

MAR 18 2009

---

---

## SENATE 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 (DNLNR) 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 Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,  
36 that the University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Social  
37 Sciences, Public Policy Center and Spark M. Matsunaga Institute  
38 for Peace and Conflict Resolution are requested to convene a  
39 working group to explore the safe use of hunting dogs on public  
40 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  
23 and

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.

28  
29  
30

OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

