



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:
S.B. NO. 1488, RELATING TO LIVESTOCK.

BEFORE THE:
SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT AND ON
HIGHER EDUCATION

DATE: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 **TIME:** 3:07 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 229

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Candace J. Park, Deputy Attorney General

Chairs Gabbard and Kim and Members of the Committees:

The purposes of this bill are to (1) require the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to study and assess the effects of heat stress on beef cattle during interisland ocean transportation; (2) require the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to report its 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; and (3) appropriate moneys to the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to conduct the study.

Section 6 of article X of the Hawai'i State Constitution gives the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i "exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operation of the university." Section 6 further provides: "This section shall not limit the power of the legislature to enact laws of statewide concern. The legislature shall have the exclusive jurisdiction to identify laws of statewide concern." If the Committee decides to pass this bill, we recommend an amendment that adds a statement identifying this bill as a law of statewide concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

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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Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON

**HIGHER EDUCATION
AND
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**FEBRUARY 14, 2023
3:07 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 229**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1488
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK**

Chairpersons Kim and Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

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

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 3:07 p.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 – RELATING TO LIVESTOCK

Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Richards and Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment and Senate Committee on Higher Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1488 relating to the appropriation of funds to 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. 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 that 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.

We support SB 1488 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget.

SB-1488

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 6:23:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/14/2023 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Warren Watanabe	Testifying for Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Maui County Farm Bureau supports SB 1488

SB-1488

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 8:41:48 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/14/2023 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Miyamoto	Testifying for Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Farm Strong



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

SB1488
RELATING TO LIVESTOCK

Tuesday, February 14 2023, 3:07 PM
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Chairs Gabbard & Kim, Vice Chairs Richards & Kidani, 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** 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 13, 2023

Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Hawai'i State Senate

Re: SB 1488 RELATING TO LIVESTOCK

Dear Chair Gabbard 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.

For the past year, AWI has led efforts to encourage and assist the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to promulgate regulations covering interisland transport of cattle and other ruminants. 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.

SB 1488 would allow the Department of Agriculture to collect the data it needs to determine what measures are necessary to ensure that animals shipped between the islands do not suffer and die from 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,

Adrienne Craig
Staff Attorney, Farmed Animal Program

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.

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

SB 1488 - Support

Relating to Livestock

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

3:07 PM

Conference Room 229

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Aloha Chairs Kim and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kidani and Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Scott Enright and on behalf of Hawaii Sustainable Beef Enterprises (HSBE), I strongly support SB1488. 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 SB1488.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Scott Enright

SB-1488

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 11:43:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/14/2023 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support. Thank you.

SB-1488

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 1:40:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/14/2023 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

SB-1488

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 1:58:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/14/2023 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support

SB-1488

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 10:14:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/14/2023 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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 these 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

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 5:03:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/14/2023 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Woody Child	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1488.

SB-1488

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 10:08:04 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/14/2023 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenee S Odani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard & Kim, Vice Chairs Richards & Kidani, and members of the committees:

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.

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

SB-1488

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 10:11:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/14/2023 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J Ashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is an important measure which will help determine best practices for keeping livestock healthy during transport.

Thank you for your support of Hawaii's farmers and ranchers.