
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA, COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, PUBLIC POLICY CENTER AND SPARK M. MATSUNAGA INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE THE SAFE USE OF HUNTING DOGS ON PUBLIC HIKING TRAILS.

1 WHEREAS, certain public hiking trails in the State of
2 Hawaii traverse across areas designated by the Department of
3 Land and Natural Resources (DNLR) as hunting areas, where
4 hunters, hikers, and outdoor enthusiasts come into contact with
5 one another; and

6
7 WHEREAS, contact between these users increase on weekends
8 and state holidays, which are designated by DLNR as hunting
9 days; and

10
11 WHEREAS, both hikers and hunters may be accompanied by dogs
12 on these hiking trails; and

13
14 WHEREAS, the placement of public hiking trails in hunting
15 areas makes it easier for hunting dogs to move without restraint
16 on trails that are also used by hikers with pet dogs; and

17
18 WHEREAS, non-hunters are required by DLNR to keep their pet
19 dogs on leashes at all times while on public trails; and

20
21 WHEREAS, hunters are required by DLNR to keep their dogs
22 "under restrictive control during transportation while in
23 transit at all times, to and from hunting areas within the
24 forest reserve"; and

25
26 WHEREAS, hunting dogs are trained to aggressively pursue
27 all animals, without distinction between wild animals and pet
28 dogs; and

29 WHEREAS, while there are trailheads that require hunter
30 check-in forms, they are not always properly filled out or
31 verified, making it impossible for hikers or other outdoor



1 enthusiasts with pet dogs to know whether hunters or hunting
2 dogs are in the vicinity; and

3
4 WHEREAS, it is not uncommon for hunting dogs to become
5 separated from the hunters they accompany and in some cases are
6 left behind; and

7
8 WHEREAS, hikers and outdoor enthusiasts who take their pet
9 dogs on public trails in these areas are concerned that
10 aggressive hunting dogs are roaming freely and may harm their
11 pet dogs; and

12
13 WHEREAS, the officers of DLNR's Division of Conservation
14 and Resources Enforcement that are responsible for enforcing
15 rules regarding hunting dogs lack the resources for enforcement
16 across vast areas of state lands and are unable to respond to
17 the legitimate concerns of non-hunters; and

18
19 WHEREAS, lost, injured, and neglected hunting dogs at times
20 end up at local animal shelters without any permanent
21 identification, making it difficult to reunite them with their
22 owners and generating additional expenses for taxpayers; and

23
24 WHEREAS, a dialogue among the various groups that are
25 affected by the presence of hunting dogs on public hiking trails
26 would be constructive in making concerns known and addressing
27 those concerns in a way that is amenable to all parties; and

28
29 WHEREAS, failure to address the issues posed by allowing
30 hunting dogs to accompany hunters may negatively impact
31 residents' and tourists' perceptions of safety on public hiking
32 trails that travel across hunting areas; now, therefore,

33
34 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
35 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
36 of 2009, that the University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of
37 Social Sciences, Public Policy Center and Spark M. Matsunaga
38 Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution are requested to
39 convene a working group to explore the safe use of hunting dogs
40 on public hiking trails; and

41
42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group should
43 include in the dialogue representatives from:

44



- 1 (1) DLNR;
- 2
- 3 (2) Honolulu Police Department;
- 4
- 5 (3) Citizens for Safe Hiking;
- 6
- 7 (4) Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club;
- 8
- 9 (5) Hawaii Dog Foundation;
- 10
- 11 (6) Hawaiian Humane Society;
- 12
- 13 (7) The Humane Society of the United States;
- 14
- 15 (8) The Nature Conservancy;
- 16
- 17 (9) The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter;
- 18
- 19 (10) Hawaii Hunting Association; and
- 20
- 21 (11) Oahu Pig Hunters Association;

22 and

23
24
25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Resolution be transmitted to the Chancellor of the University of
27 Hawaii and the Dean of the College of Social Sciences.
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29
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OFFERED BY:

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