

---

---

# HOUSE 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  
6

7           WHEREAS, rangelands include prairies, grasslands, pampas,  
8 shrublands, wetlands, woodlands, savannas, chaparrals, steppes,  
9 and tundra; and  
10

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  
18

19           WHEREAS, over twenty-five percent, or over 1,000,000 acres,  
20 of Hawaii's land mass is classified as rangelands; and  
21

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  
29

30           WHEREAS, pastoralists are people who raise livestock or  
31 semi-domesticated animals on rangelands, including ranchers,  
32 nomads, and transhumant herders; and  
33



1 WHEREAS, Hawaii ranchers raise livestock on over 750,000  
2 acres of rangelands and contribute over \$50,000,000 annually to  
3 the state economy; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, pastoralists have stewarded rangelands for  
6 millennia through deep knowledge and connections with the land;  
7 and  
8

9 WHEREAS, Hawaii ranchers are acknowledged as critical  
10 stewards of the State's rangelands; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, pastoralism exists in some form across six  
13 continents and a multitude of cultures; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, shared experiences of land, livestock, and  
16 stewardship connect pastoralists around the world through  
17 historical knowledge and integration of innovative technologies  
18 toward sustainable rangelands; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, the United Nations, in recognition of the vital  
21 nature of rangelands and the significance of pastoralism to the  
22 stewardship and societal benefits of rangelands, designated 2026  
23 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, national, regional, provincial, and local  
26 governments around the world will celebrate the International  
27 Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in 2026 through education,  
28 advertisements, film, and adoption of national and local  
29 policies that are supportive of rangelands and pastoralists;  
30 now, therefore,  
31

32 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
33 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
34 of 2026, that 2026 is recognized as the International Year of  
35 Rangelands and Pastoralists in Hawaii, in solidarity with the  
36 United Nations; and  
37

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body:  
39

- 40 (1) Recognizes the economic, social, and ecological  
41 importance of rangelands and the ranchers, farmers,



1 land managers, and partners who have been caretakers  
2 of Hawaii's rangelands for generations;

3  
4 (2) Encourages state agencies, the University of Hawaii,  
5 and organizations across the State to engage in  
6 activities that promote education, research, and  
7 outreach related to rangeland management; and

8  
9 (3) Recommends the adoption of policies that will further  
10 conserve rangelands and protect the livelihoods of  
11 Hawaii's ranchers; and

12  
13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
14 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Chairperson of the  
15 Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity; President of the  
16 University of Hawaii; Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu;  
17 and Mayors of the Counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai.

18  
19  
20

OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



MAR 10 2026

