



**Maui County**

**November 19, 2018**

**TESTIMONY**

**Re: A Bill for an Ordinance Amending Chapter 6.04, Maui County Code, Relating to Animal Control**

Chair Crivello and Members of the Committee:

I am Warren Watanabe, Executive Director of MCFB, representing commercial farm and ranch families and operations on Maui.

MCFB supports the intent of this measure clarifying the needs of our commercial livestock operators. As this is a commodity specific issue, we support the position of the Maui Cattlemen's Association.

Recognition of animal welfare is part of Farm Bureau policy as efficient and profitable production of food and fiber depends on the proper care of livestock. Animal welfare is a cornerstone of good livestock stewardship, a responsibility and core ethic of our commercial operators. We see it beginning when 4-H children begin by taking on the responsibility of animals knowing they must part with the animal at the end of the project. Head, Heart, Hands, and Health, the values at the core of 4-H are reflected in the core ethic of our commercial ranchers. Most if not all of our ranchers had their start in 4-H. There are widely recognized management practices in the industry that incorporate animal welfare.

It is our belief that the intent of the existing code is to address pets where a similar commitment of care for animal welfare may not be present. There needs to be recognition that pets and commercial livestock standards are different. Farm Bureau policy and ranchers do not condone animal cruelty.

The Maui Cattlemen's Association leads the efforts in this area for the County of Maui. Farm Bureau therefore respectfully requests your support of their position. Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

RECEIVED AT HHT MEETING ON 11/19/18