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March 23, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 2152, HD2
RELATING TO DOG ATTACKS

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
3:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, 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.

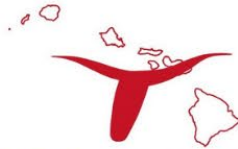
The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 2152, HD2, which strengthens owner liability and enforcement mechanisms related to dog attacks on livestock within the agricultural district.

Livestock production is a critical contributor to Hawai'i's food security, rural economy, and land stewardship. Uncontrolled dogs continue to pose a serious and ongoing threat to livestock producers across the State. Attacks on cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, and other farm animals can result in devastating financial losses, operational disruption, and significant animal suffering. A single incident can impact years of breeding and herd management decisions.

HB 2152, HD2 appropriately maintains its land or premises within the agricultural district, ensuring that the measure is tailored to protect bona fide agricultural operations. The bill clarifies owner responsibility, strengthens deterrence, and provides livestock producers with clearer legal remedies when preventable harm occurs.

Dog attacks on livestock are often preventable and place an unfair burden on farmers and ranchers who are already operating under tight margins and rising costs. Strengthening accountability promotes responsible pet ownership while reinforcing Hawai'i's commitment to supporting local food production.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

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

HB2152 HD2
RELATING TO DOG ATTACKS.

March 23, 2026, 3:00 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB2152 HD2** which clarifies owner liability and increases penalties and enforcement mechanisms for dog attacks on livestock.

Ranchers frequently deal with dogs harassing livestock. Such actions not only negatively impact the business of rancher but also poses a safety threat. Incidents have been reported in which wild dogs are aggressive to both humans and livestock. Wild dogs hunt in packs and have been known to kill dozens of animals in a single incident, not for food, but for sport.

Ranchers use low-stress animal handling for animal health and well-being, but the introduction of unmanaged dogs increases stress. Additionally, the loss of one animal equates to more than just one animal, as cows have the potential to produce calves for several years and those losses should be accounted for as part of the penalty.

Clarifying dog owner liability will motivate dog owners to take more initiative in securing their dogs and preventing damage, and will also allow livestock producers to dispatch wild dogs as a safety measure. As this law has been established in California where dog attacks are an issue, we support adopting this approach here in Hawaii where wild dogs are an increasing safety issue.

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. Ranchers produce a high-quality protein and are the stewards of almost 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or nearly 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



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Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

Date: March. 20, 2026

To: Chair Sen. Mike Gabbard
Vice Chair Sen. Tim Richards
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Vice President of Community Engagement
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in support of HB 2152, HD2: Relating to Dog Attacks
Monday, March 23, 2025, 3 p.m., Room 224 & Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support of the intent of House Bill 2152, HD2, which clarifies owner liability and increases penalties and enforcement mechanisms for dog attacks on livestock.

As the oldest and largest animal welfare nonprofit in the state of Hawai'i, the Hawaiian Humane Society advocates for the humane treatment of all animals. While our work has come to be most associated with pet animal protection, our earliest campaigns established ethical standards of treatment for working animals and livestock. We support the intent of this bill to protect livestock.

We request the following amendment to Section 3, f of the bill:

(f) On the return day, the judge shall determine whether the loss of or damage to livestock was caused by the dog. If the judge finds that the loss or damage was caused by the dog, the judge shall order the owner or person responsible for the dog to surrender the dog within twenty-four hours to an animal control officer for ~~prompt destruction~~ humane euthanasia.

There would be no reason to use any method other than humane euthanasia to dispatch a dog that has been surrendered to animal services.



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

We also want to point out that while this bill provides some tools for ranchers whose livestock are attacked by dogs, it does not address the underlying issue in most of these cases, which is that Hawai'i allows dogs to be trained to attack wild pigs. Dogs that have been exposed to such training pose a danger to people and animals. Hawaiian Humane does not oppose hunting to provide food for oneself and one's 'ohana, but the practice of training dogs to attack other animals is cruel and dangerous. It is not an ethical hunting practice, and it should be prohibited.

We ask that you adopt HB2152, HD2, with our amendment for the protection of livestock. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-2152-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 4:35:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roland Yartzoff	Testifying for Hawai'i Sheep and Goat Association	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Senators:

I conducted the initial research of California law which serves as the basis of HB2152 HD2. Much of the bill is a near verbatim replication of certain sections of California Food and Agriculture Code, Division 14, Chapter 5, Article 1. I will make myself available via Zoom to answer any questions the committee may have.

Mahalo,

Roland Yartzoff, board president

Hawai'i Sheep and Goat Association



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Negus Manna
Lāna'i

India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Rachel LaDrig
Waimānalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kaua'i

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee,

The Hawai'i Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFU offers comments on HB2152.**

HFU appreciates the inclusion of strict liability for twice the value of lost livestock. This financial deterrent is a major step toward protecting the livelihoods of local food producers. We also support the refinement in this draft that focuses on actual injury or destruction, ensuring that the legal protections for farmers are clear and balanced. These changes address the immediate need for owner accountability and encourage more responsible pet management in our rural communities.

However, we remain concerned that the current version is too dependent on a slow and expensive judicial process. Requiring a farmer to file a formal complaint in District Court creates a significant barrier to justice, as legal fees and time away from the farm can easily outweigh the value of the animals lost. We urge the Committee to simplify this by creating an administrative penalty track that allows for immediate restitution orders through animal control or state agencies, bypassing the need for a full court trial unless a dog owner chooses to appeal.

Finally, we ask the Committee to refine the "Habitual Perpetrator" framework and the Agricultural District limitation. Tying livestock protection to complex criminal statutes provides less relief to a farmer than a straightforward, enforceable fine system. Furthermore, the bill's protections should apply to any land where livestock are legally raised, regardless of zoning, to ensure that farmers in Rural or other districts are not left vulnerable. By making the restitution process faster and broader, this bill will provide the timely, practical relief our agricultural community needs to stay viable.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union

HB-2152-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 11:39:52 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Medeiros	Testifying for Kealia Ranch LLC.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support HB2152, as dog attacks on our livestock have been increasing. These incidents place tremendous strain on our animals, daily operations, and personnel. Stronger penalties and clear accountability are necessary to deter these attacks and protect Hawai'i's agricultural community.

HB-2152-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 6:21:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strong support

HB-2152-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 11:00:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT!!! MAHALO!

HB-2152-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 4:04:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Matson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

My father was killed by dogs in Ocean View in August of 2023. Two and a half years later our family has still not seen any accountability of consequences for the dog owners. I am in strong support of any and all laws that can be enacted to make our community safer from dog attacks. Dogs that attack and harm livestock also can and do attack humans. Please continue to seek out ways to improve, clarify, and strengthen our laws on this important public safety issue.

Also please remember, in these sorts of cases while the dogs probably DO need to be put down, it's ultimately the dog OWNERS who should be held responsible and must face appropriate consequences or they will just end up owning more dogs and letting them stray and harm other animals and people in the future.

Mahalo,

Shannon Matson

Hawai'i Island Resident

HB-2152-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 5:24:27 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I Strongly support HB2152.

HB-2152-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 12:34:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2152 HB RELATING TO DOG ATTACKS.

ID IMPLANT IN ALL DOGS TO ID OWNERS

HB-2152-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 8:22:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testifying in strong support of the changes put in place by this Bill to protect farmers, ranchers and their livestock from irresponsible owners of dogs that attack livestock.

HB-2152-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 10:22:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in support of this bill