

From: [Janet Ashman](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY: Janet Ashman personal testimony for BLNR meeting August 25 2023 on Items D-4 and D-5, KK and Kapapala Ranches
Date: Thursday, August 24, 2023 9:16:04 AM

Aloha,

RE: August 25, 2023 BLNR agenda items D-4 and D-5, with regard to K. K. Ranch, Inc. and Kapāpala Ranch.

I strongly support the transfers of these two ranch leases and RPs to DOA, as DOA is the more appropriate agency to manage ag lands and leases.

I have worked with these two ranch families and I can attest to the fact that they are extremely hard-working, knowledgeable, and dedicated stewards of our natural resources who also provide food for our local communities.

The instability and insecurity of their leases/RPs for all these years is unfair. This is the opportunity to fix that.

Please make sure that the conditions you impose are reasonable and fit the parcels and the business operations so that the ranches can continue to be successful.

Thank you,
Janet Ashman

From: [Billy Bergin](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BLNR Meeting August 23, 2023 Agenda Items D4 and D5
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 10:58:46 AM

Aloha Members

As a very long time partner in the ranching industry in Hawai'i as a veterinarian and historian, I would remind the Board of Land and Natural Resources as well as DLNR staff that these ranchers are proven dedicated stewards of the land. They cannot survive without being effective stewards while also caring for the families that support them. It has been disturbing to have state leases such as the two on the BLNR agenda Friday, August 25, denied for 20 years. Further, this was contrary to public policy authorized by the State Legislature in 2003.

Please listen to the ranchers "lived experience" with protecting the 'aina and ensuring they are able to contribute to food security for our island and state into the future.

Dr. Billy and Patricia Bergin

Patti Cook

P.O. Box 6960, Kamuela, HI 96743

cookshi@aol.com

August 22, 2023

TO: Hawai'i State Board of Land and Natural Resources

Meeting August 25, 2023 – Testimony on Agenda Items D4 & D5

RE: SUPPORT with considerations

Mahalo for your time to address this long-standing concern. I am not a rancher but as a long time resident of Waimea, I have come to understand some of the issues facing our ranchers including state leases that impact their sustainability. We need ranchers both to contribute to increased food self reliance and because they are, in fact, experienced, effective land stewards who have science-based protocols and practices in place to prevent or at least reduce wildfires, minimize the spread of invasives, and protect the land from erosion and other environmental degradation.

For the above reasons, I have supported the legislative intent of Act 90/2003 for many years and appreciate that now, DLNR is implementing long-standing legislative intent.

I support the transfer of Kapapala and KK Ranch to the Department of Agriculture.

This transfer to DOA will enable reliable, affordable long term leases needed to sustain the ranchers' investments and thereby increase our state's food security, while concurrently exercising responsible land stewardship.

I am compelled to add that these ranchers need and deserve appropriate lease terms. I urge the Land Board and agency staff to listen to and honor the leaseholders' requests so that appropriate terms are afforded to them. The people of Hawai'i need and expect this to ensure that these lands are stewarded responsibly and productively for the long term.

Please also expedite transfer of these leases to DOA, as was legislatively authorized in 2003.

Aloha, **Patti Cook**

From: [Oliver English](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BLNR Meeting August 25, 2023 – Testimony on Agenda Items D4 and D5.
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:05:38 PM

I support the transfer of Kapapala and KK Ranch to the Department of Agriculture. The past actions of both of these ranches have proven that they are responsible tenants and stewards of these lands. The ability of DOA to provide affordable long term leases will provide them the assurances needed to increase their investments in agriculture and become even better caretakers of these lands. We urge you to listen to the leaseholders so that the appropriate terms are afforded to them and they can continue to improve their contribution to the community on these state leased lands that they steward.

Oliver English
Director of Agricultural Operations
W.H. Shipman Limited
16-523 Keaau-Pahoa Rd
Keaau, Hawaii 96749
office: 808-966-9325
fax: 808-966-8522
[email: oenglish@whshipman.com](mailto:oenglish@whshipman.com)

From: [Alex Franco](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BLNR Meeting August 25, 2023 – Testimony on Agenda Items D4 and D5.
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 4:25:37 AM

I support the transfer of Kapapala and KK Ranch to the Department of Agriculture. The past actions of both of these ranches have proven that they are responsible tenants and stewards of these lands. The ability of DOA to provide affordable long term leases will provide them the assurances needed to increase their investments in agriculture and become even better caretakers of these lands. We urge you to listen to the leaseholders so that the appropriate terms are afforded to them and they can continue to improve their contribution to the community on these state leased lands that they steward.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Henry Gibson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BLNR Meeting August 25, 2023 – Testimony on Agenda Items D4 and D5.
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 10:54:01 PM

I support the transfer of Kapapala and KK Ranch to the Department of Agriculture. The past actions of both of these ranches have proven that they are responsible tenants and stewards of these lands. The ability of DOA to provide affordable long term leases will provide them the assurances needed to increase their investments in agriculture and become even better caretakers of these lands. We urge you to listen to the leaseholders so that the appropriate terms are afforded to them and they can continue to improve their contribution to the community on these state leased lands that they steward.

Sent from my iPhone

From: greenwell.jimmy@gmail.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BLNR Meeting August 25, 2023 - Testimony on Agenda Items D4 and D5.
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:21:13 PM

I support the transfer of Kapapala and KK Ranch to the Department of Agriculture. The past actions of both of these ranches have proven that they are responsible tenants and stewards of these lands. The ability of DOA to provide affordable long term leases will provide them the assurances needed to increase their investments in agriculture and become even better caretakers of these lands. We urge you to listen to the leaseholders so that the appropriate terms are afforded to them and they can continue to improve their contribution to the community on these state leased lands that they steward.

From: info@hawaiiangardenshome.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BLNR Meeting August 25, 2023 - Testimony on Agenda Items D4 and D5.
Date: Thursday, August 24, 2023 9:03:08 AM

I support the transfer of Kapapala and KK Ranch to the Department of Agriculture. The past actions of both of these ranches have proven that they are responsible tenants and stewards of these lands. The ability of DOA to provide affordable long-term leases will provide them the assurances needed to increase their investments in agriculture and become even better caretakers of these lands. We urge you to listen to the leaseholders so that the appropriate terms are afforded to them and they can continue to improve their contribution to the community on these state leased lands that they steward.

Further, I think it should be a policy that, whenever appropriate, State-owned land suitable for agriculture be transferred to the DOA. This would facilitate more development of Ag Parks and farming, per se.

Sincerely,

Kelly Greenwell

From: gregf@haleakalaranch.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BLNR Meeting August 25, 2023 - Testimony on Agenda Items D4 and D5.
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 6:24:14 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)

To the Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the transfer of Kapapala and KK Ranch to the Department of Agriculture. The past actions of both of these ranches have proven that they are responsible tenants and stewards of these lands. The ability of DOA to provide affordable long term leases will provide them the assurances needed to increase their investments in agriculture and become even better caretakers of these lands. We urge you to listen to the leaseholders so that the appropriate terms are afforded to them and they can continue to improve their contribution to the community on these state leased lands that they steward.

Greg Friel

Greg Friel
VP/Livestock Manager

Haleakala Ranch Company
529 Kealaloa Avenue • Makawao, HI 96768
Phone: (808) 572-1500 • Fax: (808) 572-7288

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P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

Submitted via email to: blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

August 25, 2023

Dawn Chang
Chairperson
Hawai'i State Board of Land and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96809

**RE: Board of Land and Natural Resources Meeting August 25, 2023, 9:15 a.m.
Testimony on Items D-4 and D-5:**

D-4. Pursuant to Act 90, General Lease No. S-4475, K. K. Ranch, Inc., Lessee.

D-5. Pursuant to Act 90, General Lease No. S5374, and Revocable Permit Nos. S-7637 and S-7758, Kapāpala Ranch, Lessee, Permittee

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The intent of Act 90, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, was to transfer *agricultural* lands from the DLNR to the DOA, the agency whose mission it is to support agriculture. DOA is the agency that is equipped to manage agricultural lands and leases to ensure that farming remains viable on these lands. Since that date twenty years ago, only approximately nineteen thousand acres have been transferred to DOA, with the vast majority of these lands still awaiting transfer.

Agriculture is not DLNR's primary mission, but farming and ranching in the islands are a priority for our communities' food security. Because agricultural leases and revocable permits are better served and supported under DOA, pasture leaseholders can continue to provide critical day-to-day environmental stewardship services. With these caretakers on the ground, observing changes and following through with actions to provide habitat for native species such as nēnē, and to manage invasive species, potential fires, including providing access to water sources, soil health, watershed management, and exotic disease monitoring and suppression, our State resources are better protected. Conservation and stewardship are what these ag lessees and revocable permit holders have already been doing for decades. They know that their success is predicated upon their careful stewardship of the land and other natural resources. And their success is a key component in the State's sustainability goal to double local food production.

Farmers and ranchers must have long-term leases to prudently invest in infrastructure improvement on the leased land. While the DOA laws and regulations are specifically structured to make it practical for farmers to do this, DLNR is unable to provide lease terms that help farmers.

The families of Kapāpala Ranch and K.K. Ranch have both been recognized by BLNR Chairperson Dawn Chang, and many others, as being good stewards of the land. Ranchers can help DLNR fulfill its mission. These families toil every day at the back-breaking work to maintain their successful ranching businesses and dutifully provide ecosystem services, while awaiting this long-promised opportunity for a stable, supportive long-term lease.

HFB respectfully encourages you to approve the transfer of these lands to DOA and to assure that the lease terms and conditions align with our State's goals of self-sufficiency, sustainability, and food security for Hawai'i's future. **HFB has reviewed the DLNR recommendations and we, along with others in the ranching community, have significant misgivings about some of the proposed conditions in these leases. We hope you will seriously consider the thoughtful concerns and suggested alternatives offered by the two families and ensure that the conditions you impose upon them are reasonable and will not result in the downfall of their ranches.**

Thank you for your support of Hawai'i's agricultural producers.

From: [Yanghua He](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BLNR Meeting August 25, 2023 – Testimony on Agenda Items D4 and D5.
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 6:28:13 AM

I support the transfer of Kapapala and KK Ranch to the Department of Agriculture. The past actions of both of these ranches have proven that they are responsible tenants and stewards of these lands. The ability of DOA to provide affordable long term leases will provide them the assurances needed to increase their investments in agriculture and become even better caretakers of these lands. We urge you to listen to the leaseholders so that the appropriate terms are afforded to them and they can continue to improve their contribution to the community on these state leased lands that they steward.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

**Board of Land and Natural Resources Meeting
August 25, 2023, 9:15 a.m.**

Agenda Items D4 and D5: Pertaining to Act 90, SLH 2003 for K.K. Ranch and Kapapala Ranch

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

Twenty years ago, the legislature passed Act 90 SLH 2003 to transfer agricultural lands from DLNR to DOA with the intent of ensuring the long-term productive use of these agricultural lands. Today, over 100,000 acres of agricultural land are still under the Department of Land and Natural Resources. We are encouraged that Chair Chang and Chair Hurd have taken steps to transfer lands in agricultural production to the Department of Agriculture.

We respectfully request that the Board support and approve the proposed transfer of K.K. Ranch and Kapapala leases on agenda items D4 and D5. We also strongly urge you to consider the concerns of the impacted ranchers regarding the aspects of their respective leases.

The requests they are making in their testimony are to ensure that the ranches can continue to successfully operate and serve both the needs to contribute to the food supply as well as to responsibly and effectively steward the land. They are reasonable and important requests that we hope you will respond favorably to.

Transferring agricultural lands from DLNR to DOA will help many productive leaseholders continue raising cattle for beef and stewarding the land with confidence that they will be supported in their agricultural operations. According to the State Ag Land Use Baseline, 1.1 million acres of the state's land was in grazing use in the 1980s. In 2015, that number dropped to 761,000 acres. The 2020 State Ag Land Use Baseline reports that pasture continues to decline on Oahu and Hawaii Island. Astute land stewards are well aware that when land is taken out of active management, Hawaii's environment and aggressive invasive species make it costly and extremely difficult to get it back to working order. We must support those who are actively running agricultural businesses and who are key contributors to our food system.

We believe that the DOA is best suited to support these agricultural businesses while ensuring that environmental stewardship of the resources continues. Please support the transfer of agricultural leases from DLNR to DOA.

The Hawaii 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 Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

Benefits of transferring agricultural leases to DOA

- Leaseholders are more likely to stay in business when they have lease terms appropriate for agriculture. Better terms will allow them to increase the number of grassfed cattle they supply to the Hawaii Market. Producers are eager to help increase Hawaii's food security.
- The land can be better managed and more resources can be deployed to reduce invasive species, rapid response to fire threats, and provide suitable habitat for native species.
- Longer term leases will allow greater participation in climate smart practices such as silvopasture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this priority for our industry.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council

From: [Joni Kamiya](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BLNR Meeting August 25, 2023 – Testimony on Agenda Items D4 and D5.
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 8:07:33 PM

Aloha Board Members,

I support the transfer of Kapapala and KK Ranch to the Department of Agriculture. The past actions of both of these ranches have proven that they are responsible tenants and stewards of these lands. The ability of DOA to provide affordable long term leases will provide them the assurances needed to increase their investments in agriculture and become even better caretakers of these lands. We urge you to listen to the leaseholders so that the appropriate terms are afforded to them and they can continue to improve their contribution to the community on these state leased lands that they steward.

Joni Kamiya

Sent from my iPhone

August 24, 2023

VIA: Email

Marion K A Kapuniai,
P. O. Box 6753
Kamuela, HI 96743

Hawaii State Board of Land and Natural Resources
P. O. Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

RE: **TESTIMONY - MEETING AGENDA – August 25, 2023 9:15 a.m.**
ITEM D-4 and D-5

Aloha:

I TESTIFY TO SUPPORT ITEM D-4 AND ITEM D-5!

Lessees of KK Ranch and Kapapala Ranch have honored their lease agreements and have exemplified highest stewardship over the lands they have kuleana for, especially while considering the primary focus on the use of **PUBLIC TRUST LANDS**, that being productivity towards attaining **SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR THIS STATE OF HAWAII, COMPRISED OF INDIVIDUAL ISLANDS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PACIFIC!!!**

WHO, OR WHAT ORGANIZATION, OR WHAT STATE OF THE USA, OR WHAT COUNTRY, IS GOING TO STEP FORWARD AND SAVE US??????? NONE! WE, THE CONCERNED CITIZENS AND THE ELECTED OFFICIALS ALONG WITH THEIR DILIGENT, HIGH PAID STAFF SHALL GET THE JOB DONE, EFFICIENTLY AND WITH WISDOM!!!!!!

We all do respect consideration for recognition and designation of SACRED LANDS AS IDENTIFIED BY KUPUNA and CRITICAL HABITAT.

If we are not diligent in our responsibilities, we will probably have to eat those birds we are trying to save!

I shall take opportunity to express my disappointment in the sorry sequence of events which have brought us to this point.

I appreciate this opportunity to speak up for diligent land stewardship, an actual sacred responsibility,

Marion K A Kapuniai

**KK Ranch, Inc.
PO Box 428
Paauilo, HI 96776**

**Board of Land and Natural Resources Meeting
August 25, 2023**

D. 4. Pursuant to Act 90, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003 (Act 90), as mutually agreed upon between Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and Department of Agriculture (DOA), Approve the Set Aside to the DOA for Pasture Purposes (with Alternate Agriculture Use Allowed on 10% of the Land), General Lease No. S-4475, K. K. Ranch, Inc., Lessee, Covering Parcels 7-A and 7-B, Government Land of Kalopa and Ka'ohē 3, Hamakua, Hawaii, Tax Map Keys: (3) 4-4-014:002 & 011.

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

My name is Jeri Ann Fumie Puamohala Moniz testifying on behalf on my husband Jason and Myself, owners of KK Ranch. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this transfer. We greatly appreciate the work Chair Chang and Chair Hurd and their staffs have done to visit and review our ranch and to submit this proposal to the BLNR for your consideration for approval. We work hard every day to steward the lands that make up this lease and we commit to continue to steward these public lands.

In the submittal's BACKGROUND section, we have a different perspective than what is presented by the Land Division. Our perspective is based on having lived through the significant detrimental impact of the 2100-acre easement/withdrawal to our lease that resulted from the Daniel K. Inouye Highway's mitigation measures. We won't have time to go into the details but can answer questions if there are any.

We respectfully request that you consider amending a few of the recommendations that will have serious ramifications to the successful operation of the ranch. We had asked for a deferral of the June BLNR meeting to address these concerns but unfortunately, we have received no communication or resolution since we were given one opportunity to meet with DOFAW Administrator David Smith in early July. As a result, the current submittal basically contains the same recommendations contained in the June submittal. We respectfully request that you consider the follow amendments to the RECOMMENDATION section:

2.A.i. “The exception and reservation from the leased premises of all existing roads and trails within this tract of land listed at pages 9c to 9d, paragraph 7 of GL S-4475 and subject to the mutual agreement by the Board of Agriculture (BOA) all other roads, trails and rights-of-way that may be required by the BLNR for public purposes;”

We respectfully request that this section be amended to require the mutual agreement of the Board of Agriculture. The language “public purpose” is so broad that it could have significant negative impact on the ranch’s operations. That being the case we believe the BOA should have a say on new easements that the BLNR indicates it requires. Examples of the type of negative impacts caused by right-of-way’s established for public purposes include fires, rustling, malicious injury to livestock, spread of invasive species, damage to water systems and gates left open resulting in potentially irreversible production disruptions.

2.A.ii. “Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the reservation of the roadway easements listed at pages 9c to 9d, paragraph 27 of GL S-4475 and the exception and reservation of access over the subject land for public purposes from Mana Road to the western side of Puu Mali, which is a DOFAW Reserve, as shown on the map attached as Exhibit 3a;”

We respectfully request an amendment to Exhibit 3 to provide an alternative access route. The submittal’s Exhibit 3 depicts a cinder rock road that shows up on some old satellite photos. However, that road has not been maintained for over 20 years, other than the first 1,000’ or so between our water pump station and the Mana Road. The road was originally built by the ranch to haul cattle and service infrastructure in the mauka section of the ranch that was subsequently taken out of the lease for the Palila Mitigation. Today, when we need to access above our water pump station, it is not by trucks but by ATV, UTV, or horseback. We have long had significant concerns about an easement directly through the property. DLNR previously requested a similar easement in the planning stages for the Palila Mitigation, but we argued against it then because of the various reasons and concerns listed above in A.i. In our meeting with DOFAW Administrator David Smith in early July, we proposed an alternate route at the boundary between our ranch and SC Ranch, which is the neighboring DLNR lease to the immediate east of us. That access was put in place recently to reconstruct the boundary fence between the two ranches and would be less disruptive than placing a right-of-way within either ranch’s interior. Exhibit 3a depicts the approximate location of the alternate right-of-way outlined in red.

2.A.iii. “”

We respectfully request the above recommendation and language to be deleted. Public hunting on this lease is not manageable given the significant disturbance and harm it will cause to our cattle herds and the damage to the infrastructure the cattle will cause if distressed by hunting on the property. From a geographic standpoint this lease is long and narrow, following the original Kalopa Ahupua'a. **The shape and size of the property does not allow for our cattle to escape the pressures that would result from public hunting.**

Back in 1975, when the lease was last awarded and the public hunting provisions were included in the lease language, grazing practices were extensive with large open paddocks hundreds and even a couple thousand acres in size. Today, grazing practices have evolved to use smaller paddocks that are more intensively managed. This improves plant health, nutrient value, and soil regeneration through increased grazing rest periods. These smaller paddocks allow lower stress to the cattle and can be fenced with only a single strand of electric fence wire to maintain their control. However, cattle cannot be contained by these fences when agitated by hunting nearby.

It is our intention to further increase our paddock numbers with this type of fencing to improve our ability to raise cattle on grass and increase our production of local beef. In addition, please recognize and consider that the 2,100 acres already withdrawn from our lease together with approximately 3,100 additional acres withdrawn from the two neighboring leases totals 5,200 acres that has been added to DLNR's public hunting inventory.

These proposed amendments to the submittal's RECOMMENDATION section have been given sincere thought on our part and we are asking you to please consider them in your decision making today.

Our commitment and ongoing pledge

We have been involved with and realize that in an emergency all bets are off and have cooperated fully, for example with firefighting personal to provide any access needed, water or other resources we can provide.

As we have in the past and in the future should DLNR need to move tracked or other off-road type equipment to their adjacent forest reserves, we pledge to continue providing them guided access through the ranch to avoid or minimize damage to our infrastructure. We would just ask for some prior notification and equipment cleaning to prevent the introduction of new invasive species such as fountain grass and gorse for example.

Thank you again for your consideration, the opportunity to testify and to present our proposed amendments to the RECOMMENDATION section of this submittal. We strongly believe that

because each leased area is so unique, the terms of each pasture lease must be given individual consideration, as much as possible, and meet the test of reasonableness, to assure that the purpose of the lease can be accomplished.

Mahalo,

Jeri and Jason Moniz
KK Ranch Inc.

Location of DOFAW access road through lease land to forest reserve.

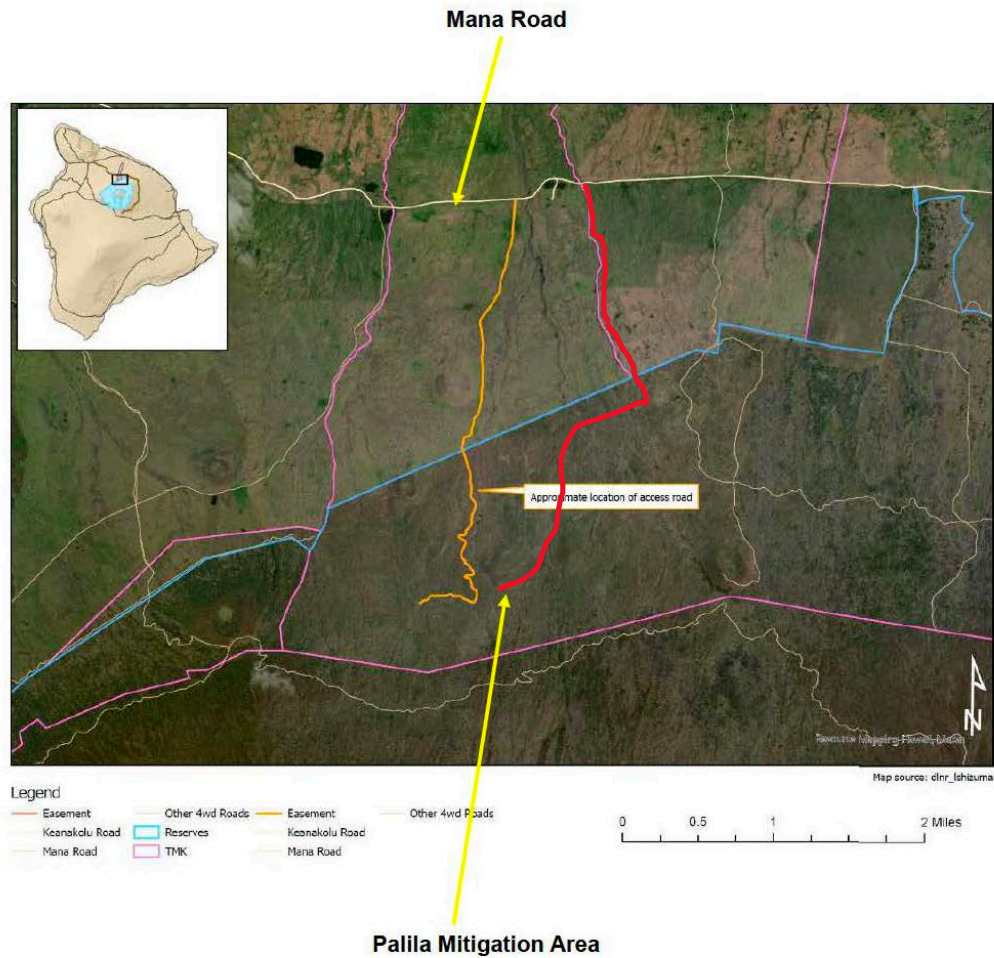


EXHIBIT 3

a



Via E-Mail
blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

August 23, 2023

The Honorable Dawn N.S. Chang, Chair
And Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Comments in Support of Agenda Items D4 and D5 - Transfer of Leases of Kapapala Ranch and KK Ranch from Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to Department of Agriculture (DOA) Pursuant to Act 90, Session Laws of Hawaii (2003) (Act 90).

**Friday, August 23, 2023, 9:15 a.m.; Kalanimoku Building Room 132;
Online via ZOOM; Livestream via You Tube.**

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers, and utility companies. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational, and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of the transfer of leases of Kapapala Ranch and KK Ranch from DLNR to DOA** pursuant to Act 90, and of the various agricultural stakeholders who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the perpetuation and protection of agriculture in Hawaii.

LURF's Position. LURF members include property owners, farmers and ranchers who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider efforts to protect and support agriculture significant to the continued conduct of their operations and to help sustain and preserve farming and ranching businesses into the future.

Many farmers and ranchers have been awaiting the transfer of their land leases from the DLNR to the DOA pursuant to Act 90, which was enacted to ensure long-term productive use of public agricultural lands to be managed by the DOA, which is better suited to administer agricultural lands. The 20-year delay of the anticipated transfers, however, has impaired the ability of farmers and ranchers to establish and implement long-term plans for their operations.

LURF supports the transfer of leases of Kapapala Ranch and KK Ranch to the DOA as both ranches have proven to be responsible tenants and stewards of these leased lands. LURF understands that the DOA can best advance and sustain the needs of agriculture and the agricultural industry in this State. Moreover, lands under the DOA are appraised on their agricultural value while lands under the DLNR are auctioned for lease at the highest rates possible, which is commonly beyond the affordability of local farmers and ranchers. The ability of the DOA to provide affordable long-term leases will provide lessees such as Kapapala Ranch and KK Ranch with assurances required to prudently increase their investments in agriculture, such as infrastructure improvements and resource conservation on the leased lands, which would allow them to become even better caretakers of these lands.

By recognizing the significance of, and need to assist the local agriculture industry, and by taking measures which help to support the viability and maintenance of agriculture in the State, transfers such as these significantly help to promote economically viable agriculture, increased food production, and food self-sufficiency in Hawaii.

For the reasons stated above, LURF **supports the transfer of leases of Kapapala Ranch and KK Ranch** from the DLNR to the DOA, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this action.

Thank you for the opportunity to present comments in support of this significant matter.

From: [Frank Lorenzo](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BLNR Meeting August 25, 2023 %20 Testimony on Agenda Items D4 and D5.
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 6:17:29 PM

I support the transfer of Kapapala and KK Ranch to the Department of Agriculture. The past actions of both of these ranches have proven that they are responsible tenants and stewards of these lands. The ability of DOA to provide affordable long term leases will provide them the assurances needed to increase their investments in agriculture and become even better caretakers of these lands. We urge you to listen to the leaseholders so that the appropriate terms are afforded to them and they can continue to improve their contribution to the community on these state leased lands that they steward.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Lori-Lee Lorenzo](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BLNR Meeting August 25, 2023 – Testimony on Agenda Items D4 and D5.
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 9:59:57 PM

Hello,

I support the transfer of Kapapala and KK Ranch to the Department of Agriculture. The past actions of both of these ranches have proven that they are responsible tenants and stewards of these lands. The ability of DOA to provide affordable long term leases will provide them the assurances needed to increase their investments in agriculture and become even better caretakers of these lands. We urge you to listen to the leaseholders so that the appropriate terms are afforded to them and they can continue to improve their contribution to the community on these state leased lands that they steward.

Thanks,
Jesse Lorenzo

From: [Jill Mattos](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BLNR Meeting August 25, 2023 – Testimony on Agenda Items D4 and D5.
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 4:07:26 PM

I support the transfer of Kapapala and KK Ranch to the Department of Agriculture. The past actions of both of these ranches have proven that they are responsible tenants and stewards of these lands. The ability of DOA to provide affordable long term leases will provide them the assurances needed to increase their investments in agriculture and become even better caretakers of these lands. We urge you to listen to the leaseholders so that the appropriate terms are afforded to them and they can continue to improve their contribution to the community on these state leased lands that they steward.

Sent from my iPhone

From: smoknd83@gmail.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Strong Support for Transfer of Ranching Leases to DOA - Agenda Items D4 and D5
Date: Thursday, August 24, 2023 8:57:10 AM

I support the transfer of Kapapala and KK Ranch leases to the Department of Agriculture. The past actions of both of these ranches have proven that they are responsible tenants and stewards of these lands. The ability of DOA to provide affordable long term leases will provide them the assurances needed to increase their investments in agriculture and become even better caretakers of these lands. We urge you to listen to the leaseholders so that the appropriate terms are afforded to them and they can continue to improve their contribution to the community on these leased state lands that they steward.

Please approve the Set Asides to the Department of Agriculture of lands covered by the leases and revocable permits held by these two ranches (Agenda Items D-4 and D-5).

Thank You
Sean M. O'Keefe
Kula, Hawaii
Maui Farm Bureau Member



TESTIMONY OF JACOB D. TAVARES, LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS BUSINESS MANAGER, PARKER RANCH, INC.

TO THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

AUGUST 25, 2023

TITLE: TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS D4 & D5

Chairperson Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing this testimony on behalf of Parker Ranch, Inc. in support of the lease transfer of Kapapala and KK Ranch to the Department of Agriculture. Over the decades, both KK Ranch and Kapapala have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to land stewardship, environmental conservation, and sustainable agricultural practices. Their dedication to the responsible management of these lands, combined with their desire for stability through long-term leases at reasonable rates, make the proposed transfer a prudent and progressive decision.

KK Ranch and Kapapala have a proven track record of being exemplary custodians of the land they operate on. Their dedication to maintaining the delicate ecological balance, preserving local biodiversity, and implementing innovative agricultural techniques has set a high standard for sustainable land use practices in our state. By continuing to lease these lands to entities that have already demonstrated their commitment to environmental stewardship, we ensure the perpetuation of these invaluable practices for the benefit of both current and future generations.

The mission of the Department of Agriculture aligns with the unique needs of both KK Ranch and Kapapala. The Department's expertise in agricultural development and commitment to fostering cooperative partnerships positions it as an ideal partner for these ranches. The proposed transfer offers an opportunity for a collaborative and productive relationship, enabling the ranches to contribute even more significantly to Hawaii's agricultural landscape.

At Parker Ranch, we have had the privilege of working closely with both KK Ranch and Kapapala. We share a boundary fence line with Jason and Jeri and can appreciate the relentless commitment they have to their operation, and the betterment of the livestock industry. Lani and Bill showed their true character when we were in need, pasturing cattle for us in 2021 as we recovered from the devastating Mana Road Fire. We have witnessed firsthand their dedication, resilience, and the positive impact they have on our local communities. Their commitment to preserving the land's cultural and historical significance while also pursuing modern agricultural techniques is truly commendable.

By supporting the lease transfer of Kapapala and KK Ranch to the Department of Agriculture, we ensure the continuity of responsible land stewardship. The long-term stability offered by the Department of Agriculture's terms, will enable these ranches to plan for the future, invest in critical infrastructure and innovative technologies, and create a lasting legacy for Hawaii's agricultural heritage.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of this critical initiative.

Jacob Tavares
Jacob D. Tavares



Ponoholo Ranch Limited

P O BOX 700489
KAPOLEI, HI 96709
(808) 306-7769

BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DATE: August 25, 2023 TIME: 9:15 AM

Re: Agenda Items D-4 & D-5

Aloha Chair Dawn Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources:

Ponoholo Ranch strongly supports the transfer of lands leased or permitted to Kapapala Ranch and KK Ranch from the DLNR to the HDOA. The past actions of both of these ranches have proven that they are responsible tenants and stewards of these lands. The ability of HDOA to provide affordable long term leases will provide them the assurances needed to increase their investments in agriculture and become even better stewards of these lands.

Ponoholo Ranch Limited operates its cattle ranch on Hawaii Island on over 10,000 acres of land, some fee simple, some leased. Some of the leased lands have been with the State of Hawaii. In fact, we have leased State of Hawaii land, managed by DLNR since our inception in 1979. Two of the leases we have held in recent years have been long term and one was a revocable permit we leased on a month-to-month basis for over 40 years.

In 2002, when one of the DLNR leases we previously held for many years came up for renewal, it was required to be put out for auction. At auction someone else bid up the price and to keep this lease, which had become an integral part of our operation and upon which we had invested many dollars on improvements, we won the auction by paying about 7 times the economic value of that land, in essence buying back the improvements WE had made over the years. Fortunately, when the rent reopened after 10 years we were able to demonstrate to DLNR the economic carrying capacity of the lease and they reduced the annual rent to a fair rate.

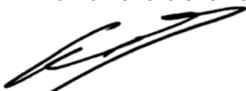
We have worked for many years to try to get our leases transferred to HDOA under Act 90, 2003 for the reasons the legislature passed Act 90 in the first place: to allow farmers and ranchers to work with a State Department which specialized in agriculture, and which had favorable terms to promote agriculture and sustainability in the State.

As our 20 year leases with DLNR were coming to an end in the early 2020's, we spent very little money investing in improvements on these leased DLNR lands. It made no economic sense for us to invest money in the last 10 years of the lease, only to have to buy back our OWN improvements at Auction. In fact, the way the DLNR system now works, it makes sense for the current operator to let the leased property get run down. This is contrary to the best stewardship of the land, but it is an economic reality.

We were fortunate when in early 2018 former HDOA Chair, Scott Enright, worked with DLNR to attempt to get many of the pasture leases transferred to HDOA, supporting the legislative intent of Act 90. Representatives from DLNR, including DOFAW, and HDOA spent a day at Ponoholo Ranch to see all the things the ranch was already doing production-wise, but most importantly stewardship-wise and discuss any concerns the agencies may have. The outcome of the fact-finding visit was that the lease for Ponoholo would be transferred from DLNR to HDOA per Act 90. With a long term lease instead of a month-to-month tenure, we were able to make significant investments.

We take our kuleana seriously. So do the two ranches being discussed today. Having lease terms that support investment in the land and increased productivity of the cattle makes sense for production AND for environmental sustainability. Transferring the leases from DLNR to HDOA for KK Ranch and Kapapala Ranch makes sense, just as it made sense to do so for Ponoholo Ranch several years ago.

There is NO loss for the community if ranchers succeed. It is not the environment versus food production. It truly is a win/win, a win for productivity and a win for the environment. Ranchers do every day what the State does not have the manpower or budget to do!



Alan Gottlieb
Vice President



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Hale o nā Luna Makaʻāinana

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

August 25, 2023

Chair Dawn Chang
Board of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl St. Room 132
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: BLNR Agenda Items D4 and D5: Act 90 Transfers

Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the Act 90 transfers.

Twenty years ago, the State Legislature passed Act 90, SLH 2003, to provide that public lands classified for agricultural use by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) should be transferred to and managed by the Department of Agriculture (DOA) for the development of farms on a widespread basis as possible. Act 90 provided that non-agricultural park lands may be transferred from DLNR to DOA upon the mutual agreement of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) and the Board of Agriculture. Although transfers occurred over the years, full implementation of Act 90 is incomplete, which led to the formation of the Act 90 Working Group in 2021. The Working Group found that lands under DLNR “used for the primary and substantial management of agricultural production should be transferred to DOA, following the process and conditions pursuant to Act 90.” (See Act 90 Working Group Report at page 3).

We are in strong support of the implementation of Act 90 and encourage the BLNR to approve the transfer of these lands to DOA. We will continue to monitor the status of these transfers and look forward to working with both DLNR and DOA in the future.

Rep. Cedris Asuega Gates
Chair, House Committee on
Agriculture & Food Systems

Rep. Linda Ichiyama
Chair, House Committee on
Water & Land

Rep. David A. Tarnas
Chair, House Committee on
Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

From: rockerg@hawaii.rr.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BLNR Meeting August 25, 2023 – Testimony on Agenda Items D4 and D5.
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 10:53:17 PM

I support the transfer of Kapapala and KK Ranch to the Department of Agriculture. The past actions of both of these ranches have proven that they are responsible tenants and stewards of these lands. The ability of DOA to provide affordable long term leases will provide them the assurances needed to increase their investments in agriculture and become even better caretakers of these lands. We urge you to listen to the leaseholders so that the appropriate terms are afforded to them and they can continue to improve their contribution to the community on these state leased lands that they steward.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

D.4. ACTION ITEM: Pursuant to Act 90, Session Laws of Hawaii
2003, Approve the Set Aside to the DOA for Pasture Purposes,
General Lease No. S-4475 K.K. Ranch, Inc, Lessee

Honorable Chair Chang and the Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Charles Stevens. I am the owner of S.C. Ranch, a 7700 acre ranch, located in Pa‘auilo, on Hawai‘i island, a member of the Hawaii Cattlemen’s Council, and I am in SUPPORT of Agenda Action Item D.4. S.C. Ranch has been operating for nearly 50 years, after establishment by the late Dutch Schuman and Gordon Cran. In 2012, I purchased the ranch, and my family is working daily to improve water catchment and storage capabilities, and incorporate sustainable land-based practices, to protect and serve as a responsible steward of these lands.

I understand that the purpose of Act 90, 2003 is to ensure the long-term productive use of public agricultural lands by allowing these lands to be transferred to and managed by the Department of Agriculture (DOA). I, along with the Hawaii Cattlemen’s Council, continue to advocate for the transfer of all agricultural lands, including all lands designated as intensive agricultural use, special livestock use, and pasture use. These are lands that are in active agricultural production and producing food for our community.

Honorable Chair Chang, I thank you for acknowledging the importance of Act 90 to the ranching community, and I thank you for including “D.4. ACTION ITEM: Pursuant to Act 90, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, Approve the Set Aside to the DOA for Pasture Purposes, General Lease No. S-4475, K.K. Ranch, LLC, Lessee” on the agenda. I am writing to submit my testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda Action Item D.4, and voice our continued SUPPORT of implementation of Act 90: Conservation Values, Cultural and Recreation Values, and Overall Management Consideration Values, are at the core of S.C. Ranch operations. We view our pasture lands, as food producing land, thus, we take great measures to manage grazing responsibly, control invasive species and wildfire, and maintain fences and roads.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on agenda item “D.4. ACTION ITEM: Pursuant to Act 90, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, Approve the Set Aside to the DOA for Pasture Purposes, General Lease No. S-4475”. My family would like to invite you, committee members, and your staff, to visit S.C. Ranch, and view our operations.

Charles Stevens
S.C. Ranch