

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**JOSH GREEN**  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**FEBURARY 3, 2020**  
**1:15 P.M.**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2824**  
**RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2824, relating to meat inspection and meat processing. The bill appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to support the establishment of three full time equivalent meat inspection positions to perform meat inspection services.

The Department is in support of the bill's intent to provide meat inspection services and promote the state's livestock industries. However, the Department notes that its previous meat inspection program was discontinued in the mid 1990s due to cuts in budget and staffing mandated by the reduction in force directives. The USDA-Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) assumed responsibility for those obligations and has been performing meat inspection services statewide in Hawaii since that time. As such, if a meat processing plant were approved for operation in Hawaii, the USDA-FSIS would be the only regulatory agency that can conduct inspections for the plant's meat production activities at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**SB-2824**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 8:41:46 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-2824**

Submitted on: 1/31/2020 11:57:22 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathryn Ebata	Testifying for Hawaii Meats LLC	Support	Yes

## Comments:

I, Bobby Farias, support this bill to reintroduce the State Meat inspector. This will increase the ability to have Local inspection of harvest facilities and help drive the growth of the local protein space. In Hawaii we are in need of more local inspectors at all of the local harvest and further processing location. Hawaii has recently grown its local meat production to the point of the lack of available Federal Inspection. The current inspectors are over worked and just don't have enough to go around. Currently there are opportunities to grow the meat business that are being passed on due to the lack of inspectors. This Local inspector program will also help grow other local harvest opportunities like the deer and sheep. The need for management of the Deer population could really be helped by having more inspectors available to cover the growing herd numbers on Maui, Molokai and Lanai.

**SB-2824**

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 2:41:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Miyamoto	Testifying for Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Yes

Comments:

**SB-2824**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 3:30:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Blazak	Individual	Support	No

Comments: