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STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
DAWN N.S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on  
WATER AND LAND  
and  
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, February 12, 2025  
1:05 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 315  
RELATING TO FERAL PIGS

Senate Bill 315 proposes to create an expedited permitting process to authorize the destruction or control of feral pigs on privately owned land if the feral pigs have caused or are likely to cause substantial damage to agricultural or aquacultural crops, indigenous plants, or wildlife, or pose a threat to human health and safety. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

The Department notes that existing regulations already provide a mechanism for landowners to control feral pigs on their land without a hunting license; they can obtain a wildlife control permit, as specified under Title 13, Chapter 123:

§13-124-7 Crop damage, nuisance, and threat to human health and safety permits. (a) The board or its authorized representative may issue permits to destroy or otherwise control game birds, game mammals, or introduced wild birds causing substantial damage to agricultural or aquacultural crops, indigenous plants, or wildlife or pose a threat to human health and safety...

These permits are processed promptly, with authority delegated to branch managers to ensure timely issuance. Given the existing regulatory framework, the Department believes this bill is not necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



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February 12, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**TESTIMONY ON SB 315  
RELATING TO FERAL PIGS**

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference  
1:05 PM

Aloha Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice-Chairs Elefante and Richards, and Members of the Committees:

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 315**, which establishes an expedited permitting process to authorize the destruction or control of feral pigs on privately owned land if they have caused or are likely to cause substantial damage to agricultural or aquacultural crops, indigenous plants or wildlife, or pose a threat to human health and safety.

Feral pigs are a significant and growing problem in Hawai'i, causing widespread damage to farms, ranches, and native ecosystems. They root through fields, destroy crops, damage irrigation systems, and spread invasive plant species. Additionally, they pose a serious threat to livestock and contribute to the spread of diseases. Their impact extends beyond agriculture, affecting native forests, watersheds, and cultural resources, while also increasing erosion and runoff into nearshore waters.

Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers struggle to mitigate the damage caused by feral pigs, often at great personal expense. Existing permitting processes for controlling feral pigs on private lands can be cumbersome and time-consuming, delaying critical action when damage is occurring. Farmers need a practical and efficient process to protect their crops, livestock, and property from the escalating threat of feral pig activity.

SB 315 helps address this issue by streamlining the permitting process for feral pig control on private lands. By allowing expedited permits when substantial damage is occurring or likely to occur, this measure ensures that landowners can respond quickly and effectively to prevent agricultural and environmental losses.

In addition to protecting farms and ranches, this bill supports broader conservation efforts. Feral pigs contribute to the decline of native plant species and facilitate the spread of invasive species, further threatening Hawai'i's fragile ecosystems. Controlling feral pig populations in agricultural areas will help reduce their spread into protected forests and conservation lands.

We urge the committee to pass SB 315 to provide landowners with the tools they need to manage feral pig populations, protect Hawai'i's agricultural industry, and reduce the environmental damage caused by these invasive animals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



February 10, 2025

To: Chair Inouye and Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Elefante and Vice Chair Richards, and the Senate Committees on Water and Land and Agriculture and Environment

Subject: **SB315**, Relating to feral pigs

Aloha,

I am writing in support of **SB315** which relates to feral pig control on private land. This bill is a necessary step towards strengthening Hawai'i's food systems by protecting agricultural and aquaculture resources, ecosystems, and public health. Feral pigs pose a significant threat to our environment and food security, but this bill will:

1. Protect agricultural and aquaculture crops - feral pigs cause damage to farms by uprooting crops, contaminating water sources, and consuming produce; this damage results in financial losses for farmers and fishpond caretakers, reducing the availability of fresh and locally grown foods.
2. Safeguard native plants and animals - pigs destroy our native forests by digging up soil, spreading invasive plants, and preying on endangered species. Their presence threatens Hawai'i's unique biodiversity which is already at risk due to habitat loss and climate change.
3. Enhance food security and sustainability - by mitigating pig-related agricultural losses, farmers can increase food production. A stronger local food system supports economic resilience and ensures we have a stable and self-sufficient supply of fresh food.
4. Reduce public health and safety risks - feral pigs carry disease that can spread to humans, livestock, and pets. Their presence in residential areas can also pose a safety risk as they can be aggressive and can cause traffic accidents.

**SB315** offers an approach to managing feral pig populations by allowing landowners to take necessary action. It's an important step towards making Hawai'i's food systems more resilient and sustainable. I respectfully urge the committees **to pass this measure**.

Mahalo,

Jeanette Burdick & the Food+ Policy Team  
#fixourfoodsystem

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**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.

**LATE**

**SB-315**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:59:32 PM  
Testimony for WTL on 2/12/2025 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Abraham Antonio sr	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I Abraham Antonio sr. Highly oppose this bill sb 315 for the very simple fact that you do not need a permit to take an animal birds or mammals on private agricultural lands. This bill was introduced in 2022 and it died in conference after we discussed with the introducer about not needing a permit on ag properties.

**SB-315**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 5:50:52 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/12/2025 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
penny levin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong support. Feral pig populations have grown and become bolder in their damage to farms. Please add goats, deer, and feral chickens to this bill! if a permit is required to eradicate them from farms. Mahalo!

**SB-315**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:00:20 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/12/2025 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to reduce the administrative burden - and associated delays - for landowners so they can better manage their farms and lands.

Mahalo,

Amy Brinker

Ala Moana/Kaka'ako

**SB-315**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 2:52:37 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/12/2025 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
nani pogline	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB 315 because it adds unnecessary bureaucracy and red tape. As it stands, hunters are already allowed to hunt on private property with property owner permission. No permits by DLNR have been required. If permits can be issued to use firearms on ag land to kill pigs, then this bill would be helpful. Shotgun use for pig trap extermination is safer and more humane. But this bill does not specify that benefit.

**LATE**

**SB-315**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 5:43:12 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/12/2025 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brian Ley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Brian Ley county GMAC commishioner Distric 4

I stronly oppose this Bill. once again it proves that our legislators, don't know what they are doing. This bill was shot down years ago for the same reason. you dont need a permit to hunt pigs on your property for what ever reason. instead of looking incompetent and ignorant, they would be better off passing bills that would allow you to shoot pigs 24/7. or goverment corruption.

once again strongly oppose a worthless bill called SB 315

Brian Ley County GMAC commishioner distric 4

**LATE**

**SB-315**

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 3:29:39 AM  
Testimony for WTL on 2/12/2025 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Fukuzawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Legislative Member,

I humbly submit my testimony in support of SB315. As a small agricultural farmer in Kahaluu, we are constantly innundated with feral pig problems. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

David Fukuzawa