Support HB 215/SB 682 to end fur sales which harm animals, people and the planet

Changes in global legislation, fashion industry policy and public perception are swiftly making fur production a piece of unjust history. Hawai‘i has an opportunity to align with best global practice policy to protect fur-bearing animals, natural environments, and human health.

HB 215 and SB 682 create important and progressive policy in line with public expectations

The vast majority of luxury and mainstream fashion brands have banned the sale of fur, with a growing number of countries banning its production, while other governments ban its sale. These policies are becoming more common as the fur industry’s immense impact becomes clearer to the public, who expect responsible policy-making. On both sides of the political spectrum, recent polling showed a supermajority of voters in Hawai‘i support legislation to end the sale of new fur products, as is proposed.

Fur production is an environmental disaster which harms efforts for sustainable production

Up to six times more CO2 is emitted in the production of a mink fur coat than even a synthetic fur coat, while bio-based and recycled faux fur options are even more environmentally preferred. Fur must be treated before use, rendering it non-biodegradable due to the use of carcinogenic substances including chromium and formaldehyde. While fur factory-farms cause major eutrophication and even waterway ‘dead zone’ risks due to ammonia and phosphorus pollution, fur trapping negatively impacts critical biodiversity which must be protected, in line with COP15 targets.

The sale of fur funds immense cruelty to animals

Each year, as many as 100 million animals are bred to be killed for fur coats, trimmed jackets, bobble key rings and other items which can be made with alternative materials. 95% of fur comes from factory-farms where wild animals are deprived of their most natural instincts. While foxes are confined to cages as much as one million square meters smaller than their roaming habitat, mink and other confined animals self-mutilate due to their psychological distress. Animals are gassed or inserted with electrodes for slaughter at as young as 6 months old.

While some brands refer to ‘farm-free’ fur as more ethical, animals like coyotes and lynx are known to chew their own legs off, breaking their teeth in efforts to escape foot-hold traps. These traps are indiscriminate, posing serious risks to endangered species populations.

Fur production endangers the health of workers and our global community

While workers processing furs for use face acute risks of chronic health conditions and even cancer due to chemical exposure, those on fur farms are at risk of zoonotic disease contraction. Zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19 have spread and mutated from countless fur farms, due to the poor conditions animals are kept in. Additionally, product testing across numerous countries has found hazardous chemicals breaching legal standards to be present, rubbing onto the skin of people who purchase fur.

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All references available at: https://www.collectivefashionjustice.org/fur