



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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House Committee on Agriculture
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by
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SB 1307, SD3, Relating to Agriculture

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Brower, and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of SB 1307, SD3 is to create and fund a livestock revitalization and food security program.

The University supports SB 1307, SD3.

The cost of feeding livestock in Hawai'i is significantly higher than on the mainland and threatens our local livestock producers, including cattle ranches, egg and poultry farms, dairies, and hog farms. Cattle, milk, swine, and egg production have all declined significantly since the early 1990s. We 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 relief is not soon made available.

Beef, eggs, milk, chicken, and pork are important staples that contribute to our food security. If our remaining cattle ranches, dairies, poultry farms, 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 our producers of beef, milk, pork, and poultry products for part of the cost of animal feed, SB 1307, SD3 will improve our food security by helping ensure the continued availability of fresh beef, eggs, milk, chicken, and pork in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.