

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

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS**

**MARCH 15, 2023
9:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325
SENATE BILL NO.1488, SD2
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK**

Chairperson Gates and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1488, SD2. Senate Bill 1488, SD2 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.

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

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems
Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 9:30 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 SD2 – RELATING TO LIVESTOCK

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 1488 SD2 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.



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March 15, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON SB 1488, SD2
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, 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, SD2, 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-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 9:58:37 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

We are in strong support of SB1488 SD2. We have personally inspected the mustering area for livestock at Young Brothers. There is no permanent shade and several of the containers were crudely made. The horrific deaths of heifers on Young Brothers barge 2 years ago made it clear that inadequate protection for the well being of the animals is guaranteed. Please pass SB1488.



Animal Welfare Institute

900 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20003

March 15, 2023

House Agriculture Committee

Re: SB 1488 RELATING TO LIVESTOCK

Dear Chair Gates and committee members,

On behalf of the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI)¹ 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. CTAHR is supportive of this measure and has the faculty and expertise to conduct this study, however, **we respectfully request the initial \$62,000 funding appropriation be reinstated in the bill.** This is a small amount of funding to ensure the best outcomes for Hawai'i's cattle, based on scientific study, and to benefit the industry and the animals themselves.

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

¹ 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.

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 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



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

SB1488, SD2

RELATING TO LIVESTOCK

Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 9:30 AM

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Chair Gates, Vice Chairs Kahaloa, 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 **supports SB1488, SD2** 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.

We respectfully ask that language to provide funding be reinserted into the bill, as the original SB1488 included to ensure that the University of Hawaii CTAHR has the resources to conduct the study. It is a reasonable amount of funding that will provided valuable data to assist with continued food production:

"SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$62,500 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary 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."

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

SB-1488-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 12:39:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas L. Vincent	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is critical legislation, relating to the welfare of cattle shipped to the mainland. If ranchers are to continue to ship cattle to the mainland, we need to be assured of their welfare.

SB-1488-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 6:00:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong support of SD2. Thank you.

SB-1488-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 9:17:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason D. Moniz, DVM	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB1488, SD2 RELATING TO LIVESTOCK

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

9:30 AM, Conference Room 325,

State Capitol, 415 south Beritania Street

Chairs Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloe and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 1488, SD2. I strongly support SB 1488, SD2 and request that funding necessary for the University of Hawaii to conduct this important study be reinstated.

After 38 years of service, I am recently retired from the HDOA as the Veterinary Program Manager in charge of its Animal Disease Control Branch within the Animal Industry Division. The Board of Agriculture recently approved amendments to the Division's Administrative Rule, Chapter 4-16 titled Cattle, Sheep and Goats that regulates certain infectious diseases of these livestock. The amendments also updated a section of the rule pertaining to the inter-island transportation of livestock which increases the division's ability to monitor these shipments and the wellbeing of livestock being transported inter-island. This section received a lot of input and scrutiny from Hawaii's cattle industry and animal rights groups. It is important that recommendations made and any additional recommendations proposed going forward are evaluated and supported by scientific fact. The purpose of this Bill is to scientifically measure parameters that evaluate the wellbeing of livestock being shipped inter-island. I believe a study of this nature is necessary to give the department, industry, welfare groups and the public confidence that the methods used to transport livestock ensures their wellbeing and may also result in new recommendations to improve their wellbeing.

This research cannot be completed without the financial support initially requested by SB 1488 and I hope that you will be able to support that funding request also. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important Bill.

JASON D. MONIZ, DVM

Relating to Livestock Transportation

Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is committed to supporting our civic leaders promote a coherent state-wide policy for sustainable development. We advocate policy that; increases local food production to promote food security, protects agricultural lands, promotes carbon neutrality, models sustainable land use, protects our watersheds, supports long-term stable employment that embraces technology and innovation, contributes to the health and well-being of the community, and encourages public, private and civic partnerships.

Hawaii Cattlemen's Council continues to focus on establishing a safe, secure and sustainable food source for Hawaii. Interisland transportation is critical to achieving this goal.

As chairperson of the HCC's Animal Health and Well-being Committee, I strongly support SB1488 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.

Since 1990, HCC's Animal Health and Well-being Committee has regularly published guidelines for the movement of livestock, specifically by ocean transport. This work is continually reviewed and evolves with changes in technology and changing environments. Our methods have been peer reviewed and have been included in the American Association of Bovine Practitioners Guidelines for Transportation.

Hawaii is uniquely qualified to conduct this study as we have developed a distinct method for ocean transport via modified shipping containers.

We are committed to working with our transportation partners to place the highest priority on animal welfare and to provide safe and wholesome food for the people of Hawaii. This study will provide valuable, objective data which may be used to help our producers and transportation partners continue to apply best practices while shipping cattle.

We respectfully request that the legislature not only support the intent of this bill but also provide the needed funding to conduct this research.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this issue.

Sincerely,

Lisa B Wood, DVM
Animal Health and Well-Being Committee