

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2025
1:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 118
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
TRANSFER ACTIVE AGRICULTURAL LAND LEASES UNDER THE JURISDICTION
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO SUPPORT AGRICULTURE IN THE STATE

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Resolution 118. This resolution is requesting the Department of Land and Natural Resources ("DLNR") to transfer active agricultural land leases under the jurisdiction of DLNR to the Department of Agriculture ("Department") to support agriculture in the State. The Department supports the transfer of suitable agriculture land leases and offers comments.

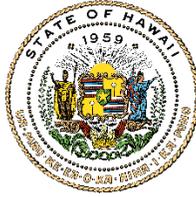
The Department cautions that the resolution has no opportunity for us to assess the suitability of the parcels identified by DLNR. There may be vacant agricultural lands that would not benefit from transfer as the "agriculture" label seems to be a default classification when there were no other obvious categories that applied. Further, without additional filtering criteria, the list of vacant agriculturally classified lands would be overly broad and create a severe strain on personnel resources, leaving them unable to perform their responsibilities for an extended period of time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N.S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND

Monday, March 17, 2025
1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE RESOLUTION 118
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
TRANSFER ACTIVE AGRICULTURAL LAND LEASES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE TO SUPPORT AGRICULTURE IN THE STATE

Senate Resolution 118 proposes to request the transfer active agricultural lands leases from the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to the Department of Agriculture (DOA), specifically the parcels identified as Tax Map Keys: (3) 4-1-006:007; (3) 2-6-018:001; (3) 4-3-001:002; and (2) 1-8-001:003. **DLNR opposes this measure for the reasons provided below.**

DOA and DLNR have been implementing Act 90, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003 (Act 90), since its adoption which is reflected in the transfer of about 20,000 acres to DOA (and another 20,000 acres to the Agribusiness Development Corporation) prior to 2023. Beginning in 2023, DLNR worked expeditiously with DOA to implement additional transfers. For example, both the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) and the Board of Agriculture (BOA), approved the transfer of the K.K. Ranch, Inc. lease and the Kapapala Ranch lease and its two related revocable permits on the island of Hawai'i to BOA in 2023. The transfer of the K.K. Ranch, Inc. lease (5,106 acres) is complete. Survey and subdivision work is ongoing to complete the transfer of the Kapapala Ranch lease and revocable permits. The combined area of the Kapapala Ranch lease and revocable permits approved for set aside to DOA is an additional 24,767 acres.

In 2024, the BLNR approved another 40 leases and revocable permits on Maui and Hawai'i island for transfer to BOA. The set-asides of four leases and two revocable permits on Maui with a combined area of 165 acres were completed in 2024. The set-asides of seven Hawai'i island leases covering 907

acres were completed in early 2025 and additional transfers are in process. When all of the transfers approved by both BLNR and BOA in 2023 and 2024 are completed, the total acreage transferred to BOA under Act 90 since 2003 will be approximately 56,450 acres.

There are 10 additional leases and revocable permits on Hawai‘i island that DOA requested transfer of in 2024 but that DLNR has not yet presented to the BLNR for consideration because DLNR’s Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) wants to reserve access or public hunting rights over the lands or portions of them before transfer to DOA. These 10 cases will require negotiations with the lessees/permittees and determination of access and hunting areas. DLNR intends to present the transfer requests for these leases and revocable permits to the BLNR in 2025. Additionally, one lease on Maui and three revocable permits on Kauai still require BLNR approval to transfer.

Further, there are four large pasture leases on Hawai‘i island where the lessees have requested transfer to DOA and, at its meeting of January 28, 2025, BOA approved for transfer to DOA. Of these four leases, DOFAW is agreeable to the transfer of one of them, wants to retain another lease, and proposes to transfer portions of the other two leases while retaining portions at DLNR due to the resource value and potential for reforestation of the retained areas. For the two Hawai‘i island leases DOFAW has proposed to split, the lessees have accepted DOFAW’s proposal and have met with DOFAW on possible silvopasture projects. There are two other large pasture leases (one on Maui and one on Hawai‘i island) and three smaller pasture revocable permits on Kaua‘i where the lessees/permittees have requested transfer to DOA but BOA has not yet approved for transfer. DOFAW wants to retain the two leases but is agreeable to the transfer of the three Kaua‘i revocable permits. The foregoing information is summarized in the table below:

Leases Requested to be transferred (*indicates BOA approval to transfer on 1/28/25)	Lessee	TMK	Total acreage	Acreage DLNR seeks to retain	Acreage DLNR supports transfer to DOA
GL4477*	S.C. Ranch Co., Inc.	(3) 4-3-010:008	7,042	1,064	5,978
GL4478*	Boteilho Hawaii Enterprises, Inc.	(3) 4-3-010:002	5,705	856	4,849
GL4472*	Ernest DeLuz Ranch, LLC	(3) 4-2-008:002	1,902	0	1,902
GL4473*	Ernest and Marian DeLuz	(3) 4-1-006:007	3,110	3,110	0
GL4476	Freddy Nobriga Enterprises, Inc.	(3) 2-6-018:001	4,534	4,534	0
GL5276	Diamond B Ranch, LLC	(2) 1-8-001:003	1,565	1,565	0
RP7770/7790/7466	Lincoln Y.T. Ching	(4) 4-5-015-029 (4) 4-5-015:010 (4) 4-5-015:017	68	0	68
	Total		23, 926	11,129	12,797

The four tax map key (TMK) parcels listed in the resolution are for General Lease No. S-4478 to Boteilho Hawaii Enterprises, Inc. (TMK: (3) 4-3-010:002);¹ General Lease No. S-4473 to Ernest and Marian DeLuz (TMK: (3) 4-1-006:007); General Lease No. S-4476 to Freddy Nobriga Enterprises, Inc. (TMK: (3) 2-6-018:001); and General Lease No. S-5276 to Diamond B Ranch, LLC (TMK: (2) 1-8-001:003), all of which are listed in the table above. DOFAW wants to retain all or portions of those leases due to their resource value.

In 2021, the Legislature published the [Act 90 Working Group Final Report Transmission - signed.pdf](#) which finds that “certain agricultural lands under DLNR have multiple management objectives, which can include agricultural production, forestry, native forest restoration, watershed protection, habitat conservation, public recreation, fire fuel suppression, and other public purposes which clearly fall within DLNR’s purview and mission. These multiple-use lands should remain under DLNR’s management.” Senate Resolution 118 is inconsistent with the recommendations of this report by requesting that these lands be transferred to DOA and eliminating the review by BLNR.

The DLNR Chair will continue to work personally with the ranchers to find mutually acceptable lease terms, and at the Chair’s direction, DLNR staff are prioritizing Act 90 fulfillment. A resolution requesting the transfer of these lands would result in the loss of considerable effort that DLNR and DOA have already invested in managing and designating these lands. More importantly DLNR would not be able to actively protect the public trust resources on these lands, some of which are of low value for agriculture production yet highly valued for natural and cultural resources. DOA would end up managing some parcels with low agricultural value and high liability or management issues. DLNR respectfully requests the opportunity to continue to mutually agree with DOA to transfer and accept certain agriculture lands and more importantly work with the long-time pasture lessees to honor and respect their ranching heritage and protect and preserve the valuable forest lands for watershed protection, forest restoration, critical habitat and access to traditional and customary practices. For additional information, see attached flyer on Multi-Use Pasture Lands Critical to DLNR Mission.

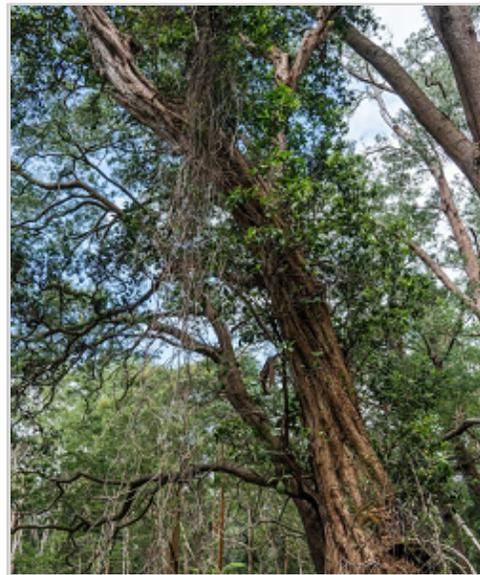
Furthermore, DLNR emphasizes that although leases may have lengthy terms, they are still intended to be a temporary use of lands. A lease allows a tenant to manage the land for its own benefit, while alleviating the need for DLNR to actively manage large tracts of vacant land and dealing with the host of issues that may incur, such as squatters or homeless encampments occupying the property, dumping of trash, or storage of private property. The use of public lands for agricultural purposes, especially by a specific tenant, is not intended to continue in perpetuity. Rather, certain DLNR lands that were once in agricultural use are now being planned for other productive public uses. Examples of former agricultural lands used for other public purposes include East Kapolei on Oahu and Pulehunui on Maui, which are now in process of seeking zoning changes and other entitlements, with the approval and support of the BLNR. Therefore, DLNR opposes the transfer of lands to DOA solely because of an agricultural lease, which would preclude the use of lands for other public purposes at the end of the lease.

Finally, DLNR notes that State agricultural lands are public trust or ceded lands (where the Office of Hawaiian Affairs would be entitled to its pro rata share of rental proceeds) and therefore the public trust duties and responsibilities run with the land. The managing agency or board (i.e., BOA) is or ought to

¹ Senate Resolution 118 actually identifies TMK: (3) 4-3-001:002, which is assigned to a parcel of privately owned land in Pau‘uilo.

be bound by the same public trust fiduciary duties and obligations as the BLNR in its management of ceded lands under its jurisdiction.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



SUMMARY

DESCRIPTION

EXPECTED BENEFITS





LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

The Act 90 Working Group recommends DLNR receive flexibility under Chapter 166E, HRS to amend, extend, and issue new leases by negotiation. The perceived need to transfer pasture leases to the DOA can be relieved by providing the DLNR with statutory powers similar to DOA's, facilitating long-term tenure and stability for ranchers.



PASTURE LAND CONSERVATION VALUES



Water



Fire & Forest Health



Native Ecosystems



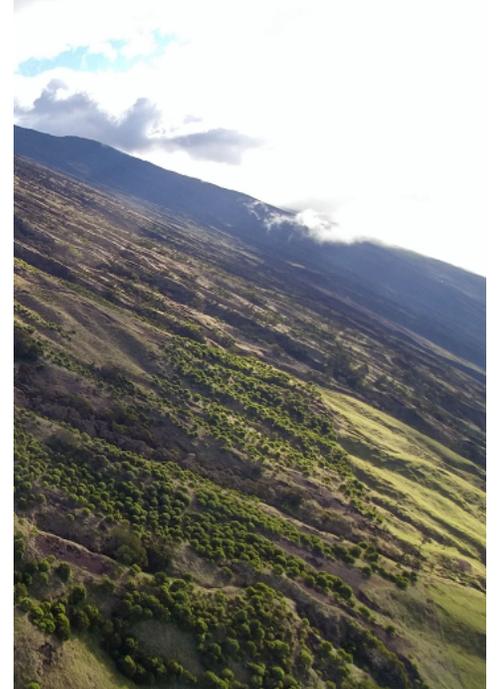
Forestry



Recreation

DLNR PARTNERSHIPS WITH RANCHERS

CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARBON NEUTRALITY



CONTACT PERSON

SR-118

Submitted on: 3/15/2025 11:51:18 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/17/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Russell Tsuji	Testifying for Department of Land and Natural Resources	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

DLNR submitted written testimony for SR118 on main account. Request for a zoom link for additional staff to be backup at the hearing.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

SR118

Monday, March 17, 2025, 1:00 PM
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SR118** which requests that the Department of Land and Natural Resources to transfer active agricultural land leases under the jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture to support agriculture in the state.

HB1323 would ensure that lands in active agriculture are transferred to DOA, pursuant to Act 90, without further delays, but that bill has stalled in the House. We appreciate that the DLNR and DOA have worked together to identify and make progress on certain lease transfers. However, there are still leases that are in active agriculture, but are not being approved to transfer. At an Act 90 Info Briefing in 2024, we were informed that the ag leases that remain with DLNR will not be renewed at the end of their lease, but converted to conservation. This is devastating for leaseholders who have multiple generations stewarding this land, producing beef for the community.

The purpose of Act 90, which was passed in 2003 (more than 2 decades ago) 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. This bill ensures that the purpose of Act 90, 2003 is realized and guided by the identification of agricultural lands, including all lands designated as intensive agricultural use, special livestock use, and pasture use, rather than the current situation of land transfers blocked by the impediment of mutual agreement by both boards. This unnecessary impediment has resulted in leaseholders still waiting for their agricultural lands to transfer to the Department of Agriculture more than 20 years later.

Ranchers are proponents for stewarding the land well and will continue to implement conservation practices when leases are transferred to DOA—the health of the land allows ranchers to continue their production. With long-term leases based on agricultural production, ranchers will be even better situated to invest in long-term conservation practices. If the state truly wants to support agriculture, transferring agricultural lands from DLNR to DOA will help many productive leaseholders continue their production and land stewardship with confidence that they will be supported in their agricultural operations.



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. This bill would do that by transferring agricultural leases to the department that holds agriculture as a priority.

Additionally, these ranches play a critical role in reaching the state's increased local food production goals. Every single one of these ranches contribute to local beef – even cow/calf producers still keep put local beef into the community. In the state's mandate for the DOE to reach 30% local food purchasing for school lunches, beef comes in at the highest percent at 3% of purchases. Our ranchers can contribute even more if they have the appropriate lease terms and support under DOA.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure. 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.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



LATE

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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 17, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON SR 118

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
TRANSFER ACTIVE AGRICULTURAL LAND LEASES UNDER THE JURISDICTION
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO SUPPORT AGRICULTURE IN THE STATE

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 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.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SR 118, which requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources to transfer active agricultural land leases under the jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture to support agriculture in the state.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau acknowledges and appreciates that the Department of Land and Natural Resources has worked with the Department of Agriculture, farmers, and ranchers and has made some progress by transferring certain agricultural leases to the Department of Agriculture as intended by Act 90. However, continued efforts are needed to ensure that all qualifying non-agricultural park lands are properly transferred to DOA to effectively support Hawai'i's ranchers.

Long overdue to resolve a 20-year state of limbo

The bill will finally resolve the stagnation resulting from Act 90 of 2003, which was intended to ensure the long-term productive use of public land leased for agricultural purposes by transferring certain lands from DLNR to DOA. During all these years, agriculture producers have had no stability or security to conduct long-term planning and investments.

DLNR retains its management responsibility and authority to manage natural resources

DLNR retains its management responsibility and authority to manage natural resource assets no matter which agency holds the lease.

- All transferred leases will be subject to DLNR easements or rights of entry established to allow access to conservation activities, hunting, gathering, and recreation.
- Farmers and ranchers are required to work with the DLNR Soil and Water Conservation Districts to develop and implement an enforceable conservation program.
- The program will dictate practices and systems to protect the land against deterioration and prevent environmental degradation.

These DLNR lands are already being stewarded by agricultural producers who rely on the conservation of natural resources for their livelihood. Providing them with support and beneficial lease terms under the DOA will only further their ability to make investments in conservation efforts on the land.

Best interest of the public

Hawai'i's food producers are essential to the State's goals of greater self-sufficiency and conservation efforts. Enabling their continued work is in the best interest of the public. They should not be trapped in further decades of debate about which agency controls their existence when it is the mission of one agency, DOA, to foster agriculture in Hawai'i, while collaborating with DLNR to ensure the protection of natural resources.

Food production and natural resource conservation are equally important, constitutionally protected public purposes, not mutually exclusive, and both can and must be achieved.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments and for your continued support of Hawai'i's agricultural community.

SR-118

Submitted on: 3/16/2025 6:41:45 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/17/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lani Petrie	Testifying for Kapapala Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii Island has 10 acres in conservation for every 1 acre in agriculture. I strongly support SR118 to protect our local ranchers and farmers and the food they produce.

SR-118

Submitted on: 3/16/2025 8:56:18 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/17/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Gottlieb	Testifying for Ponoholo Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important measure



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

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

SR118

RELATING TO THE TRANSFER OF NON-AGRICULTURAL PARK LANDS
Monday March 17, 2025, 1:00 PM
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Charles F. Stevens, I am the owner of SC Ranch Company, Inc. and I am submitting this testimony in **SUPPORT of SR118**. SR118 requires the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to accept the transfer of and manage certain qualifying non-agricultural park lands.

The SC Ranch Company, Inc. was established over 50 years ago, by the late Dutch Schuman and Gordan Cran. I purchased the ranch in 2012, and serve as the steward of 7,042 acres, under General Lease (GL) No. 4477. I operate the ranch alongside my family, and am proud to report that we provide Hawai'i's households with over 350,000 lbs of beef annually. To operate this ranch at optimum efficiency and production, I've invested \$1 million of my own resources to install water storage systems, continually improve the roads, etc.

In 2023, I learned that GL4477 (SC Ranch Company) was listed on an internal Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) "no-transfer" list. Eventhough I was a lessee in good standing and I was doing a public good, I was stunned.

The DOA's Board of Agriculture approved the transfer of GL4477 (amongst three other leases) on Tuesday, January 28, 2025. However, we await approval to transfer GL4477 by the DLNR's Board of Land and Natural Resources, pursuant to Act 90. If the amendments to Act 90 (HB1323, HD1) were passed, the livelihood of my family, would not be dangling – awaiting action by the DLNR and their Board.

Act 90 is state law, enacted 22 years ago. The DOA is better-suited to manage non-agricultural park lands utilized by agricultural businesses (i.e. ranching). Further, the lease terms are more aligned with the agricultural business cycle.

Please accept my testimony in **SUPPORT of SR118**. Mahalo.

Charles F. Stevens
SC Ranch Company, Inc.

LATE

SR-118

Submitted on: 3/17/2025 9:27:36 AM
Testimony for WTL on 3/17/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frances Kama-Silva	Testifying for Barbed S Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha no,

We are located adjacent to some of the leases directly affected by SR118 on the island of Hawaii. We can attest first hand to the great care and stewardship that the lessees are doing while grazing their cattle. We can also attest to what we have seen happen to grazed lands when left fallow. Invasives take over which in that area could likely include thistle and gorse. We 100% support the language in this resolution as well as the language submitted by the Cattlemen's Council. Please encourage these lease transfers.

LATE

SR-118

Submitted on: 3/17/2025 8:51:36 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/17/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Moore	Testifying for Kealia Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support this bill which ensures that the purpose of Act 90, 2003 is realized, and the transfer of these important Ag lands is completed.

The work has begun and needs to continue unimpeded.

Please support this Bill 118.

Mahalo!

I strongly ask you to support this bill. I am one of the ranches that was taken off the list to transfer. I initially invested \$350,000 to dig a well and put in all the infrastructure. We were awarded the outstanding producer for conservation practices by NRCS. I have been there for over 22 years and this property was in ranching for over 100 years. If I lose this along with another state lease I am out of business. Act 90 was implemented for ranchers like me but it had no teeth. DLNR had the choice to keep the land if they wanted even though it was agg land and always was in agg. They should not have this power. The intent of act 90 should be fulfilled which is to transfer agg lands to DOA. The property is managed with no over grazing. Anyone who would like to see it please email me diamondbranchhi@aol.com

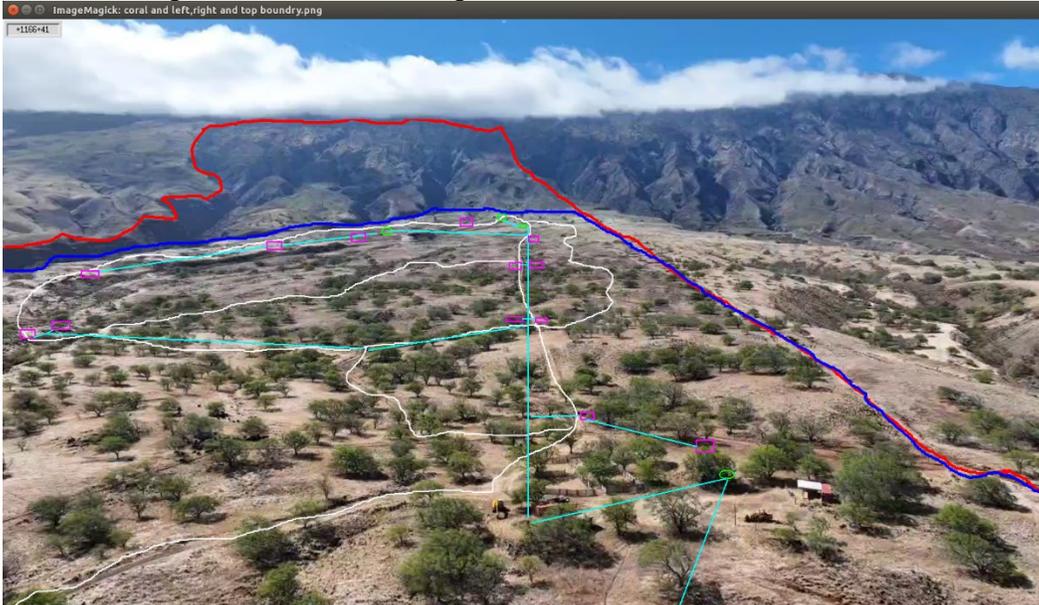
1. This is a photo of the hwy coming from Ulupalakua. It also shows the ocean and Pahii gulch. This is one of two gulches that flank the property. That large gulch starts way up at the summit. When it rains the water coming down spans up to 100 ft + at times people have died trying to cross it. Also notice the fence along the mauka part of the hwy that prevents the cattle from going on the road.



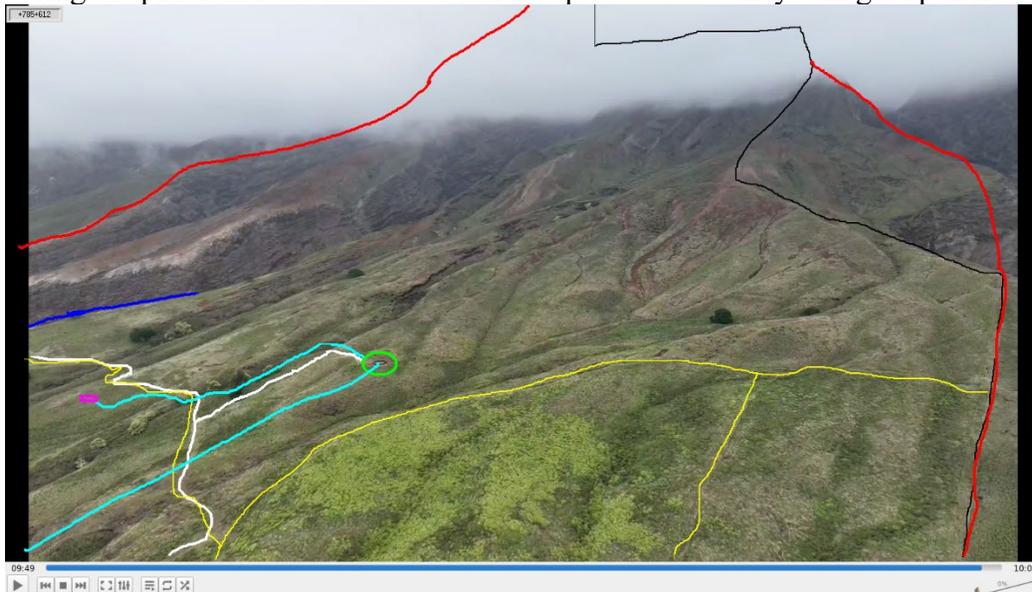
2. Another photo from the same place but just showing a little of the hwy. This is so there is no doubt that the photo is taken from the road. This photo shows the whole ranch. You can see the corral and the pump house and the main ranch road going up the center. What looks like a road on the right is actually the boundary fence between that property and the National Park. On the far far left edge of Pahii gulch is the left boundary that land next to the edge of the gulch is Haleakala Ranch. As I replied to your statement in paragraph 1. You and everyone can see Haleakala Ranch on the left, National park on the right, ocean on the bottom and DLNR in the middle and not bounded on three sides by reserves as you stated. The 4000 acres is at the top of the photo in the clouds. As you can see in the photo that we just took last week there is no bare ground even with us not having any rain. The short road below the corral with poles on the right ,which carries the electric wire ,is a road I just graded which goes to my well head. That is why it is in dirt. Contrary to your statement in #2. there is no barren ground on that ranch and large scale erosion. You can see the road between the ranch and the ocean. The soil washing away and smothering the coral reefs and fisheries that you claim ,come from the two major gulches one on the left Pahii and one on the right Nuuu . This photo and others clears up a lot of propaganda. Now with aerial photos you can't lie about what is there and what is not. It is clear to me that you wrote this letter ,trying to justifying not transferring this lease to DOA ,without ever seeing the property.



3. This photo is from the same place and no its not some Chinese puzzle. The RED line is the actual boundary of this ranch. The BLUE line is the only area where the cattle graze and have access to. The WHITE line is all the small ranch roads leading to water troughs and different paddocks. The round GREEN are my 45,000 gallon water tanks except for the one near the coral which is 20,000. The straight TURQUOISE are the pipe lines that pump water up to the mauka tanks and to the various troughs. Just a note I missed drawing in 2 other troughs. When you look at this photo note the red line at the top just below the cloud line. That cloud line is there almost daily. This is what I was referring to as why where DLNR fenced off and planted those 320,000 trees there is always moisture. As I indicated above whey you sent me the before and after photos you will notice the area was already very green before the trees were planted. Please also note how large of an area there is from the red line top boundary to the lower blue line where the cattle can get to. This is for several reasons . One it is very steep. Two mostly brush and some grass but by not having the cattle even in the lower part it keeps the ground covered. There will be other photos that are close up.



4. This photo is that upper portion above my top water tank. All the colors reflect the same things. In this photo the BLACK line is the fence that came down from that 4000 acres in a portion of my lease because they could not stay on the boundary due to the steepness. It comes down part way between me and the national park. It is my understanding that they were the ones who put up and paid for that fence. The YELLOW line is my paddock fence line in that upper area. I didn't draw all the paddocks on the other photo because it would be too much lines and confusing. Again please note the steepness and the cloud line. This photo was taken a few weeks before and like most days the clouds are there, getting moisture to that upper area. Something that will not happen below that cloud line. Another thing I want to mention is the location of that water tank. That is the end of the ranch roads. This is the area I took the fence crew to see if they wanted to carry material from there up the mountain. In your letter #3 you mention the parcel includes a strategic road and trail that would allow public access to the 4000 acres. There is no road nor any kind of vehicle known to man that can climb those steep hills to get to that area. Remember that 4000 acres is conservation area and will it now be open to the public???? And seeing the photo and the next few I ask the question how they will get up there.



5. This photo is the same area as #4 but from below the clouds looking down. Notice the steepness which gets worse from this point. Also see how far it is to the water tank where the ranch road ends. You can also see how much area can't be grazed. From where this drone photo is there is more than a mile up hill to that 4000 acres.



6. Same area the drone is just higher to show both gulches. Now Pahii on the right looking down and Nuu on the left. Both run taking tons of soil down into the ocean. Something that the next 40 generations of DLNR employees can't stop. Soil, trees, animals, and big boulders get washed into the ocean. No number of trees planted can stop these rivers from running during a storm. Blue outline is area we graze. You see no barren areas where we manage and have cattle. Even the little gulches all are green or brown with grass or cattle koa, and Kukui nut trees that we planted. That little gulch does run but only when we get 10 or more inches in a short time but not much as the stream is only about 4 ft.



7. This is the same place the drone was in photo 6 but turned around. Now you see how steep and rugged the place is. You see the park fence going up into the cloud area. Note from this area up into the clouds it is over a mile to get to that 4000 acre fence area with the trees. See the thick clouds which provides moisture and some small rains in that upper area. There is not even goats in this area.



8. A recent storm at the end of January brought heavy rains. These photos show that the runoff is from the gulches, not from the pasture.





SR-118

Submitted on: 3/15/2025 2:17:56 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/17/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J Ashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure.

SR-118

Submitted on: 3/15/2025 6:13:50 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/17/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SR118. Keith Unger

SR-118

Submitted on: 3/16/2025 6:58:30 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/17/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Woody Child	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly Support SR118.

SR-118

Submitted on: 3/16/2025 8:03:14 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/17/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support

SR-118

Submitted on: 3/16/2025 10:03:24 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/17/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
McKenzie Wildey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure! Ag leases should be held by the DOA. I've seen lands managed by DLNR that are overrun with incipient invasive species. If thousands of acres of pasture are taken out of active grazing in the name of conservation, those lands will also become overrun by invasives. Let our farmers and ranchers continue the good work they're doing - we need them, especially at a time when our islands are not food-secure.

Mahalo!

LATE

SR-118

Submitted on: 3/16/2025 5:11:44 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/17/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SR118 and the testimony submitted by the Hawaii Cattlemen’s Council.

LATE

SR-118

Submitted on: 3/17/2025 10:01:42 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/17/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jimmy Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SR118 and stand with HCC testimony