

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

December 13, 2024

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura,
Speaker
and Members of the House of
Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY
CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER
AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of Relating to the Game Management Advisory Commission report as required by Section 183D-4.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). In accordance with Section 93-16, HRS, a copy of this report has been transmitted to the Legislative Reference Bureau and the report may be viewed electronically at <https://files.hawaii.gov/dlnr/reports-to-the-legislature/2025/FW25-Game-Management-Advisory-Commission-Rpt-FY24.pdf>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn N.S. Chang".

DAWN N.S. CHANG
Chairperson

Enclosure

RELATING TO THE GAME MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

PURPOSE

Enhancing and maintaining sustainable public hunting opportunities for subsistence and recreational purposes is critical to the State and its people. A coordinated resource management effort involving stakeholders is needed to prevent and offset the loss of public hunting areas and hunter opportunities on any island of the State and expeditiously find replacement land for hunting.

Act 210, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2016, amended Chapter 183D, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), by adding a new section to establish the Game Management Advisory Commission (GMAC) to serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board). Section 183D-4.5, HRS, requires an annual report on its efforts to be submitted by the GMAC, including a summary of its activities during the year preceding the regular legislative session for which the report was prepared. This report details the GMAC's activities from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

The GMAC is made up of nine members, including:

- (1) One member from the County of Kauai.
- (2) Three members from the County of Maui, with one member from each of the islands of Maui, Lanai, and Molokai.
- (3) Two members are from the County of Hawaii, with one member from East Hawaii and one from West Hawaii.
- (4) One member from the City and County of Honolulu.
- (5) One at-large member and
- (6) The Chairperson of the Board or the Chairperson's designated representative shall serve as an ex officio voting member.

GMAC MEETINGS

One commission meeting was held on February 27th, 2024, during the fiscal year (FY) 2024, with five commissioners present. Meeting agendas and recorded minutes can be found at the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Division of Forestry and Wildlife (Division) website at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/recreation/hunting/gmac/>.

Over the past year, we have sought applicants to fill the Oahu, Molokai, and Lanai commission seats. On September 12, 2024, Stanley Ruidas was appointed to the Lanai seat to serve a term ending June 20, 2028. Mr. Ruidas's interim appointment will expire unless confirmed by the Senate before the end of the next legislative session. The Division will post notifications to solicit interest in open seats. Notifications will be posted on the Division's website and through a mailing list of 20,000 public hunters. To date, there are six commission members with active terms and two seats to fill, and if filled, the GMAC would then have representation from all districts. With the more recent appointments, a quorum can now be reached, which makes for more productive commission meetings. The Division continues to dialog with active members on questions related to the commission and hunting policies as they communicate with the different districts. Meetings will continue to be scheduled quarterly during FY25 with the hopes of new applicants who can share and play a role in the GMAC.

Commission info:

Lanai Representative – Stanley Ruidas (Newly appointed) - Sept 12, 2024- June 30, 2028

Oahu Representative – vacant- expired 06/ 30/2023

Maui Representative – Michael Johnson – Term ends 06/30/2027

Molokai Representative – vacant – expired 06/30/2023

Member at large - Nancy Timko (one year left on term) - Term ends 06/30/2025

East Hawaii Representative - Jason Sanborn - Term ends 06/30/2027

West Hawaii Representative – Gonzalo Garcia - Term ends 06/30/2027

Kauai Representative – Nicolai Barca -Term ends 06/30/2027

Ex officio (voting) Designee for the Board – David Smith