



ALEXANDER & BALDWIN
PARTNERS FOR HAWAII

**A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6.04, MAUI COUNTY CODE,
RELATING TO ANIMAL CONTROL**

**DARREN STRAND
GENERAL MANAGER-DIVERSIFIED AGRICULTURE
ALEXANDER & BALDWIN**

NOVEMBER 19, 2018

Chair Crivello and Members of the Maui Council Housing, Human Services &
Transportation Committee:

I am Darren Strand, testifying on behalf of Alexander & Baldwin (A&B) on "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6.04, MAUI COUNTY CODE, RELATING TO ANIMAL CONTROL." While we support the language and intent of this bill, we are asking this body to DEFER this to allow the impacted parties time to work on a solution.

A&B's vision continues to be the transition of Central Maui agricultural lands to a patchwork of diversified agricultural crops, which could include:

- bio-energy crops;
- diversified food crops;
- a new County Agricultural Park; and
- converting pastures for cattle, to expand the locally-produced beef industry.

At present, approximately 5,000 acres in Central Maui has been targeted to provide pastures for cattle. Of this, approximately 3,000 acres are presently in active livestock operations, providing forage to our growing herd of grass-fed cattle, through a partnership with Maui Cattle Company and its member ranches. The other 2,000 acres are in the process of being seeded, fenced, and developed for similar cattle grazing operations.

RECEIVED AT HHT MEETING ON 11/19/18

A&B presently utilizes a rotational grazing program that allows the cattle to feed on fresh grass every day. This rotation serves a dual purpose: in addition to keeping the animals well-fed, it also provides lasting benefits to the land. By rotating the animals through paddocks on a schedule, the just-grazed portion of the field have between sixty to ninety days of rest before the herd returns to feed again. This allows the grass to recover, re-grow, and most importantly develop deep, strong root systems. These perennial root systems are being studied by UH for their carbon-capturing abilities and directly contribute to soil and water retention, and set conditions for continued, long-term soil health. Overall, this agricultural operation is setting the foundation for expanding the local production of beef, for local consumption as well as an export product, as another branded food product from Maui.

The purpose of this bill is to exempt persons engaged in animal husbandry or the livestock industry with the intention of harvesting livestock for human consumption or other commodities from Maui County Code Chapter 6.04, relating to Animal Control. As professional cattlemen and women, it is our understanding that cattle are able to alter their respiratory rate in response to elevated temperatures, as they can increase their respiratory rate to dissipate heat and maintain their normal body temperature. Our ranchers have studied this and continue to monitor and collect information; confirming that our animals do not experience heat conditions outside of their 'comfort zone'. In addition, cattle in pasture environments are impacted less because radiant heat is lower from grass covered pastures. Again the professional ranchers around the state have continually shown that cattle in Hawaii's temperate climate are in good welfare and are able to regulate their body temperatures successfully.

Based on the aforementioned, we respectfully request your consideration to DEFER this bill. This will allow the ranchers to work together towards a science based solution and consensus. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.