

JAN 25 2023

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LIVESTOCK.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that maintaining an
2 economically viable and animal-safe interisland ocean
3 transportation system is essential to food sustainability in
4 Hawaii. Because beef cattle slaughter facilities are limited
5 statewide, many producers pursue ocean transport to gain access
6 to available facilities on other islands. Although air
7 transportation always remains an option, it is often cost
8 prohibitive and also limited by air carrier weight and size
9 restrictions. Thus, ocean transportation is and remains of
10 vital importance to the local cattle industry and to consumers
11 of beef cattle throughout the State.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

13 (1) Require the University of Hawaii college of tropical
14 agriculture and human resources, in consultation with
15 livestock industry stakeholders, to study and assess
16 the effects of heat stress on beef cattle during
17 interisland ocean transportation; and



1 (2) Appropriate funds to conduct the study.

2 SECTION 2. (a) The University of Hawaii college of
3 tropical agriculture and human resources shall conduct a study
4 to assess the effects of heat stress on beef cattle during
5 interisland ocean transportation. The study shall evaluate:

6 (1) The core body temperatures and blood biomarkers
7 relating to stress of grass-fed market and cull cattle
8 before, during, and after interisland ocean transport;

9 (2) The environmental conditions inside shipping devices
10 during interisland ocean transport; and

11 (3) Carcass quality and animal performance measurements
12 after interisland ocean transport.

13 (b) The results of the study shall inform potential future
14 . legislation relating to beef cattle interisland ocean
15 transportation and the safety of people, animals, and the
16 environment.

17 (c) In conducting the study, the University of Hawaii
18 college of tropical agriculture and human resources may request
19 assistance and feedback from the department of agriculture or
20 any other department it deems appropriate, to provide expertise
21 to assist the beef cattle interisland ocean transportation



1 study. The college shall further consult with livestock
2 industry stakeholders, who are encouraged to cooperate and
3 provide information or input.

4 (d) The University of Hawaii college of tropical
5 agriculture and human resources shall report its findings and
6 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
7 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
8 the regular session of 2025.

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$62,500 or so much
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the
12 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
13 2024-2025 for the University of Hawaii college of tropical
14 agriculture and human resources to conduct the beef cattle
15 interisland ocean transportation study.

16 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University
17 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

19

INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 1488

Report Title:

University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources; Beef Cattle Interisland Ocean Transportation Study; Livestock; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, in consultation with livestock industry stakeholders, to conduct a study to assess the effects of heat stress on beef cattle during interisland ocean transportation. Appropriates funds.

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