



HAWAI'I INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL  
PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, December 19 2023, 1:00 PM  
Conference Room 16 & Videoconference

Agenda Item 8

Chair Chang, Chair Hurd, and Members of the Council,

The Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawai'i, or almost 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawai'i's cattle producers.

The Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council offers comments on the Resolution Recognizing the Role of Invasive Plants as it Relates to Wildfire in Hawai'i & Supporting Recommendations for the Prevention and Post-Recovery Efforts to Mitigate Future Impacts.

We support efforts to mitigate for wildfire risk as they negatively impact the community, the environment, and livelihoods. Hawai'i's ranchers work daily to reduce fire fuel loads through grazing and invasive species removal. Climate smart practices such as prescribed grazing are important tools that not only reduce fire risk, but also come with the co-benefit of food production.

We appreciate the recognition that management is key to determining wildfire risk and that unmanaged lands pose greater fire risk than managed land – this is one of the many reasons we advocate for supporting agricultural lands to stay in agricultural production. Taking lands out of ranching removes the ecosystem services of fire fuel reduction, carbon sequestration, and land managers who intimately know and care for the land. We should be really focusing on the areas of land that are not managed to create a plan for matching them with land stewards.

The Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council respectfully requests to be included in efforts for HISC to plan for future management of invasive plants to mitigate for fire. Ranchers have the capacity and motivation to manage large tracts of land, and can offer on-the-ground insight to guide plans.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase  
Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council  
Managing Director

Taylor Kellerman  
Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council  
Chair of Land & Water

