



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

SB2798 SD1
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Monday, March 2, 2026, 10:31 AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB2798 SD1** which makes permanent the Agricultural Enforcement Pilot Program established pursuant to Act 235, SLH 2025. Renames the program as the Agricultural Enforcement Program and expands the program statewide.

Thanks to the Agricultural Enforcement Pilot Program, we have had more attention and resources directed towards agricultural crime than ever before. Expanding this program statewide is necessary, as agricultural producers experience vandalism, trespassing, poaching, and theft in all counties. We urge the legislature to ensure that with the expansion of the program, the permanent program receives adequate funding for the Department of Law Enforcement to hire, train, and retain staffing to address the needs of those who grow food for our community.

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



SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 7:30:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristin Mack Almasin	Testifying for Ulupalakua Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support SB2798. Thank you.

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 4:18:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa Thompson	Testifying for Thompson Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 2798 RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

Mahalo,

Theresa Thompson, Kula, Maui

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 5:32:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2798 SB RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 9:06:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gregory FRIEL	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and members of the committee,

My name is Gregory Friel and I'm a cattle producer on Maui and I support SB2798 SD1 which makes permanent the Agricultural Enforcement Pilot Program established pursuant to Act 235, SLH 2025. Renames the program as the Agricultural Enforcement Program and expands the program statewide. Thanks to the Agricultural Enforcement Pilot Program, we have had more attention and resources directed towards agricultural crime than ever before. Expanding this program statewide is necessary, as agricultural producers experience vandalism, trespassing, poaching, and theft in all counties. We urge the legislature to ensure that with the expansion of the program, the permanent program receives adequate funding for the Department of Law Enforcement to hire, train and retain staffing to protect our members of the Agricultural community.

Mahalo,

Gregory Friel

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 10:16:37 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Blane	Testifying for Parker Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Parker Ranch stands with the Hawaii Cattlemen’s Council in **strong support of SB2798 SD1**, expanding the Agricultural Enforcement Pilot Program statewide and making it a permanent program.

Ag crimes have become an increasing challenge for ag producers across the state. It hurts our cattle operation and ultimately Hawaii’s local beef industry. We appreciate the ongoing support of our legislators and local law enforcement in recognizing the severity of this issue and assisting us in finding solutions.

We thank you for the opportunity testify on this measure and offer our continued support of initiatives that help to reduce crime on agricultural lands across the state.