

MAR 07 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ADOPT RULES
AUTHORIZING RODEOS ON LANDS ZONED FOR AGRICULTURAL USE.

1 WHEREAS, the State possesses a rich ranching history and
2 cowboy culture preceding that of the American West; and

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4 WHEREAS, in 1793, Captain James Vancouver presented
5 Kamehameha I with six cows and a bull on which he imposed a kapu
6 to prevent the cattle from being hunted or killed; and

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8 WHEREAS, over time, the herd flourished and turned feral,
9 becoming a nuisance and danger to Native Hawaiians as the herd
10 would rampage through villages and destroy crops, eat the thatch
11 off the roofs of houses, and occasionally hurt or kill people;
12 and

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14 WHEREAS, in 1832, Kamehameha III sent one of his chiefs to
15 Alta California to enlist cowboys who could teach his people how
16 to work cattle; and

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18 WHEREAS, the chief returned with three vaqueros who taught
19 aspiring Native Hawaiian cowboys to rope, slaughter, and breed
20 cattle; cure hides; construct fences and paddocks; and ride
21 horses; and

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23 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians took quickly to the skills and
24 techniques that the vaqueros introduced, iterated on these
25 skills and techniques, and developed a distinct Hawaiian cowboy
26 culture; and

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28 WHEREAS, Hawaiian cowboys, known as paniolo, crafted their
29 saddles and gear in a style unique to them, created their own
30 genre of music accompanied by the guitar and ukulele, and also
31 developed a singular Hawaiian style of open-tuning for the
32 guitar called kihoalu, or slack key; and

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34 WHEREAS, in 1908, three paniolo, Ikua Purdy, Archi Kaaua,
35 and Jack Low traveled to Cheyenne, Wyoming, to compete in the
36 biggest rodeo at the time, Frontier Days; and



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WHEREAS, the three paniolo emerged victorious over many of America's best cowboys, shocking the American public; and

WHEREAS, when the three paniolo returned to Hawaii, they were hailed as heroes with poetry and hula being composed in their honor; and

WHEREAS, authorizing rodeos on lands zoned for agricultural use would honor the State's rich ranching history and paniolo culture; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to adopt rules authorizing rodeos on lands zoned for agricultural use; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

OFFERED BY:

