

Palani Ranch Company Inc.

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Chairperson and Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

Land Board:

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE HONUULA STATE FOREST RESERVE.

My name is Britt Craven and I'm the President of Palani Ranch. Palani Ranch either owns, or leases lands that cover the majority of the mauka to makai boundaries of Honuuala Tracts I, II, & III. We are what the industry defines as a cow calf operation.

I attended the public hearing conducted by the island DOFAW office on this plan a few years ago, as well as participated in the online survey.

It's my understanding that DLNR is mandated to have a Management Plan for each of its Forest Reserves. After reading through the plan created, that is seeking approval, I fully support the majority of what is outlined in the plan. However, I'm deeply concerned that this plan is being pushed through with no real consideration being given or addressed to mitigating the negative impacts of those areas within it, that should they come to fruition will, not likely, but will inevitably negatively impact neighboring property owners.

Specifically, what I'm deeply concerned about is the creation of improved access for the general public. I love to hunt, hike, and recreation in the outdoors, and while it may appear I'm taking a "not in my backyard" approach, that is far from the case. I'm deeply concerned of DLNR's ability to secure it's borders and keep individuals and their animals that patronize this area within the area, and not entering neighboring private lands.

DLNR is the most under-staffed, and under-financed agency in State Government, yet it's responsible for the management of more acreage both on land and water, than any other agency in our government. This must change. So, how do you propose protecting your neighbors from incursions in to our properties. How do you propose to assure me that the pig hunters' dogs that get lost, don't breed and turn in to a pack that end up killing our cattle, or worse attacking our workers as has happened in the past?? How do you propose to keep people from climbing over the boundary fences into our property?? You can't. You can't because the state legislature has not given you the tools you need to do your job. So why promote opening up more area?? Find a field worker within your system,

not a desk person, someone with dirt under their nails that would support opening up more lands, and adding to their work load.

There are hundreds of thousands of acres of state and federal recreational lands that already exist successfully on this island. DWS has identified this area, and I quote "Priority 1 Watershed for Hawaii Island servicing the Kailua-Kona area". Shouldn't this area long term be managed for its ecosystem services as it's primary mission? How does the promotion of public access improve upon that?

Palani Ranch values its strong relationship with DLNR, and in particular the island DOFAW division. We cooperate on access, cattle removal, ROD, and other matters in these lands, that we hope will long term improve ecosystem services. All those things to improve our community's backyard for its wellbeing. Not to satisfy the desires of 18 people that submitted testimony in favor of improved access? Over 40,000 people call West Hawaii home. Why does this plan allow for basically 18 individuals to influence it?? If a few pushed the agenda of greater access in to this plan than why was there no consideration given to the few that are against creating greater access? Are the 18 people even stakeholders or residents of Kona?

As stated earlier in my testimony, I support the majority of this plan. A lot of effort went in to its creation, and those down in the ranks of DLNR who were tasked with putting this together should be commended.

However, I ask the Board NOT to approve this plan as written. I ask for the Boards support to either NOT approve in its entirety, or approve with the removal of all sections pertaining to creation of greater access. If we can work with DLNR to create something that gives all neighboring property owners a comfort level that their concerns can be addressed, then isn't that the right thing to do??? Do you do things at your house that may cause harm or devalue your neighbor's property? Some times the right decision is the tough decision.

I greatly appreciate your consideration on the position taken here in.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Britt Craven", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Britt Craven
President
Palani Ranch Company Inc.