

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1660

February 15, 2022
8:30 a.m.
Room 430 and Videoconference

RELATING TO LAND

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1660: specifies that agricultural multi-use lands under the management of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) are not subject to transfer to and management by the Department of Agriculture; requires DLNR to revise its land classifications to include agricultural multi-use lands; and appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 23 to establish one full-time Agricultural Multi-Use Lands Specialist position in DLNR.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

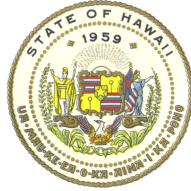
Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND

Tuesday, February 15, 2022
8:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 430 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1660
RELATING TO LAND

House Bill 1660 proposes to: (1) Change existing law to provide that agricultural multi-use lands under the management of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) are not subject to transfer to and management by Department of Agriculture (DOA); (2) require the DLNR to revise its statutory land classifications to include agricultural multi-use lands; and (3) Establish and appropriate funds for an agricultural multi-use lands specialist position. **DLNR supports this measure and provides the following comments and a proposed amendment.**

As noted in the bill's preamble, this measure is intended in part to address a longstanding issue in the transfer of non-agricultural park lands from DLNR to DOA pursuant to Act 90 Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, now codified at Chapter 166E, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). Although the law provides for land transfers based on the mutual agreement of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and the Board of Agriculture, cattle ranching interests have argued that the law mandates the transfer of pasture lands even when DLNR desires to retain management of the lands for natural resource protection and public recreational purposes and even when DOA has not requested the transfer.

DLNR appreciates the solution provided in this bill that creates a new land classification under Chapter 171-10, HRS, for agricultural multi-use lands. Through an amendment of Section 166E-3, HRS, the bill would clarify that multi-use agricultural lands should remain with DLNR for management. Finally, this bill would create and fund a new agricultural multi-use lands specialist position in DLNR's Land Division to facilitate collaborative relationships between DLNR, DOA and agricultural multi-use land tenants and leverage federal funds from the National Resources Conservation Service and other funding sources to support natural land stewardship, reforestation, and other public purposes on agricultural multi-use lands.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

As the preamble to House Bill 1660 notes, DLNR has transferred more than 19,000 acres to DOA over the years pursuant to Act 90. However, pasture lands serve multiple purposes and are a critical part of DLNR's forest protection and restoration, traditional gathering, hunting, trails and other recreation responsibilities. The attached maps show the proximity of large tracts of pasture lands to forest reserves on Hawaii Island, and provide details on native ecosystems, the potential for restoration and the occurrence of endangered species. DLNR is retaining these multi-use lands and is willing to support extending and amending the pasture leases with DLNR under collaborative management terms compatible with both grazing and public trust natural and cultural resource protection and enhancement.

The Hawaii State Constitution, Article XI, Section 1, requires that “(f)or the benefit of present and future generations, the State and its political subdivisions shall conserve and protect Hawaii's natural beauty and resources, including land, water, air, minerals and energy sources, and shall promote the development and utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation and in furtherance of the self-sufficiency of the State.” DLNR strongly believes this measure is a reasonable compromise that successfully fulfills the State's constitutional obligations.

The Act 90 Working Group Report found that DLNR should retain management of those agricultural lands designated as multiple-use agricultural lands. The Report states:

The Working Group further finds that certain agricultural lands under DLNR 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 which clearly fall within DLNR's purview and mission. These multiple-use lands should remain under DLNR's management.

It is of the utmost imperative that multiple-use pasture lands at issue remain under the management of DLNR. There are significant resource values on these lands that require active management by DLNR to ensure their continued sustainability. Pursuant to Chapter 166E, HRS, under DOA management, these lands would be used solely for pasture purposes without regard to native forest restoration. DOA lacks the staffing and expertise to incorporate resource management activities into its land management practices. Furthermore, the use of these lands exclusively for pasture purposes would result in a significant detrimental impact on our environment. Without management by DLNR, these lands could be grazed without restriction, clear-cut and plowed, and public access could be blocked, threatening public trust natural and cultural values.

According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the impact of deforestation in Hawaii is severe. Hawaii's native wet and mesic forests store an average of 124 metric tons of carbon per acre. There are around 800,000 acres of native wet and mesic forest in Hawaii. Hawaii's invasive wet and mesic grasslands store an average of 70 metric tons of carbon per acre. There are around 300,000 acres of invasive wet and mesic grasslands in Hawaii. When Hawaii's native forests are converted to grasslands, they lose about half of their stored carbon - a loss of 54 metric tons of carbon per acre. Reforesting grasslands is the largest carbon sequestration opportunity for Hawaii to reach the goal of carbon neutrality by 2045 (Act 15, SLH 2018).

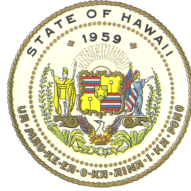
DLNR is inventorying lands that are not used for pasture, and planning combination grazing and reforestation projects. DLNR also offers voluntary incentive programs for ranchers to reforest lands and is developing standards for carbon credit projects that could further diversify revenues for ranchers.

The bill proposes to place the new agricultural multi-use lands specialist position in Land Division. However, DLNR believes that the duties of the position align more closely with the operation of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) and requests that the position be housed in DOFAW. The DLNR therefore proposes the following amendment to SECTION 4 (a) of the bill:

SECTION 4. (a) There is established within the department of land and natural resources [~~land division~~] division of forestry and wildlife one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) agricultural multi-use lands specialist position.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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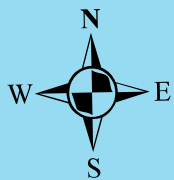
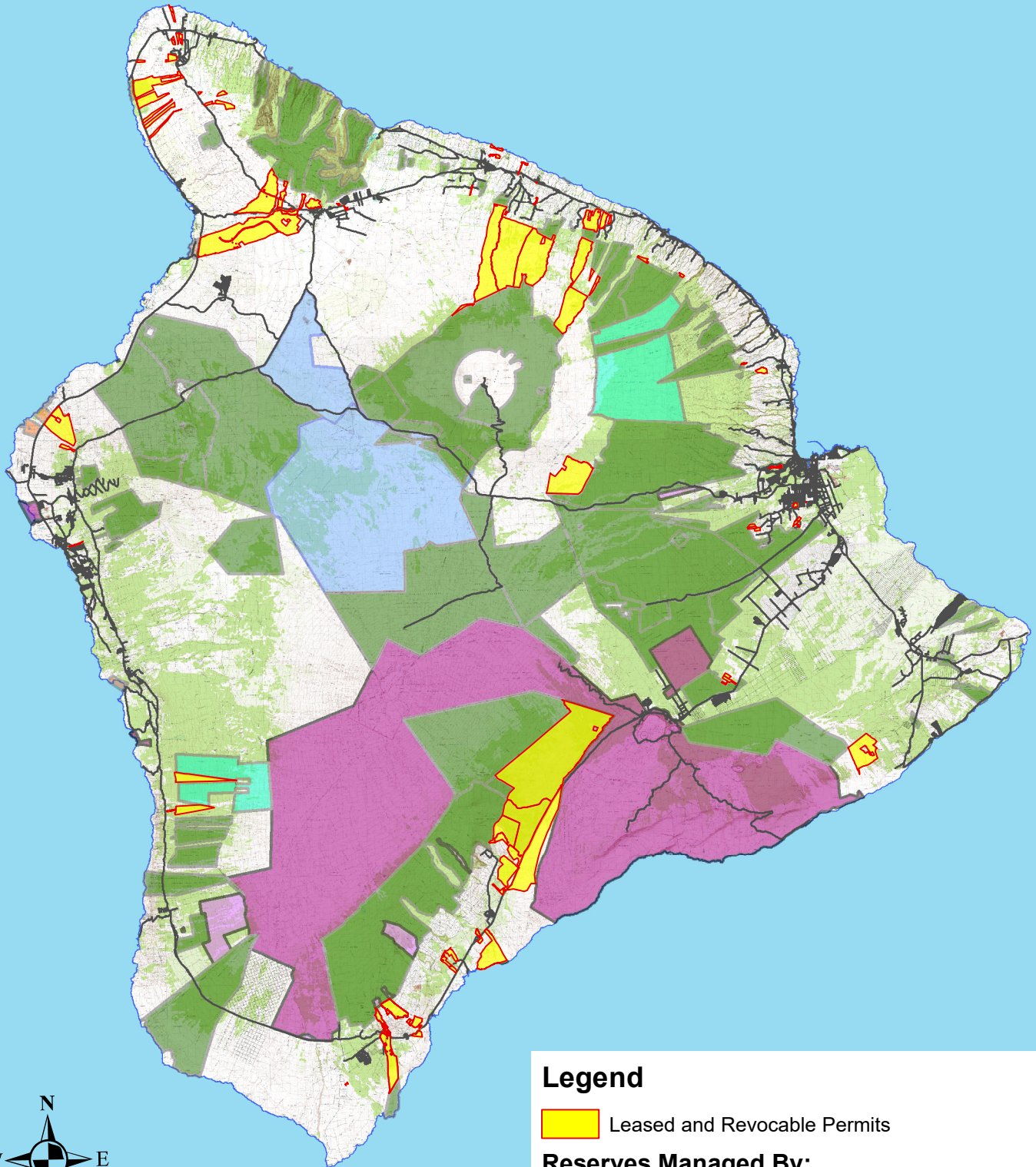
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.




0 10 20 30 Miles


0 10 20 30 40 50 Kilometers

Legend


 Leased and Revocable Permits

Reserves Managed By:

 Div. Forestry & Wildlife, or Jointly with Other Agency

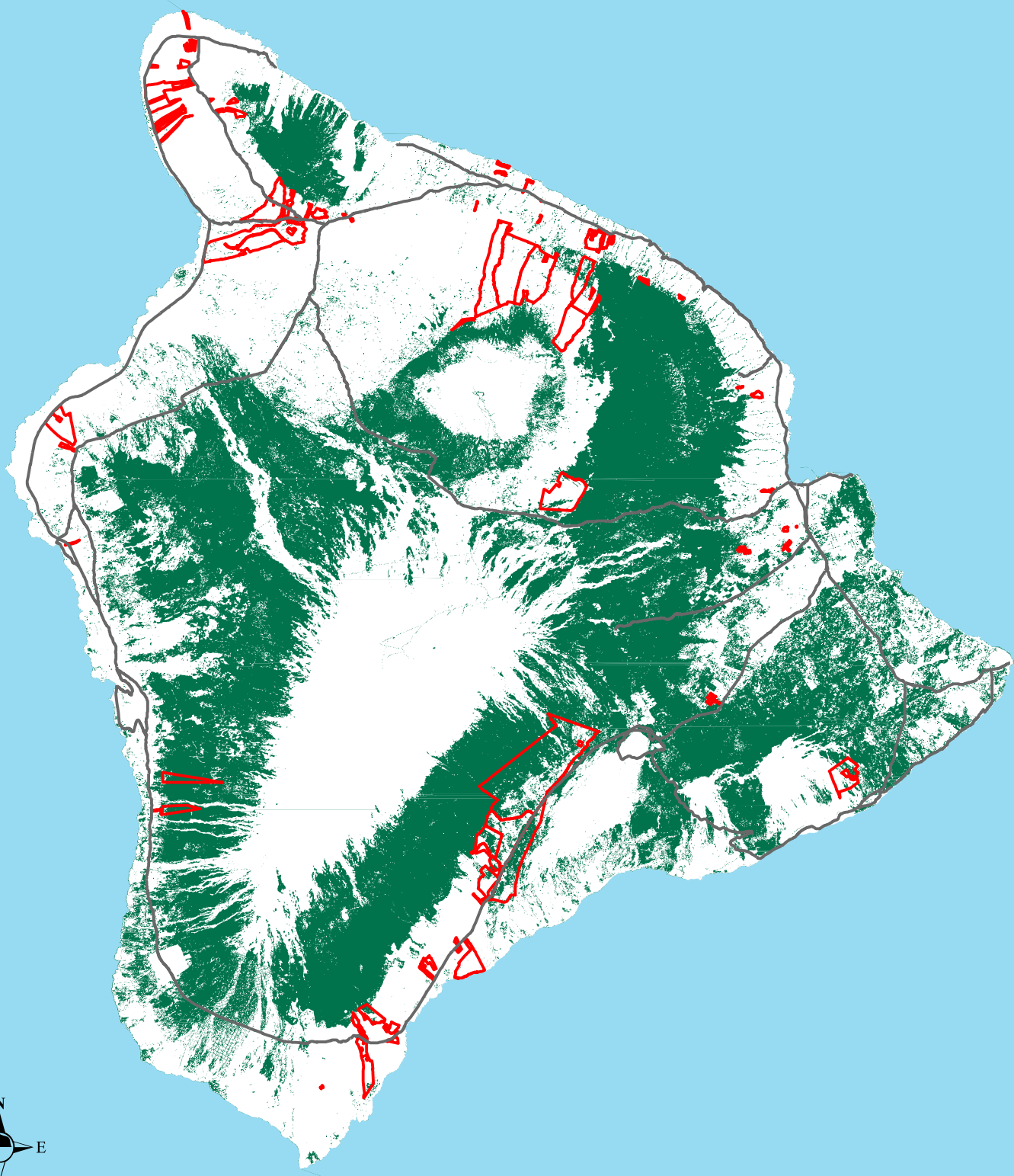
 Div. State Park

 The Nature Conservancy

 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

 U.S. National Park Service




 U.S. Army



0 2.5 5 10 15 20
Miles

0 5 10 20 30 40
Kilometers

Legend

-  Leased and Revocable Permits
-  Forested Native Ecosystems
-  Major Roads

02/06/20

Parcels with Potential for Restoration Native Ecosystems Before Human Contact



Legend

-  Leased and Revocable Permits
-  Native Montane Wet Forest
-  Native Lowland Wet Forest
-  Native Montane Mesic Forest
-  Native Lowland Dry Mesic Forest
-  Native Subalpine Shrubland
-  Native Montane Dry Forest
-  Native Lowland Dry Forest
-  Barren or Alpine
-  Major Roads









0 2.5 5 10 15 20
Miles

0 5 10 20 30 40
Kilometers

Parcels with Potential for Restoration Remaining Native Ecosystems



Legend

-  Leased and Revocable Permits
-  Native Montane Wet Forest
-  Native Lowland Wet Forest
-  Native Montane Mesic Forest
-  Native Lowland Dry Mesic Forest
-  Native Subalpine Shrubland
-  Native Montane Dry Forest
-  Native Lowland Dry Forest
-  Barren or Alpine
-  Major Roads



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Miles





0 5 10 20 30 40
Kilometers



0 2.5 5 10 15 20
Miles

0 5 10 20 30 40
Kilometers

Legend

-  Leased and Revocable Permits
-  Endangered Species in Parcels
-  Critical Habitat for Endangered Species
-  Major Roads

02/06/20



SUMMARY

DESCRIPTION

EXPECTED BENEFITS





2022 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

The DLNR seeks greater flexibility under Chapter 166E, HRS to amend, extend, and issue new leases by negotiation. The perceived need to transfer pasture leases to the DOA can be relieved by providing the DLNR with statutory powers similar to those exercised by the DOA in the management of its leases.



PASTURE LAND CONSERVATION VALUES



Water



Fire & Forest Health



Native Ecosystems



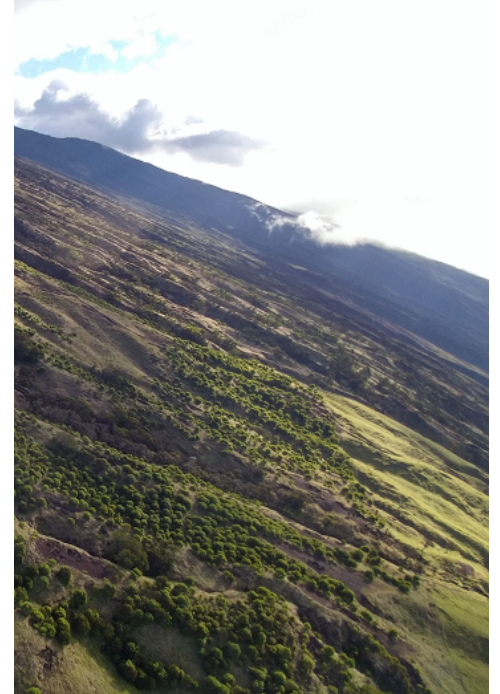
Forestry



Recreation

DLNR PARTNERSHIPS WITH RANCHERS

CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARBON NEUTRALITY



CONTACT PERSON



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
Tuesday, February 15, 2022 — 8:30 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative respectfully opposes HB 1660, Relating to the Land.

Dear Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food; renewable energy and clean transportation; and better management of freshwater and waste.

Ulupono respectfully opposes HB 1660, which specifies that agricultural multi-use lands under the management of DLNR are not subject to transfer to and management by HDOA; requires DLNR to revise its land classifications to include agricultural multi-use lands; and establishes and appropriates funds for an agricultural multi-use lands specialist position.

Ulupono appreciates the efforts of the Working Group established by Act 139, SLH 2021, which was established to find potential remedies to fulfill the purposes of Act 90, SLH 2003. We recognize the importance of this group's task in helping the State address the appropriate management of active agricultural leases.

The local livestock industry prides itself on being stewards of the land, providing needed conservation efforts to increase productivity and yields while also supporting Hawaii's natural resources. This bill inadvertently disincentivizes such common agricultural practices as all conservation efforts could, in theory, place such land within the purview of the DLNR as "multi-use." The definition of "agricultural multi-use" lands is vague and poses problems to any future Act 90 (2003) transfers.

Ulupono supports the local livestock industry and its efforts to provide fresh, healthy products for Hawai'i's consumers. We still believe that DOA's affordable, long-term leases allow local ranchers to immediately take advantage of existing, appropriate lease structures that incentivize long-term investments into their respective operations, improving the economic viability and increasing local food production for the state. Although this bill seeks to balance two competing interests, there is no need to recreate an

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



existing structure within DLNR to manage agricultural lands. By doing so, local ranchers will be at the mercy of a lengthy rule-making process that will undoubtedly delay any potential benefits to local ranchers for many years to come.

Recently, the pandemic, along with devastating natural disasters and shipping supply issues, have heightened local food insecurity in our communities. With many leaders across our state saying that local agriculture can play an important role in our economic and social recovery, one theme around local food production rises to the top: the time to act is now. Local producers, like our ranchers, are a critical component of Hawai'i's food security. The local ranching community deserves our State's support by managing crucial, food-producing pasture leases within the DOA, a department whose mission and expertise to manage agricultural activities and related natural resources, including pastureland production, promotes local food production and directly supports State sustainability goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs



February 11, 2022

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Patrick Pihana Branco, Vice Chair
House Committee on Water & Land

Testimony in Opposition to HB 1660, Relating to the Transfer of Non-Agricultural Park Lands (Specifies that agricultural multi-use lands under the management of the Department of Land and Natural Resources [DLNR] are not subject to transfer to and management by the Department of Agriculture [DOA]; requires DLNR to revise its land classifications to include agricultural multi-use lands; establishes and appropriates funds for an agricultural multi-use lands specialist position.)

Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 8:30 a.m.; Conference Room 430, Via Videoconference

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers, and utility companies. LURF’s mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational, and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii’s significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to present testimony **in opposition to HB 1660** on behalf of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture in Hawaii.

HB 1660. The underlying intent of this bill is reportedly to effectuate and facilitate the transfer of certain public lands classified for agricultural use from the DLNR to the DOA pursuant to Act 90, Session Laws of Hawaii (2003) (Act 90); Chapter 166E, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and for the purposes and in a manner consistent with Article XI, Section 10, of the Hawaii Constitution, which establishes that “the public lands shall be used for the development of farm and homeownership on as a widespread a basis as possible, in accordance with procedures and limitations prescribed by law.”

In furtherance of said transfer of public lands, an Act 90 working group was established by Act 139, Session Laws of Hawaii, which group has determined that lands under the DLNR used for “the primary and substantial management objective of agricultural production” should be transferred to the DOA.

The stated specific purpose of this bill is to adopt recommendations from the Act 90 working group regarding agricultural multi-use lands, including specifying that such lands under the management of DLNR are not subject to transfer to and management by DOA; requiring that DLNR revise its land classifications to include agricultural multi-use lands; and establishing and appropriating funds for an agricultural multi-use lands specialist position.

LURF’s Position. LURF members include property owners, farmers and ranchers who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider efforts to protect and support agriculture significant to the continued conduct of their operations and to help sustain and preserve farming and ranching businesses into the future.

Many farmers and ranchers have been awaiting the transfer of their land leases from the DLNR to the DOA pursuant to Act 90, which was enacted to ensure long-term productive use of public agricultural lands to be managed by the DOA, which department is better suited to administer agricultural lands. The now 19-year delay of the anticipated transfers, however, has impaired the ability of farmers and ranchers to establish and implement long-term plans for their operations.

LURF appreciates the intent of this bill to the extent it recognizes the significance of effectuating and facilitating the transfer of certain public lands classified for agricultural use from the DLNR to the DOA pursuant to Act 90, and attempts to effectuate the recommendations made by the Act 90 working group, however, **the proposed outright specification that agricultural multi-use lands NOT be made subject to transfer to and management by DOA; and the proposed requirement that DLNR revise its land classifications to include agricultural multi-use lands**, appears to **unreasonably and unjustifiably expand the group’s actual findings and completely fails in LURF’s opinion, to promote cooperation between the DOA and DLNR regarding the classification and management of such lands**, which is critical in order that the DOA can best advance and sustain the needs of agriculture and the agricultural industry in this State.

Moreover, it is LURF’s understanding that the “**multi-use**” designation would be a **disincentive** for farmers and ranchers to employ renewable energy, sustainable practices, and other innovative uses and conservation activities, lest they be classified as “multi-use” operations. In consideration of the DLNR’s lack of support of agricultural endeavors over the past decades during which said department has held those multi-use leases, agricultural stakeholders would prefer to enter into leases with the DOA, which comprehends agricultural production and recognizes the need to be flexible regarding the terms of agricultural leases; the business aspect of agriculture, and the use of agricultural lands.

Acknowledging the importance of, and need to assist the local agriculture industry, and implementing measures which help to support the viability and maintenance of agriculture in the State **ideally through the collaboration between the DOA and the DLNR**, as well as with other State departments, would significantly help to promote economically viable agriculture, increased food production, and food self-sufficiency in Hawaii.

For the reasons stated above, LURF **opposes HB 1658**, and respectfully urges that this bill be held in this Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to present comments and concerns regarding this measure.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Patrick Pihana Branco, Vice Chair

HB1660
Relating to Land

Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 8:30 AM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five 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 over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **opposes HB1660** to specify that agricultural multi-use lands under the management of DLNR are not subject to transfer to and management by HDOA.

While we appreciate the Act 90 Working group's efforts to find solutions, the concept outlined in this bill is counter to supporting agriculture and fulfilling the purpose of Act 90, 2003 to ensure the long-term productive use of public lands leased or available to be leased by the department of land and natural resources for agricultural purposes by allowing these lands to be transferred to and managed by the department of agriculture. Ranchers are effective stewards of the land, ensuring that management and food production occurs into the future. However, this bill disincentivizes ranchers from seeking out engagement in conservation activities, as it could classify them as "multi-use" and therefore eliminate their chances of being transferred to the Department of Agriculture where they will be the lease terms they need, and management by a department that prioritizes food production. Agricultural leases that remain with DLNR are under a department that has an important mission, but one that does not include agriculture. Rancher's operations as cattle producers will always be less valued than other priorities that are in the DLNR's mission and expertise. DLNR does not have a track record of encouraging agriculture on their lands, and these multi-use lands would be subject to conversion to other uses.

We agree that more collaboration is needed between the departments and the leaseholders, but this collaboration can be achieved when agricultural lands are transferred to the Department of Agriculture. This will allow for the multi-use goals to be met, but ensure that lands remain in agricultural production.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter for Hawaii's ranchers.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council



P.O. Box 934 • Hilo, HI 96721 • (808) 333-6755 • www.hicattle.org • office@hicattle.org

HB-1660

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 7:47:47 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lani Petrie	Kapapala Ranch	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1660. As a stand alone bill from HB1657, HB1658, and HB1659 it lacks context. It would be like putting effort into a jigsaw puzzle that may have missing pieces. Also with the vetting process of the other bills one could be left with piecing together a picture from two different puzzles.

If HB1660 were to pass by itself Kapapala Ranch would no longer be sheltered by Act 90's original intent to protect agricultural lands.

HB-1660

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 7:50:52 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jimmy Gomes	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Oppose	No

Comments:

I stand behind Hawaii Cattlemen's Council testimony.



Hawai'i Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association
Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council
Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation
Hawai'i Farmers' Union United
Hawai'i Food Industry Association
Hawai'i Food Manufacturers Association
Kohala Center
Land Use Research Foundation of Hawai'i
Maui Farm to School Network (Maui F2SN)
Ulupono Initiative
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources - University of Hawai'i at Manoa

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
February 15, 2022 – 8:30 a.m. – Via Videoconference

RE: HB 1660 – Relating to Land – In Opposition

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition respectfully **opposes** HB 1660, which specifies that agricultural multi-use lands under the management of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) are not subject to transfer and management by the Department of Agriculture (DOA); requires DLNR to revise its land classification to include agricultural multi-use lands; and establishes and appropriates funds for an agricultural multi-use specialist position.

While we greatly appreciate the work of the Act 90 Working Group during the interim to identify the challenges and potential remedies to fulfill the purposes of Act 90, we do not believe this bill will achieve this. The Local Food Coalition supports the local livestock industry; they are a key component to Hawaii's food security. This bill disincentivizes ranchers from engaging in conservation activities as it could classify them as "multi-use", thereby decreasing opportunities for their leased lands to be transferred from the DLNR, whose priority is not food production.

Farmers and ranchers need long-term leases in order to reasonably invest in infrastructure improvements on the leased land. Lands in active agricultural production should be transferred to the DOA, so that long-term planning can be implemented. The success of farmers and ranchers is essential to the State's goal to double local food production.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawaii's food supply.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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February 15, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

TESTIMONY ON HB 1660
RELATING TO LAND

Conference Room 430 & Videoconference
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Branco, and Members of the Committee,

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 Hawaii Farm Bureau greatly appreciates the work of the Act 90 Working Group to make recommendations to help resolve the stalemate with regard to transfers of non-agricultural park lands by DLNR to the department of agriculture. **Unfortunately, we must oppose HB 1660** and implore this Committee to realistically address the problem that our local farmers, especially ranchers face. This measure will continue the status quo, with DLNR retaining "multi-use" agricultural lands.

Since Act 90 in 2003, and despite that law, as little as 14% of the agricultural acreage inventory within the DLNR has been transferred to the DOA. Although DLNR states that it has identified for transfer 31% of its agricultural inventory, these lands have not been transferred. DLNR has publicly stated that it intends to retain a full 54% of its public agricultural lands for non-agricultural potential purposes.

Hawaii's agricultural community is frankly devastated that despite the purpose and intent of Act 90, agricultural lessees under the DLNR continue to be in an untenable state of limbo and are unable to conduct long-term planning and make necessary investments in the land.

Please don't let another year go by without swiftly and realistically addressing this pressing concern of our farmers and ranchers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments and thank you for your continued support of Hawaii's agricultural community.

HB-1660

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 9:07:45 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alan Gottlieb	Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please oppose HB 1660. This bill amends Act 90 by requiring that **lands classified as multi-use remain under DLNR and shall not transfer to DOA**. The bill defines multi-use lands as having **agricultural value as well as natural resource, conservation, or public recreation value**. While we agree that the Departments should work collaboratively with each other and lessess to meet state goals, transferring lands primarily in agricultural production is the most effective way of supporting agriculture. DLNR does not prioritize agriculture in their mission.



COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Patrick Pihana Branco, Vice Chair

HB1660
Relating to Land

Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 8:30 AM
Conference Room 430
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bobby Farias, rancher and part owner of Hawaii Meats, and **I oppose HB1660**. I believe it's in the best interest of the land and the producer for agriculture lands to be transferred to DOA and managed by DOA. The DOA is best equipped to work closely with the agricultural producers and do what's needed to promote local agriculture. The DOA is also best equipped for managing agriculture lands.

It's crucial now more than ever that the DOA controls all the agriculture lands in Hawaii in order to find food stability and create a positive opportunity for all agriculture operators.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Bobby Farias



My name is Frank VanderSloot. I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1660. My company, Hawaii Sustainable Beef, owns a majority interest in both of the state-owned beef processing plants in Hawaii. Our team has worked relentlessly to help make Hawaii more self-sustainable by increasing capacities in both plants to allow more ranchers to keep their cattle on island and process them in the state instead of sending them to the mainland.

There will always be economic pressures that push out agricultural endeavors in favor of “more lucrative” land uses. But once the land is converted to other uses, it almost never converts back to agriculture. If Hawaii is serious in its desire to become more self-sustainable, ag lands must be protected as ag lands. The Department of Agriculture should always have a say in land that is currently in ag use. To take away the voice of the Department of Ag will result in Hawaii losing more of its ag lands to other uses. Eventually, the hope that Hawaii can become more self-sustainable will slowly but surely be snuffed out.

Please leave the Department of Ag with a voice in what happens to ag lands. Please vote no to HB1660.

Sincerely,

Frank VanderSloot

HB-1660

Submitted on: 2/12/2022 5:48:13 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Woody Child	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I Oppose HB1660.

HB-1660

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 8:47:39 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alex Franco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I Oppose HB 1660.

HB-1660

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 8:54:12 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Keith Unger	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

McCandless Ranch opposes HB 1660. Multi use lands need to be tranfered to DOA. Ranchers have the capability and motivation to do agricultural and conservation work on their leases. Tranferring multi use lands to DOA is the most effective way of supporting both agriculture and conservation and would promote collaboration between the lessee, DLNR and DOA.

HB-1660

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 11:35:11 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this Bill.

Issues with this bill

- This disincentivizes agricultural operations from seeking out engagement of conservation activities as it would classify them as “multi-use”
- DLNR has not supported agricultural endeavors to succeed in the decades they have held these leases. There is no incentive for them to prioritize agricultural production over their other priorities. This will lead to a decline in agricultural production.

Thank you,

Theresa Thompson