

Board of Land & Natural Resources

P.O. Box 621

Honolulu, HI 96809

Attn: Board Members

Regarding agenda item D-8

My name is Stephen De Luz, I am the 2nd generation owner of Ernest De Luz Ranch, working with my son & grandson, taking this ranch through 4 generations. My father, Ernest De Luz and I have at least 125 years combined ranching experience. From the age of 15, I have worked alongside my father, learning and gaining experience.

In 1986 my father purchased the Carl Meyer Ranch, which was on a DLNR lease. In 1996 we purchased the Pu'u Wa'a Wa'a Ranch from Newell Bohnett and this lease was eligible for a 20-year extension, but it was ignored until the lease expired. The lease was then transferred into conservation forestry and the rancher was no longer in control of the lease. We were given a grazing permit, which did not work. Under the direction of DLNR grazing when & where they permitted caused our herd to do poorly. Cows struggled to survive, calf growth was poor & reproduction was low.

We had no control over our ranch under the direction DLNR, we had no other option but to sell & focus on the 5000 acres we had left in order to be successful. Having lost 21,000 acres, we had to sell over 1000 cows. Because of what has happened in the past we need to keep what little we have left, to keep our business going.

We have worked with NRCS, adding 5 million gallons of water by building several reservoirs. We have put in several miles of cross fence, to properly rotate our cattle. We have cleared acres of noxious weeds & laid new waterlines, improving the property & conservation. We have had several lightning strikes causing fire, but it was easily controlled because the fire fuel was grazed & we had the water supply to extinguish it. Our operation employs at least 4 full time employees and we hire part-time employees as needed. We purchase equipment, fence materials, pipe, medicines, livestock feed, repair & maintenance supplies for our equipment. By keeping my business in operation, we pay for the use of the land

through our lease, including the property tax. Selling our cattle, we create lots of tax revenue. All this contributes to the States economy.

We successfully operate a cow/calf production and a grass fat operation for our local markets. In the past year, we have produced approximately 115,000 pounds of choice grass fed range beef and 68,000 pounds of beef from culled cows & bulls.

We currently hold the DLNR lease for GL4472 – 1,902 acres & GL4473 – 3110 acres and requested that our lease be transferred to Department of Agriculture under Act 90. DLNR has agreed to transfer GL4472 which is 1902 acres, but they do not want to transfer GL4473 which is 3110 acres. This Mauka side of the ranch is the most productive part of our ranch. This is where we built our reservoirs & store most of our water. With this lease, they say they seek to accomplish restoration goals while have the most negligible impact or disruption to the ranching operations. However, we have had first-hand experience with a lease under DLNR. Rather than being in control of the lease we were given a grazing permit. Under the direction of DLNR, we had to graze when & where they permitted. This caused our herd to do poorly. Cows struggled to survive, calf growth was poor & reproduction was low. The percentage of pastoral land in Hawaii is dwindling down to less than 20%. DLNR has taken so much agricultural land already, with no accountability on what they say they will do. This land has been in ranching for many years, we have a generational commitment to protect the land and work it to produce for the community.

Thank you for your time,

Stephen De Luz
(808) 936-4507

From: [Hawaii Island Cutting Horse Association](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony
Date: Thursday, November 13, 2025 4:28:08 AM

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

My name is Scott DeSa, and I am submitting testimony in **support** of Action Items **D.3.1, D.3.2, D.3.3, D.8, D.9.1, D.9.2, D.9.3, and D.9.4.**

These items are pursuant to **Act 90, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003**, as agreed upon by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, and each lessee.

Hawaii Ranchers have partnered with DLNR for decades, caring for the land while producing food for Hawai'i's families. I appreciate your recognition of this work and your efforts to find fair solutions for all parties.

I respectfully ask that you approve these action items.

Mahalo,
Scott DeSa

Hawaii Island Cutting Horse Association



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

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.

Lilia K. Kapuniai
2316 Kaululā'au Street, Honolulu, HI 96813
808.265.2755 / liliak@mac.com

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES

November 14, 2025

D.3.1, D.3.2, D.3.3, D.8, D.9.1, D.9.2, D.9.3, & D.9.4. ACTION ITEMS: Request for Approval - 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 Request to Approve

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

I am writing to submit my testimony in **SUPPORT of Action Items D.3.1, D.3.2, D.3.3, D.8, D.9.1, D.9.2, D.9.3, & D.9.4**, that seek to approve actions mutually agreed upon by each lessee, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

I support these actions because they are aligned with the purpose and intent of Act 90, enacted by the State of Hawai'i in 2003, and they were accepted by each lessee, ensuring mutual benefit to each party. Implementation of Act 90 has been a long-time coming, and will support long-term planning, production, and investments.

Mahalo again for scheduling these items for Board action. I submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of Action Items D.3.1, D.3.2, D.3.3, D.8, D.9.1, D.9.2, D.9.3, and D.9.4**.

Lilia Kapuniai
Duke Kapuniai Ranch
TiLeaf Group

**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,

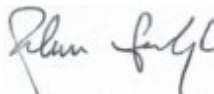
Boteilho Hawaii Enterprises **supports agenda items D1, D3, D4, D8, and D9 pertaining to Act 90** which ensures the long term productive use of public agricultural lands by allowing transfer and management to the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

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: [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



SC Ranch Company
P.O. Box 330
Pa'auilo, Hawai'i 96776
805.206.8800 / scranchinc@gmail.com

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES

November 14, 2025

D.8. and D.9.1, D.9.2, D.9.3, & D.9.4. ACTION ITEMS: Request for Approval - 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

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

My name is Charles F. Stevens, and I am the owner of SC Ranch Company, member of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, and a strong proponent of Act 90. Thus, I also want to submit this testimony in **SUPPPORT of Action Items D.8. and D.9.1, D.9.2, D.9.3, & D.9.4.**

Board action has been long-awaited. Act 90 ensures that the long-term productive use of public lands for agricultural purposes are held and managed by the appropriate state entity. The transfer of all agricultural lands will not only support our livelihood, but our rich cultural history.

Thank you for scheduling **Action Items D.3.1, D.3.2, and D.3.3**, on the agenda for Board action. Please accept my testimony in **SUPPORT**.

Charles F. Stevens
SC Ranch Company

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

My name is Vanessa Stevens, and I am submitting this testimony in **SUPPORT of Action Items D.3.1, D.3.2, D.3.3, D.8, D.9.1, D.9.2, D.9.3, and D.9.4.** All of these items presented are “Pursuant to Act 90, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, as mutually agreed upon between the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity,” and each individual lessee.

All of our families been DLNR’s partner, stewarding the land for decades, while producing food for Hawai’i’s families. I thank you for acknowledging the value and merit of this action, assigning staff to find a workable solution for all parties, and presenting these items for Board approval.

I humbly request that you accept my testimony in **SUPPORT of D.3.1, D.3.2, D.3.3, D.8, D.9.1, D.9.2, D.9.3, and D.9.4.**

Vanessa Stevens