

October 25, 2024

Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

Subject: Testimony in Support of Issuance of a Revocable Permit for Pasture Purposes and Immediate Management Right-of-Entry to Hawaii Land & Crop, L.L.C., Kaohe, Hamakua, Hawaii (Tax Map Key: (3) 4-3-008:002)

Aloha Chairperson Chang and Members of the Board,

My name is Jacob Tavares, and I am the owner and sole proprietor of Hawaii Land & Crop, L.L.C. I come before you today as a generation farmer and rancher in Hawaii, with a demonstrated history of managing large-scale land tracts. My experiences have equipped me with the skills and dedication necessary to responsibly steward agricultural lands.

In addition to my extensive background in agriculture, I have also had the privilege of serving on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission and various Soil and Water Conservation boards. These roles have deepened my understanding of the importance of natural resource conservation and the need to find harmony between conservation efforts and other land uses. I am committed to ensuring that our agricultural practices coexist with the preservation of Hawaii's natural resources.

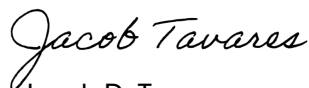
The subject property in Kaohe, Hamakua, which I seek to use for pasture purposes, is facing a critical issue with a dense population of ironwood trees, an invasive species that is rapidly spreading. If left unchecked, this invasive growth will continue to degrade the land, making it unusable for pasture or any other productive use. Exhibit A of this letter clearly illustrates this through aerial imagery from 2013 and 2023, showcasing the aggressive spread of ironwood trees over just a decade.

Since March 2023, I have been working diligently with the DLNR Hawaii Island Land Division to address the challenges of this property. After 19 months of collaborative efforts and open communication, I am ready to move forward with the initial steps of stewardship.

I respectfully request the Board's support in approving this permit so that we can address these pressing issues and ensure the long-term usability of this valuable land.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Jacob D. Tavares
Hawaii Land & Crop, L.L.C.
P.O. Box 144
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Exhibit A

2013



2023



