibers Alliance

Bill: HB 215

Dear Chair Cedric Asuega Gates

Vice Chair Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa

Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 215, a bill that would Prohibits the sale, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, or distribution of certain animal fur products in the State.

The Natural Fibers Alliance is a coalition comprised of producers and associations that support the use of natural sustainable materials in clothing, accessories, and other goods.

We oppose this bill for several reasons:

First, this bill is a direct attempt to shut down one of the nation's oldest and most highly regulated industries. There are NO FUR FARMS in Hawaii, therefore this bill does nothing to stop the production. Rather than let the market dictate the demand for legally made and sourced materials. SB682 seeks to have the government decide what products a person can wear.

Fortunately, there is no movement from the public to have the government create such regulation or level of intervention. In fact, legislation like this runs counter to the district's motto, as it takes away the freedom of CHOICE by residents.

Second, this bill is the work of a very small group of individuals who have made it no secret that they want to ban leather, wool, and even silk. This

same group has even advocated for the end of animal-based food products in cities like Berkely, California. This proposal is a slippery slope with no clear end in sight.

Third, banning natural fibers such as fur will harm current efforts to improve environmental sustainability. Natural fibers provide a viable, biodegradable alternative to those synthetic materials associated with landfill, microplastics, overconsumption, and pollution.

Forth, fur products are long-lasting and made to a circular, rather than a linear model, in which products can be reused, remodeled and recycled. People cherish high-quality natural fiber clothing. In contrast, plastic-based synthetic fibers are part of the throwaway culture of “fast fashion” that creates pollution and consumer waste.

Lastly, some activists have been found to repeatedly exaggerate or even fabricate COVID on mink farm claims. After some initial farm infections in the fall of 2020, the industry now boasts a vaccination rate of nearly 100% of certified mink farms. Leaders, to include the Prime minister of Denmark have also since apologized for misleading the public over the issue.

Please don't fall for the misinformation. This bill is an overreach that intentionally closes small businesses. This bill does not serve the public interest and will subsequently lead to the banning of leather dress shoes and other products.

Proposals like this have real intended and unintended consequences that have led to decades of harassment against retailers and manufactures. To include the most recent violent attacks against farmers in Ohio and Michigan. Rather than gaslight extremist behavior, Hawaii must send a message and promote natural animal-based fibers as the state of New York has done with the recent passage and promotion of the New York Textile Act of 2022.

I urge you to vote no.