
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 Kamehameha I
6 imposed a kapu to prevent the cattle from being hunted or
7 killed; and

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9 WHEREAS, over time, the herd flourished and turned feral,
10 becoming a nuisance and danger to Native Hawaiians as the herd
11 would rampage through villages and destroy crops, eat thatch off
12 the roofs of houses, and occasionally hurt or kill people; 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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1 WHEREAS, in 1908, three paniolo, Ikua Purdy, Archi Kaaua,
2 and Jack Low, traveled to Cheyenne, Wyoming, to compete in the
3 biggest rodeo at the time: Frontier Days; and
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5 WHEREAS, the three paniolo emerged victorious over many of
6 America's best cowboys, shocking the American public; and
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8 WHEREAS, when the three paniolo returned to Hawaii, they
9 were hailed as heroes with poetry and hula being composed in
10 their honor; and
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12 WHEREAS, authorizing rodeos on lands zoned for agricultural
13 use would honor the State's rich ranching history and paniolo
14 culture; now, therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
18 that the Department of Agriculture is requested to adopt rules
19 authorizing rodeos on lands zoned for agricultural use; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
22 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
23 Agriculture.

