

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**MORRIS M. ATTA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**MARCH 2, 2023**  
**10:00 AM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1488, SENATE DRAFT 1**  
**RELATING TO LIVESTOCK**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1488, SD1. Requires the University of Hawai'i 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. The Department supports this measure.

Objective studies to analyze interisland transport on livestock is needed to evaluate effects and determine optimum processes for the animals and industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

**‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII**

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

**LATE**

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

By

Anna Wieczorek, Interim Dean  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Michael Bruno, Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1488 SD1 – RELATING TO LIVESTOCK

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 1488 SD1 relating to livestock. The bill requires the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH/CTAHR), to conduct a study to assess the effects of heat stress on beef cattle during interisland ocean transportation.

UH/CTAHR possesses the expertise to conduct the beef cattle interisland ocean transportation study and we respectfully request that the appropriation in the original version of the bill be restored to ensure the completion of the study and a report of findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2025. As appropriate, we will request assistance and feedback from the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and other relevant departments, and we will consult with livestock industry stakeholders and seek their cooperation in gathering information and data. We are convinced with adequate resources, the findings of this study will help us better understand the impact of interisland ocean transport, as presently practiced, on animal welfare and meat quality.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

**SB-1488-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 12:26:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support- we don't want another heifer disaster which occurred on Young Bros. barge two years ago!

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

**SB 1488, SD 1 - Support**  
Relating to Livestock

Thursday, March 2, 2023  
10:00 AM  
Conference Room 211  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Scott Enright and on behalf of Hawaii Sustainable Beef Enterprises (HSBE), I strongly support SB 1488, SD1. Hawaii's beef cattle industry is an integral part of this State's diversified agricultural economy and an important contributor to our food security. As an island state, inter-island ocean transport is essential to the economic viability of this important agricultural sector. The University of Hawaii's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources support in conducting a study concerning the effects of heat stress on beef cattle during ocean transport, is support that the State should offer Hawaii's ranchers. HSBE again offers strong support for SB 1488, SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Scott Enright



**Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

**SB1488, SD1**  
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK

Thursday, March 2 2023, 10:00 AM  
Conference Room 415 & Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 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 over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **strongly supports SB1488, SD1** which 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.

Ocean transport is a vital part of the cattle industry supply chain for Hawaii as an island state. Cattle producers prioritize animal health and well being above all else, and this study will help livestock shippers understand the environmental conditions inside shipping devices during transport, and the carcass quality after transport. This study will also be a useful tool in allowing for data-driven decision making for potential future legislation relating to interisland cattle transportation. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council is prepared to assist with providing producers to participate in the study, and we look forward to learning more to better inform our practices.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council





# Animal Welfare Institute

900 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20003

February 28, 2023

Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawai'i State Senate

**Re: SB 1488 RELATING TO LIVESTOCK**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and committee members,

On behalf of the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI)<sup>1</sup> the following testimony is submitted:

AWI would like to take this opportunity to express its **support for SB 1488**, which directs the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to conduct a study to assess the effects of heat stress on beef cattle during interisland ocean transportation.

The perils of overseas animal transport were underscored in December 2019 when 21 cows perished on a barge traveling from Honolulu to Kauai. Unfortunately, the containers holding the animals were placed too closely together, limiting ventilation, and causing the cattle to slowly die of suffocation during their journey. The cattle were inspected at the port in accordance with Hawai'i regulations for preventing the transmission and introduction of disease, but there were no regulations mandating their care or even requiring that their deaths be reported—the incident only came to light because of a whistleblower. Pressure following this incident prompted the department to propose rules to safeguard the safety of cattle and other ruminants in interisland transport.

For the past year, AWI has led efforts to encourage and assist the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture in promulgating regulations intended to mitigate risks associated with interisland transport, including ventilation restriction and heat stress. In October, the Board of Agriculture considered AWI's proposed amendments to the draft regulations that would have mandated lower stocking density within shipping containers and the provision of shade and water at harbor staging areas—measures that mitigate the risk of severe heat stress in transported animals. The Board concluded that it would not adopt the proposed amendments because it lacked the basic research needed to determine how climactic conditions affect temperatures and humidity inside transport containers. At that meeting, both industry representatives and the Department supported the need for data. SB 1488 would allow the Department to collect the data it needs to determine what measures are necessary to ensure that animals shipped between the islands do not needlessly suffer or die.

AWI would like to highlight for the committee, as it did the Department, an important facet of this issue making the study even more essential. While industry stakeholders and ocean carriers consider a successful transport one where the animals make it alive from one island to the other, a true understanding of animal welfare is one that accounts for more than just mortality or extreme injury in assessing success. This understanding is based in science, centered on a global one-health perspective advocated most

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<sup>1</sup> The Animal Welfare Institute, founded in 1951 and headquartered in Washington DC, is dedicated to reducing animal suffering and advancing the welfare of all animals, including those raised for food. As part of our mission, we work to improve conditions for farmed animals, including during slaughter. AWI has participated extensively in the development of regulations related to the interisland transport of livestock in Hawai'i.

prominently by the World Organisation for Animal Health. The data from this study is necessary to ensure future regulations preclude not only death but also suffering and poor welfare due to heat stress.

AWI believes these measures will become even more necessary in the future because climate change is projected to increase Hawai'i's air and surface water temperatures considerably in the coming decades. In the last 40 years, air temperature in Hawai'i has been increasing by about 0.3°F (0.17°C) per decade and models predict that Hawai'i's temperatures will increase by 4 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit (2.2-2.8 °C) by 2085. The study proposed by HB 1488 is an important first step in ensuring that animals shipped between the islands are not subject to entirely preventable suffering and death resulting from heat stress.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrienne Craig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Adrienne Craig  
Staff Attorney, Farmed Animal Program



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Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

March 2, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON SB 1488, SD1**  
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference  
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

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

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 1488, SD1**, which 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.

Ocean transport is a vital part of the cattle industry supply chain for Hawaii as an island state. Cattle producers prioritize animal health and well-being above all else, and this study will help livestock shippers understand the environmental conditions inside shipping devices during transport and the carcass quality after transport. This study will also be a useful tool in allowing for data-driven decision-making for potential future legislation relating to interisland cattle transportation. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council is prepared to assist with providing producers to participate in the study, and we look forward to learning more to better inform our practices.

We respectfully request that the appropriation of \$62,500 for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the same sum for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources to conduct the beef cattle interisland ocean transportation study be restored.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

**SB-1488-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 3:21:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Harry von Holt	Testifying for Ponoholo Ranch, Ltd	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 1488.

**SB-1488-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 5:00:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Taylor Kellerman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support this bill. Proper shipping of livestock is imperative to the continuation of Hawaii's cattle industry.

Mahalo

Taylor Kellerman

Director of Diversified Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Kualoa Ranch Hawaii

Board Chair, Hawaii Rangeland Stewardship Foundation

**SB-1488-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 7:11:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support

**SB-1488-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 12:10:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jimmy Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of SB1488

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

**SB1488, SD1**  
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK

Thursday, March 2 2023, 10:00 AM  
Conference Room 415 & Videoconference

By  
Melelani A. Oshiro

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Melelani Oshiro and I am an Extension Agent of livestock programs with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawai'i or CTAHR.

I **strongly support SB1488, SD1** which 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.

Transport of livestock via interisland ocean transport is vital to our local livestock industry. Livestock producers put animal welfare at forefront, which this study will support in producers better understand environmental conditions during transport and the impacts post-transport. Findings from this study can be used to make data-driven decisions pertaining to interisland livestock transport and improve best management practices.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this process.

**SB-1488-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 6:21:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jenee S Odani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee:

My name is Jenee Odani, and I am the Extension Veterinarian with the University of Hawaii at Manoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. I am grateful for the opportunity to provide personal testimony in **SUPPORT of SB1488**. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawaii or CTAHR.

A study to assess the effects of heat stress on beef cattle during interisland ocean transportation would provide the necessary data to understand how animal health and carcass quality are affected by environmental conditions under current practices. These findings will inform potential future guidelines and legislation with the overarching goal of supporting animal health.

In the current version of the bill, SD-1, the appropriations were removed. Please add the appropriations back into the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

**SB-1488-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 8:34:04 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jason Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a veterinarian and I have spent my entire career working with livestock. I support SB1488. This Bill is necessary to evaluate the current methods of shipping livestock inter island and to determine if current methods results in heat stress on the livestock being shipped. Once completed and if heat stress is found to occur, science based mitigation measures can be designed and implemented to protect the livestock being shipped.

Please pass this Bill and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-1488-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 9:11:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of SD1. Thank you.