

**KK Ranch, Inc.
PO Box 428
Paauilo, HI 96776**

**Board of Agriculture Meeting
August 22, 2023, 9:00 a.m.**

IV. B. Request for Approval for the Transfer of Public Lands from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture, Pursuant to Act 90, SLH 2003, Codified as Chapter 166E, Hawaii Revised Statutes; TMK Nos.: (3) 9-8-001:003, 006 and 013; (3) 9-6-011:002; (3) 9-8-001:011 and 012; (3) 9-8-001:009 and 010; (3) 4-4-014:002, 003 and 011; Island of Hawaii

Chair Hurd and the Members of the Board of Agriculture,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the transfer of General Lease No. S-4475, K. K. Ranch, Inc., Lessee, Covering Parcels 7-A, Government Land of Kalopa, Hamakua, Hawaii, Tax Map Keys: (3) 4-4-014:002 & 011.

We offer the following comments and request.

At the BLNR meeting of September 9, 2010, under agenda item D-17 (as amended), the BLNR approved the withdrawal of approximately 2,176 acres from GS No. S-4475 to be set aside to the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) for addition to the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve. We believe that withdrawal completely removed TMK (3) 4-4-014:003, Parcel 7-B, Government Land of Kaohe III, Hamakua, Hawaii from General Lease No. S-4475.

At that same meeting the BLNR also added TMK (3) 4-4-014:011, approximately 15 acres to GL S-4475, which we were not in favor of. That TMK was a revocable permit awarded to the USDA Forest Service for use as an experimental plot for tree planting. The plot had little open usable pasture and most concerning contained a stand of invasive tropical white ash which was the source of invading trees to our adjacent pastures and the Kalopa Forest Reserve. Chairperson Thielen at that meeting indicated that DOFAW would address the invasive ash, however no action to control the tropical white ash has occurred. We prefer that TMK (3) 4-4-014:011 be removed from GL S-4475 and remain with the DLNR under their management and that they address the invading tropical white ash.

At the upcoming BLNR meeting scheduled for August 25, 2023, we will testify that we are not in agreement with two exceptions listed in the Land Management Division's submittal.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

**Board of Agriculture Meeting
August 22, 2023, 9:00 a.m.**

IV. B. Request for Approval for the Transfer of Public Lands from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture, Pursuant to Act 90, SLH 2003, Codified as Chapter 166E, Hawaii Revised Statutes; TMK Nos.: (3) 9-8-001:003, 006 and 013; (3) 9-6-011:002; (3) 9-8-001:011 and 012; (3) 9-8-001:009 and 010; (3) 4-4-014:002, 003 and 011; Island of Hawaii

Chair Hurd and the Members of the Board of Agriculture,

Mahalo for recommending the Board approval of the transfer of these four encumbrances. Many leaseholders are still waiting for their agricultural lands to transfer to the Department of Agriculture 20 years later. Over 100,000 acres of agricultural land are still under the Department of Land and Natural Resources. We are encouraged that Chair Hurd and Chair Chang have taken steps to transfer lands in agricultural production to the Department of Agriculture.

The purpose of Act 90, 2003 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. We advocate for the transfer of all agricultural lands, including all lands designated as intensive agricultural use, special livestock use, and pasture use. These are lands that are in active agricultural production and producing food for our community.

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. Under the DOA, leaseholders will have access to longer terms based on agricultural production, and ranchers will be even better situated to invest in long-term conservation practices. Transferring agricultural lands from DLNR to DOA will help many productive leaseholders continue raising cattle for beef and stewarding the land 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. **We believe that the DOA is best suited for supporting these agricultural businesses. We ask that you support the transfer of agricultural leases from DLNR to DOA.**



Maui Cattlemen's Association



Hawaii Cattlemen's Association

KAPĀPALA RANCH
P. O. Box 537
Pahala, HI 96777
lani@kapapalaranch.com; lanipetrie@aol.com
808-936-2922

August 21, 2023

Hawaii Board of Agriculture
Meeting on August 22, 2023
9:00 am

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL FOR THE TRANSFER OF PUBLIC LANDS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, PURSUANT TO ACT 90 SLH 2003, CODIFIED AS CHAPTER 166E, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES; TMK NOS: (3)-9-8-001:003, 006 and 013; (3)-9-8-001:011 and 012; (3)-9-8-001:009 and 010; (3)-4-4-014:002, 003, and 011; ISLAND OF HAWAII

Dear Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture,

We ask for your acceptance of the transfer of our lease and revocable permits from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture:

TMK NOS: (3)-9-8-001:003, 006 and 013; (3)-9-8-001:011 and 012; (3)-9-8-001:009 and 010

Act 90 was passed 20 years ago and the Board of Agriculture in 2009 approved this transfer. The DLNR never followed up back then. Today we feel with the new leadership of Chair Chang under the direction of Governor Green that the lands we operate will be properly housed within the Department of Agriculture.

Kapāpala Ranch was started under the rule of Kamehameha IV in 1860 when he granted the first long-term lease for productive agriculture, primarily livestock. But through the years, the ranch has done more than provide meat to our community. During WWI and WWII the ranch grew potatoes on more than 150 acres. There were fruit orchards and dairy cows before we relied on grocery stores.

We humbly ask, once again, for your support of the transfer of Kapāpala Ranch to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Very Sincerely,

KAPĀPALA RANCH

Lani and Bill Petrie

Big Island Invasive Species Committee
23 East Kawili St.
Hilo, Hawaii 96720



August 18, 2023

To: Board of Agriculture, Hawaii Department of Agriculture

RE: Opposition to Petition for Amendment of Hawai'i Administrative Rules Chapter 4-71

The Big Island Invasive Species Committee **opposes the petition to amend Chapter 4-71, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), which would allow the importation or possession of Savannah cat hybrids in Hawai'i.**

While we sympathize with Ms. Nerveza-Clark, amending this rule means removing Savannah cat hybrids from the Prohibited Animals List, effectively opening the door for early-generation hybrids (F1-F4) to also enter Hawai'i. We recognize that even with attempts to mitigate risk there still lies potential for these animals to escape captivity, establish in the wild, and negatively impact Hawai'i's native wildlife.

We are already facing substantial challenges with managing feral cat populations and allowing savannah cat hybrids would only serve to exacerbate this issue. Here on the Big Island there is no Animal Control entity that will accept unwanted cats, making it increasingly difficult to control the impact of abandoned and free-roaming cats to our native birds and marine mammals. Allowing the possession of savannah cat hybrids could potentially lead to an increase in unregulated breeding and the subsequent release of unwanted animals, thereby compounding our existing feral cat problem.

In conclusion, we respectfully urge the Board of Agriculture and the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to carefully consider the potential negative consequences of amending Hawai'i Administrative Rules Chapter 4-71. We implore you to prioritize the protection of our native species, delicate ecosystems, and ongoing invasive species management initiatives. Mahalo nui loa for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Kawehi Young
Community Engagement Liaison

Clingan, Marci

From: cathyg@animalrightshawaii.org
Sent: Sunday, August 20, 2023 7:11 PM
To: HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request to allow import of hybrid exotic animals (position: oppose)

Madam Chair and members of the HBOA.

There are so many reasons for you to deny the entry of Savannah Cats (Serval hybrid with domestic felines)

Depending upon the generation of hybridization, Savannahs can reach 30 lbs. They are easily bored, and are considered escape artists by many owners, opening doors and windows with ease. They are noted for their loud voices and a number of ear splitting vocalizations depending upon mood. That said, they are beautiful animals and that has brought them to the attention of the buying public.

They are the new shiny toy that everyone will want and visions of thousands of dollars dancing through breeders' heads would doom them. Some greedy persons saw a lucrative business in cross breeding wild African cats with domestic felines. Sad for a wild animal to be kept captive simply to make money.

Savannahs could wreak havoc upon endangered birds if allowed into Hawai'i. Please do not weaken the protection that HAR provides. Keep the ban intact !

Cathy Goeggel
President
Animal Rights Hawai'i
1511 Nu'uuanu Ave. Unit 173
Honolulu, HI 96817
808.721.4211

www.animalrightshawaii.org

Animal Rights Hawaii on FaceBook



Hikiola Cooperative

P. O. Box 544 Hoolehua, HI 96729 * ph: (808) 567-6774 * fax: (808) 567-6660 * hikiola@gmail.com

August 17, 2023

Sharon Hurd, Chairperson
Hawaii State Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Resource Management Division
1428 S. King Street
Honolulu, HI. 96814-2512

RE: Hawaii Dept of Agricultural PUBLIC HEARING
DATE: August 22, 2023/TIME:5:00PM TO 7:00PM
Virtual Video conference Meeting

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 4, SUBTITLE 8, CHAPTER 57, HAWAII ADMINISTRATIVE RULES,
ENTITLED "RULES GOVERNING IRRIGATION WATER SERVICE TO CONSUMERS OF HAWAII STATE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IRRIGATION SYSTEMS"

SCHEDULE OF RATES, FEES, AND CHARGES FOR IRRIGATION WATER DELIVERY SERVICES AT ALL
DOA IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Aloha Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture:

Thank you for your time in accepting this written testimony on this matter.

My name is Denise Kawano, and I am the General Manager of Hikiola Cooperative, an
agricultural supply Cooperative on the Island of Molokai. Our members are the farmers and
ranchers of Molokai.

I oppose the amount of the proposed rate increase because of the negative impact. Our
farmers and ranchers are already struggling and cannot absorb an increase that big.

Our business like many other businesses on Molokai understand what it is like to operate in the
red while trying to keep our employee's working. Our survival sometimes involves expense
reduction. Let's send this proposition back to the legislature to re-evaluate the operations for
each irrigation system before increasing prices to customers.

Please also take into consideration, Big Island and Maui are dealing with devastating
circumstances. Please postpone any meetings or increases until the impact to their economy is
remedied.