

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



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

SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025
9:00 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

SENATE BILL NO. 1249, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1249, Senate Draft 1 that establishes an agricultural crime prevention program within the Department of Agriculture (Department) to provide grants, education, administrative enforcement, and other services for the benefit of the State's agricultural industry. The bill also clarifies, creates, and strengthens laws regarding crimes and violations related to agriculture or agricultural lands and hunting on private agricultural lands, establishes clear distinctions between administrative and criminal penalties and appropriates funds.

The Department supports SB 1249, SD1. Agricultural crimes pose a significant and growing threat to the sustainability and vitality of the State's agricultural industry and we appreciate the comprehensive addressing of agricultural crimes in this bill. The Department offers **comments** with the intent of aligning the implementation of the bill with the collaborating agency to avoid duplicating services. The comments are intended as suggestions because agricultural crime prevention requires an interagency effort, and the Department defers to the agencies noted in this testimony for their feedback.

The Department supports establishing an Agricultural Crime Prevention Division (ACP), within the Department, the organization of which is to be determined. The ACP, as a division, would maximize the effectiveness of the Agricultural Crime Prevention Program (Program) as there would be one focus, to prevent agricultural crimes.

The Agricultural Crime Prevention Program described in Part II (page 3, line 14 to page 9, line 16), provides grants to agricultural property owners to procure resources for crime prevention. The National Agricultural Statistics Service Farm Technology Use



Report released in 2019 reported that farmers and ranchers stated a need for 3,383 pieces of video surveillance equipment and 2,778 GPS/RFID livestock trackers. Farmers and ranchers want to prevent crimes on their property. The provision to allow vendors to assist the Department with the implementation of this measure ensures the Program will be fully carried out.

Portions of the revisions to Chapter 142 (Animals, Brands, and Fences) that are specific to livestock may be more effective if placed in Chapter 141 (Department of Agriculture, General Provisions), making it broadly applicable to agriculture and not limited to livestock. The personnel positions provided in the bill are livestock-focused - brand inspectors and a brand supervisor. To increase the coverage of the Program, we recommend these positions be reclassified to agricultural crimes coordinators for each county which allows them to address agricultural crimes in their counties while not precluding them from investigating cattle thefts. The Department's intent is to initially work with the Department of Law Enforcement for investigations and enforcement while retaining oversight, coordination responsibilities and administrative duties over agricultural crimes.

The Department intends to start the Program with one full-time grant chief (\$83,064), one full-time State agricultural crimes coordinator (\$73,836), and four full-time agricultural crimes county coordinators (\$68,280 each, totaling \$273,120). The Department also respectfully requests the addition of one full-time Administrative Assistant III position (\$49,860) to support the Division. Additional costs include \$500,000 for vehicles, travel, office equipment, office space, and so forth.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this very important measure.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 1249, S.D. 1, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

DATE: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 **TIME:** 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Tricia M. Nakamatsu, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) provides the following comments in support of this bill.

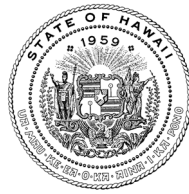
This bill is an omnibus bill that is aimed to provide strong deterrence against agricultural crimes. The Department recognizes the complexity of agricultural crimes and supports the intent of this bill to strengthen and clarify existing legal frameworks to generally protect agriculture in the State. The Department of the Attorney General strongly supports laws that provide much needed protection to farmers and ranchers and that treat agricultural crimes with the seriousness they deserve.

Overall, this bill clarifies violations related to agriculture and agricultural lands, including but not limited to hunting on private agricultural lands, and strengthens penalties for certain agricultural crimes. Additionally, the bill establishes an Agricultural Crime Prevention Program within the Department of Agriculture, which is intended to provide grants to support farmers in obtaining fencing or other protective or surveillance equipment for all agricultural lands.

We wish to note that the bill is entitled "Relating to Agriculture." Part VI of the bill concerns amendments to hunting laws – in particular provisions regarding hunting on private lands. We understand that these provisions are intended to address hunting on agricultural lands in particular. To address a potential objection based upon the single-subject rule found in article III, section 14 of the Hawai'i Constitution, we recommend

bolstering the legislative findings in section 1 of this bill to specifically note how these hunting provisions are related to agriculture – in particular how hunting on private lands without permission impacts agricultural lands in particular and are naturally connected to the other parts of the bill. See *Schwab v. Ariyoshi*, 58 Haw. 25, 34, 564 P.2d 135, 141 (1977) (“It is sufficient if the various parts of an act have a natural connection, are fairly well embraced in one subject, though somewhat general, and expressed in the title.”).

We respectfully ask your Committee to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 1249, S.D. 1

March 12, 2025
9:00 a.m.
Room 325 and Videoconference

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 1249, S.D. 1 adds a new part to Chapter 141, HRS, to:

- 1) establish the Agricultural Crime Prevention Special Fund to be administered and expended by the Department of Agriculture (DOA); 2) establish the Agricultural Crime Prevention Program (ACPP) within DOA to provide grants to deter, prevent, and prosecute agricultural crimes; and 3) create standards for the grants that are to be awarded for the purposes of the ACPP. The bill amends Chapter 142, HRS, to:
- 4) allow DOA to set, charge, and collect administrative fines, fees, and associated costs, up to specified dollar limits, for any administrative violation of the chapter for which a penalty is not otherwise provided by law; 5) define habitual agricultural crimes;
- 6) establish a specialized unit of brand inspectors within DOA and enumerate the powers of the brand inspectors; 7) require the inspection and verification of livestock by DOA prior to slaughter; 8) establish the Brand Inspection Special Fund to be used for the implementation and administration of the specialized unit of brand inspectors;

9) amends the general duties of DOA to include the duties provided by the brand inspectors. The bill further amends various sections of Chapters 142, 145, 146, 183D, 708, and 712, HRS, to: 10) add criminal trespass on agricultural lands as an offense against property rights; and 11) clarify and adjust penalties for agriculture-related administrative and criminal violations. Finally, the bill appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 26 and FY 27 to carry out the purposes of this act and to fund an unspecified number of positions.

As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work, and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Regarding S.B. No. 1249, S.D. 1, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed special funds would be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

KELDEN B.A. WALTJEN
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

SHANNON M. KAGAWA
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



655 KILAUEA AVENUE
HILO, HAWAII 96720
PH: (808) 961-0466
FAX: (808) 961-8908

74-675 KEALAKEHE PARKWAY
KAILUA-KONA, HAWAII 96740
PH: (808) 322-2552
FAX: (808) 322-6584

64-1067 MAMALAHOA HIGHWAY, C-3
KAMUELA, HAWAII 96743
PH: (808) 887-3017
FAX: (808) 887-3016

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT TO SENATE BILL NO. 1249 SD1

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Representative Kahaloa, Chair
Representative Kusch, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference
State Capitol Conference Room 325
415 South Beretania Street

Honorable Chair Kahaloa, Vice-Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems. The County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney submits the following testimony in Support to Senate Bill No. 1249 SD1.

This bill was created with the goal of establishing an agricultural crime prevention program within the Department of Agriculture. The program would provide grants, education, administrative enforcement, and other services to benefit the State's agricultural industry. It also aims to clarify, create, and strengthen laws concerning agricultural crimes and violations related to agricultural lands and hunting on private agricultural lands. The bill establishes a clear distinction between administrative and criminal penalties and allocates necessary funds.

Hawai'i Island plays a critical role in the State's agricultural production. Senate Bill No. 1249 SD1 has the potential to enhance the safety and sustainability of our farming and agricultural industry by holding offenders accountable, deterring future agriculture crime, and encouraging farmers and ranchers to focus more on producing high-quality products using sustainable practices rather than worrying about the security of their agricultural operations. This bill also aims to address ongoing concerns related issues that have long plagued our Hawai'i Island agriculture community including illegal hunting on private lands, animal trespass resulting in property damage, and other agriculture crimes.

If signed into law, this legislation would enable the agriculture community to:

1. Safeguard our agricultural industry, which is the bread basket of the State of Hawai'i.
2. Enable our farmers, growers, and ranchers to remain competitive on the global market with Hawai'i-grown products.
3. Hold offenders accountable for actions that undermine food security and hinder economic development for the state.

With respect to Sections 39, 40, and 41, our Office suggests that the sentencing provision language be amended to omit the words “probation or” and to read as follows . . . “without possibility of ~~probation or~~ suspension of sentence.” As currently drafted, the language contradicts sentencing provisions.

The County of Hawai‘i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney is dedicated to pursuing justice with integrity and dedication. Senate Bill No. 1249 represents a significant step toward addressing the serious food security and economic issues caused by agricultural crimes. For these reasons, the County of Hawai‘i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney supports the passage of Senate Bill No. 1249 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 12, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON SB 1249, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice-Chair Kusch, 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 1249, SD1, which establishes an agricultural crime prevention program within the Department of Agriculture to provide grants, education, administrative enforcement, and other services to protect Hawaii's farmers, ranchers, and agricultural lands. This measure also clarifies, strengthens, and creates laws related to agricultural crimes, unauthorized hunting on private lands, and penalties for violations, ensuring clear distinctions between administrative and criminal penalties.

Agricultural crime, including theft, vandalism, illegal dumping, trespassing, poaching, and unauthorized hunting—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 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 believes that creating a dedicated crime prevention program within the DOA provides a focused approach to tackling agricultural crimes. The program addresses agricultural crimes through:

- **Grants** to assist farmers in implementing security measures (e.g., fencing, cameras, and tracking systems).
- **Education and outreach** on best practices for crime prevention and reporting.
- **Administrative enforcement tools** to address violations efficiently.
- **Collaboration with law enforcement agencies** to improve coordination in responding to agricultural crimes.

The agricultural crime prevention program establishes clear and enforceable penalties, ensuring minor violations are handled administratively while serious crimes can be prosecuted appropriately. The program represents a critical investment in protecting Hawai'i's agricultural community from the increasing threats of agricultural crimes. By creating the agricultural crime prevention program, this measure fosters collaboration, strengthens enforcement, and enhances the safety and security of Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers.

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



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloe, Chair

Rep. Matthias Kusch, Vice Chair

SB1249 SD1

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 9:00AM
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **provides comments on SB1249 SD1** which establishes an agricultural crime prevention program within the Department of Agriculture to provide grants, education, administrative enforcement, and other services for the benefit of the State's agricultural industry. Clarifies, creates, and strengthens laws regarding crimes and violations related to agriculture or agricultural lands and hunting on private agricultural lands. Establishes clear distinctions between administrative and criminal penalties. Appropriates funds.

Mandatory brand inspection is a tool that needs to be carefully thought through before being considered for implementation in Hawaii. Instead, enhancing enforcement of established Certificate of Livestock Ownership and Movement forms is a more prudent step to immediately curtailing cattle theft. **Increasing livestock inspectors, rather than brand inspectors, can help to both verify the certificates to enforce this practice, as well as support additional DOA Animal Industry Division's disease prevention and control capabilities, which is crucial for ensuring we have biosecurity measures against avian influenza, bovine tuberculosis, and others.**

The survey of our member ranches instead cites trespass by perpetrators with firearms as a frequent and dangerous crime that ranchers in all counties face. Increased assistance and attention from existing law enforcement agencies, increased deterrence and elevated penalties, the ability for farmers and ranchers to protect themselves and their property, and actual prosecution in court are the tools that are needed to address the most pressing issue of dangerous trespassers.



We appreciate that parts of this bill addresses resources to assist agricultural producers with crime and respectfully suggest the following changes:

1. Page 1, Line 5: Include “homicide and terroristic threatening” to the list of crimes, and add “ranchers” in addition to farmers.
2. Page 13, Line 19: Update the definition of a brand
“Brand means a design registered with the Department of Agriculture that is permanently impressed on the [hide] skin of the animal by freezing [burning with acid, a chemical compound], or a hot iron.”
3. Page 14, Line 3: Use livestock inspectors and veterinary medical officers instead of brand inspectors and update “brand inspector” to “livestock inspector” throughout.
“§142-D [Specialized unite of brand] Livestock inspectors and Veterinary Medical Officers; establishment; duties. . (a) There is established within the department of agriculture an additional five (5) [specialized unit of brand] livestock inspectors and one (1) Veterinary Medical Officer supervisor, whose duty shall be to carry out enforcement of this part and [related] other rules adopted under this chapter, as authorized under this chapter and directed by the chairperson of the board of agriculture. The chairperson of the board of agriculture may locate and staff the unit as needed to fulfill its duties.”
4. Page 15, Line 13: Update the inspection before slaughter to be more in line with what is feasible to take place
“ §142-E Inspection before slaughter. No person shall allow livestock to enter a [processing] livestock harvesting establishment that slaughters or processes livestock meat and meat products unless the [department of agriculture] establishment management has conducted a prior examination and inspection to verify the [correct] brand on animals matche the ownership of the consignee, collects a copy of and confirms the brand with the ownership [pursuant to this part and confirm] listed on the certificate of the livestock ownership movement certificate pursuant to section 142-49. Establishment’s management may seek assistance from a livestock inspector if ownership determination via brand inspection is in question, violation or theft is suspected. Certificates of Livestock Ownership/Movement that correlates with all livestock harvested at the plant shall be submitted by the establishments management to a livestock inspector weekly.”
5. Page 16, Line 6: Ensure that the brand registration fees stay in this special fund rather than going to the State’s General Fund
“Fees, including brand registration fees, fines, and penalties received pursuant to this part;”
6. Page 31, Line 17 : Include electronic submittal

“Two copies of the certificate shall accompany the shipment, one copy shall be given or electronically transmitted to the department of agriculture, and a copy shall be retained by the owner.”

7. Page 31, Line 20: Keep this as “law enforcement officer” rather than the livestock inspector. Five livestock inspectors will not be able to enforce this across the state, and these incidents may end up contentious. Law enforcement would be a more suitable position to handle these situations.
8. Page 32, Line 3: Specify that the penalty is enforced when moving animals for the specific reasons below so that movement certificates are not required for moving from one pasture to another on your own ranch.
“Any person who violates this section upon the sale of livestock, transport of livestock to slaughter, transport of livestock interisland or interstate shall be assessed an administrative penalty up to \$500 per animal lot moved without a certificate.”
9. Page 33, Line 1: Penalize this as a misdemeanor, not a petty misdemeanor. Breaking fences is a serious offence and causes a wide variety of issues for ranchers.
10. Page 44, Line 7: instead of a misdemeanor, violating 183D-52 should be a class C felony

In addition, we strongly support:

1. Page 56, Line 12: this increases penalties and is needed for deterring offenses while in possession of a dangerous instrument.
2. Page 68, Line 6: to include criminal trespass or vandalism on ag land as a covered offense for property forfeiture.

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
Managing Director

SB-1249-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 8:12:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristin Mack Almasin	Ulupalakua Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support this measure to create an ag crime prevention program.

SB-1249-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 6:19:52 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Kellerman	Kualoa Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am very supportive of this bill as it is important for Hawaii to provide a system and parameters that allow the authorities to crack down on Ag crime.

Stolen agricultural products and trespassing have a direct negative impact on producers ability to maintain their business, and the current system does not allow for efficient control and prosecution of these crimes. These steps are important to changing this.

Mahalo for the consideration

Taylor Kellerman

Director of Diversified agriculture and Land Stewardship

Kualoa Ranch Hawaii

SB-1249-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 5:00:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Unger	McCandless Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.



March 11 2025

To: Chair Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair Matthias Kusch, and House Members of Agriculture and Food Systems Committee

Subject: **SB 1249**, Relating to Agriculture

I strongly **support** SB 1249 SD 1, which establishes an Agricultural Crime Prevention Program within the Department of Agriculture and provides necessary appropriations. The increasing prevalence of agricultural crimes including theft, vandalism, trespassing, and illegal hunting, poses a significant and growing threat to Hawaii's agricultural industry. These crimes jeopardize not only the livelihoods of our farmers and ranchers, but also our state's food security, economic stability, and the long-term viability of local agriculture.

Farmers and ranchers in Hawaii already face a multitude of challenges, from unpredictable weather patterns and pest infestations to labor shortages and rising operational costs. The added burden of agricultural crime further strains their resources and threatens their ability to remain sustainable. While many in the agricultural community have taken proactive steps to enhance security through surveillance systems, community watch programs, and other measures, these efforts are often insufficient in the face of limited law enforcement resources dedicated to addressing agricultural crime. The lack of adequate deterrence and prosecution emboldens criminals and perpetuates a cycle of victimization.

SB 1249 SD 1 offers a crucial and much-needed solution to this pressing issue. By establishing an Agricultural Crime Prevention Program within the Department of Agriculture, this bill creates a structured and comprehensive approach to combating agricultural crime. The program's key components, including grants for security enhancements, educational outreach initiatives, and strengthened collaboration with law enforcement agencies, are essential for creating a more secure environment for our agricultural producers.

Mahalo,
Lea iaea & the Food+ Policy Team
#fixourfoodsystem

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2025, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals working in the food system. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

SB-1249-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:22:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Austin Salcedo	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

SB1249 Relating To Agricultural

Testimony in Full Support of SB1249.

Great appreciation of the Honorable Senator's Mike Gabbard, Tim Richards, Glenn Wakai, Stanley Chang, Dru Kanuha, Angus McKelvey that "Champion" and "Introduce" this Bill,

I Fully support and "DO NOT MAKE ANY DEVIATIONS OR REVISIONS". Unless it increases the Lawful Pursuit, Lawful Prosecution, Lawful Punishment At The Highest Level.

It's imperative to allocate Federal/State financial fundings for the Agriculture Crime and Task Force.

It's imperative to "Pursuit Perpetrator's" for violations of agricultural crime's, illegal poachers', and Criminal Acts of Murder's to be held fully accountable. And, to "Prosecute Perpetrator's" that commits Acts of these crimes. And finally, to "Punish Perpetrator's" at the Highest Level of Raised Fine's and Incarcerate Penalties, Unlike the current Lesser Misdemeanor State Laws which allows Perpetrators to continue habitual unlawful acts (just a slap on the hand).

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Austin Salcedo

(Kea'au Ag Landowner)

SB-1249-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:46:58 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gina "Kalei" Salcedo	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

SB1249 Relating To Agricultural

Testimony in Full Support of SB1249.

Great appreciation of the Honorable Senator's Tim Richards, Mike Gabbard, Glenn Wakai, Stanley Chang, Dru Kanuha, Angus McKelvey that "Champion" and "Introduce" this Bill,

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Again, imperative to "Pursuit Perpetrator's" for violations of agricultural crime's, illegal poachers', and Criminal Acts of Murder's to be held fully accountable. And, to "Prosecute Perpetrator's" that commits Acts of these crimes. And finally, to "Punish Perpetrator's" at the Highest Level of Raised Fine's and Incarcerate Penalties, Unlike the current Lesser Misdemeanor State Laws which allows Perpetrators to continue habitual unlawful acts (just a slap on the hand).

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Gina "Kalei" Salcedo

(Kea'au Ag Landowner)

SB-1249-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 5:51:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 1249 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Mahalo,

Theresa Thompson

SB-1249-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 5:51:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 1249 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Mahalo,

Theresa Thompson

SB-1249-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 6:17:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1249 with the amendments submitted by the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council.

SB-1249-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 9:42:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suzanne Leonida-Silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 25, 2025

Aloha Hawai'i State Senate and House of Representatives Legislators,

My name is Suzanne Leonida-Silva, mother of Cranston Duke Pia. I am submitting this written testimony in support of the following bills:

SB-1248; SB-1249 SD1; SB-1257

Agricultural - Crimes of: "Violence, thefts, threats" have been rampant and accelerating at an alarming rate for many years. It has been happening on ranches and farms on the western coast of O'ahu and in the entire state of Hawai'i.

I humbly ask for your support and to please pass these three bills during this 2025 Legislative season.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Leonida-Silva

SB-1249-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 1:58:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryan I. Yamashita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Bryan I. Yamashita and I am a private citizen sharing my testimony on SB 1249.

I was a close friend of Mr. Cranston Duke Pia who died last year during a conflict with a trespassing hunter on his property in Waianae.

It has always been bothersome to my dear friend whenever we visited his ranch about hunters who trespassed over his property to access hunting grounds above his ranch.

He constantly complained that he had to confront them to get them off his property and not bother his livestock. Apparently, a situation on February 17, 2024 got out of hand in which he was shot and killed by a hunter. His death could have been avoided if he were allowed to defend himself with an appropriate firearm. It was totally unfair to Cranston to be unable to defend himself in this case.

Cranston is dearly missed by his wife, daughter, mother, and siblings. He was an integral part and contributing citizen of the sustainable meat supply on the Waianae coast.

I miss him dearly, thank you for allowing my testimony on behalf of this bill.

Sincerely,

Bryan I. Yamashita

91-1006 Kaunoa Street

Ewa Beach, HI. 96706

SB-1249-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 5:00:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zerin Khan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha respective senators,

My name is Zerin Khan, I'm writing to support SB1249.

I have been a friend of Cranston Duke Pia's family for nearly forty-five years. From 2020, I volunteered at Pia's ranch on an average of once or twice a week to help Duke achieve his passion for serving the community with goods from his ranch.

The ranch had come a looong way to actually serving the community because of his relentless effort to give back to his community where he grew up. Duke had a sincere passion to provide agricultural goods to his Waianae community.

Please vote yes to move SB1249 forward.

Mahalo Nui,

Zerin Khan

SB-1249-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 6:15:00 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

GREAT IDEA AND LONG OVERDUE!! MAHALO!

SB-1249-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 7:09:16 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Leonida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committe Members,

I am in full support of this bill.

Mahalo,

B. Leonida

SB-1249-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 9:06:07 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jimmy Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill and stand with testimony from Hawaii Cattlemen's Council

SB-1249-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 3:12:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Germaine Meyers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB1249 SD1

My name is Germaine Meyers. I'm a resident of West Oahu. We a significant amount of agricultural and pastoral lands.

Its important that our local farmers, ranchers, and their ohana are safe on their own property.

The public expects farmers to follow best practices when using insecticides on their crop so that it doesn't negatively affect neighbors and the public.

Likewise, the public expects ranchers to fence in their animals on their property so that they don't harm the public.

Please protect our ohana on Ag lands.