

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DEAN M. MATSUKAWA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025**  
**10:30 AM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 164, SENATE DRAFT 1**  
**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ADOPT RULES**  
**AUTHORIZING RODEOS ON LANDS ZONED FOR AGRICULTURAL USE.**

Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 164, SD1. This resolution requests the Department of Agriculture (Department) to adopt rules authorizing rodeos on lands zoned for agricultural use. The Department offers comments.

The Department has neither the statutory nor administrative rule-making authority to authorize rodeo and/or equestrian activities on agricultural lands throughout the State. These authorities rest with the Land Use Commission (Chapter 205) and the four counties (Chapter 46), the latter of which have the primary authority to further define permitted land uses in the Agricultural District.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.





## COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Chair  
Rep. Matthias Kusch, Vice Chair

### **SCR164 SD1**

Friday, April 11, 2025, 10:30 AM  
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SCR164 SD1** which requests the Department of Agriculture to adopt rules authorizing rodeos on lands zoned for agricultural use.

Rodeo values and skills are closely intertwined with paniolo cattle production. These events serve all ages and teach the participants responsibility and love of the land, while providing the community with a way to connect more closely to the hard work that goes into producing the food on their plate. Moreover, these rodeos often serve as fundraising events for the community. We support DOA adopting rules to authorize rodeos on agricultural land.

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. 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.

Nicole Galase  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council  
Managing Director





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We humbly request that page 2, line 20 be amended to include "authorizing rodeos, livestock events such as 4H activities, and cow horse equestrian events."

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Nicole Galase  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council  
Managing Director



**SCR-164-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 11:28:49 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/11/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Miyamoto	Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rodeos are Ag!

**SCR-164-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 2:24:02 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/11/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bud & Katy Gibson	Town & Country Rocker G Livestock	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee

Town and Country/Rocker G Livestock supports SCR164 SD1 which requests the Department of Agriculture to adopt rules authorizing Rodeos and livestock activities such as Livestock Auctions, 4H shows, Cowhorse and Equestrian activities that can be for educational development.

These activities serve all ages and teach the importance and responsibility of our stewardship of the land and of our livestock that constitutes part of our food production . We support DOA adopting rules to authorize these livestock activities on agriculture land

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Aloha,

Bud and Katy Gibson

**SCR-164-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 2:26:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/11/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jimmy Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SCR164SD1 bill and stand with Hawaii Cattlemens Council testimony. This is part of the fabric of the Paniolo Culture and should be allowed on lease ag lands.

**SCR-164-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 2:33:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/11/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DeeDee Bertelmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **supports SCR164 SD1** which requests the Department of Agriculture to adopt rules authorizing rodeos on lands zoned for agricultural use.

Many of our youth today participate in rodeo. The Hawai'i High School Rodeo Association has produced many young men and women since 1988 who continue to live life within the agriculture community in providing food for our island people.

Our rodeo communities are made up of families that produce beef, fruits and vegetables, are fishermen that play vital roles in our communities. They understand the concept of being sustainable and being able to live the life that they do caring for their animals that are needed for rodeo and that teach our youth many life skills and compassion.

Please support. Mahalo.

**SCR-164-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 3:11:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/11/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SCR 164 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ADOPT  
RULES AUTHORIZING RODEOS ON LANDS ZONED FOR AGRICULTURAL USE.

Mahalo,

Theresa Thompson



**SCR-164-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 4:00:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/11/2025 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strong support

**SCR-164-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 6:21:04 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/11/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

**SCR-164-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 7:15:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/11/2025 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strongly support this resolution. Skills required during the preparation and participation in rodeo and other equestrian events are imperative in the development and maintenance of the workforce required to support our livestock industries, particularly the beef cattle industry.

**SCR-164-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 8:23:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/11/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
McKenzie Wildey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure. Mahalo!

**SCR-164-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 9:42:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/11/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jimmy Greenwell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I strongly support SCR164SD1. While preserving the paniolo culture and its colorful history is important, there is far more at stake here. Our grazing industry is fragile yet its survival is critical to keeping good stewardship of Hawaii's 750,000 acres of rangeland in place for generations to come. No cowboys, then no ranches. No ranches then no stewardship. Rodeo keeps many of our current as well as younger prospective cowboys involved and close to the land and close to the older generations who are mentoring them to be our industry leaders of the future. Rodeo activities absolutely belong on AG land and their continuation merits strong legislative support. Thanks for the opportunity to comment. Pass the SCR, please.

**SCR-164-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 10:12:55 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/11/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frances Kama-Silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Strong support for the use of agricultural lands for rodeo and other equine events. Perpetuation of our rich paniolo history depends on the sharing of these events with the public and the ability of our keiki and their ohana to participate in Keiki, National High School Rodeo, 4-H and other organizations that focus on horses, livestock and the improvement of their use and care. 30+ years involvement with these organizations have shown me youngsters that did rodeo are now adults involved in our agricultural and cattle industry.