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State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**FEBRUARY 5, 2020
8:35 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1890
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1890. This measure amends Section 205-2 by adding "livestock production" to the uses allowed on Agricultural District lands. There is no explanation why specification of livestock production is necessary in this Section. If this measure materially benefits Hawaii's very important livestock industry, the Department of Agriculture stands in support.

Section 205-2(d)(2) describes "farming activities or uses related to animal husbandry" as activities or uses allowed on Agricultural District lands. "Animal husbandry" is cited within nine other chapters in the Hawaii Revised Statutes (26, 103D, 134, 142, 205, 205A, 271, 352, and 471). Farmers and ranchers who raise livestock are considered to practice animal husbandry. Should the Committee decide to support this measure, it may be necessary to amend the other statutory references to "animal husbandry" to accommodate "livestock production".

In 2018, cattle was Hawaii's third most valuable agricultural commodity following coffee and seed crops. It is one of the key components to increasing local food self-sufficiency which is a priority for both the Legislature and the Administration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2020**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 1890, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

DATE: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 **TIME:** 8:35 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 312

TESTIFIER(S): Clare E. Connors, Attorney General, or
Dawn T. Apuna, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Creagan and Members of the Committee:

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

The purpose of this bill is to include "livestock production" as a permitted use in the state agricultural district.

We believe that the inclusion of "livestock production" as a permitted use in the state agricultural district may be duplicative and unnecessary. The state agricultural district already permits under Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) section 205-4(d)(2), "Farming activities or uses related to animal husbandry and game and fish propagation," of which "farming activities or uses related to animal husbandry" would sufficiently encompass "livestock production." There are no definitions of "animal husbandry" or "livestock production" in the HRS; however, the Merriam-Webster Dictionary broadly defines "animal husbandry" as "a branch of agriculture concerned with the production and care of domestic animals," and defines "livestock" as "animals kept or raised for use or pleasure especially: farm animals kept for use and profit." There does not appear to be any particular difference or inconsistency between "farming activities or uses related to animal husbandry" and "livestock production."

We therefore recommend that the Committee determine if and how "livestock production" is inconsistent with or does not fit within HRS section 205-4(d)(2), and further refine or define "livestock production" such that it may be included under permitted agricultural uses without duplicating current permitted uses in the agricultural district.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



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February 5, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1890
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 312
8:35 AM

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice-Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports the intent of HB 1890, which expands the permitted activities and uses within the state land use agricultural district to include livestock production.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports Hawaii's Livestock Industry, however, we believe HB 1890 is unnecessary because HRS 205-2(d)(2) already includes livestock production.

HRS 205-2(d)(2) reads:

"Farming activities or uses related to animal husbandry and game and fish propagation;"

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important matter.

HB-1890

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:14:07 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole K Galase	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1890

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 12:39:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathryn Ebata	Hawaii Meats LLC	Support	No

Comments:

I, Bobby Farias, support House bill 1890.



February 3, 2020

Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Testimony in Support of HB 1890, Relating to Agriculture (Expands the permitted activities and uses within the State land use district to include livestock production.)

Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 8:35 a.m., in Conference Room 312

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and utility companies. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of HB 1890** and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture in Hawaii.

HB 1890. This bill proposes to amend Section 205-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to include livestock production as an activity or use permitted within State agricultural land use districts.

LURF's Position. LURF members include property owners, farmers and ranchers who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider efforts to protect and support agriculture significant to the continued conduct of their operations and to help sustain and preserve farming and ranching businesses into the future. Livestock ranching is a significant component of Hawaii's agricultural sector, being a highly productive, expanding, and extremely valuable industry on all islands with an estimated current annual value of more than \$68 million, with over 142,000 beef cattle on more than 1,300 ranches.

In accordance with the State's policy to promote and foster an atmosphere of acceptance for all agricultural practices, the rights of ranchers to engage in ranching practices

should be upheld, and livestock production should be included as a permitted activity and use within the State land use districts.

For the above reason, LURF **supports** **HB 1890** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.

HB-1890

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:27:12 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bobby Farias	Hawaii Meats LLC, Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1890

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 11:16:47 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1890

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 11:56:56 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2020 8:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
DeeDee Bertelmann	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Livestock production IS agriculture and should be permitted!

Geothermal should not be part of this bill.