



April 20, 2009

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair, Higher Education
Senator Clayton Hee, Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs and
Members of the Respective Committees

From: Susan Chandler, Director, College of Social Sciences
Public Policy Center, University of Hawai'i at Manoa

RE: Comments in Opposition to HCR 60
April 23, 2009, 1:00, Room 329

HCR 60 is REQUESTING THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA, COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, PUBLIC POLICY CENTER AND SPARK M. MATSUNAGA INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE THE SAFE USE OF HUNTING DOGS ON PUBLIC HIKING TRAILS.

The Public Policy Center has no position on the substance of the resolution, however we oppose the naming of the center as the convening organization for the following reasons. Our resources are limited and this issue does not fit within our Center's scope. Furthermore, we believe that there are other more appropriate organizations to address this issue. For example, the testimony of DLNR indicates that it already has a trails' advisory group as well as facilitators that are able and willing to convene such a working group.

Unfortunately, we were not consulted about this resolution prior to its passage in the House of Representatives. Had we been involved we would have explained that the Public Policy Center is unable to assist at this time. We do not oppose the substance of the resolution, however we respectfully request that the Public Policy Center be deleted as the convening group.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony of Carole J. Petersen re: H.C.R 60

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair, Committee on Higher Education; Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs; and Members of the Respective Committees

From: Carole J. Petersen, Associate Professor and Interim Director, Matsunaga Institute

Date: April 21, 2009

Re: **Testimony in opposition to H.C.R 60**, requesting the Public Policy Center and the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (the Institute) to convene a working group to explore the safe use of hunting dogs on public hiking trails.

I will not be able to testify in person as I have teaching commitments on the day of the hearing.

I cannot support this resolution in its current form. The Matsunaga Institute was not informed of the resolution prior to its introduction. As we explained to Representative Berg when we learned of it (see attached letter, dated April 8, 2009), the Institute has two and one-half internal faculty, one of whom will be on sabbatical in the fall of 2009. This will leave one and one-half faculty to cover all of our teaching, advising, and administrative duties. Our one program manager is also fully committed to curriculum matters and other projects.

In short, we are thinly staffed and expect budget cuts in the coming year. Our limited faculty must therefore focus on our chief priority – providing the courses that our students need to graduate on time.

If H.C.R. 60 is passed, we will not be able to devote any internal faculty time to this project. We could assist by providing a list of practicing facilitators, many of whom are affiliates of the Institute. Of course, careful assessment would have to be done to ascertain the expected time commitment for an outside facilitator and the necessary funding.

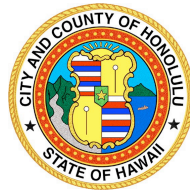
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,

Carole J. Petersen
carolep@hawaii.edu

2424 Maile Way, Saunders 723/523, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2223
Telephone: (808) 956-7427/6433. Facsimile: (808) 956-9121.

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution



HAWAII KAI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD

April 21, 2009

GREG KNUDSEN
At-Large
Chairperson

ELIZABETH REILLY
At-Large
Vice Chairperson

JEANETTE HANSON
Subdistrict #6
Secretary-Treasurer

RENÉ GARVIN
At-Large

NORMA KEHRBERG
At-Large

ROBERT CLARK
Subdistrict #1

MARIAN GREY
Subdistrict #2

CARL MAKINO
Subdistrict #3

STEPHEN GEIMER
Subdistrict #4

GARY WELLER
Subdistrict #5

AMY MONK
Subdistrict #7

MATT DIRKS
Subdistrict #8

DAVID TANABE
Subdistrict #9

AARON ISGAR
Subdistrict #10

WAYNE LEVY
Subdistrict #11

Hawaii Kai
Neighborhood Board No. 1
c/o Neighborhood Commission
530 So. King St., Rm. 406
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 768-3710
Fax: (808) 768-3711

Web Pages:
• www.honolulu.gov/nco/nb1
• HKNB.org

Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board meets the last Tuesday of every month (except Dec.), 7 p.m., Hahaione Elementary School cafeteria. The public is welcome to attend.

Testimony in Support of HCR 60

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.

Senate Committee on Higher Education

Sen. Jill Tokuda, Chair; Sen. Norman Sakamoto, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair; Sen. Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair

April 23, 1:00 p.m., Room 329

The Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board is concerned about the safe use of hunting dogs on public hiking trails.

On February 24, the board unanimously approved a motion "to support House Concurrent Resolution 60, which requests 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; and that the working group should include in the dialogue representatives from: (1) DLNR; (2) Honolulu Police Department; (3) Citizens for Safe Hiking; (4) Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club; (5) Hawaii Dog Foundation; (6) Hawaiian Humane Society; (7) The Humane Society of the United States; (8) The Nature Conservancy; (9) The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter; (10) Hawaii Hunting Association; and (11) Oahu Pig Hunters Association."

We considered this assembly of all stakeholders to be a very responsible method to address a serious problem affecting public safety and public access to trails.

Linda Vannatta, Citizens for Safe Hiking, has made a presentation to the board and has kept the board informed about this resolution.

The Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board urges you to approve HCR 60.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Knudsen".

Greg Knudsen
Chairperson

1205 Kaeleku Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825
(808) 395-3725, 224-0790
knudsen123@gmail.com





KAILUA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 31

P.O. BOX 487 • KAILUA, HAWAII 96734
PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov>

April 23, 2009

Higher Education (HRE) and Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs (WTL) Public Hearing

Honorable Senators Representatives:

At the March 5, 2009 regular meeting of the Kailua Neighborhood Board the following motion was adopted

The Kailua Neighborhood Board No. 31 supports House Concurrent Resolution 60 (HCR 60) 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 Explores the Safe Use of Hunting Dogs on Public Hiking Trails, was ADOPTED 14-3-0 (AYE: Bartley, Best, Bryant-Hunter, Chinen, Corcoran, Correa, Enos, Glanstein, Prentiss, Retherford, Tomasa, Ure, Weinberg, Wong; NO: Bratt, Fernandez, Lindgard).

While the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board No. 1 fully supported the concept of HCR 60 and suggested for HSUS and CSH to meet with hunting associations because a sit-down meeting including other agencies in an effort to find a solution. The final product is in the mediation style, with recommendations reported to the legislature; it's hoped the recommendations will include changes to the Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) or HRS.

The Kailua Neighborhood Board understands the issue from the perspective of hunting, hiking and ham: hunting and hiking communities must not negatively impact residential neighborhoods.

The Kailua area contains state conservation, preservation and agricultural land, private tracts of forested and open land with Na Ala Hele trails and other public and private trails. Kailua also has urban areas that are adjacent to these more open lands. Encounters between hunters, hikers and ham are common but not always uneventful.

Trails are often accessed through residential communities and a number of trails allow no hunting dogs (Na Ala Hele). However, in areas where hunting or pig control with dogs is allowed the complex issue of days and hours permitted for both hunters and hikers remains confusing. While signage states days of the week, they also state "when the moon is full".

Hunters are often eager to hunt in the early mornings and late in the afternoon to pick up fresh sent. Hikers may enter a trail early in the early part of the day but rarely leave the trails until the afternoon hours.

While persons with pet dogs are required to leash their dogs, and do, not all hunters in the vicinity of a known trail abide by this requirement. Encounters between the hunters and hikers with pets have been problematic. Partially because signage is missing, infrequent, or not posted at all entry points of a trail that is accessible from more than one direction.

While DLNR has attempted to place signage correctly at trail heads and have publications stress a trail's dual use, residents and visitors alike remain unaware until an encounter has occurred.

In residential areas, near trails, creates a differing problem. Lost hunting dogs enter residential areas seeking food as the forage in most of Oahu's wildland is insufficient to sustain life. Lost hunting dogs seek their owners in adjacent residential neighborhoods and become confused and more aggressive the longer they have been separated from their owners. Owners, return to the area their dogs were lost in to try to retrieve them, however, the animal may have become so confused they are not found again in a timely manner to sustain their lives. Injured hunting dogs have little chance of survival without human intervention. Reuniting hunting dogs with their owners is difficult for the Hawaiian Humane Society as not all hunting dogs are micro-chipped for identification.

Some residents have testified that they have made homes for some of these hunting dogs when they were found soon enough (usually within three days). Other residents have been harassed by aggressive hunting dogs that



have become to wary to approach human help. While some hunters are extremely cooperative when encountering hikers on dual trails with their hunting dogs, others are less so. Encountering hunting dogs on trail expressly not authorized for hunting, especially the Na Ala Hele trails, is most troublesome.

During the current economic downturn more hunting is expected for smoked and boiled meats from the feral pig population to augment the table, as it was in 1992.

Pig control is an ongoing program so that the feral population is kept in check or eradicated according to the area in question. Residents appreciate the partnership between the hunters association and the Department of Land and Natural Resources in providing this control on the feral pig population. Residents understand the educational aspect of training new dogs and new hunters for future hunts.

Residential areas are currently experiencing a bloom in feral pig populations when hunting was less necessary for the table. Each county of Hawaii has differing needs of enforcement control for the encounters between hunters, hikers, and ham. Dialogue will offer the opportunity to devise fairness among and between groups.

Enforcement, signage, education of visitors, residents, and hunters alike is of key importance. A dialogue between hunters, residents, agencies and departments charged with the protection and education of the visitor industry is appropriate.

The Kailua Neighborhood Board supports convening a working group to explore the safe use of hunting dogs on public hiking trails.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HRC60.

Sincerely,



Secretary, Kailua Neighborhood Board

From: [Ho'olaka](#)
To: [HRE Testimony](#)
Subject: In support of HCR60
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2009 5:48:34 PM

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Re: HCR60 April 23, 2009 1pm Room 329

Aloha,

My name is Doug Ferrell. I am the owner of Ho'olaka Canine Specialists and a member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT). I am writing today in support of HCR 60. Although we teach people to train their dogs, our specialty is canine behavior. Let me first say I am not against the hunting of wild pigs on our islands. I realize there is a need for hunting when over population of wild pigs threatens the ecology of our state. I also understand there is a cultural element to hunting wild pigs. However, I also believe there is a public safety issue with regards to hunters and hikers. A single dog is one thing. Two or more dogs then become a 'pack'. Pack mentality is much harder to control than just a single dog.

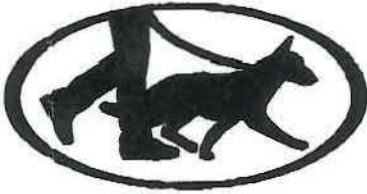
All dogs have a 'prey chase instinct'. If something in the environment moves a dog will chase it. This behavior is what is known as a 'hardwired' behavior, in other words it is genetic in nature. Dog trainers know that training against a hardwired behavior is extremely difficult. A pack of dogs chasing prey are in a *very* high state of arousal. It would be hard enough for an experienced trainer to call back one dog in a situation like this. Imagine how hard it would be to call back 5 or 6 dogs. A person hiking with their dog who is approached by a pack of hunting dogs in this high arousal state is in a very serious situation. Not only is the hiker's dog at risk, so is the safety of the owner. I personally believe this situation is a ticking time bomb. Imagine the liability to the state if someone was seriously injured or worse.

I believe bringing people together to discuss these concerns is our best hope for finding a positive outcome for everyone.

Sincerely,

Doug Ferrell

Ho'olaka Canine Specialists



Citizens for Safe Hiking

**COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN
AFFAIRS**

Thursday April 23, 2009, 1:00 PM RM 329

In support of HCR60

Dear Chair Hee/Tokuda and Vice Chair Sakamoto/Tokuda

In 2007, in response to citizens' complaints about feral pigs in residential areas, DLNR opened the majority of public hiking trails on Oahu to pig hunting with the use of hunting dogs.

Although this effort appears to have decreased the number of feral pigs, another very serious problem has been created. The pets of hikers and near by residents are being attacked by unleashed and unsupervised packs of hunting dogs.

The current DLNR policy of allowing hunting with dogs on public hiking trails and near residential homes needs review. Hunting dogs can cover large areas quickly and, in the excitement of the chase, do not always distinguish between pets and feral animals.

DLNR is aware of the danger to the pets of hikers as shown by the warning signs they put up at trail heads. However, warning signs do not SOLVE the problem. These signs do nothing but turn away tax-paying hikers who would like to enjoy a recreational hike with their pets.

In a phone conversation Ed Johnson, DLNR Hunting Coordinator,

expressed to me that he would not take his pet dog hiking on Oahu. Similarly, Rodney Jose, of the Oahu Pig Hunting Association, echoed this same sentiment at a Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board meeting February 26, 2009 when he told the board, "Hikers should leave their pet dogs at home." However, for many hikers, a big part of their hiking enjoyment comes from being accompanied by their pet dog. To eliminate this segment of the population from using public hiking trails is discriminatory.

Additionally, another issue for hikers occurs when hunting dogs are separated from their pack and, subsequently, left-behind in the mountains to starve or die of injuries. This situation is especially frustrating when these unleashed dogs are not wearing, nor required to wear, any owner contact information. Hunting dogs that are left behind without identification are a financial and emotional burden to society.

In June of 2008 I adopted one of these left-behind hunting dogs from the Hawaiian Humane Society. As I discussed my new dog's history with friends at the Hawaii Kai Dog Park and co-workers at the Honolulu Zoo, I discovered that many of them, like myself, are no longer using Hawaii's public hiking trails because of the danger caused by free-roaming hunting dogs.

I decided to do some research on the internet to find out more about the legal use of hunting dogs in Hawaii. What I discovered worried me. I found story after story of hunting dog attacks involving pet animals. Even on non-hunt days and on hiking trails that prohibit hunting dogs there are reports of encounters resulting in serious injuries to both hikers and their pets.

Citizens for Safe Hiking has created a PowerPoint presentation for neighborhood boards in areas where there are public hiking trails. We want to educate residents about this danger. So far, we have presented to the HKNB and KNB. Both boards voted in support of our effort.

Respectfully,
Linda Vannatta

**Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs/Higher
Education**

Thursday April 23, 2009, 1:00 PM Room 329

Testimony in support of House Current Resolution 60

Fax # 586-6659

**I support the formation of a task force to discuss ways to
better regulate the use of hunting dogs in Hawaii.**

**Unleashed hunting dogs on public land, near populated
hiking trails, present a danger to hikers and their pets.**

**Thank you for your time,
Jean Detor
5537 Haleola St.
Hon, HI 96821**

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HRE Testimony](#)
Cc: selkie@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR60 on 4/23/2009 1:00:00 PM
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2009 2:59:16 PM

Testimony for HRE/WTL 4/23/2009 1:00:00 PM HCR60

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Cathy Goeggel
Organization: Animal Rights Hawai'i
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: selkie@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 4/22/2009

Comments:

Senate Committee on Higher Education
Chair: Jill Tokuda
Vice-Chair: Norman Sakamoto

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
Chair: Clayton Hee
Vice Chair: Jill Tokuda

Hearing: Thursday, April 23, 2009
Conference Room 329
1:00 pm

re: HCR 60
position: support

Animal Rights Hawai'i supports this resolution. There are several reasons that the current DLNR policy regarding hunting with dogs on O'ahu hiking trails must be addressed, the most important being that DLNR itself is inflexible and refuses to respond to valid complaints from the community.

ARH has experienced years of unreturned telephone calls and letters regarding a number of DLNR policies. We opine that this is a government agency that does not entertain suggestions or criticism, and therefore, we sincerely hope that an independent working group be established to address the hunting dogs on trails issue.

We suggest that:

Hunters who use dogs be required to show proof of current license for each dog

Every hunting dog must be microchipped so that the owner can be held responsible for the dog's behavior when off lead . Often dogs become lost and can wander for days, weeks, can attack people or other animals.

Hunting dogs should be current with vaccinations and parasite prevention.

Please pass this important resolution, and we would appreciate adding Animal Rights Hawai'i to the list of participants.

With aloha,

Cathy Goeggel

Cathy Goeggel
Director

From: [Cindy Newburg](#)
To: [HRE Testimony](#)
Subject: HCR60 April 23, 2009 1:00 329
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2009 6:35:06 AM

Committees on Higer Education and Water Land

I am in support of HCR 60.

My experience with DLNR has been that they are impossible to work with on you own !

I called to discuss starting a citizen's partol along Kapaa Quarry Rd in Kailua because of illegal pig hunters and their loose dogs. HPD had told me that they don't know " anything about hunting laws " and were not equipped to enforce them. We were being terrorized almost weekly by packs of loose hunting dogs and several volunteers were discussing taking matters into our own hands. The Hawaiian Humane Society will not respond to calls where the animals are running around loose. The few times I was able to catch one of these dogs it was not wearing any ID and I had to drive it myself to HHS. The Humane Society would not release owner information to me but it is my understanding that all the dogs I have turned in were later claimed out of there by the hunters. Dave Smith of DLNR was so rude to me when I spoke to him on the phone it was unbelievable ! He basically told me that I should mind my own business. I ended up hanging up on him. I strongly support the idea of a working group to find ways to hold the owners of these hunting dogs accountable for any property damage or bodily injury they cause while on public property.

Sincerely,
Cindy Newburg
5568 Haleola Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821
phone: 546-7421
Email: cindy.newburg@yahoo.com

From: [Elaine Johnson](#)
To: [HRE Testimony](#)
Subject: HCR 60
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2009 10:46:08 AM

Senator Jill N. Tokuda and Committee
Senator Clayton Hee and Committee

Dear Senators:

Please support this important bill. The use of hunting dogs on trails used by hikers, and sometimes their pets, is dangerous, and the situation needs to be studied.

Sincerely,

Elaine Johnson
Honolulu, HI 96837

From: [Joel Fischer](#)
To: [HRE Testimony](#)
Subject: HCR60;HRE;4/23/09;1PM;Rm329
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2009 11:42:30 AM
Importance: High

HCR360, Requesting...Safe Use of Hunting Dogs on Public Hiking Trails
HRE; Chair, Sen Tokuda
WLH; Chair, Sen Hee

IN STRONG SUPPORT OF THIS RESO!

There are SO MANY reasons why we need to change policy about allowing unleashed hunting dogs on our trails. They are an enormous menace to the public. They threaten pets and humans alike. The DLNR is deaf to requests that hunting dogs not be allowed to use our trails. I have been to numerous meetings where community members have pleaded with DLNR reps, and I have pleaded with Dir Thielen to stop these practices, all to no avail. That department is out of control, and those hunting dogs are a clear illustration of that fact.

Now, get this: **Hunting dogs do not have to be leashed but pets do!!!** Can any one rationally argue that there is nothing wrong at DLNR and with these policies?

Please be certain to include representatives from the animal rights community in this working group.

Thank you very much for supporting this reso.

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

**Hawaii State Legislature
Senate Committee on Water, Land & Agriculture
Thursday, April 23, 2009
1:00 p.m.
Room 329**

HCR 60 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

Testimony of Jon M. Van Dyke and Sherry P. Broder
4191 Round Top Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822

We strongly support the passage of this resolution. Proper regulation of pig hunting in residential areas and in areas utilized by the public such as public hiking trails is long overdue.

Our pet Vietnamese pot-bellied pig Gonzo Picasso was killed on our property by unsupervised hunting dogs on Sunday, April 1, 2007, a day on which pig hunting was permitted pursuant to DLNR regulations in the Tantalus area. Gonzo was in his enclosure, which had four-foot high fencing around it. The dogs entered into our property, without any human supervision, scaled the fence, and tore Gonzo apart within minutes after they arrived on the scene. It was totally irresponsible for the DLNR to permit such pig hunting in residential areas.

Feral pigs can be controlled in a humane fashion through the use of cages, which should be placed at locations where they frequent and then must be checked regularly so that the captured pigs do not suffer unnecessarily.

The study envisioned in this Resolution could help establish a humane approach to controlling feral pigs, an approach that would be consistent with the values we cherish in the Aloha State. We urge its enactment.

From: [Judy Mick](#)
To: [HRE Testimony](#)
Subject: HCR 60
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2009 3:34:01 PM

Aloha-

I am writing to urge the passage of HCR 60 to be heard April 23, at 1 PM in room 329.

I am the owner of a hunting dog, left for dead on the Kailua dumproad. He didn't possess the aggressive nature needed to hunt. He was still intact, had heartworm, and his ribs showed from lack of nutrition. He is now a happy, healthy family pitbull. This kind of neglect should not gain any group of people special recognition by the State.

Companion dogs must be leashed on trails, it should be no different for hunters who have dogs that are excited about the hunt and when loose, will go after anything. Incidents on our trails support this fact. Hawaii's hiking trails were not made for pighunters and their dogs. Please pass this legislation. Mahalo.
Judy Mick, Kailua

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HRE Testimony](#)
Cc: cfora@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR60 on 4/23/2009 1:00:00 PM
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2009 3:01:08 PM

Testimony for HRE/WTL 4/23/2009 1:00:00 PM HCR60

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Christy Deutsch
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: cfora@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 4/21/2009

Comments:

I am writing this in support of HCR60.

I cannot understand why hunters with dogs are allowed and even encouraged by DLNR to hunt on the same trails that hikers use. This is very dangerous for the public, and posting signs is not enough. When let loose, a pack of hunting dogs has only one purpose- and that is to attack. Usually the focus of that attack is a pig, but there are still many times where pets are killed or severely injured by these dogs. Once these dogs are no longer in control by their owners and are let loose- they become a safety issue to the public, and can do a lot of damage.

There are a lot of people, kama'aina and tourists alike, who want to enjoy and witness the beauty of these islands on hiking trails. The following quote is from a 2001 news release by DLNR, where they recognize how important hiking is to tourists; "The popularity of hiking in Hawai'i continues to increase, especially among visitors. A survey last year of trail and park users showed that approximately 78 percent were from out-of-state." Many tourists coming here from thousands of miles away look forward to using our beautiful hiking trails in the mountains. These people may or may not be deterred by posted hunting signs alone because; 1) They came so far and want to continue on their hike as planned; 2) They don't see the signs or may not be able to read English; or, 3) See the signs and do not truly understand that they are in danger. Everyone needs to be protected by our state, and as an agency funded by tax dollars, DLNR needs to put public safety needs first.

Hiking and Hunting don't mix, and something has to be done about it. That is why I support HCR 60.

Thank you,
Christy Deutsch

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HRE Testimony](#)
Cc: pinky@lava.net
Subject: Testimony for HCR60 on 4/23/2009 1:00:00 PM
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2009 10:21:40 AM

Testimony for HRE/WTL 4/23/2009 1:00:00 PM HCR60

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Laura Thompson
Organization: Individual
Address: 440 Puamamane Street
Honolulu, HI
Phone: 373-9387
E-mail: pinky@lava.net
Submitted on: 4/22/2009

Comments:

This is a good start to try to work out serious problems.

Imua

Testimony regarding HCR60

Good Afternoon Madam Chair Tokuda and Chairman Hee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on this matter.

As president of the Oahu Pig Hunters association, I and the membership are strongly opposed to this resolution. Passage of this resolution would have the effect of ending all “legal” hunting on the island of Oahu. Although not stated in the resolution, it seems to us that the ultimate objective is to ban hunting dogs in areas that hunters and hikers currently share.

The resolution, as passed out of the House contains several inaccuracies. It is not known whether these inaccuracies were intentional or simply a mistake. I would like to address those that we see as inaccurate.

The first false assumption is that “hunting dogs are trained to aggressively pursue all animals, without distinction between wild animals and pet dogs”. This is grossly misleading in that hunters aggressively train their dogs to refrain from attacking livestock or other dogs. In fact it could be argued that pet dogs are the initiators of conflicts. They frequently demonstrate aggressive behavior towards other dogs, whether it is on a mountain trail or on the streets of a residential area. My personal experience over the years is that when I have had problems with dogs belonging to hikers, it is the dog(s) belonging to the hikers that initiate the problem. I would like to stress that not all encounters are negative. On those occasions when nothing bad happens, the dogs with the hikers seem to be able to socialize with other dogs. Most hunters do not tolerate aggressive behavior between dogs of their hunting pack or hunting packs they encounter in the field. Hunters primarily use the trails that are shared with the hikers as a means to travel to the area they are going to hunt, whereupon they leave the main trail. Although hunting is allowed along most of these trails, most hunters want to get away from the trail because they do not want these encounters. Plus the pigs don’t hang out on the hiking trails.

The statement that “dogs are sometimes left behind” is not the whole story. It is true that dogs become separated from their owners but the owner is not going to purposefully leave the dog behind. In this day and age, most hunters use a tracking collar that enables them to locate their dog before leaving the area. But even tracking collars are not foolproof. Hunters are going to return time and time again until they recover their dog or until such time as they believe the dog has left the area, died, or has been recovered by another person. They have too much money invested in the dog and the equipment to simply walk away. On one recent occasion I recovered a dog that had been lost for 3 weeks. I made two daily trips to the hunting area to search. Most hunters also have ID tags on the dogs collar that identify the owner with contact phone number.

The statement that lost, injured and neglected hunting dogs are a sometime burden on the taxpayers is not true. Animal shelters are not taxpayer funded. But the same could be said true of any lost dog, cat, pet rabbit, etc. Personal experience with the Hawaiian Humane Society leaves me with the impression that they are not very diligent in contacting the owners of hunting dogs. On one occasion a hunting associate went to the Humane Society to see if his dog had been

picked up. They reported they didn't see the dog but the owner noticed that the dogs "cut collar" was on the customer service counter. After he identified it as being the collar his dog was wearing they continued to deny any knowledge of the animal. The "cut collar" had the owners name and phone number attached to it. The dog was also wearing a tracking collar which was not recovered from the Humane Society.

The proposed working group as presently constituted will not offer a level playing field for a meaningful dialogue between the stake holders. It is patently obvious that the working group is stacked with opponents of the hunting community and the dogs they use in their sport.

Finally, I would like to bring to the attention of the members of this joint committee that this resolution comes to you from the House of Representatives without an identified source of funding to pay for the University of Hawaii to convene the working group.

In closing, if this resolution does pass, we feel that legal hunting on Oahu will cease. This will result in an increased feral pig population and illegal hunting. The Oahu Pig Hunters Association also acknowledges that there exists a certain segment of people who call themselves hunters to which rules mean nothing. They don't obey hunting regulations or any other laws for that matter. We do not want to be put in that group, nor do we want that label.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Signed:

Oliver Lunasco

From: ccaurio@att.net
To: [HRE Testimony](#)
Subject: HCR60, April 23, 1:00 pm, Rm 329
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2009 6:14:26 PM

I am supporting Resolution number (HCR60), Hearing date, (April 23), Time (1:00 PM) and Room (329)

I believe that it is unfair that hikers are required to leash their dogs at all times, but hunter's dogs can roam freely. As a result hiker's pets and resident's pets are being attacked by these free roaming hunting dogs.

Although I enjoy hiking with my dogs, I will no longer use the public trails for fear of being attacked. I also feel that hunters do not take proper care of their dogs.

Thank you,
Paula Aurio

From: [Sharon Slentz](#)
To: [HRE Testimony](#)
Subject: HCR60
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2009 9:33:36 PM

Dear Sirs:

I would like to write in support of Resolution number HCR60, hearing date, April 23 at 1:00 PM, in Room (329). I would like to take my two dogs hiking, but I fear for their safety in areas where hunting dogs are allowed to roam freely as they have attacked dogs on leash, and their owners as they try to save them.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sharon Slentz

From: [Simon Chong](#)
To: [HRE Testimony](#)
Subject: HCR 60 April 23 1:00 329
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2009 5:41:57 AM

Committee: HED/WTL
Conference room: 329
Date/Time 1:00 PM April 23, 2009
Measure HCR 60
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Simon Chong
Organization: Individual
Address: 47 148 Pulama RD Kaneohe, HI 96744
Phone:
E-mail: citizensforsafehiking@yahoo.com

I was present at the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board meeting on February 26, 2009 and heard Mr. Rodney Jose of the Pig Hunters Association suggest that hikers should be required to wear orange - just like the hunters are - in areas that are being used by hikers and hunters at the same time.

The Kuliouou Ridge trail does have a sign suggesting that hikers wear bright colored clothing so that the hunters can more easily see them. It also warns that hunting dogs may be in the area.

This says to me that the state recognizes the danger of allowing hikers and hunters in the same area at the same time.

I support HCR 60 because DLNR is putting hikers into harms way and yet they don't even keep records regarding the number of pigs actually being removed from these hiking areas.

Sincerely,

Simon Chong

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HRE Testimony](#)
Cc: stevenvannatta@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR60 on 4/23/2009 1:00:00 PM
Date: Monday, April 20, 2009 10:49:38 PM

Testimony for HRE/WTL 4/23/2009 1:00:00 PM HCR60

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Steven Vannatta
Organization: Individual
Address: 1425 Ward Ave. #18W Honolulu, HI
Phone: 8082254498
E-mail: stevenvannatta@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/20/2009

Comments:

Dear Senators:

I used to be an avid hiker, but 10 months ago after encountering a pack of aggressive hunting dog on the Kuliouou Ridge Trail; I abruptly stopped my hiking activities.

A pack of six large dogs, most of them resembling pit bulls is what I encountered. I did not see or hear hunters in the area nor had I seen any hunting trucks at the trail head.

When the dogs saw my little terrier mix, on a leash, they rushed towards her in an aggressive manner. Luckily, I was able to chase the hunting dogs off by kicking and yelling at them. This frightening experience, however, has stayed with me to this day.

The DLNR signage at the Kuliouou Ridge Trail clearly instructs hunters to leash their dogs while on the hiking trail.

This rule does not seem to be practical or enforceable. What good is any rule or law if no one pays attention to it?

Aloha,
Steven Vannatta

Testimony and Comments on HCR60
Hearing Date: April 23, 2009
Time: 1:00 pm
Room: 329

While the concerns for the safety of pet dogs on hiking trails and to the issue of uncontrolled, lost, abandoned, and mistreated hunting dogs have been commented on, I would like to address human safety needs related to the simultaneous use of public lands by hunters and other recreational users.

Most states have clearly defined hunting seasons during which the non-hunting public can avoid public lands for their own safety. In Michigan, for instance, even bow-hunting and gun-hunting seasons are separated. The rest of the year hikers, birders, and other recreational users are able to enjoy their interests in safety.

I have stopped hiking after more than one close encounter with hunting dogs. I have never seen a hunter, however, which makes me wonder what kind of control is being exerted over these animals, any one of which is capable of injuring or even killing me.

I believe that a coalition of the parties named in HCR60 can work on a compromise that fairly serves all the people of Hawaii, as well as the animals for which we have taken responsibility, the visitors to our state, and the good of the environment.

Thank you for taking my testimony.

Susan Brant