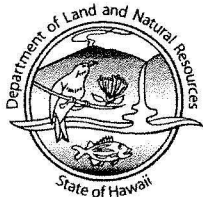


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
FIRST DEPUTY

KEN C. KAWAHARA
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

**TESTIMONY OF THE CHAIRPERSON
OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

on House Bill 2907 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR FERAL PIG ABATEMENT

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE**

February 6, 2008

House Bill 2907 appropriates unspecified funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) for the reduction and abatement of the feral pig population, including the purchase and maintenance of tools and equipment necessary for abatement activities, such as box traps, baits, and corrals. While the Department supports the intent of this measure, it nonetheless has concerns with the fiscal impact this bill will have with funding, on the Executive Supplemental Budget request.

Complaints of feral pigs have increased in some areas in recent years, especially where public hunting is limited. The Department has responded by creating special hunts and opening new areas to allow public hunting to be used to assist the control efforts and working with the Oahu Pig Hunters Association and private landowners to control pigs. Expanded use of trapping methods would increase the success of the program, particularly in urban areas where public hunting must be limited.

Trapping methods can be extremely effective when deployed properly. Department staff are trained in the use of trapping methods and have used these methods effectively in many areas. The Department strives to use public hunting where appropriate, but trapping methods are often needed in cases where public hunting is not safe, feasible, and effective. In addition, the Department has assisted the public by providing training and workshops to landowners that wish to trap feral pigs on their lands.

It's worth noting that while the Department seeks to use public hunting wherever possible, a recent court ruling would prevent the establishment of such special hunts without a time-consuming rule making procedure. House Bill 2956 restores the Department's flexibility to open new seasons, increase bag limits and methods of take, with Board of Land and Natural Resources' action. These mechanisms enable the Department to quickly increase opportunities

for the public to participate in feral pig control and to address pig problems in urban areas, and the Department urges support for that bill (House Bill 2956)



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803
808.537.9019 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 6th, 2008, 1:30 P.M.

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2907

Chair Oshiro and members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 5500 dues paying members statewide, supports HB 2907, providing funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for feral pig control and abatement. The presence of feral pigs is one of the most significant threats to native Hawaiian rain forests. Unlike continental systems, most of Hawaii's native ecosystems (terrestrial) can only be maintained by fencing and removing introduced species.

The Sierra Club supports actions which provide hunters with reserves in which to hunt and access for hunting purposes to landlocked public lands and closed watersheds. But many areas cannot be reached by hunters or the feral pig population is such that hunting alone doesn't suppress the pig population. Further, we are concerned a wide variety of native and introduced species, both plant and animal, suffer when habitat is overrun by feral pigs. Therefore, we support efforts to:

1. Identify and manage prime native forest ecosystems as pig-free reserves;
2. Identify and manage major pig hunting areas in heavily disturbed ecosystems, with a high proportion of introduced plants, as pig hunting reserves;
3. Manage all watershed areas as healthy ecosystems with maximum water retaining capacity; and
4. Allow managers striving to reduce pig populations in designated pig-free areas to use whatever humane techniques are effective, consistent with public safety, to bring pig numbers down, including open seasons with no bag limits.

Please forward HB 2907 with a decent appropriation to help protect Hawaii's biological library from feral pigs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JON M. VAN DYKE
4191 Round Top Drive
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
Tel: 808-956-8509
Fax: 808-956-5569
Email: jvandyke@hawaii.edu

February 5, 2008

TO: House Committee on Finance

FROM: Jon Van Dyke

SUBJECT: H.B. No. 2907, Hearing of Feb. 6, 2008, 1:30 p.m., Room 308

I am writing to offer support of the enactment of H.B. No. 2907. It is vital that proper funding be provided so that the feral pig population can be controlled through trapping, using proper box traps and corrals. I regret that I cannot testify in person because of my teaching responsibilities.

The practice that has been used during the past year by the DLNR, essentially privatizing this process by allowing killer hunting dogs to roam without supervision in residential areas, is absolutely unacceptable. Our pet pot-bellied pig Gonzo Picasso was killed by unsupervised hunting dogs on April 1, 2007, that came into his protected habitat, climbed over the fence surrounding his home, and mercilessly tore him apart.

Feral pigs can be controlled through trapping. This procedure requires some investment and expense, but it is certainly the logical approach. H.B. No. 2907 should be enacted with the understanding that feral pigs will be controlled through trapping rather than through the use of killer hunting dogs.

FINtestimony

From: Cathy [selkie@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2008 8:08 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: HB2907

re: HB2907: Appropriating funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the control and abatement of the feral pig population, including the purchase of box traps, baits, and corrals.

Please deliver testimony to Conference Room: 308 for hearing of the @1:30 PM Finance Committee on February 6, 2008.

Position: oppose:

Chair Oshiro and Members of the Finance Committee:

No matter how people who want to exterminate feral pigs promote methodologies such as traps, corrals, baits and snares, the only way to really control the feral pig population is a humane intervention into the reproduction of the animals. We urge the committee to fund only humane effective population control. There has been research into feral animal control for over twenty years. Successful interventions have resulted in population control of African Elephants, White tailed deer, Wild horses and companion animals. We expect that this research will result in a much larger number of animals whose reproduction will be humanely controlled.

Protection of endangered species is of course, important. We urge you to choose humane control of so called "alien/invasive" species. Future generations will judge your actions. Cruelty can never be condoned.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Cathy Goeggel
Director
Animal Rights Hawai'i
PO Box 10845
Honolulu, HI 96816
www.animalrightshawaii.com

FINtestimony

From: Joel Fischer [jfischer@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Saturday, February 02, 2008 1:54 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: HB2907; FIN; 2/6; 1:30; Rm 308

Importance: High

HB2907, Making An Appropriation For Feral Pig Abatement FIN; Chair, Rep Oshiro; Vice Chair, Rep Lee

PLEASE KILL OR AMEND THIS BILL.

Many of us in the community have been trying to work with DLNR for several years in the hope of using humane and non-lethal methods of helping control the feral pig population. Instead, to enormous opposition expressed at the most recent community meeting in Manoa, the DLNR continued to use pig hunters and their ferocious dogs to hunt down and brutally slaughter feral pigs while terrorizing the community.

AMENDMENT: Would you either kill this bill, or would you please insert a non-negotiable amendment that DLNR SHALL work with ANIMAL RIGHTS HAWAI'I and the HUMANE SOCIETY to try to find humane, non-lethal methods for controlling the pig population? This is the right thing to do, and it will alert the DLNR that they must be more responsive to the community. Amending this bill also will serve an educational purpose for the community that "abatement" need not mean kill animals first and ask questions later.

Thank you very much for considering this change.

Aloha, joel

Dr. Joel Fischer, ACSW
President, 19-3, Democratic Party

Professor
University of Hawai'i, School of Social Work Henke Hall Honolulu, HI 96822

"It is reasonable that everyone who asks justice should DO justice."
Thomas Jefferson

"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because one's conscience tells one that it is right."
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Never, never, never quit."
Winston Churchill

FINtestimony

From: Cheryl Zarbaugh [czarcats@msn.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 02, 2008 3:23 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: FW: HB2907; FIN; 2/6; 1:30; Rm 308

I SECOND THE MOTION!!!!
 Cheryl Zarbaugh
 Supporter of animal rights.

> Date: Sat, 2 Feb 2008 13:53:31 -1000
 > From: jfischer@hawaii.edu
 > Subject: HB2907; FIN; 2/6; 1:30; Rm 308
 > To: FINTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

>
 > HB2907, Making An Appropriation For Feral Pig Abatement
 > FIN; Chair, Rep Oshiro; Vice Chair, Rep Lee

>
 > PLEASE KILL OR AMEND THIS BILL.

>
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 > Dr. Joel Fischer, ACSW
 > President, 19-3, Democratic Party

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 > Professor
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2/4/2008