



October 27, 2023

Michael Walker
State Protection Forester
Division of Forestry & Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl St, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

Community Wildfire Defense Grant review committee members:

This letter is to express the Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council's strong support for the Malama Haleakala Foundation's request for CWDG funding. The recent Maui wildfires make clear the need for our at-risk communities to better manage fuel loads, fuel brakes, create defensible spaces, and be properly equipped to rapidly respond to wildfire events. Private and public landowners, including ranchers, contribute a wealth of expertise, ability, and equipment to help during these wildfire events, and we aim to improve their ability to respond through this grant. With the continued effects of climate change, we are preparing for the likelihood of increased fires.

As a member and vested Partner of Hawaii's wildfire prevention, the Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council supports the Malama Haleakala Foundation's Leeward Haleakala Resilient Landscapes Project. The project meets the National Cohesive Strategy's three goals of creating 1) Resilient Landscapes, 2) Fire Adapted Communities, and 3) Safe and Effective Wildfire Response through the reduction of fuel loads and the continued maintenance of fire breaks at wildland urban interfaces.

The members of the Malama Haleakala Foundation's Leeward Haleakala Resilient Landscapes Project are capable organizations ready to implement this much-needed readiness and response plan. Their knowledge of the history of the land, locations of roads and other resources, and their dedication to stewardship will be an asset that cannot be matched.

Please feel free to contact us at your convenience for any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director

