

Aloha Senators,

The current draft of 142-74 (a) limits applicability of HB2152 HD2 to state agricultural districts. Please be advised that this limitation is in conflict with County of Hawaii zoning code:

Division 8. IA, Intensive Agricultural Districts.

Section 25-5-80. Purpose and applicability.

The IA (intensive agriculture) district provides for the preservation of important agricultural lands as provided for in the general plan and characterized by a mix of small and large scale commercial farms and other agricultural operations which may include residential use in the form of farm dwellings closely tied to intensive agricultural use. The lands in the IA district are those lands which have the soil, quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to sustain high yields of crops generally or of specific crops of statewide or local importance when managed according to modern farming methods. All IA districts shall be located within the State land use agricultural *or conservation district* (emphasis mine).

There may also be conflicts with zoning in other counties.

I submit that it is reasonable to extend applicability of the protections accorded by HB2152 HD2 to any land use district in which it is allowable to keep livestock; whether for agriculture, removal of wildfire fuel, or any other purpose. This can be achieved by restoring the original text of 142-74 (a):

If any dog, while on land or premises without the consent of the owner or person in possession of that land or premises, injures or destroys any livestock or other property belonging to any person other than the owner or person responsible for the dog, then the owner or person responsible for the dog shall be liable in damages to the person injured for twice the value of the property so injured or destroyed.

I thank you for your attention to this matter.

Cordially,

Roland Yartzoff, board president

Hawai'i Sheep and Goat Association



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April 7, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

TESTIMONY ON HB 2152, HD2, SD1
RELATING TO DOG ATTACKS

Conference Room 016 & Videoconference
10:15 AM

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, 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, SD1, 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, SD1 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 JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

HB2152 HD2 SD1
RELATING TO DOG ATTACKS.

April 7, 2026, 10:15 AM
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB2152 HD2 HD1** 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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HB-2152-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 2:56:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| 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.

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-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 10:26:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Springer Kaye | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dog attacks have a serious, recurring impact on Hawaii farmers. I have tried three times to incorporate sheep into my commercial orchard operations to reduce fertilizer and mowing costs, reduce reliance on imported fertilizer, and add a second income stream. My property is fully fenced to contain sheep and cattle, but it would be thousands of dollars to retrofit to make it dog-proof. Each time I have established a sheep herd, within a year, a neighbor's dogs get loose and kill every single one. In two cases we knew the owners of the dogs. Last year a pack of 3 young dogs killed 18 of my neighbor's goats in one night. At Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge in 2023 three dogs got into a fenced conservation area and killed 38 nene goslings within one hour. This is a persistent and ongoing problem that won't be curtailed until dog owners are held legally and financially accountable and significant resources are put toward taking stray animals off the streets. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-2152-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 10:30:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tina Even | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am here to support hb2152

Tina Marie Even

HB-2152-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 12:05:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Briana Rodrique | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

We are so scared to go walking in our neighborhood, and I have zero faith in any dog owners being held accountable for their loose dogs hurting or killing someone. It's just awful. Please, let's do something about it.

HB-2152-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 12:12:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Vivian S. Toellner | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support increased penalties and enforcement on dog owners who allow their dogs loose to scare, harrass and attack livestock, endangered wildlife, pets and humans.

HB-2152-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 2:52:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Rebecca Redwine | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support HB2152, which takes important and necessary steps to address the growing issue of dog attacks on livestock in Hawai'i's agricultural areas.

Livestock production plays a vital role in our state's food security, local economy, and responsible land stewardship. Ranchers and farmers invest significant time and resources into maintaining their animals, yet they remain vulnerable to preventable losses caused by uncontrolled or stray dogs. HB2152 recognizes this reality and responds with practical, targeted solutions.

By clarifying owner liability and strengthening penalties and enforcement mechanisms, this bill ensures that dog owners are held accountable for the actions of their animals. This is a fair and reasonable approach that promotes responsible pet ownership while protecting those who depend on agriculture for their livelihood.

Importantly, HB2152 focuses specifically on incidents occurring within agricultural districts, where the risk and impact of dog attacks are especially high. These attacks can result not only in the injury or death of livestock, but also in emotional distress for farmers and significant economic losses that ripple through our local food system.

Strengthening enforcement tools will also help deter future incidents, reducing strain on law enforcement and agricultural communities alike. Preventing these attacks is far more effective—and humane—than responding after damage has already been done.

In supporting HB2152, we are standing up for Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers, promoting responsible pet ownership, and protecting the stability of our local food supply.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the legislature to pass HB2152.

HB-2152-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 9:33:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Diane Ware | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

There needs to be more accountability regarding loose dogs attacking people with injuries and deaths on Hawai'i island. I know about 2 deaths and 2 injuries requiring hospitalization plus other dogs being attacked requiring surgery. It seems there is no excuse for no criminal charges or consequences which has been the result in most cases even when the owners are identified. In some municipalities now owners have been prosecuted and sentenced to prison for deaths caused by their dogs.

I urge you to pass HB 2152 regarding attacks on livestock. The big question is why are dog owners in Oceanview never prosecuted for several loose dogs killing a neighbor. Where is Animal Control?

Sincerely afraid to go for a walk on the Big Island,

Diane Ware Volcano 96785

HB-2152-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 10:15:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Elizabeth Nilsen | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support harsher penalties for dog owners that allow their dogs to roam!!! Increase penalties!
Hold dog owners accountable. Please increase enforcement.

HB-2152-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 2:27:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Thomas Brandt | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

SUPPORT!

HB-2152-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 7:33:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT!!! MAHALO!

LATE

HB-2152-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 10:32:49 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Noel Morin | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

Please pass HB2152 HD2 SD1. I support this measure.

Mahalo,

Noel Morin

Hilo