



The State Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

June 25, 2023

TO: Hawai'i State Department of Agriculture
BOA Chairperson's Office
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512

RE: JUNE 27, 2023 AGENDA (IV-A-4), 9am DOA Board Meeting
Resubmittal for Consent to Amend General Lease
No. S-3138, Hawai'i Land & Livestock, LLC, Lessee
TMK: (1) 9-1-031:001, Honouliuli, Ewa, Island of O'ahu, Hawai'i

Aloha Board Members,

I am Hawai'i Senator Maile Shimabukuro of Senate District 22 (Leeward/Wai'anae Coast) and am writing in strong support of approving this request for amending this general lease.

SB1246 and **HB946**, introduced by Representative Cedric Gates and I, moved through the 2023 Legislature whose appropriations were eventually incorporated into the State Budget (**HB 300, Page 92**). The measure appropriates \$4 Million for a pig, sheep, goat, poultry and other small animal slaughterhouse in Kalaeloa. Wai'anae pig farmers David Wong, David Souza, Patsy Kaneshiro, Stacy Sugai, and others have strongly advocated for this initiative. Stacy Sugai testified in support of the measure stating:

"Hawaii needs to become more food secure. Increasing locally raised small animal protein is a vital way to provide food for the people of Hawaii. SB1246, in providing a small animal slaughterhouse, is crucial to achieve this goal. This small animal slaughterhouse will provide USDA inspected and Third Party certified services. This will enable the farmers to provide small animal protein to grocery stores and restaurants to help make Hawaii more food secure.

Patsy and I own and operate our pig farm in Waianae. Our Mission is to provide locally raised pork to Hawaii, help make Hawaii a little more sustainable, and pave the way for the next generation of pig farmers. The current and only slaughterhouse on Oahu provides services to pig farmers every other week. In processing hogs every other week, we are able to provide the people of Hawaii approximately 5,000 lbs of pork a month through grocery stores and restaurants. We are grateful to Hawaii Meats for continuing to process our hogs. Without them, we would have to close our farm. If, however, there was a small animal slaughterhouse, we could double that amount simply by processing weekly. We would also strive to increase our production to enable us to provide even more.

Hawaii, where we all call home, is in such a vulnerable state when it comes to food. Many talk about this urgency, many talk about how we need to increase agriculture, many talk about plans. Today you can make a huge difference in helping Hawaii to be more food secure and to increase agriculture in our state. By voting yes to SB1246 Relating to the Food Supply, you are taking a stand, you are taking action, to make our home more food secure and to increase agriculture in our state." <end quote>

Our nation has been experiencing nearly unprecedented levels of inflation. The resulting fiscal hardships are profoundly exacerbated in the State of Hawai'i by our geographic remoteness and heavy dependence on transpacific importation of our processed food supplies. This vulnerability can only be remediated with stronger efforts at food sustainability and real policies promoting self-reliance.

These dedicated farmers are now FINALLY positioned with investment capital and broad support to quickly move forward on their developmental efforts to immediately address our statewide food sustainability issue. This is not theoretical nor esoteric posturing. The ability to locally provide groceries directly impacts all of our dinner tables with fresher foods at lower costs.

Reiterating, I strongly support, without reservation, the amending of the lease so that these domestic farmers can begin providing locally produced foods from which we will all benefit .

Mahalo for your generous time in thoughtful consideration of this issue.

Me ka 'oia i'o / Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maile S.L. Shimabukuro', written over a horizontal line.

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
State Senate District 22 (Leeward/Wai'anae Coast)