



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

By

Anna Wieczorek, Interim Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 3340 – RELATING TO LIVESTOCK

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of SB 3340 relating to livestock. The bill requires the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), in consultation with the livestock industry stakeholders, to conduct a study to assess the effects of heat stress on beef cattle during interisland ocean transportation.

CTAHR possesses the expertise to conduct the beef cattle interisland ocean transportation study and we have heard from our farming and ranching stakeholders that they support such a study. CTAHR respectfully requests adequate resources to ensure the completion of the study and a report of findings and recommendation, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2025. As appropriate, we will request assistance and feedback from the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and other relevant departments, and we will consult with livestock industry stakeholders and seek their cooperation in gathering information and data. We are convinced with adequate resources, the findings of this study will help us better understand the impact of interisland ocean transport, as presently practiced, on animal welfare and meat quality.

CTAHR supports the intent of SB 3340 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the measure.