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March 14, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

**TESTIMONY ON SB 301, SD1**  
**RELATING TO DOGS**

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference  
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice-Chair Kusch, 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 301, SD1**, which establishes an additional penalty for dog owners whose dogs destroy property while on land zoned for agricultural use. This measure is an important step toward protecting farmers, ranchers, and agricultural businesses from the financial and operational losses caused by uncontrolled dogs.

Loose and stray dogs have been a persistent problem for agricultural operations, particularly for livestock producers. Attacks on cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, and other livestock can result in devastating losses for farmers and ranchers, with financial impacts that are often not recoverable. Beyond economic losses, these incidents also cause significant animal suffering and distress, disrupt farm operations, and pose safety risks to farm workers and residents.

SB 301, SD1, strengthens existing protections by increasing the penalties for dog owners who fail to properly contain their animals. By holding owners accountable for damage caused by their dogs on agricultural lands, this bill encourages responsible pet ownership while ensuring that farmers and ranchers have the legal support necessary to protect their operations.

Counties already have the authority to regulate dangerous dogs, but enforcement is often inconsistent, and penalties may not be sufficient to deter repeat offenses. By establishing a minimum fine of \$1,000 for violations occurring on agricultural lands, SB 301, SD1,

provides a stronger deterrent against irresponsible dog ownership and reinforces the importance of keeping pets properly contained.

We appreciate the Legislature's recognition of this issue and urge the committee to pass SB 301, SD1, to provide better protections for Hawai'i's agricultural industry and ensure that farmers and ranchers can operate without the constant threat of livestock losses due to uncontrolled dogs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



## COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Chair  
Rep. Matthias Kusch, Vice Chair

### **SB301 SD1** RELATING TO DOGS

Friday, March 14, 2025, 10:00 AM  
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB301 SD1** which establishes an additional penalty for a dog owner whose dog destroys property while on land zoned for agricultural use.

Ranchers frequently deal with dogs on pastures, and we appreciate this additional penalty for owners whose dogs destroy property on agricultural land. Such actions not only negatively impact the business of rancher but also poses threat to the livestock. Ranchers use low-stress animal handling for animal health and well-being, but the introduction of unmanaged dogs increases stress.

Establishing an additional penalty will motivate dog owners to take more initiative in securing their dogs and preventing damage. Enforcement of this is critical, and in the past it has been difficult to identify the owners of dogs that have trespassed and caused damage. In addition to establishing the additional penalty, more clarity is needed on the appropriate entities to contact when damage is done.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure. 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.

Nicole Galase  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council  
Managing Director



**SB-301-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 12:52:54 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Gottlieb	Ponoholo Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB 301

**SB-301-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 1:34:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Oppose. Penalties should be appropriate to the crime not tailored to the victim.

**SB-301-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:42:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT !!!

MAHALO !

**SB-301-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 11:07:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Jacintho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong Support.

This is a much needed Bill. Values of livestock need to be assessed realistically, such as the value of a mother cow vs a yearling steer or a market steer, etc.

A mother cow can produce several calves in its lifetime, increasing the actual value from this producing mothers offspring. Her female calves have a further potential value, to reproduce for the Rancher, that is lost in the event of an expired or stressed mother. In other States, production cows are valued at a dollar amount that reflects her and her potential birth calves.

The same goes for other types of livestock.

Thank you for bringing this legislation forward.

**SB-301-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 5:37:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strong support



**SB-301-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 7:18:44 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I Strongly Support SB301.

**SB-301-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 10:26:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jimmy Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill and stand with Hawaii Cattlemen's Council testimony

**SB-301-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 10:26:37 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael EKM Olderr	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill, but I think a better fine implementation would be a sliding scale rather than a fixed fine of a thousand dollars.

**SB-301-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 1:51:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andy Kagemoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support. Thank you very much Chair Kahaloa for hearing this bill.