

MAR 16 2026

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE TO CONSIDER THE IMPORTANCE OF RANGELANDS AND
PASTORALISTS AND ADOPT POLICIES THAT FURTHER SUSTAIN
RANGELAND HEALTH AND PASTORALIST LIVELIHOODS.

1 WHEREAS, rangelands are natural ecosystems in which the
2 indigenous vegetation is predominantly grasses, grass-like
3 plants, forbs, or shrubs, and cover up to 19.8 billion acres of
4 land globally (fifty-four percent of the terrestrial surface);
5 and

6
7 WHEREAS, these natural ecosystems include prairies,
8 grasslands, pampas, shrublands, wetlands, woodlands, savannas,
9 chaparrals, steppes, 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
14 (livestock, hay, forage, etc.), water resources, biodiversity,
15 wildlife habitat, and carbon sequestration and storage and also
16 provide renewable and nonrenewable energy resources and
17 aesthetic and recreational opportunities; and

18
19 WHEREAS, over twenty-five percent (1,000,000 acres) of the
20 State'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 because of
24 the ecosystem services they provide (food and fiber production,
25 soils stabilization, carbon sequestration and nutrient cycling,
26 clean water, etc.), the livestock ranchers they support, and the
27 rich paniolo (rancher) traditions that endure; and

28
29 WHEREAS, pastoralists are people who raise livestock or
30 semi-domesticated animals on rangelands, including ranchers,
31 nomads, and transhumant herders; and

32



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's economy; and
4

5 WHEREAS, pastoral peoples 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 one form or another across
13 six 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 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, and film (documentaries, festivals, etc.), and
29 adoption of national and local policies that are supportive of
30 rangelands and pastoralists; now, therefore,
31

32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
33 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
34 House of Representatives concurring, that the State is urged to
35 consider the importance of rangelands and pastoralists and adopt
36 policies that further sustain rangeland health and pastoralist
37 livelihoods; and
38

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State is requested to
40 proclaim 2026 the "International Year of Rangelands and
41 Pastoralists" in solidarity with the United Nations; and
42



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State is requested to
2 recognize the economic, social, cultural, and ecological
3 importance of rangelands and the ranchers, farmers, land
4 managers, and partners who have been caretakers of the State's
5 rangelands for generations; and

6
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State is requested to
8 encourage state agencies, the University of Hawaii, and
9 organizations across the State to engage in activities that
10 promote education, research, and outreach related to rangeland
11 management; and

12
13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State is requested to adopt
14 policies that will further conserve rangelands and protect the
15 livelihoods of the State's ranchers; and

16
17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
19 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity, and
20 Mayor of each county.

21
22
23 OFFERED BY: *David M. Renteria*

