



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented before the  
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs  
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by  
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HB 1221, HD2, Relating to Agriculture

Chair Kokubun, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of HB 1221, HD2 is to create a livestock revitalization program to reimburse poultry, hog, and dairy farms for feed expenses and to appropriate unspecified sums in each year of the fiscal biennium for the program.

The University supports HB 1221, HD2.

The cost of feeding livestock in Hawai'i is significantly higher than on the mainland and threatens our local egg, milk, and pork producers. We have recently lost two egg farms and one dairy to increases in production costs resulting largely from the rapidly rising cost of imported feed. Our remaining egg, dairy, and hog producers are very vulnerable if emergency relief is not available soon.

Eggs, milk, and pork are important staples that contribute to our food security. If our remaining egg, milk, and pork producers are put out of business by the high cost of feed, we will become more dependent on imported foods and will lose the option of buying these perishable goods at their freshest. Once these producers go out of business, it will be much more expensive to restart the businesses with new facilities and replacement animals.

By reimbursing egg farms, dairies, and hog farms for part of the cost of animal feed, HB 1221, HD2 will improve our food security by helping ensure the continued production of eggs, milk, and pork in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.