

From: [Whitney Boteilho](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Agenda Item D-4 – Transfer of GL 4478 under Act 90
Date: Thursday, November 13, 2025 8:10:26 AM

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board,

My name is Whitney Boteilho, and I come from a third-generation ranching and dairy family. I am writing on behalf of Boteilho Hawaii Enterprises in strong support of agenda item D-4 pertaining to Act 90 and the transfer of General Lease No. 4478 to the Department of Agriculture.

I was born and raised on the pasture lands this lease covers, and to this day, it remains my favorite place to be. Growing up, every school break—summer, spring, and fall—was spent working on the ranch alongside my dad. For a short time after graduating college, I also worked on the ranch full-time. Although I currently have another full-time job, I continue to work part-time on the ranch and spend as much time there as possible.

We are primarily a cow-calf operation with approximately 650 mother cows. The majority of our calves are exported to the mainland, with a few remaining on our operation to become either replacement heifers or grass-fed market animals. On average, we export about 500 weaned calves (480–580 lb average per head) each year to the mainland. While we may be a relatively small cow-calf operation compared to others in the state, we still do contribute substantially to the local food production through our cull cows & bulls to produce ground beef which is the most sought after cut for local families to afford.

In addition to our beef operation, we also raise Holstein heifers for the last remaining dairy in the State of Hawai'i, located on the northern part of Hawai'i Island. In this way, we contribute to local food production not only through beef, but also through dairy and milk.

Ranchers like myself are known to be good stewards of the land. Our work helps mitigate wildfires, control and remove invasive species, and improve soil health. We have partnered with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to install cross fences, improve water infrastructure (lines, tanks, and troughs), and construct a 2.8-million-gallon lined reservoir and water catchment system. These improvements allow us to implement rotational grazing systems, which help us better utilize our tropical forages, prevent overgrazing, reduce erosion, and improve soil health. Good grazing management also contributes to carbon sequestration.

As ranchers, we continually seek to improve our practices and enhance our role as caretakers of the land. Having a long-term agricultural lease through Department of Agriculture would give us the confidence and stability to invest even more in long-term conservation projects and infrastructure such as reservoirs, tanks, and fencing that promote sustainable land management.

I humbly ask for your support in transferring GL 4478 from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Whitney Boteilho
Boteilho Hawaii Enterprises



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November 14, 2025

Submitted via e-mail to blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Testimony on Agenda items D1, D3, D4, D8, and D9 pertaining to Act 90, SLH 2003

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 items **D1, D3, D4, D8, and D9** pertaining to Act 90, SLH 2003 to set aside agricultural leases to be managed by the Department of Agriculture (now named the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), pursuant to Act 90, 2003.

The intent of Act 90, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2003, was to transfer *agricultural* lands from the DLNR to the DOA, whose mission is to support *agriculture*. DAB is the agency properly equipped to manage agricultural lands and leases to ensure that farming remains viable on these lands. We are encouraged that since that date, over twenty years ago, some acreage has been transferred to DOA; however, much of these important lands still await transfer.

The agricultural community supports the transfer of all agricultural lands, including all lands designated as intensive agricultural use, special livestock use, and pasture use. These include lands that are in active agricultural production and those producing food for the local community. Without the continuous support of caretakers on the ground observing changes and following through with action to manage, for example, feral ungulates and other invasive species, fire prevention, soil health, watershed management, and exotic disease monitoring and suppression, these lands cannot be stewarded properly to meet our State's goals of conservation and food production.

Agricultural leaseholders have a long track record of accomplishing these important goals. Their success and their livelihood is only possible through their careful stewardship of the land and associated natural resources.

Without long-term leases farmers cannot invest in infrastructure and conservation improvement on the leased land. The laws and regulations under DAB are structured to make it practical for farmers to do this, while DLNR is not able to provide lease terms that help farmers. Hawai'i cannot afford to lose more productive grazing land to lack of appropriate management, including control of invasive species.

We respectfully request that in addition to the leases listed on this agenda, we strongly request the transfer to DAB of GL4473 leased by the De Luz ohana and GL4476 leased by the Nobriga ohana. These ranches each contribute substantially to the amount of beef supplying Hawai'i consumers each year.

Hawai'i Ranchers are good stewards of the land. These ranch 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 and to assure that the lease terms align with our State's goals of self-sufficiency, sustainability, and food security for Hawaii's future.

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

**Boteilho Hawaii Enterprises Inc.
PO Box 190
Hawi, HI 96719-0190**

Board of Land and Natural Resources
November 14, 20025 9:00 AM

RELATING TO THE TRANSFER OF AGRICULTURAL LEASES FROM DLNR TO DOA

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

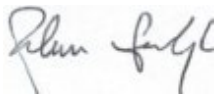
Boteilho Hawaii Enterprises **supports agenda items D1, D3, D4, D8, and D9 pertaining to Act 90** which ensures the long term productive use of public agricultural lands by allowing transfer and management to the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

The Boteilho family started dairy farming and ranching in Pa'auilo since 1966. In 1985, we relocated our dairy operation to North Kohala. Originally consisting of 8,000 acres, the ranching operation has remained at its current location in Pa'auilo for 59 years. In 2010, we lost 2,300 acres to the Palila Bird Habitat. We now have 5,700 acres, which we use to raise replacement heifers for our last remaining dairy in the State. In addition, the ranch operation provides local beef to the community that is sold statewide.

The Ranch operation has been a critical support for the dairy and its survival is attributed to the ranch, both financially and support of its livestock during the droughts in North Kohala. Scale of ranch is critical for our financial viability and we have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in infrastructure over the years. Included in our testimony are pictures of our operation.

By approving the lease transfers it will strengthen the agricultural sector by keeping these lands in agricultural production. We humbly request your support of the transfer of these agricultural leases from DLNR to DOA.

Sincerely,



Bahman Sadeghi
Boteilho Hawaii Enterprises, Inc.







From: [Joseph Loyola](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in support of agenda item D4/transfer of GL4478
Date: Thursday, November 13, 2025 9:03:34 AM

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board,

My name is Joseph Loyola. As the ranch manager of Boteilho Hawaii Enterprises I am in strong support of agenda item D4 pertaining to Act 90 and the transfer of General Lease No. 4478 to the Department of Agriculture.

We are primarily a cow-calf operation with approximately 650 mother cows. On average, we export about 500 weaned calves each year to the mainland. We also make meaningful contributions to local food production through our cull cows and bulls, which are used to produce ground beef, and by raising Holstein heifers for the last remaining dairy in the State of Hawai'i, contributing to the local dairy and milk industry.

Ranchers are good stewards of the land and we are always seeking ways to improve our practices. Having a long-term agricultural lease would give us the stability to invest even more in conservation projects and infrastructure that continue to promote sustainable land management.

I sincerely request your support in transferring GL 4478 from the DLNR to DOA.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Joseph Loyola
Ranch Manager
Boteilho Hawaii Enterprises

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jason Moniz](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: [Nicole Galase](#); [Lani Petrie - Kapapala Ranch](#); [Hurd, Sharon K](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Act 90 Lease Transfers
Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 10:54:02 PM

Dear BLNR Members,

My name is Jason Moniz. I am the vice President of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council and a rancher on a Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) lease. I strongly support the transfer of the pastoral leases listed in your November 14, 2025 agenda to the DAB. Having worked 38 years with the Department of Agriculture's Animal Industry Division I am familiar with the ranch operations on these leases and recognize that these leases are and have historically been substantially and predominantly used for livestock grazing. As a result, they clearly meet the recommendations made by the Act 90 working group for transfer from the DLNR to the DAB.

Thank you for supporting these lease transfers.

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

Subject: Agenda Items D1, D3, D4, D8, and D9

My name is Lani Petrie and I am currently the President of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, HCC. I own and operate Kapapala Ranch, an Act 90 lessee/transferee. HCC strongly supports the transfer of these lands to the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

It has been 22 years since the law was passed leaving land stewardship in limbo, lessee's held hostage, and cut two decades of generational commitment to the land wasted (and we wonder why our children leave Hawaii).

Cattle is the fourth largest agricultural commodity in Hawaii, measured by gross sales. In terms of what provides the highest level of nutrition, though, we should be ranked number one. What our industry provides in ecosystem services is immeasurable, just look at this last decade of fires that have destroyed sensitive native ecosystems, homes, lives, and communities.

I also fully support that GL4473 and GL4476 be added to this list of transferees as soon as possible.

Very Sincerely,

HAWAII CATTLEMEN'S COUNCIL

Lani C. Petrie