



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

Meeting for the Board of Land and Natural Resources
October 8, 2021, 9:00 AM via Zoom
Submitted to blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov.

Chair Case and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on agenda items D1 and D4 for the Annual Renewal of Revocable Permits for Island of Kauai and Island of Hawaii, respectively. Many of these leases are zoned Pasture or Agriculture. Act 90, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003 (Act 90) was specifically intended to ensure agricultural lands remain in production by transferring them to the Department of Agriculture. Many of these revocable permits have remained as revocable permits for several decades. This is not conducive to agriculture, and we urge the Board of Land and Natural Resources to consider the transfer of these pasture and agricultural leases under Act 90 to ensure that these lands can continue to operate productive lands.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 140 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 approximately 20% of the State's total land mass.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter for our industry.

Nicole Galase
Managing Director



KAPAPALA RANCH

P. O. Box 537

Pahala, HI 96777

808-936-2922

Kapapala.ranch@aol.com; lanipetrie@aol.com

BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

MEETING

October 8, 2021

9:00 am

Chair Case and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources

Subject: Agend Item D4 Regarding RP 7637 and RP 7758

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding lands that we have operated starting 20 years ago in 2001.

We support the recommendation to the Board to renew the 30 day revocable permits for the two subject properties. The 2021 Legislature through Act 139 formed a working group to report to the 2022 Legislature their findings on the impacts of Act 90 and how to best implement the 2003 Session Law.

Since the closure of Ka‘u Agribusiness in 1997 potential management of these lands has been volleyed back and forth between the State agencies of Land Division, Department of Agriculture, and most recently DOFAW.

- 2001 initial permit issued to Kapapala Ranch for pasture. Included in the permit was collaboration with DOFAW for public bird hunting.
- 2003 Act 90 passes which allowed for the transfer of lands in agriculture from the DLNR to HDOA.
- 2007 BLNR meeting on May 11 approves the expansion of more fallow sugarcane acreage into pasture of what would become RP 7637. The amended approval included staff studying the longer term disposition of land for intensive agriculture, pasture, and koa reforestation.
- 2009 Letter from the Department of Agriculture lists these former RP's to be transferred to HDOA under Act 90 Session Laws as well as the lands of GL5374 for long-term lease for pasture and future non-ag park projects.
- 2010 BOA accepts the transfers of the lands within GL 5374, RP 7637, and RP 7758.
- 2010 to present the DLNR never puts the land transfer before the BLNR.
- 2018 DLNR proposes DOFAW to be the lead managing agency reducing by 80% the lands to be transferred to HDOA.
- 2021 Act 90 Working Group meets monthly and allows for input from ranchers and industry associations.

We support the recommendation to the Board for the renewal of RP 7637 and RP 7758 while the Act 90 Working Group forges through the process to determine long-term disposition of agricultural lands in pasture use.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lani C. Petrie

