



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

**Board of Land and Natural Resources
October 11, 2024, 9:00 a.m.**

C2: Issuance of Revocable Permit and Immediate Management Right-of-Entry Permit to Henry Edward "Bud" Gibson for Grazing Purposes in the Waimanalo Forest Reserve, Waimanalo, Oahu, Hawaii, Tax Map Key: 1-4-1-010: portion of 107.

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council would like to submit testimony in support of agenda item C2 to issue a revocable permit and immediate management right-of-entry permit to Bud Gibson for grazing purposes in the Waimanalo Forest Reserve.

Mr. Gibson has been stewarding his leases in the Waimanalo area for decades. We all understand that land that is not managed can lead to wildfire and catastrophic consequences. The land neighboring Mr. Gibson's lease in the Waimanalo Forest Reserve should be managed to keep wildfire fuel loads down for the safety of the community. Grazing is an effective tool for this, and this grazing permit will allow for the management of grasses within the forest reserve.

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.

Thank you for your consideration of the grazing permit to allow Mr. Gibson to graze the forest reserve to reduce fire hazards. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council





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MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Testimony on Item C2: Issuance of Revocable Permit and Immediate Management Right-of-Entry Permit to Henry Edward "Bud" Gibson for Grazing Purposes in the Waimanalo Forest Reserve, Waimanalo, Oahu, Hawaii, Tax Map Key: 1-4-1-010: portion of 107.

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 comprises 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.

HFB offers its **strong support** on agenda item C2 to issue a revocable permit and immediate management right-of-entry permit to Bud Gibson for grazing purposes in the Waimanalo Forest Reserve.

Mr. Gibson has been stewarding his leases in the Waimanalo area for decades. We all understand that land that is not managed can lead to wildfire and catastrophic consequences. The land neighboring Mr. Gibson's lease in the Waimanalo Forest Reserve should be managed to keep wildfire fuel loads down for the safety of the community. Grazing is an effective tool for this, and this grazing permit will allow for the management of grasses within the forest reserve.

Thank you for your consideration of the grazing permit to allow Mr. Gibson to graze the forest reserve to reduce fire hazards.

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