

TESTIMONY
SCR 16 & SR 10



Conservation Council for Hawai'i

Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Water and Land

Hearing: Monday, March 24, 2008
2:45 pm
Room 414

Support for SCR 16 and SR 10

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SCR 16 and SR 10, requesting the department of land and natural resources to prepare a plan to reduce the statewide feral pig population. Feral pigs are a major threat to endangered Hawaiian plants and animals, watersheds, farms, orchards, gardens, and humans and their pets.

The entire game management paradigm needs to be changed. The DLNR should begin managing game mammals in a responsible manner by beginning to fence pigs and other introduced invasive game mammals in appropriate game management areas, while we continue to fence them out. These animals are allowed to roam freely everywhere unless they are fenced out. Feral pigs have been a problem for decades, but it is only in the last few years that residents of urban O'ahu have begun to express their concerns that leaders are starting to take notice.

We support compensating hunters who help residents remove pigs from their properties. A few weeks ago, a hunter removed eight pigs from my property in 'Ahuimanu in four days. The animals are out of control. DLNR will never change its game management program unless you force them to. Please do something.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Ziegler
Marjorie Ziegler



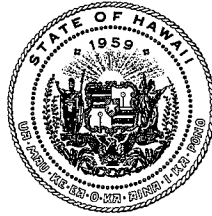
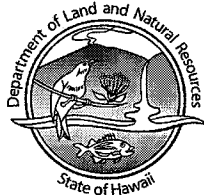
Working Today for the Nature of Tomorrow!

Telephone/Fax 808.593.0255 • email: info@conservehi.org • web: www.conservehi.org
P.O. Box 2923 • Honolulu, HI 96802 • Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 212 • Honolulu, HI 96814

Hawai'i Affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation

President: Julie Leialoha • Vice-President: Nelson Ho • Secretary/Treasurer: Kim Ramas • Directors: Fred Kraus, Ph.D. • Douglas Lamerzon, George Robertson • Claire Shimabukuro • Helena Takemoto • Mashuri Waite • Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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FIRST DEPUTY

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

**on Senate Concurrent Resolution 16 and Senate Resolution 10 – REQUESTING THE
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO PREPARE A PLAN TO
REDUCE THE STATEWIDE FERAL PIG POPULATION**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WATER AND LAND**

March 24, 2008

Senate Concurrent Resolution 16 and Senate Resolution 10 requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to prepare a plan or to amend an existing plan to identify areas where feral pigs are a problem and reduce the feral pig population. The Department does not support these resolutions because they needlessly duplicate actions that are already in progress, or plans that have been or are being developed. As an alternative to these resolutions, the Department respectfully requests the Legislature to consider House Bill 2956 (RELATING TO HUNTING), which amends the powers and duties of the Department under Section 183D-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to give the Board of Land and Natural Resources the flexibility to set size and bag limits, hunting days, open and closed seasons, hunting gear to be used, and special conditions for hunting without going through the rulemaking process.

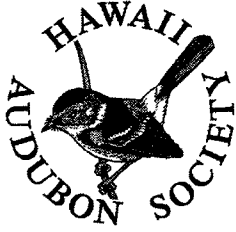
Many of the solutions proposed in these resolutions request changes in hunting regulations and areas which the Department no longer has the flexibility to make except through a lengthy administrative rule amendment, or to implement contracts with private hunters or bounties for control of pigs which are of questionable effectiveness and administratively difficult and would require considerable additional resources which are not provided.

These resolutions appear to be addressing a problem of feral pigs in the Honolulu urban area. The Department working with Oahu Legislators and the Manoa-Tantalus community did implement a successful pig control program that reduced the number of complaints in this area.

The Department has worked on feral animal control issues a number of times and prepared reports. The most recent effort was in 2006 and 2007 when it convened a working group that included participants from the Hawaii Humane Society, the hunting community, the conservation community, land owners, state and federal agencies, and university researchers, and produced Technical Report No. 07-01, *Review and Methods and Approach for Control of Non-native Ungulates in Hawaii*. March 1, 2007. Likewise, the Department is currently working with the

hunting community to develop a game management plan on the Big Island, and based on that model, will expand to other islands as resources permit.

These resolutions request greater assistance for private hunters that participate in feral pig control efforts. The Department notes that it currently works with the Oahu Pig Hunters Association and other hunt clubs across the state to control feral pigs.



For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife

HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

850 Richards Street, Suite 505, Honolulu, HI 96813-4709

Phone/Fax: (808) 528-1432; hiaudsoc@pixi.com

www.hawaiiudubon.com

EMAIL: testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

TO: Committee on Water and Land
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair & Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair

HEARING: Monday, March 24, 2008; 2:45 P.M., Conference Rm. 414

Re: SCR16 / SR10, Feral Pig Population Reduction

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

Chair Hee and Vice Chair Kokubun, and members of the Committee on Land and Water. On behalf of the Hawai'i Audubon Society I offer this written testimony in support of resolutions SCR16 & SR10 which request the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop a plan to reduce feral pig populations statewide.

The Hawai'i Audubon Society was founded in 1939, and is Hawai'i's oldest conservation group, with over 1,500 dedicated members statewide. The Society's primary mission is the protection of Hawai'i's native birds, wildlife and habitats, and restoration of native ecosystems and conservation of natural resources through education, science and advocacy in Hawai'i and the Pacific.

It is without contradiction that feral pigs are one of the most destructive animals in the State of Hawai'i. They continue to be a serious threat to our native bird habitats and our native rain forest. Feral pigs are a major factor in rain forest degradation because they destroy native understory, which provides space of invasive species, creates massive erosion of soil and organic matter, and damages tree composition and root systems.

Having read these resolutions in their entirety, the society would propose amending these resolutions slightly to fine-tune their overall impact. We therefore offer the following amendment, changing the resolve on page 2, lines 39 to 42 to read as follows **"BE IT FURTHER**

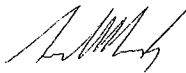
RESLOVED that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to confer with the Hawaiian Humane and hunting organizations as well as conservation organizations with experience in mitigating feral pig impact when preparing the plan; and

New language underlined.

We believe that those conservation groups that have been working on critical habitat restoration over the years as a result of feral pig infestations should be consulted as they have both the expertise and insights as to the extent of the feral pig problem statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony here today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Massengale', written in a cursive style.

George Massengale, JD
Legislative Analyst

TESTIMONY
SCR 16 & SR 10
(END)