

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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CHAIRPERSON
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
RYAN P. K. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, February 11, 2026
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2019
RELATING TO THE TRANSFER OF NON-AGRICULTURAL PARK LANDS

Senate Bill 2019 proposes to require the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to accept the transfer of and manage certain qualifying non-agricultural park lands; authorizes the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to request information related to easements prior to any transfer of certain qualifying non-agricultural park lands; and requires approval from the Board of Land and Natural Resources and Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity, and of an approved feasible and funded action plan, before pasture lands are removed for reforestation or other public purposes. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

By mandating transfers and removing Board of Land and Natural Resources (Land Board) oversight, this bill contradicts the findings of the Legislature's Act 90 Working Group, which has recognized that the Department should keep certain pasture leases. Their 2021 Report states:

"Certain agricultural lands under [the Department] have multiple management objectives, which can include agricultural production, forestry, native forest restoration, watershed protection, habitat conservation, public recreation, fire fuel suppression, and other public purposes that clearly fall within [the Department's] purview and mission. These multiple-use lands should remain under [[the Department's] management."

A bill mandating the transfer of these lands would prevent the Department from actively protecting the public trust resources on them, some of which are of low value for agricultural production yet highly valued for their natural and cultural resources. The Department respectfully requests the opportunity to continue to mutually agree with Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) to transfer and accept certain agricultural lands and, more importantly, work with the long-time pasture lessees to honor and respect their ranching heritage and protect and preserve the valuable forest lands for watershed protection, forest restoration, critical habitat and access for traditional and customary practices. Retaining the Land Board's oversight of these transfers is critical to considering these values holistically for the benefit of the public trust.

The few leases that the Department wants to keep have native forests, endangered species, opportunities for public hunting, trails, historic sites, cultural practices, and access to landlocked public lands. The Department would like to keep ranchers on the land while working with lessees to plan long-term management of these areas. The Department aims to balance ranching with the restoration of portions of these lands and to designate areas for hunting and hiking. The Department also would appreciate a more active role in managing invasive species, such as gorse, which renders lands unusable for both restoration and agriculture. These lands are important to the broader agricultural community because they serve as watershed areas for drought-stricken farmers.

Many pasture leases include large areas that are not suitable for pasture because they are too steep, too dry, too remote, or have poor soil. The Department has been working with ranchers to identify areas of importance to the Department that are not used by ranchers. The Department is carefully subdividing the leases to transfer only the parts usable for agriculture to DAB, resulting in a win-win outcome that underscores the importance of the Department's oversight of these leases.

The DAB and the Department have been implementing Act 90, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2003 (Act 90), since its adoption. Prior to 2023, the Department transferred about 20,000 acres to DAB and another 20,000 acres to the Agribusiness Development Corporation. Beginning in 2023, the Department worked with DAB to implement additional transfers, including obtaining Land Board approval for the transfer of the K.K. Ranch, Inc. lease and the Kapāpala Ranch lease, along with their two related revocable permits, on the Island of Hawai'i. The transfer of the K.K. Ranch, Inc. lease (5,106 acres) is complete. Survey and subdivision work is ongoing to complete the transfer of the Kapāpala Ranch lease and revocable permits. In 2024, the Land Board approved another 40 leases and revocable permits for transfer on Maui and Hawai'i Island. The set-asides of four leases and two revocable permits on Maui, totaling 165 acres, were completed in 2024.

Since the last legislative session, the Department has negotiated with ranchers and reached agreements on many large transfers to DAB totaling over 7,000 additional acres. These transfers include most of the leases that the Cattlemen's Council had prioritized for the Department to transfer. Since Governor Green took office, 50,000 acres have been transferred or are in the process of being transferred--more than doubling the acreage of land approved for transfer pursuant to Act 90 in the last three years.

The Departments are working together to carry out the original intent of Act 90. A bill to mandate the transfer of these lands would disrupt the considerable and conscientious efforts that the Department and DAB have already invested in managing and designating these lands. The Department has a public interactive map detailing the Department's progress on these transfers available here: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/91e49b26f9f24ac2a9f1c1f59bd9aa9d>.

Finally, the Department notes that State agricultural lands are public trust or ceded lands for which the Office of Hawaiian Affairs would be entitled to its pro rata share of rental proceeds and further that public trust duties and responsibilities run with the land. The managing agency and board, i.e., DAB and the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity, are bound by the same public trust fiduciary duties and obligations as the Land Board in management of ceded lands under their jurisdiction.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI A KIA'I MEAOLA
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9560 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SHARON HURD
Chairperson
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
AND
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026
1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2019
RELATING TO THE TRANSFER OF NON-AGRICULTURAL PARK LANDS**

Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Inouye and Richards and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2019. This bill requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) to accept the transfer of and manage certain qualifying non-agricultural park lands. The bill additionally authorizes DAB to request information from the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) related to the establishment of necessary and reasonable easements upon the lands before the transfer of non-agricultural park lands. Further, Senate Bill 2019 requires DLNR to obtain approval from the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) and the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity (BAB) before removing pasture lands for reforestation, or other public purposes. DAB respectfully provides comments.

DAB appreciates the tremendous efforts of the Act 90 working group to improve the process for transfer of agricultural lands and looks forward to continuing working with DLNR as we determine the non-agricultural park lands that will be transferred to the DAB. DAB secured funding in 2023 for surveys and subdivision that may be required for the transfer of lands, so as not to delay the process. To date, more than 26,000 acres have been transferred to DAB pursuant to Act 90, and BLNR and BAB have approved the transfer of additional 43,000 acres that are in various stages of survey, subdivision, or review and documentation by DLNR and its assigned deputy attorneys general.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-2019

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:25:50 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Warren Watanabe	Testifying for Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Maui County Fram Bureau is in support of SB2019, Relating to the Transfer of Non-Agricultural Park Lands.

SB-2019

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:11:00 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brendan Balthazar	Testifying for Maui cattlemen	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is a shame that this has to be re introduced. All agg lands that are in agg should be under the department of agg and Not DLNR. DLNR should not be managing agg. One major reason is when an agg lease ends the lessee has to bid to keep the land that he is farming or ranching with all the improvements he paid for over the years . So to keep his business he has to actually pay twice for all the improvements he made to the land. Also DLNR does not consider drought, cost of productions, but yet they raise you rent. I think it is about time to realize that agg land should be managed by DOA.

Brendan Balthazar

Diamond B Ranch



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 11, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2019
RELATING TO THE TRANSFER OF NON-AGRICULTURAL PARK LANDS

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
10:00 AM

Aloha Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice-Chairs Inouye and Richards, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 2019, which advances the long-standing intent of Act 90 by clarifying and strengthening the process for transferring non-agricultural park lands used for agriculture from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau acknowledges and appreciates that the Department of Land and Natural Resources has worked with the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, farmers, and ranchers, and has made progress by transferring certain agricultural leases to the DAB as intended by Act 90. However, continued efforts are needed to ensure that all qualifying non-agricultural park lands are properly transferred to DAB to effectively support Hawai'i's ranchers.

For more than two decades, agricultural producers leasing public lands have operated under prolonged uncertainty due to the incomplete implementation of Act 90. This uncertainty has limited long-term planning, investment, and stewardship of lands used for agricultural production. SB 2019 helps resolve this long-standing limbo by establishing a clear, transparent process for land transfers when parcels are suitable for agriculture.

Hawai'i's food producers play an essential role in supporting food security, rural economies, and responsible land stewardship. Food production and natural resource conservation are equally important, constitutionally protected public purposes, not mutually exclusive, and both can and must be achieved.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Senator Chris Lee, Chair

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

SB2019

RELATING TO The TRANSFER OF NON-AGRICULTURAL PARK LANDS

Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 1:00 PM

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Inouye & Richards, and Members of the Committees,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB2019** which requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to accept the transfer of and manage certain qualifying non-agricultural park lands. Authorizes the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to request information related to easements prior to any transfer of certain qualifying non-agricultural park lands. Requires approval from the Board of Land and Natural Resources and Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity and an approved feasible and funded action plan before pasture lands are removed for reforestation or other public purposes.

This bill will ensure that lands in active agriculture are transferred to DOA, pursuant to Act 90, without further delays. We appreciate that the DLNR and DOA have worked together to identify and make progress on certain lease transfers. However, there are still leases that are in active agriculture, but are not being approved to transfer. At an Act 90 Info Briefing in 2024, we were informed that the ag leases that remain with DLNR will not be renewed at the end of their lease, but converted to conservation. This is devastating for leaseholders who have multiple generations stewarding this land, producing beef for the community.

The purpose of Act 90, which was passed in 2003 (more than 2 decades ago) is to ensure the long-term productive use of public agricultural lands by allowing these lands to be transferred to and managed by the Department of Agriculture. This bill ensures that the purpose of Act 90, 2003 is realized and guided by the identification of agricultural lands, including all lands designated as intensive agricultural use, special livestock use, and pasture use, rather than the current situation of land transfers blocked by the impediment of mutual agreement by both boards. This unnecessary impediment has resulted in leaseholders still waiting for their agricultural lands to transfer to the Department of Agriculture more than 20 years later.

Ranchers are proponents for stewarding the land well and will continue to implement conservation practices when leases are transferred to DOA—the health of the land allows ranchers to continue their production. With long-term leases based on agricultural production, ranchers will be even



better situated to invest in long-term conservation practices. If the state truly wants to support agriculture, transferring agricultural lands from DLNR to DOA will help many productive leaseholders continue their production and land stewardship with confidence that they will be supported in their agricultural operations.

According to the State Ag Land Use Baseline, 1.1 million acres of the state's land was in grazing use in the 1980s. In 2015, that number dropped to 761,000 acres. The 2020 State Ag Land Use Baseline reports that pasture continues to decline on Oahu and Hawaii Island. Astute land stewards are well aware that when land is taken out of management, Hawaii's environment and prevalence of invasive species make it costly and difficult to get it back to working order. It is extremely important that we support those who are still operating as agricultural businesses. This bill would do that by transferring agricultural leases to the department that holds agriculture as a priority.

Additionally, these ranches play a critical role in reaching the state's increased local food production goals. Every single one of these ranches contribute to local beef – even cow/calf producers still put local beef into the community.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Ranchers produce a high-quality protein and are the stewards of almost 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or nearly 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director

SB-2019

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:26:43 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Blazak	Testifying for Hilo County Farm Bureau	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Inouye and Richards, and Members of the Committee,

As the current chapter president of the Hilo County Farm Bureau, I write in strong support of the proposed measure on behalf of our Board of Directors and our members.

The transfer of agricultural lands from DLNR to HDAB in accordance with Act 90 has been a requirement under state law for over a decade, and yet there are still agricultural lands that have not been timely transferred.

We urge the Committees to pass this measure and Hilo County Farm Bureau appreciates the Legislature's attention to this long-standing issue affecting Hawaii's farmers and ranchers. Thank you.

LARRY JEFTS FARMS, LLC
PO BOX 27
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759
(808) 688-2892

SB2019, Relating to The Transfer of Non-Agricultural Park Lands
Sen WAL /AEN Hearing – 1:00 PM
Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice Chair Inouye and Richards, and Members of the Sen WAL/AEN Committee:

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC. We have more than 42 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu. Our family farms grow about 1 million pounds weekly of import replacement produce. I am a volunteer director, serving as Chair of the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). I have been an officer of the Hawaii Farm Bureau for many years.

We understand that there are still leases in active agriculture that have not been transferred. The transfer of these lands to the DAB ensures long-term leases. Ranchers and all agricultural producers need long-term leases before capital investments can be made. In addition to better stability for ranchers and supporting import replacement production, this bill provides conservation protections and DLNR's oversight of natural resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

SB-2019

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 11:07:49 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa Thompson	Testifying for Thompson Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support 2019 SB RELATING TO THE TRANSFER OF NON-AGRICULTURAL PARK LANDS.

Mahalo,

Theresa Thompson

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Opposing SB2019, Relating to the Transfer of Non-Agricultural Park Lands
Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
February 11, 2026 at 1:00 pm
Conference Room 224 and via Videoconference

Dear Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Inouye and Richards, and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Hawai'i and Palmyra opposes SB2019, which requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) to accept the transfer of and manage certain qualifying non-agricultural park lands, authorizes DAB to request information related to easements prior to any transfer of certain qualifying non-agricultural park lands, and requires approval from the Board of Land and Natural Resources and Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity and an approved feasible and funded action plan before pasture lands are removed for reforestation or other public purposes.

This bill would make the transfer of certain non-agricultural park lands from the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to DAB mandatory rather than discretionary, removing the existing flexibility that allows the State to evaluate whether individual parcels are best managed for agricultural production, forest protection, watershed function, cultural resources, or other public purposes. Many DLNR-managed pasture parcels include significant ecological value, including remnant native forests, watershed lands, and areas that help buffer the spread of invasive species, all of which are essential to Hawai'i's long-term ecological resilience.

While this bill has procedural requirements, such as requiring approval from both boards before pasture lands can be withdrawn for reforestation or other public purposes, it shifts this review to a later stage after the lands have already been transferred. This change limits the ability of the Board of Land and Natural Resources to evaluate ecological, cultural, and recreational considerations before management authority changes hands. Automatic transfers therefore risk overlooking parcels where the best use is watershed protection, habitat conservation, and community access.

We respectfully urge the committee to maintain a process that allows careful, site-specific evaluation before any transfer. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in opposition of SB2019.

Guided by science, TNC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 84,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and 18 managed areas and have supported over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands.

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LATE

SB-2019

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 6:33:35 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lani Petrie	Testifying for Kapapala Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2019.

Written Testimony SB2019

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

My name is Stephen De Luz, I am in support of SB2019. I am the 2nd generation owner of Ernest De Luz Ranch. Working with my son & grandson, taking this ranch through 4 generations. My father, Ernest De Luz and I have at least 125 years combined ranching experience. From the age of 15, I have worked alongside my father, learning and gaining experience.

We requested that our lease be transferred from DLNR to DOA under Act 90 because we actively steward the land in agricultural production. The DLNR has agreed to transfer GL4472 which is 1,902 acres, but they told us they do not want to transfer GL4473 which is 3,110 acres. These 3,110 acres are the most productive part of our ranch, this is where we built our reservoirs & store most of our water. With this lease, they say they seek to accomplish restoration goals while have the most negligible impact or disruption to the ranching operations. However, we have had first-hand experience with a lease under DLNR for conservation forestry. Rather than being in control of the lease, we were given a grazing permit. Under the direction of DLNR, we had to graze when & where they permitted. Failure to follow their directions we would be in violation of our permit. This caused our herd to do poorly. Cows struggled to survive, calf growth was poor & production was low.

We had no control over our ranch under the direction of DLNR, we had no other option but to sell & focus on the 5000 acres we had left in order to be successful. Having lost 21,000 acres, we had to sell over 1000cows. Because of what has happened in the past we need to keep what little we have left, to keep our business going.

We successfully operate a cow/calf operation & a grass fat market for our State of Hawaii local markets. In the past year, we have produced approximately 115,000 pounds of choice grass fed range beef & 68,000 pounds of beef from culled cows & bulls within the past year.

We have worked with NRCS, adding 5,000,000 gallons of water by building several reservoirs. We have put in several miles of cross fence, to properly rotate our cattle. We have cleared acres of noxious weeds & laid new waterlines, improving the property & conservation. Our operation employs at least 4 full time employees & we hire part-time employees as needed. We purchase equipment, fence materials, pipe, medicines, livestock feed, equipment repair & maintenance supplies, etc. By keeping my business in operation & selling cattle we create lots of tax revenue. We really need this land to be transferred to the Department of Agriculture, according to Act 90. By keeping this land in agriculture we can continue our way of life, to make a living & provide for our community. Everyone will be affected if more land is taken away from agriculture.

Thank you for your time.

SB-2019

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:00:16 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Senator Chris Lee, Chair

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

SB2019

RELATING TO THE TRANSFER OF NON-AGRICULTURAL PARK LANDS

Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 1:00 PM

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Inouye & Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Jason Moniz; my family and I own and operate KK Ranch, a beef cattle ranch that operates on a 5200-acre State Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) lease. Our lease transferred from the DLNR to the DAB in 2023 in accordance with Act 90. I am testifying in

support of SB2019 in hope that it will result in the transfer of remaining pastoral leases from the DLNR to the DAB. Since our lease transferred working with DAB land management staff has been a breath of fresh air for us. Although the new lease is more intensive with many more conditions than our original DLNR lease, the DAB have been supportive, lease rates are more conducive to cattle production, and we have been able to advance projects to improve production and land management with the confidence that we will have long term tenure and the support of the DAB.

In 2021 the Act 90 Working Group in their report to the Senate and House leadership clearly concluded that those DLNR agricultural leases used primarily or substantially for agriculture should be transferred to the now DAB. Despite this recommendation the DLNR continues to seek to withhold substantial portions of the DeLuz lease and the entire Nobriga lease on Hawaii Island when both leases clearly meet the working groups recommendation for transfer. Having worked with both ranches in my professional capacity I can verify that these ranches and the lands they occupy have a long history of successful cattle production. Both ranches contribute substantially to the local beef market, helping to achieve the State's goal for increasing local food security. These lands have been in cattle production for nearly 200 years. Both ranches are excellent land stewards. The Nobriga ranch is challenged with gorse, and they are one of the most experienced land managers actively controlling it. Despite this challenge their lease remains productive, unlike some other State properties in the area where gorse is out of control.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure. I have been advocating for the transfer of agricultural leases to the now DAB from before 2003 when Act 90 was adopted. I cannot see leaving multigenerational cattle producers like the Nobriga Ranch and DeLuz Ranch behind when their leases meet all the same requirements as all of the other pastoral leases that qualified for transfer.

SB-2019

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:13:26 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Annette Niles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in support of this bill this should have been done way back ranchers are losing there leases how are we supposed to support our islands beef industry when it's been taken away from us. Mahalo Annette Niles aknranch and farm

SB-2019

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:56:30 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Jacintho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Life long, generation rancher. Strong Support for this Bill to move forward.

Thank you

SB-2019

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:59:29 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Whitney Boteilho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Whitney Boteilho, and I am writing on behalf of Boteilho Hawai'i Enterprises in strong support of SB2019.

Both the Board of Land and Natural Resources and Board of Agriculture have approved the transfer of our lease; however, we are still awaiting the executive order required to finalize the lease transfer and to establish a new lease with the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity. While this process continues, we strongly support SB2019 and its intent to move critical agricultural leases forward.

I also wish to express my strong support for other agricultural leases that have yet to be transferred. These ranches play a vital role in Hawai'i's local food production, agricultural sustainability, and rural economies. Delays in lease transfers create uncertainty for operators who are actively contributing to food security and land stewardship across the state.

Passage of SB2019 will help provide clarity, continuity, and support for agricultural operations that are essential to Hawai'i's future. I appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-2019

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:24:07 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frederick M. Mencher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Inouye and Richards, and Members of the Committees,

I support SB 2019, which helps finally implement the intent of Act 90 by clarifying the transfer of public lands actively used for agriculture from DLNR to the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

For many farmers and ranchers leasing state land, years of uncertainty have made long-term planning and investment difficult. This bill provides greater stability while still preserving conservation protections and DLNR's oversight of natural resources.

Food production and land stewardship are both important public purposes, and SB 2019 helps ensure they can be achieved together.

Mahalo for considering my testimony in support of SB 2019.

LATE

SB-2019

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:47:21 PM
Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Phillipson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Committee Members

Please support this bill for its common sense need for thorough reviews with agencies

Mahalo for your support

Best, Mark Phillipson

LATE

SB-2019

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:50:43 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support

LATE

SB-2019

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 5:15:09 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles Stevens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB2019.