



Maui County

February 2, 2020

Public Utilities Commission
465 South King Street
Hearing Room #103
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Proposed Changes to Livestock Procedures

Aloha Chair Griffin and Members of the Commission,

I am Warren Watanabe, Executive Director of the Maui County Farm Bureau. We are a County Chapter of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, representing 180 farm families and organizations on the island. Our mission seeks to protect and increase the viability of farms and ranches while ensuring the social and environmental wellbeing of the island.

The Maui County Farm Bureau is concerned about the proposed changes that could cause harm to the livestock industry in shipping their animals from harbors across the state. The state desires to have a viable agricultural industry and livestock is a major component to achieving this goal.

We also need to be aware of the effects to our youth as they participate in programs that not only teach them animal husbandry but life skills as well. We have seen growth in the 4-H program and these changes could have a detrimental effect in the continuation of these programs.

We strongly urge the commission to listen carefully to the cattlemen and work with all parties to reach a mutually agreeable solution.

Thank you for allowing us to provide our thoughts on this matter.