

Testimony for HCR174 on 4/15/2009 9:00:00 AM

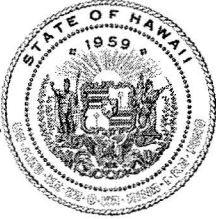
mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 7:03 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Attachments: HCR174-HR138_BED_04-15-09_~1.pdf (57 KB)

Testimony for WLO 4/15/2009 9:00:00 AM HCR174

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Marsha Wienert
Organization: DBEDT
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 4/13/2009

Comments:



TOURISM LIAISON

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR
MARSHA WIENERT
TOURISM LIAISON

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Statement of
MARSHA WIENERT
Tourism Liaison
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES
Wednesday, April 15, 2009
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
HCR 174 / HR 138
**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
AND TOURISM TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO INVESTIGATE THE
FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A MARKET IN THE TOURISM INDUSTRY FOR
RIFLERY, ARCHERY, AND HUNTING ACTIVITIES.**

Chair Ito, Vice Chair Har and Members of the House Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) cannot support HCR 174 / HR 138 due to budgetary concerns. This resolution requests that DBEDT convene a working group to research and report on the viability of attracting tourists to Hawai'i to participate in riflery, archery and hunting activities. It further requests the department to investigate and study the feasibility of creating a market in the tourism industry by 1) identifying the challenges, barriers and opportunities to promote riflery, archery and hunting as a niche market in tourism; 2) reviewing existing laws and rules pertaining to riflery, archery and hunting; and 3) recommending any changes to existing laws and rules to promote riflery, archery and hunting as a niche market in the tourism industry.

While there may be an opportunity to enhance Hawai'i's brand and image by further developing a tourism niche market for hunting, riflery and archery in the islands, the department does not have the personnel nor the financial resources needed to undertake this study.

To fully develop a plan that would enable the State to explore the opportunities and provide recommendations to the Legislature, a budgetary appropriation would be required. As this has not been taken into consideration in the Executive Biennium Budget, we cannot support this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HCR 174 / HR 138.



Hawaii Rifle Association

State Affiliate of the National Rifle Association
Founded in 1857

April 11, 2009

Honorable Chair Ito, Vice Chair Har, Members,

HRA is in strong support of this Resolution and hopes to participate with the working group.

The Resolution seeks to promote a severely underdeveloped tourism niche. While most of the U.S. is buried under winter, we enjoy year round shooting, archery, and hunting opportunities. Only a small percentage of the potential market is even aware that such activities are available here. Not enough ranges are available here yet, and private landowners show amazingly little interest.

There is a misconception among the tour industry that offering recreational opportunities of this nature will cause other tourists to turn away. On the contrary, the potential net gain in tourism is tremendously positive.

There are those, like the opponents of the Superferry, who don't want to share their hunting opportunities. Most of those hunters don't even bother to buy a hunting license, so we lose Pittman-Roberson funds to mainland states that have learned that controlling poaching is a cornerstone of a good fish and game program.

Some of our HRS 134 is decidedly unfriendly to potential visitors who would bring their firearms with them, and needs to be looked at by such a working group.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HRA.

Dr. Maxwell Cooper,
Director

Testimony for HCR174 on 4/15/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 8:50 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 4/15/2009 9:00:00 AM HCR174

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Ron Finelli

Organization: West Hawaii Gun Club

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 4/13/2009

Comments:

As a representative of the West Hawaii Gun Club, I ask for your complete support of HCR 174 which will be another positive step towards increased tourism and recreation opportunities on the Big Island and throughout the state.

Testimony for HCR174 on 4/15/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 7:34 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 4/15/2009 9:00:00 AM HCR174

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: J. Curtis Tyler III

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 4/14/2009

Comments:

Thank you for your continued support of HCR 174 and HR 138 to Establish a Working Group to Investigate the Feasibility of Creating a Market in the Tourism Industry for Riflery, Archery, and Hunting Activities.

If these activities in other states are an indication, this market has excellent potential to be a positive contributor to Hawaii's economy.

Testimony for HCR174 on 4/15/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 7:56 PM**To:** WLOtestimony**Cc:** [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 4/15/2009 9:00:00 AM HCR174

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Richard Hoeflinger

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: (808) [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 4/13/2009

Comments:

My name is Richard Hoeflinger. I am a hunter, having followed that avocation for 60 of my 74 years. I have lived and hunted in Hawaii for the past 15 years, and held leadership positions in many of Hawaii's hunting organizations. As an outdoor writer, I have contributed Hawaii hunting articles to several local and national publications. I am a licensed Hawaii hunting guide and have had the opportunity to interface with numerous visiting mainland hunters.

Hawaii is rich in game resources, and the state's indifference to its economic potential is troubling. Hunting in America is big business. It generates more than \$67 billion in economic output and more than one million jobs. The top 10 states all receive over \$ 1 billion annually in economic benefit from hunting. The top two, Texas and Pennsylvania, receive triple and double that amount, respectively.

Hawaii, Montana, Maine and Idaho are states of similar population. Montana, Maine, and Idaho actively promote hunting in their states, and realize an average of \$430 million in economic benefit annually. Hawaii does nothing to promote its game resources, yet benefits nevertheless from its hunting programs. The estimated overall economic impact from hunting in Hawaii was \$31 million in 1996 and \$28 million in 2001. A modest effort in promotional activities, coupled with a relaxation of counterproductive rules, could increase the state's economic benefit substantially.

Hawaii has a number of statutes and administrative rules that provide no function other than act as an impediment to hunting tourism. Implementation of HCR 174 would serve to identify these problems, whose solution would increase state revenue. I urge you to support the subject resolution.

025

HCR174;WLO;4/15/09;9AM;Rm325

Joel Fischer [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 1:13 PM**To:** WLOtestimony**Importance:** High

HCR174, Re: hunting Tourism
WLO; Chair, Rep Ito

PLEASE KILL THE IDEA OF HUNTING TOURISM, ONCE AND FOR ALL!!

This idea is so painful to contemplate, that I can barely find words to express my disgust. Bringing tourists to Hawai`i for the express purpose of killing our animals, indigenous or not, is the exact opposite of the atmosphere we are trying to create for tourists as the aloha state. With hunting tourism, we will become the killing state!

HEWA!

Approximately two years ago, the idea of hunting tourism was killed in the Senate because of a community outcry. However, a compromise was reached among DLNR representatives and members of the community including animal rights advocates. That compromise was as follows: to allow tourists to obtain hunting licenses, **but to not market Hawai`i as a place for hunting tourism.**

This reso is an attempt to short circuit a process that already is established by means of a "working group." Typically, such working groups completely ignore community members who are opposed to the hunting and killing of animals for sport. What reason does the community have to believe this working group would be any different.

I am opposed to the formation of this working group. I am opposed to making Hawai`i nei a killing field for tourists. For God's sake, has our community sunk this low?

Thank you for making this idea make, die, dead!

Aloha, joel

Dr. Joel Fischer, ACSW
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

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Testimony for HCR174 on 4/15/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 1:13 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 4/15/2009 9:00:00 AM HCR174

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Jane Shiraki

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 4/10/2009

Comments:

Dear Honorable Legislators,
Please DO NOT pass these bills (including HR 138.)

Please draw tourists to the islands with things that represent ALOHA(Love). Please do not betray the symbol of ALOHA, the very HEARTBEAT of the islands, on which the islands stand, which makes Hawaii unique in the world, which have drawn the MAJORITY of people from around the world UP UNTIL NOW. Yes, "it's the friendliness of the people," they say (not the violence of guns & hunting). We already have the kind of paradise that people seek,because tourists have been making an escape from violence, from the unfriendly environment from which they came.

Do not make this place, a place of fear, where people have easy access to weapons, which can be used against each other. Please do not encourage violence. If such violence is denied in Asian countries, there is a good reason. In Japan, people enjoy a low crime rate!

It is NOT a sound idea for the good of Hawaii. It is a desperate attempt and will invite bloodlust and the kind of tourists that Asian countries have said NO to. It will encourage and breed violence in local children by its very influence and exposure, availability, approval by our own government and tourist industry. We are the ALOHA state, it means LOVE, not VIOLENCE, SAVAGE KILLING BEHAVIOR. PLEASE KEEP THAT DOOR CLOSED, like the Asian countries have.

RATHER, WE NEED TO REMIND OTHER COUNTRIES AND MARKET, PROMOTE TO THE WORLD ABOUT OUR AMAZING MELTING POT, THE REMARKABLE EASE IN WHICH PEOPLE DO LIVE HERE, THE GENUINELY BEAUTIFUL SPIRIT OF ALOHA THAT ENGULFS THE ISLANDS, THE PEACE AND BEAUTY OF THE ISLANDS. That is what will draw people to the islands for their rest and relaxation, NOT VIOLENCE.

We could have more festivals, more interesting places to eat, do more in terms of musical shows and musical entertainment, more surfing and swim activities, more educational programs.

We are truly blessed as the most sought after paradise, a place of dreams for many, I am told, we must not betray the blessing of abundance and the ALOHA spirit with violence, or bring violence upon any living creature when we are so blessed.

HCR 174 is not what a richly blessed island of people should do.

Jane Shiraki
Honolulu

027

Testimony for HCR174 on 4/15/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 3:48 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 4/15/2009 9:00:00 AM HCR174

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Cathy Goeggel

Organization:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 4/13/2009

Comments:

Come to Hawai'i and kill something!

Is this the message we should be sending potential tourists? Do we really want weapon toting visitors? Will we market the Aloha State as a vacation destination for people who enjoy killing for fun?

Please do not move this dangerous legislation forward.

Mahalo