



**Board of Land and Natural Resources
November 14, 2025 9:00 a.m.**

Regarding agenda items pertaining to Act 90, SLH 2003: D1, D3, D4, D8, and D9

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council would like to submit testimony in strong support of agenda items D1, D3, D4, D8, and D9 pertaining to Act 90

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 and Biosecurity. We 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 managed by Lincoln Ching, SC Ranch, De Luz Ranch, Boteilho Ranch, and Diamond B Ranch are in active agricultural production and producing food for our community.

Ranchers are proponents for stewarding the land well and will continue to implement conservation practices when leases are transferred to DAB—the health of the land allows ranchers to continue their production. Under DAB, leaseholders will have access to longer terms based on agricultural production, and ranchers will be even better situated to invest in long-term conservation practices. Transferring agricultural lands from DLNR to DAB will help these productive leaseholders continue raising cattle for beef and stewarding the land with confidence that they will be supported in their agricultural operations. Even cow/calf operations that send cattle to the mainland for further feeding and finishing contribute beef to the local community through their cull cows and bulls which stay here in the state.

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 management, Hawaii's environment and prevalence of invasive species make it costly and difficult to get it back to working order. It is extremely important that we support those who are still operating as agricultural businesses. **We believe that DAB is best suited for supporting these agricultural businesses. We ask that you support the transfer of these agricultural leases from DLNR to DOA.**

In addition to the leases listed on this agenda, we also advocate for the transfer of GL4473 leased by the De Luz ohana and GL4476 leased by the Nobriga ohana. Currently these ranches each



independently contribute approximately 150,000# of beef per year to local consumers in our State. In terms of USDA's recommended serving size of 4oz's, each ranch produces about 600,000 meals per year.

Several of the ranchers on this agenda have worked with the DLNR to leave portions of their lease with the DLNR so that the rest can be transferred to DAB. We appreciate the collaboration between the DLNR, DAB, and the leaseholders to support Governor Green's 2025 Policy Briefing Report to Hawaii's People, in which he dedicates Chapter 7 to Act 90 agricultural land and the importance of prioritizing local food production by strengthening the agricultural sector. Approving these leases for transfer strengthens the agricultural sector by keeping agricultural lands in agricultural production.

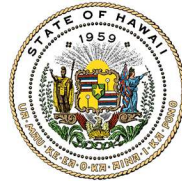
The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Ranchers are the stewards of almost 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this priority for our industry.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



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SHARON HURD
Chairperson
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY**

BEFORE THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2025
9:00 AM
DLNR Boardroom, Kalanimoku Building**

LAND DIVISION AGENDA ITEMS PURSUANT TO ACT 90

D1. Pursuant to Act 90, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, as mutually agreed upon between Department of Land and Natural Resources and Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Approve the Set Aside to the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity for Pasture Purposes, Revocable Permit No. S-7770, Lincoln Y.T. Ching, Permittee, Covering Portion of Government Land, Kapaa Rice and Kula Lots, Kawaihau, Kapaa, Hawaii, Tax Map Key: (4) 4-5-015:029; and Revocable Permit S-7790, Lincoln Y.T. Ching, Permittee, Covering Portion of Government Land, Kapaa Rice and Kula Lots, Kawaihau, Kapaa, Hawaii, Tax Map Key: (4) 4-5-015:010 and 028.

D3. Pursuant to Act 90, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, as mutually agreed upon between Department of Land and Natural Resources and Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, the Board is Requested to Approve the Following:

1. Withdrawal of Approximately 5,978.40 Acres from General Lease No. S-4477, SC Ranch Co., Inc., Lessee, and Authorize a Pro Rata Rent Reduction, Portion of Parcel 4 Ka'ohē II, Hamakua, Hawaii, Tax Map Key: (3) 4-3-010:008 (por.);

2. Issuance of a Revocable Permit to SC Ranch Co., Inc. for Pasture Purposes (with Alternate Agriculture Use Allowed on 10% of the Land) over Withdrawn Area of Approximately 5,968.28 Acres, Portion of Parcel 4, Ka'ohē II, Hamakua, Hawaii, Tax Map Key: (3) 4-3-010:008 (por.); and

3. Set Aside Via Governor's Executive Order the Withdrawn Area of Approximately 5,968.28 Acres to Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity for Pasture Purposes (with Alternate Agriculture Use Allowed on 10% of the Land), Portion of Parcel 4, Ka'ohē II, Hamakua, Hawaii, Tax Map Key: (3) 4-3-010:008 (por.).



D4. Pursuant to Act 90, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003 (Act 90), as mutually agreed upon between the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, the Board is Requested to Approve the Following:

1. Withdrawal of Approximately 4,850.75 Acres from General Lease No. S-4478, Boteilho Hawaii Enterprises, Inc., Lessee, and Authorize a Pro Rata Rent Reduction, Portion of Parcel 3, Ka'ohē II, Hamakua, Hawaii, TMK: (3) 4-3-010:002 (por.); and
2. Issuance of a Revocable Permit to Boteilho Hawaii Enterprises, Inc. for Pasture Purposes (with Alternate Agriculture Use Allowed on 10% of the Land) over the Withdrawn Area of Approximately 4,837.42 Acres, Portion of Parcel 3, Ka'ohē II, Hamakua, Hawaii, TMK: (3) 4-3-010:002 (por.); and
3. Set Aside Via Governor's Executive Order the Withdrawn Area of Approximately 4,837.42 Acres to the Department of Agriculture & Biosecurity for Pasture Purposes (with Alternate Agriculture Use Allowed on 10% of the Land), Portion Parcel 3, Ka'ohē II, Hamakua, Hawaii, TMK: (3) 4-3-010:002 (por.)

D8. Pursuant to Act 90, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, as mutually agreed upon between Department of Land and Natural Resources and Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Approve the Set Aside to the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity for Pasture Purposes, General Lease No. S-4472, Ernest De Luz Ranch, LLC, Lessee, Covering Parcel 6, Government Land of Ka'ohē, Hōea-Kāoa, Hamakua, Hawaii, Tax Map Key: (3) 4-2-008:002; and

Grant of Perpetual, Non-Exclusive Easement to Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity for Access Purposes Across a Portion of General Lease No. S-4473, Ernest De Luz Ranch, LLC, Lessee, Parcel 2, Government Land of Ka'ohē VI, Hamakua, Hawaii, Tax Map Key: (3) 4-1-006:007 (por.)

D9. 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 and Biosecurity (DAB), the Board is Requested to Approve the Following:

1. Withdrawal of Approximately 863 Acres, from General Lease No. 5276, Diamond B Ranch, LLC, Lessee, Nakula, Kaupo, Hana, Maui, Tax Map Key: (2) 1-8-001:003 (por.);
2. Authorize a Right-of-Entry Permit to the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) for Management Purposes of the Withdrawn Area, Nakula, Kaupo, Hana, Maui, Tax Map Key: (2) 1-8-001:003 (por.);
3. Authorize DOFAW, to Conduct a Public Hearing to Set Aside the Withdrawn Area, as an Extension of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve, Nakula, Kaupo, Hana, Maui, Tax Map Key: (2) 1-8-001:003 (por.); and
4. Set Aside Via Governor's Executive Order the Remainder of Lands, Approximately 702 Acres, Under General Lease No. 5276, Diamond B Ranch, LLC, Lessee, to

Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity for Agricultural Purposes, Including Pasture, Nakula, Kaupo, Hana, Maui, Tax Map Key: (2) 1-8-001:003 (por.).

Chairperson Chang, First Deputy Kanaka'ole, Deputy Kahahane and Members of the Board:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of agenda items D1, D3, D4, D8 and D9 that transfer lands that are in active agriculture production to the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department) pursuant to Act 90/SLH 2003.

The Department must double food production to move the state to greater food security and nourish Hawai'i's future. The task of growing food relies on agriculture lands, and the Department respectfully requests and appreciates the BLNR Board's consideration to approve the referenced agenda items for transfer.

It is anticipated that additional land in active agriculture production may be brought to the BLNR Board for transfer to the Department and we look forward to supporting local food production and reducing our reliance on imports.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of agenda items D1, D3, D4, D8 and D9.