



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Testimony Presented before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
February 23, 2007

by  
Andrew G. Hashimoto, Dean  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1307, SD1, Relating to Agriculture

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of SB 1307, SD1 is to create a livestock revitalization and food security program and to appropriate \$4.7 million in each year of the fiscal biennium.

The University supports SB 1307, SD1.

The cost of feeding livestock in Hawai'i is significantly higher than on the mainland and threatens our local livestock producers, including egg and poultry farms, dairies, and hog farms. For example, 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 producers are very vulnerable if emergency relief is not available soon.

Eggs, milk, chicken, and pork are important staples that contribute to our food security. If our remaining egg and poultry farms, dairies, and hog farms 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, milk, chicken, and pork producers for part of the cost of animal feed, SB 1307, SD1 will improve our food security by helping ensure the continued availability of fresh eggs, milk, chicken, and pork in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.