

[Date]

Re: Supporting the RMA Pasture, Rangeland, Forage program

Aloha [Recipient Name]:

We have all witnessed the impact of drought and climate change on U.S. farms and ranches, most recently with the significant fire that burned more than 40,000 acres on the Big Island of Hawaii. I'm writing today to express my support for the expansion of RMA's Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (PRF) Program, a pilot insurance product offered through USDA, that protects ranchers from losses caused by a lack of precipitation, or a policy that would act fundamentally similar, to support Hawaii's livestock producers.

PRF insurance would provide a much-needed safety net for producers who face drought and increasing uncertainty related to climate change. For decades, Hawaii's livestock producers have had limited crop insurance options available to meet their needs. Expanding PRF would provide an important safety net for producers experiencing weather and drought challenges.

The PRF program is federally regulated and delivered by the private sector, including by Farm Credit Associations, to help the U.S. maintain a safe and affordable food supply. Without this program, ranchers experience intense short-term losses could potentially be forced out of business. In the pilot program stage, PRF insurance has had a record of success and is broadly supported by producers.

The Pasture, Rangeland, Forage program is a successful public-private partnership that would provide important benefits and security for Hawaii's ranchers. Livestock producers on the islands as well as the groups that represent them, stand ready to work with USDA/RMA to meet the challenges that it would take to expand PRF to Hawaii, including overcome some of the data limitations and other issues that have prevented this policy from being offered to producers in Hawaii. I believe the PRF program will help reduce the risk to ranchers and promote the economic stability of agriculture, and I urge you to work towards expanding this program for Hawaii's livestock producers.

Sincerely yours,

[Name]