

**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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**FEBRUARY 23, 2023**  
**11:30 A.M.**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 946, HD1**  
**RELATING TO THE FOOD SUPPLY**

Chairperson Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

HB946 HD1 requires the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to plan, design, construct, and operate a new animal slaughterhouse on the island of Oahu. Appropriates moneys. The department supports this measure of developing a new slaughterhouse under ADC. This is particularly true for the smaller livestock species such as pigs on Oahu. Additional capacity for processing will foster increased local production of meat and in turn, increase local business.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**JAMES J. NAKATANI**  
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII  
**AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

235 S. Beretania Street, Suite 205  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

**TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Thursday, February 23, 2023

11:30 a.m.

Conference Room 308

**VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 946, H.D. 1**  
**RELATING TO THE FOOD SUPPLY**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 946, H.D. 1 relating to the food supply. The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) supports this measure, which requires ADC to plan, design, construct, and operate a new animal slaughterhouse on the island of Oahu.

There's a growing need for small animal slaughterhouses and farmers and ranchers cannot overcome the government regulations and a high development cost to build their own. A new slaughterhouse for hogs, sheep, and goats will provide fresh, clean locally sourced meat, which will allow Hawaii's farmers and ranchers to pursue new market opportunities and better meet consumer and producer demand along the supply chain.

We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

**HB-946-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 1:03:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>   | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Cathy Goeggel       | Animal Rights Hawai'i | Oppose                    | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

We oppose HB946. Anyone familiar with the sorry history of the abattoir in Campbell Industrial Park should remember the Palama Meat debacle and the financial woes of the current plant under at least 5 different operators...and every year they came hat in hand for more \$. I believe the taxpayers would like to know that you, their legislators, will not throw good \$ after bad. A SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR HAWAII

Mahalo



We kindly ask you to **oppose** HB 946.

In the midst of a climate crisis, we should not be pouring any additional funds or resources into industrial animal agriculture. The industry is currently one of the largest producers of greenhouse gases, including methane which is 28 times more powerful than carbon dioxide.

Last year, scientists from Stanford University and the University of California, Berkeley published a study detailing how phasing out animal agriculture represents “our best and most immediate chance to reverse the trajectory of climate change” and could give humanity much needed time to switch to more sustainable energy sources.

Hawai’i has declared a climate emergency. Just last month, Gov. Green said “Hawaii should lead. It has been leading on climate change.” Opening a new slaughterhouse strongly contradicts that commitment.

We live on islands vulnerable to climate change. An estimated 66,000 people are currently at risk of coastal flooding in Hawai’i due to the climate crisis. We must do everything possible to not worsen this problem.

Please do your part and **oppose** HB 946.

**HB-946-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 9:06:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                         | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Stacy Sugai         | SK Natural Farms, LLC<br>aka 2 Lady Farmers | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,**

**I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB946 HD1 Relating to the Food Supply. I'm sorry I am not able to testify in person today.**

**Hawaii needs to become more food secure. Increasing locally raised small animal protein is a vital way to provide food for the people of Hawaii. HB946 HD1, in providing a small animal slaughterhouse, is crucial to achieve this goal. This small animal slaughterhouse will provide USDA inspected and Third Party certified services. This will enable the farmers to provide small animal protein to grocery stores and restaurants to help make Hawaii more food secure.**

**Patsy and I own and operate our pig farm in Waianae. Our Mission is to provide locally raised pork to Hawaii, help make Hawaii a little more sustainable, and pave the way for the next generation of pig farmers. The current and only slaughterhouse on Oahu provides services to pig farmers every other week. In processing hogs every other week, we are able to provide the people of Hawaii approximately 5,000lbs of pork a month through grocery stores and restaurants. We are grateful to Hawaii Meats for continuing to process our hogs. Without them, we would have to close our farm. If, however, there was a small animal slaughterhouse, we could double that amount by processing weekly. We would also strive to increase our production to enable us to provide even more.**

**Hawaii, where we all call home, is in such a vulnerable state when it comes to food. Many talk about this urgency, many talk about how we need to increase agriculture, many talk about plans. Today you can make a huge difference in helping Hawaii to be more food secure and to increase agriculture in our state. By voting yes to HB946 HD1 Relating to the Food Supply, you are taking a stand, you are taking action, to make our home more food secure and to increase agriculture in our state. Please support this bill.**

**Thank you for taking the time to read and consider our testimony!**

**Sincerely,**

**Stacy and Patsy, 2 Lady Farmers**



**HB-946-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 9:53:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                           | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Sylvia Dolena       | Aloha Animal Advocates and Pele Lani Farm LLC | Oppose                    | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

The slaughterhouse industry is an animal cruel industry.

My community strongly opposes this use of funds and support.

Sylvia Dolena

Aloha Animal Advocates and Pele Lani Farm LLC





P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
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e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 23, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 946, HD1**  
RELATING TO THE FOOD SUPPLY

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference  
11:30 AM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, 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 HB 946, HD1**, which requires the Agribusiness Development Corporation to plan, design, construct, and operate a new animal slaughterhouse on the island of O'ahu.

Hawai'i's livestock industry faces numerous challenges. These challenges have been a contributing factor to the decline of the state's livestock industry. Many small family farmers who have found a ready market for their livestock directly to local consumers, restaurants, and stores have difficulty converting their live animals into a product that can take advantage of them. The challenge for many of these small producers is that they often do not have USDA-inspected processing facilities available within a practical distance and at an affordable cost.

Hawai'i's swine farms are small with limited land, limited resources, and limited economies of scale. The primary competition for local pork is inexpensive mainland pork. Slaughter costs at the Hawai'i Meat plant in Kapolei are high and the pork industry is concerned about future slaughter capacity on O'ahu.

To support our pork industry, we need a dedicated slaughterhouse to serve O'ahu's small-scale hog farmers.

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

February 23, 2023  
11:30 AM  
Conference Room 308  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Testimony in Support of HB 946, Relating to the Food Supply**

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

February 21, 2023

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

I am Linda Rosehill testifying in support of HB 946, HD1 and offering amendments. I represent Hawaii Sustainable Beef Enterprises (HSBE). HSBE manages the two state harvesting and processing facilities located in Kalaeloa and Pau'ilo.

HSBE has been in discussion with the hog farmers and more recently with members of the legislature regarding the facility referenced in this bill. It is anticipated that the facility will be located in the Kalaeloa feedlot site currently leased by Hawaii Land & Livestock adjacent to the Hawaii Meats facility, a subsidiary of HSBE.

The bill does not specify the species of animal to be harvested and processed in the new facility, we ask that it be amended to specify that the new facility is for the harvesting and processing of hogs and other small animals or non-beef harvesting and processing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Linda Rosehill



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Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich  
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura  
Honolulu, O'ahu

Ray Maki  
Kauai

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Finance Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports HB946.**

Currently, local processors are simply unable to meet the demand for animal slaughtering, especially small animal processing. Requiring the Agribusiness Development Corporation to plan, design, construct and operate a new animal slaughterhouse on the island of Oahu would provide a much needed local source of animal slaughtering services.

This bill would create new jobs as well as provide a government-backed safety net for farmers and ranchers who are often left without access to a facility for animal processing. In addition, it would help to provide safe, healthy and sustainable food for the people of Hawaii. This will be a boon for the farmers and consumers in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF



Aloha House Finance Committee,

My name is David Souza, a member with Island Farms LLC.

I am humbly asking your support with Bill HB946,HD1

Currently, we do not have access to a full-time harvest facility. Many farmers like myself are able to produce our small animal livestock to meet the supply demands for our growing island community through stores, restaurant, farmers markets, and whole sale outlets. However, by not have a certified USDA full time facility to harvest, and brake down to the necessary cuts, there is no possible way to get out product to our island communities.

By passing bill HB946 will help keep our communities sustainable, achieve our state commitment, and keep local agriculture alive in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

*David Souza*





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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

**HB946 HD1**  
RELATING TO THE FOOD SUPPLY

Thursday, February 23, 2023, 11:30 AM  
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

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 **supports HB946 HD1** which requires the Agribusiness Development Corporation to plan, design, construct, and operate a new animal slaughterhouse on the island of Oahu.

We understand that this facility will serve processing for small livestock. Increased access to harvest and processing facilities for livestock is a vital aspect of improving the supply chain and increasing local food production.

The bill states the Agribusiness Development Corporation will plan, design, construct, and operate the animal slaughterhouse. We respectfully suggest that this is amended so that the Agribusiness Development Corporation will plan, design, and construct the animal slaughterhouse, but that the private sector or third party entity should be in charge of running the operation aspects of the facility.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council



**HB-946-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 5:40:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| David Wong          | Individual          | Support                   | In Person      |

Comments:

Aloha Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is David Wong, I am the Manager of Mountain View Farms. We are a hog farm in Waianae. I am testifying in support of HB 946, HD 1.

In 2012 we starting raising pigs using the Korean Natural Farming system. This system uses a microbial waste management process. As a result there is no waste odor, no waste lagoons that could over flow with severe rain storms, no endangerment to our water table and no waste composting requirements.

We started with nine baby pigs and now have over 1,000 pigs. There is a great potential to rebuild locally produced pork industry. This will enable us to help build a sustainable food supply for Hawaii. The limiting factor is a small animal slaughterin facility that is USDA Inspected and approved by a Third Party Auditor.

All locally produced animal protein must be slaughtered by this type of slaughtering facility to comply Federal Food Ssafety requirements.

HB 946, HD 1 will enable us to achieve this.

Thank you

**HB-946-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 6:11:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ryuko Miura         | Individual          | Oppose                    | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

We have something else available to eat, so there's no need to kill sentient animals.

**HB-946-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 8:34:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michiyo SatoYoung   | Individual          | Oppose                    | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

We don't need unsustainable business that contaminates our land and ocean.

We don't want to spend our tax to support unsustainable business that giving trauma to who work there.

Hawaii is rapidly increasing diabetes patients. We need more plant farm.



**HB-946-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 10:35:23 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Stephen W Beidner   | Individual          | Oppose                    | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Please defeat this proposal. Thw last thing we need in Hawaii is another slaughterhouse. The future is plant based. We don't need any more killing. Nothing humane happens in a slaughterhouse. It is anti-animal and anti-human. Workers in slaughterhouses suffer greatly both physically and psychologically.

**HB-946-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 11:07:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| KAYLEN SOUZA        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Hello House Finance committee,

As a Hog farmer im humbling asking for your support in HB946, HD1. Your support will give myself and many other Hog farmers many more opportunities to help sustane Hawaii's food supply. For myself it will give me many opportunities to support my community here in Waianae/Oahu and to the other Islands. We can provide locally raised bacon,pork chops, portuguese sausage etc. by your support on this bill.

**HB-946-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 1:10:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 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 am in support of this bill as it represents both a present opportunity for increased small livestock slaughter capacity, as well as a future opportunity for new ranchers and farmer to enter into an industry knowing they are supported with the required infrastructure. Our goal for better food sustainability needs to be met with pertinent government and private appropriations intended for the reduction of the cost of doing business and a more sustainable economic bottom line for the producers. Approval of this bill would be representative of this type of needed community support of local food production.

Mahalo

Taylor Kellerman

Pig and sheep farmer

Director of Diversified Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Kualoa Ranch

**HB-946-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 8:18:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b>  | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Johnnie-Mae L. Perry | Individual          | Comments                  | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry COMMENT HB 946 RELATING TO THE FOOD SUPPLY. Due to climate change, as a state, we should promote more "plant base" food products. Cow dung has an negative effect on the ozone and environment, for example.