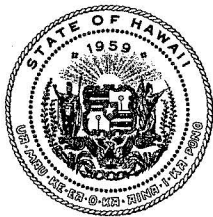
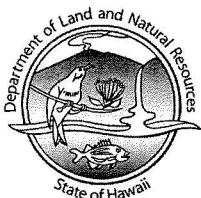


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES**

**Monday, March 30, 2009
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 114/HOUSE RESOLUTION 92
REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF LAND
AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO STRIVE TO EXPEND THE STATE OF HAWAII'S FULL
ALLOTMENT OF FEDERAL AID WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUNDS**

House Concurrent Resolution 114/House Resolution 92 requests that the Governor and the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources strive to expend the State of Hawaii's full allotment of federal aid in wildlife restoration funds for wildlife management and restoration, hunter education and shooting range development. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports these resolutions and is actively pursuing wildlife management and restoration, hunter education and shooting range development throughout the State of Hawaii.

At the current time the Department is pursuing range development on two major range development sites. The first is a site located on the Island of Hawaii at Puu Anahulu and the second site is located within the Hanahanapuni area on the Island of Kauai. Other shooting range sites to be located on Molokai, West Oahu, and East Hawaii are equally necessary and planning for their development will begin in the near future. In the meantime, the Department has been actively supporting shooting range development through the acquisition of federal grants, identification of suitable state property, out service training and education for Department staff and our partners at National Rifle Association's Shooting Range Development and Operations Conferences. It is also important to note that one of our primary goals is the identification, planning and development of shooting ranges in Hawaii. Federal grant funds not only permits the expenditure of federal funds for shooting range development but encourages this important activity.

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



For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife
HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

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**TO: Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources
Representative Ken Ito, Chair, and Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair**

HEARING: Monday, March 30, 2009; 9:00 A.M., Conference Rm. 325

Re: HCR114 / HR92

Testimony in Support

Chair Ito and Vice Chair Har, and members of the Committee on Land, Water, & Ocean Resources. My name is George Massengale and I am a long time member of the Hawai'i Audubon Society and during session I serve as their legislative analyst. We're happy to be here today to offer testimony in support of HCR114 / HR92, which would request the Governor and the Chairperson of DLNR expend the State of Hawai'i's full allotment of federal aid in wilderness restoration funds.

The Hawai'i Audubon Society was founded in 1939, and it is Hawai'i's oldest conservation organization. The primary missions of the society is to foster community values that result in the protection and restoration of native ecosystems and conservation of natural resources through education, science and advocacy in Hawaii and the Pacific.

The Federal Wildlife Restoration Program funds research, habitat management, species restoration, population surveys, and technical guidance. The funds can also be used to acquire and manage habitats for species with the greatest conservation needs. Hawai'i has the dubious distinction of being the "Endangered Species Capital of the World," with 100's of plants and animals listed as endangered or threatened. With respect to bird species there are 32 listed as endangered including; the Akepa, Crested Honeycreeper, Hawaiian Goose "nene" and Newell's Shearwater just to mention a few. The Audubon Society would strongly encourage and support efforts by the Governor and DLNR to utilize the Endangered Species Grants that are available via the Wildlife Restoration Program.

Restoring endangered habitat would not only assist in the recover of our endangered and threatened species, it would also provide much needed conservation jobs that would further benefit our economy.

We strongly urge the committee to pass HCR 114 /HR92 for consideration before the House Finance Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Massengale".

George Massengale, JD
Legislative Analyst