
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING 2026 AS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF RANGELANDS AND
PASTORALISTS IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, rangelands are natural ecosystems in which the
2 indigenous vegetation is predominantly grasses, grass-like
3 plants, forbs, or shrubs, and rangelands cover up to
4 19,800,000,000 acres of land globally, covering fifty-four
5 percent of the terrestrial surface; and
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7 WHEREAS, rangelands include prairies, grasslands, pampas,
8 shrublands, wetlands, woodlands, savannas, chaparrals, steppes,
9 and tundra; and
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11 WHEREAS, rangelands are economically, socially, and
12 culturally vital to human communities through an array of
13 ecological services, including food and fiber production, water
14 resources, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, and carbon
15 sequestration and storage, and provide renewable and
16 nonrenewable energy resources and aesthetic and recreational
17 opportunities; and
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19 WHEREAS, over twenty-five percent, or over 1,000,000 acres,
20 of Hawaii's land mass is classified as rangelands; and
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22 WHEREAS, the State's rangelands are ecologically,
23 economically, and culturally vital to all communities of the
24 State because of the ecosystem services they provide through
25 food and fiber production, soils stabilization, carbon
26 sequestration and nutrient cycling, and clean water; livestock
27 ranchers they support, and rich Paniolo traditions they help
28 perpetuate; and
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1 WHEREAS, pastoralists are people who raise livestock or
2 semi-domesticated animals on rangelands, including ranchers,
3 nomads, and transhumant herders; and
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5 WHEREAS, Hawaii ranchers raise livestock on over 750,000
6 acres of rangelands and contribute over \$50,000,000 annually to
7 the state economy; and
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9 WHEREAS, pastoralists have stewarded rangelands for
10 millennia through deep knowledge and connections with the land;
11 and
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13 WHEREAS, Hawaii ranchers are acknowledged as critical
14 stewards of the State's rangelands; and
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16 WHEREAS, pastoralism exists in some form across six
17 continents and a multitude of cultures; and
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19 WHEREAS, shared experiences of land, livestock, and
20 stewardship connect pastoralists around the world through
21 historical knowledge and integration of innovative technologies
22 toward sustainable rangelands; and
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24 WHEREAS, the United Nations, in recognition of the vital
25 nature of rangelands and the significance of pastoralism to the
26 stewardship and societal benefits of rangelands, designated 2026
27 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists; and
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29 WHEREAS, national, regional, provincial, and local
30 governments around the world will celebrate the International
31 Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in 2026 through education,
32 advertisements, film, and adoption of national and local
33 policies that are supportive of rangelands and pastoralists;
34 now, therefore,
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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
37 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
38 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that 2026 is recognized as the
39 International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in Hawaii, in
40 solidarity with the United Nations; and
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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body:

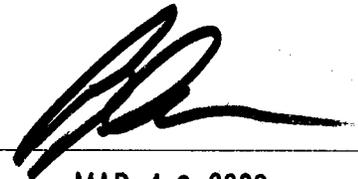


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- (1) Recognizes the economic, social, and ecological importance of rangelands and the ranchers, farmers, land managers, and partners who have been caretakers of Hawaii's rangelands for generations;
- (2) Encourages state agencies, the University of Hawaii, and organizations across the State to engage in activities that promote education, research, and outreach related to rangeland management; and
- (3) Recommends the adoption of policies that will further conserve rangelands and protect the livelihoods of Hawaii's ranchers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity; President of the University of Hawaii; Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu; and Mayors of the Counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai.

OFFERED BY: _____



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