

MAR 07 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

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.

WHEREAS, Act 90, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, was passed to
ensure the long-term productive use of public lands leased or
available to be leased by the Department of Land and Natural
Resources, for agricultural purposes by authorizing the
Department of Agriculture to accept the transfer and management
of these lands upon mutual agreement and approval between the
Board of Agriculture and the Board of Land and Natural
Resources; and

WHEREAS, lands for agricultural purposes remain under the
jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources
that have not yet been transferred to the Department of
Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources does
not plan to renew these leases for agricultural purposes at the
end of their lease terms; and

WHEREAS, beef cattle production is a significant
agricultural industry in the State that contributes over \$48
million to the State's economy each year; and

WHEREAS, the State's communities benefit from the ecosystem
services that rangelands provide, including the stabilization of
soils, enhancement of watershed capacity, sequestration of
carbon, cycling of nutrients, and suppression of noxious weeds;
and

WHEREAS, the ranchers managing these rangelands are
essentially grass farmers who utilize cattle to manage the
ground cover to minimize bare soil and erosion, maximize water
infiltration, improve soil health, and minimize the spread of



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1 noxious weeds while generating operating income that subsidizes
2 their continued resource management; and
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4 WHEREAS, without beef cattle ranchers and the land
5 stewardship they provide, these lands would be left unmanaged,
6 becoming inundated with noxious weeds and an increased fire fuel
7 load; and
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9 WHEREAS, the cattle industry contributes to the State's
10 economy through job creation, business and property taxes,
11 purchase of goods and services, and the sale of animals and meat
12 products which in turn improve the State's food security; now,
13 therefore,
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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
17 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested
18 to transfer active agricultural land leases under the
19 jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,
20 specifically the parcels identified as Tax Map Keys: (3) 4-1-6:
21 7; (3) 2-6-18: 1; (3) 4-3-1: 2; and (2) 1-8-1: 3 to the
22 Department of Agriculture to support agriculture in the State;
23 and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
26 Natural Resources is requested to:
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- 28 (1) Identify agricultural lands under its jurisdiction
29 available for lease; and
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31 (2) Transfer the identified agricultural lands to the
32 Department of Agriculture; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the Board of Land
36 and Natural Resources and Chairperson of the Board of
37 Agriculture.
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OFFERED BY:



