

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

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

**Monday, February 11, 2019
2:45pm
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 486
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT FOOD LABELING**

Senate Bill 486 proposes to require and appropriate funds for the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to review and report on environmental impact labeling and possible methods of implementation in Hawaii. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicted in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

Greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector worldwide are about 13 percent of total global emissions, making it the second largest emitter after energy (which includes power generation and transport). In Hawaii, much of these emissions are not from the actual production of food, but from shipping, and its subsequent distribution by ground transport. A study to investigate and outline the framework for a mechanism that would alert consumers to this fact could be useful. In addition, it would help by beginning to characterize and address emissions from shipping and is in line with the work of the Climate Commission. However, given the modest resources allocated to carry out Climate Commission work, if the Commission is to carry out substantially more functions as outlined in this and other measure, it must be resourced more fully.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

**TESTIMONY ON
SENATE BILL 486, RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT FOOD LABELING**

Before the Senate Committee on
**AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
AND
WATER AND LAND**

By

Thomas L. Travis
Administrator, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA)

Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) ***supports the intent of*** Senate Bill 486.

Senate Bill 486 Requires the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to review and report on the concept of food labeling based on the food's environmental impact and make recommendations on how to implement this type of food labeling. Appropriates funds.

Note: My comments represent HI-EMA concerns at the state emergency management level only. I would defer to the separate comment/testimonies of the county emergency management agencies, as they would be the jurisdictions impacted by this legislation at the local level.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 486.

Thomas L. Travis: Thomas.l.travis@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300

SB-486

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 5:16:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

SB-486

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 11:15:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
dooraе shin	Testifying for Good Food Movement	Support	No

Comments:



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Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Vice Chair*
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Stan Brown, Acosta Sales & Marketing, *Advisor*
Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
Barry Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

TO:

Committee on Agriculture and the Environment and Committee on Water and Land
Senator Mike Gabbard and Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman and Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 11, 2019

TIME: 2:45pm

PLACE: Conference Room

RE: SB486 Relating to Environmental Impact Food Labeling

Position: Comments

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

We would recommend that this measure be revised to include the provision that in the course of reviewing and reporting on the concept of food labeling based on the food's environmental impact, the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission gather information from and conduct interviews with food distributors and retailers about the feasibility of implementing this type of labeling. We believe it is important for the Commission to get information from the people and businesses throughout the supply chain who will be tasked with implementing any program of this type. Making the information gathering process inclusive will help to ensure that any program that is implemented in the future will be practicable.

We would also like to advise the Committee that mandatory state specific labeling of products can be cost prohibitive for manufacturers and retailers, and can create confusion for customers. If companies have to create special labels for Hawaii they may be forced to raise prices on their products in our state, or simply stop offering those products for sale to Hawaii customers. State specific labels also create confusions for customers when they see the same products with different types of labels in Hawaii and on the mainland; this is particularly an issue for tourists. Additionally, enforcing state specific labeling is likely to be problematic and expensive to in the age of digital shopping.

We thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-486

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 2:32:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

LATE



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, February 11, 2019
TIME: 2:45 P.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 224

SB 486 – RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT FOOD LABELING.

Requires the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to review and report on the concept of food labeling based on the food's environmental impact and make recommendations on how to implement this type of food labeling. Appropriates funds.

Chairs Gabbard & Kahele, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Dale Sandlin, and I am Managing Director of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 150+ 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 approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **opposes** SB 486, as this measure is already covered under federal law, mandatory and non-market driven, and presents another unnecessary cost for food producers to have to comply with.

The labeling of food products is fully governed already by USDA/AMS for meat and poultry products and FDA for all other processed foods. Meat is one of the highest regulated food products within our food system. This measure would add another layer and requirement for food which is not consistent with current federal requirements.

Additionally, this measure requires mandatory labeling. We support voluntary labeling that is market-driven. We've seen the failure of other mandatory labeling programs, specifically Country of Origin Labeling (COOL), which Mexico and Canada both threatened retaliatory tariffs when the prospect of reinstating COOL has been discussed. By allowing the market to drive the labeling of food products, consumers are in control and the production practices of agricultural producers are changed over time.

Adding another labeling component will be cost prohibitive for producers. Processors are already operating on razor thin margins and the additional equipment needed for labeling could cause further financial hardship and the costs could be passed along to consumers, thus raising the cost of food in Hawaii.



We respectfully ask for this measure to be deferred and we appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in this matter.

SB-486

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 6:18:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary James	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-486

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 6:35:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gillian Boss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-486

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 8:08:20 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
naomi egami	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-486

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 1:29:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natalie Parra	Testifying for Keiko Conservation	Support	No

Comments:

SB-486

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 1:58:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB486.

Many people want to take part in the fight against climate change and would appreciate the labeling of food containers to help them do so.

Hawaii stands to lose valuable coastline due to climate change, which is already occurring. We need to be a leader in legislation to mitigate global warming.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Sincerely,

Andrea Quinn

LATE

SB-486

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 12:53:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suyin Phillips	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need accountability like this!