
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 and is a matter of statewide concern. Because beef
5 cattle slaughter facilities are limited statewide, many
6 producers pursue ocean transport to gain access to available
7 facilities on other islands. Although air transportation always
8 remains an option, it is often cost prohibitive and limited by
9 air carrier weight and size restrictions. Thus, ocean
10 transportation is and remains of vital importance to the local
11 cattle industry and to consumers of beef cattle throughout the
12 State.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
14 University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human
15 resources, in consultation with livestock industry stakeholders,
16 to study and assess the effects of heat stress on beef cattle
17 during interisland ocean transportation.



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

- 5 (1) The core body temperatures and blood biomarkers
6 relating to stress of grass-fed market and cull cattle
7 before, during, and after interisland ocean transport;
- 8 (2) The environmental conditions inside shipping devices
9 during interisland ocean transport; and
- 10 (3) Carcass quality and animal performance measurements
11 after interisland ocean transport.

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

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



1 industry stakeholders, who are encouraged to cooperate and
2 provide information or input.

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

8 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.



Report Title:

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

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. (SD1)

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