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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Hand-Delivered
May 6, 2009

Governor Linda Lingle
Executive Chambers
Hawaii State Capitol

Dear Governor Lingle:

I am requesting that you veto three bills which passed out of the House yesterday, May 5th.

Put in various beef files

1. SB 1 (Senator Hee, sole sponsor) would insert highly restrictive language into the Hawaii Revised Statutes regarding the harvest and sale of Opihi. DLNR is already addressing the depletion of Opihi statewide, including meetings with public stakeholders. Governor, 18 of us voted "No" on this bill. There clearly will not be an override of any veto on this bill.

2. SB 50 (Senator Hee, primary sponsor) would place cows in a position of priority over the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative. The cattle industry currently utilizes two-thirds of the 1.5 million acres of land suitable for cattle ranching or for renewable energy. On a revenue basis, cattle ranching generates only \$60 million/yr in revenue, while our state sends \$2 billion overseas to pay for our energy needs. Cattle ranching and renewable energy projects can co-exist. But SB 50 signals to ranchers that they will hold the trump card.

3. SB 1345 (Sens Hee, Kokubun, Takamine, and Tokuda, primary sponsors) is another bill which protects the interests of cattle ranchers over renewable energy producers where state leases are concerned. Section 2(c) contains questionable mandatory lease extension language.

Governor, I strongly urge you to veto all three bills: SB 1, SB 50, and SB 1345.

With warm aloha,
Cynthia

Rep. Cynthia Thielen
Assistant Minority Leader
50th District (Kailua-Kaneohe Bay)