

HAWAII CATTLEMEN'S COUNCIL, INC.,
Honolulu, Hawaii, June 14, 1968.

HON. SPARK M. MATSUNAGA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MATSUNAGA: Thank you for your letter of June 6, 1968 relative to amendments to the Meat Import Act of 1964.

I was happy to note that you will present our case before the House Committee on Ways and Means in conjunction with its current hearings on the full spectrum of foreign trade. Enclosed are copies of Tables 1 and 2 of data previously forwarded, but with revised figures. Figures for 1967 on the original tables sent to you were based on Hawaii, 10 months; Mainland, 9 months; and New Zealand-Australia, 9 months with projected estimates for the balance of the year. We have since been able to obtain complete figures for 1967 as you will note on the attached sheet.

You will note that foreign beef imports actually dropped off from a high of 18,304,000 pounds in 1965 to 15,327,000 pounds in 1967, a drop of 2,140,000 pounds. This slight decrease hardly grants us much relief from the devastating effects of the dumping and erratic shipments of foreign beef have on our price structure in Hawaii.

Again, we feel the only way for Hawaii to gain any relief would be through a port of entry quota system or by setting quotas based on one-half the average of imports over the last five years.

With slaughterhouses across the nation now faced with meeting health and sanitation standards "at least equal" to federal standards under the Wholesome Meat Act of 1967, we feel very strongly that foreign packers be required to do likewise and that such standards be rigidly enforced before such meat enters the country.

Once again, may I express the sincere appreciation of all of our members for your concern for the welfare of our industry and solicit your support for HR 9475 which is presently before Congress. Mahalo and Aloha.

Sincerely,

ROBERT L. HIND, Jr.
President.

HAWAII CATTLEMEN'S COUNCIL, INC.,
Honolulu, Hawaii.

Whereas, ports of entry continue to receive more than their equitable share of their total meat demands from foreign imports. One typical port state receives 30% of its state market supply from foreign sources, and

Whereas, other interior states are receiving a much lower percentage of their total production, while port states are feeling the devastating effects of these foreign imports, this high percentage having a detrimental effect on price structure, and

Whereas, Public Law 88-482 without a port of entry clause does not alleviate the situation in port states, and this same law sets trigger points so high as to make its enforcement impractical, and

Whereas, foreign packers are not required to meet stringent sanitation and health standards imposed on United States packers,

Be it resolved, that Congress grant area relief to ports hard hit by foreign beef imports by reducing the total poundage received by these ports to one-half the average received over the last five years, and

Be it further resolved, that Congress seek modification of the existing public law, to lower trigger points, insert a port of entry quota clause, and seek legislation requiring foreign packers to meet United States health and sanitation laws, and

Be it further resolved, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President and the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, all members of the House Ways and Means Committee, Hawaii's Congressional delegation, the President of the American National Cattlemen's Association, and the Chairman of the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture.

Adopted, May 15, 1968.

ROBERT L. HIND, Jr.
President.