

Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

**Board of Agriculture Meeting  
October 24, 2023, 9:00 a.m.**

A1. 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

Chair Hurd and the Members of the Board of Agriculture,

The Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council is in strong support of the transfer of leases from DLNR to DOA pursuant to Act 90, SLH 2003.

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 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.

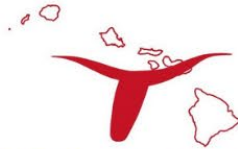
According to the State Ag Land Use Baseline, 1.1 million acres of the state's land was in grazing use in the 1980s. In 2015, that number dropped to 761,000 acres. The 2020 State Ag Land Use Baseline reports that pasture continues to decline on Oahu and Hawai'i Island. Astute land stewards are well aware that when land is taken out of management, Hawai'i'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.**

The Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of 750 thousand acres of land in Hawai'i, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawai'i's cattle producers.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this priority for our industry.

Nicole Galase  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council





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Nicole Galase  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council



## Clingan, Marci

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**From:** charlene medeiros <charmedeiros@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 18, 2023 7:50 PM  
**To:** HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] BOA Meeting October 24, 2023 – Testimony on Agenda Item A1.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_charlene medeiros\_\_\_\_. I support the transfer of agricultural leases from DLNR to the Department of Agriculture. The ability of DOA to provide affordable long term leases will provide these leaseholders the assurances needed to increase their investments in agriculture and become even better caretakers of these lands. Transferring lands to DOA pursuant to Act 90 is a step forward in our food security and land management goals.<BR>

Sent from my iPhone

## Clingan, Marci

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**From:** Mike W. Abreu <mike@haleakalaranch.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 18, 2023 8:16 PM  
**To:** HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] BOA Meeting October 24, 2023 – Testimony on Agenda Item A1.

My name is \_\_Mike Abreu \_\_\_\_\_. I support the transfer of agricultural leases from DLNR to the Department of Agriculture. The ability of DOA to provide affordable long term leases will provide these leaseholders the assurances needed to increase their investments in agriculture and become even better caretakers of these lands. Transferring lands to DOA pursuant to Act 90 is a step forward in our food security and land management goals.

## Clingan, Marci

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**From:** woody child <wcinkona@usa.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2023 6:27 AM  
**To:** HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] BOA Meeting October 24, 2023 – Testimony on Agenda Item A1.

My name is Walter Child. I support the transfer of agricultural leases from DLNR to the Department of Agriculture. The ability of DOA to provide affordable long term leases will provide these leaseholders the assurances needed to increase their investments in agriculture and become even better caretakers of these lands. Transferring lands to DOA pursuant to Act 90 is a step forward in our food security and land management goals.

Thank you, W. Child

## Clingan, Marci

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**From:** Keith Unger <kaimiunger@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2023 8:24 AM  
**To:** HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] BOA Meeting October 24, 2023 – Testimony on Agenda Item A1.

My name is Keith Unger with McCandless Ranch. I support the transfer of agricultural leases from DLNR to the Department of Agriculture. The ability of DOA to provide affordable long term leases will provide these leaseholders the assurances needed to increase their investments in agriculture and become even better caretakers of these lands.

Transferring lands to DOA pursuant to Act 90 is a step forward in our food security and land management goals.

Keith Unger  
McCandless Ranch  
kaimiunger@gmail.com  
808-896-5459

## Clingan, Marci

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**From:** Alex Franco <afrancokaupo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 18, 2023 8:21 PM  
**To:** HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] BOA Meeting October 24, 2023 – Testimony on Agenda Item A1.

My name is Alex Franco. I support the transfer of agricultural leases from DLNR to the Department of Agriculture. The ability of DOA to provide affordable long term leases will provide these leaseholders the assurances needed to increase their investments in agriculture and become even better caretakers of these lands. Transferring lands to DOA pursuant to Act 90 is a step forward in our food security and land management goals.

Sent from my iPhone

## Clingan, Marci

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**From:** Peter Simmons <peterdsimmons@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2023 11:26 AM  
**To:** HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] BOA Meeting October 24, 2023 – Testimony on Agenda Item A1.

Peter Simmons [peterdsimmons@gmail.com](mailto:peterdsimmons@gmail.com)

Subject: BOA Meeting Oct 24, 2023 – Testimony – Agenda Item A1

I support the transfer of our State's agricultural leases from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture DOA. The DOA should administer agricultural leases because they have depth of knowledge and experience in managing agricultural lands, their attributes and in working with Hawaii's farmers and producers. In addition they have the ability to issue thirty year leases when long-term investments are needed by the lessees.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor of transferring Ag lands and leases to the DOA.

Sincerely,

Peter Simmons



## Clingan, Marci

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**From:** greenwell.jimmy@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2023 9:53 AM  
**To:** HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] BOA Meeting October 24, 2023 - Testimony on Agenda Item A1.

My name is Jim Greenwell,

I strongly support the continuing efforts by DoA and DLNR to work together to implement Act 90 and the transfer of ag leases to DoA. I am confident this will better align the mission and responsibilities of the State/Lessor with those of their farm and ranch Lessees through lease terms and administrative support that encourages good long-term stewardship and investment by the Lessees.

While one of the goals here is clearly to enhance opportunities to improve our State's food security, even more so and on a larger scale, the purpose is to protect the long term interests of the broader community who are the beneficiaries of well-managed rangeland and the eco-system service benefits that flow from these lands to the entire State including invasive species control, wildfire mitigation, carbon sequestration, habitat management, watershed preservation, soil health improvement, preservation of cultural values and vistas/open space).

Good natural resource stewardship is accepted as their kuleana by every farmer and rancher in Hawaii who is blessed with this responsibility and aligning the interests of the Lessor and the Lessee as Act 90 sought to accomplish is fundamental to achieving this goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these thoughts in support.

## Clingan, Marci

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**From:** Jenee Odani <jsodani@hawaii.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 18, 2023 9:02 PM  
**To:** HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] BOA Meeting October 24, 2023 – Personal Testimony on Agenda Item A1.

My name is Jenee Odani, and I am the Extension Veterinarian at UH Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources. I support the transfer of agricultural leases from DLNR to the Department of Agriculture. The ability of DOA to provide affordable long term leases will provide these leaseholders the assurances needed to increase their investments in agriculture and become even better caretakers of these lands. Transferring lands to DOA pursuant to Act 90 is a step forward in our food security and land management goals.

Thank you very much

Jenee Odani, DVM

## Clingan, Marci

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**From:** Lori-Lee Lorenzo <llllorenzo01@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2023 6:28 AM  
**To:** HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] BOA Meeting October 24, 2023 – Testimony on Agenda Item A1.

My name is Frank Lorenzo Sr. I support the transfer of agricultural leases from DLNR to the Department of Agriculture. The ability of DOA to provide affordable long term leases will provide these leaseholders the assurances needed to increase their investments in agriculture and become even better caretakers of these lands. Transferring lands to DOA pursuant to Act 90 is a step forward in our food security and land management goals.

## Clingan, Marci

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**From:** Lori-Lee Lorenzo <llllorenzo01@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2023 6:28 AM  
**To:** HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] BOA Meeting October 24, 2023 – Testimony on Agenda Item A1.

My name is Mary Lorenzo. I support the transfer of agricultural leases from DLNR to the Department of Agriculture. The ability of DOA to provide affordable long term leases will provide these leaseholders the assurances needed to increase their investments in agriculture and become even better caretakers of these lands. Transferring lands to DOA pursuant to Act 90 is a step forward in our food security and land management goals.

## Clingan, Marci

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**From:** Ka Papa Hawai'i Kumu Haleakala <kumuhaleakala@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 18, 2023 5:20 PM  
**To:** HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] BOA Meeting October 24, 2023 – Testimony on Agenda Item A1.

My name is \_\_\_Haleakala Sakata\_\_\_\_\_. I support the transfer of agricultural leases from DLNR to the Department of Agriculture. The ability of DOA to provide affordable long term leases will provide these leaseholders the assurances needed to increase their investments in agriculture and become even better caretakers of these lands. Transferring lands to DOA pursuant to Act 90 is a step forward in our food security and land management goals.

Sincerely,  
Haleakala Sakata