

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 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.**

House Concurrent Resolution 60 proposes to convene a working group to explore the safe use of hunting dogs on hiking trails. While the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this concurrent resolution, the Department notes that it already has existing public stakeholder forums to do address the intentions proposed in this measure. As such, the Department does not support this concurrent resolution because it is redundant and can be achieved with existing established and functioning advisory bodies at this time of limited resources.

The Department manages approximately 270 miles of public trails through Na Ala Hele and other programs. Guidance for the programs is achieved through island-wide trail Advisory Councils (created in the rules governing trails, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) 13-130), which conduct regular meetings that are open to the public, and through which all trail issues are considered. In addition, HAR 13-130 provides that "The members shall be representative of interested constituencies such as hikers, hunters, bicycle riders, equestrian riders, off-road motorized vehicle users, Hawaiian cultural representatives or practitioners, fishers, environmentalists, affected landowners, and other trail and access advocates as determined by the advisory council chairperson in consultation with Na Ala Hele staff and existing advisory council members." The Na Ala Hele Advisory Council is the appropriate forum for this discussion of safe use of hunting dogs on trails that cross public hunting areas.

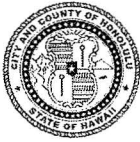
Some of the issues that will need to be considered in these discussions are public and pet safety, and the importance and need for the use of hunting dogs as a tool to control pigs and damage to sensitive native plants, residential areas, agriculture and public and private property.

**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



## 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>

March 28, 2009

### Water, Land and Ocean Resources Committee

#### Honorable 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.**

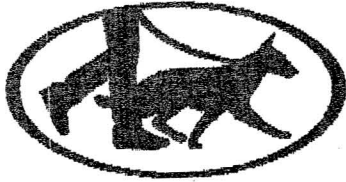
Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HRC60.

Sincerely,



Secretary, Kailua Neighborhood Board

*Linda Ure*



## Citizens for Safe Hiking

Water, Land, Ocean Committee: 3/30/09 RM 325 9:00 AM  
In support of HCR60

Dear Chair Ito and member of the WLO Committee:

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 has 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 animal friendly 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 issues caused by 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



**Testimony for HCR60 on 3/30/2009 9:00:00 AM**

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

**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2009 8:23 AM

**To:** WLOtestimony

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

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Testimony for WLO 3/30/2009 9:00:00 AM HCR60

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: bab ikeda

Organization: campus cats

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 3/28/2009

Comments:

in support of hcr 60 monday 3/30 9 a.m, regarding inhumane use of dogs for hunting or any so-called "sport";

020

**Testimony for HCR60 on 3/30/2009 9:00:00 AM**

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

**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2009 8:56 PM

**To:** WLOtestimony

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

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Testimony for WLO 3/30/2009 9:00:00 AM HCR60

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Georgie Fong

Organization: oreo aloha farm sanctuary

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 3/28/2009

**Comments:**

Aloha: please pass HCR60, Hunting Dog Resolution. A pack of dogs should never be allowed to run loose on public trails. It becomes unsafe and choas for other citizens who are enjoying the peace and serenity of hiking. I believe no hikers would want to be an innocent bystander to predation and "gang" murder of an innocent pig.

mahalo

.021

**Testimony for HCR60 on 3/30/2009 9:00:00 AM**

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

**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2009 8:44 AM

**To:** WLOtestimony

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

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Testimony for WLO 3/30/2009 9:00:00 AM HCR60

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: Yes

Submitted by: Cathy Goeggel

Organization:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 3/29/2009

**Comments:**

Animal Rights Hawai'i supports this resolution wholeheartedly, and we would like to have ARH included as a stakeholder.

Mahalo!

022



## HCR60;WLO;3/30/09;9AM;Rm325

Joel Fischer [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2009 3:45 PM

**To:** WLOtestimony

**Importance:** High

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HCR360, Requesting...Safe Use of Hunting Dogs on Public Hiking Trails  
WLO; Chair, Rep Ito

### IN STRONG SUPPORT OF THIS RESO!

There are SO MANY reasons why we need to change policy about allowing unleashed hunting dogs ap on out 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?

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

023

## Testimony and Comments on HCR60

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

**Testimony for HCR60 on 3/30/2009 9:00:00 AM**

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

**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2009 9:28 AM

**To:** WLOtestimony

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

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Testimony for WLO 3/30/2009 9:00:00 AM HCR60

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Jo Ann Trask

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 3/29/2009

**Comments:**

Pig hunters with their free roaming dogs are often hunting on property surrounding our private community. I do not feel comfortable hiking with my dogs, knowing there could be loose hunting dogs near by. Dogs that are hunting have a "hunt mentality", and fail to distinguish between pet vs. Feral prey. Since they aren't required to be on leashes, this poses a danger to both the people & their Pets that may be encountered by these dogs. Hiking should be a safe activity for everyone. Let's not wait for someone to get hurt, before something is done. Jo Ann Trask

**Testimony for HCR60 on 3/30/2009 9:00:00 AM**

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

**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2009 7:24 PM

**To:** WLOtestimony

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 3/30/2009 9:00:00 AM HCR60

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Doug Ferrell

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 3/28/2009

Comments:

Saturday, March 28, 2009

Good morning,

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

**Testimony for HCR60 on 3/30/2009 9:00:00 AM**

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

**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2009 6:32 PM

**To:** WLOtestimony

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

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Testimony for WLO 3/30/2009 9:00:00 AM HCR60

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Sharon Slentz

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 3/28/2009

Comments:

Testimony in support of HCR60:

I recently adopted two dogs, one from the Hawaiian Humane Society. I would enjoy taking them hiking on the Kuliouou Ridge Trail on either Saturday or Sunday, my days off from work. Unfortunately, however, these are the same days that wild boar hunting with the use of pig hunting dogs is allowed in this area. For the safety of my dogs, I will not take them hiking when the hunting dogs are running loose in the mountains.

Thank you,  
Sharon Slentz

027

**Testimony for HCR60 on 3/30/2009 9:00:00 AM**

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

**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2009 2:31 PM

**To:** WLOtestimony

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

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Testimony for WLO 3/30/2009 9:00:00 AM HCR60

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Simon Chong

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 3/28/2009

Comments:

I am in support of HCR 60.

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

028

**Testimony for HCR60 on 3/30/2009 9:00:00 AM**

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

**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2009 2:02 PM

**To:** WLOtestimony

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 3/30/2009 9:00:00 AM HCR60

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: Yes

Submitted by: Cindy Newburg

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 3/28/2009

Comments:

Water, Land and Ocean Committee:

Monday March 30

HCR60

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

[REDACTED]

029





## Testimony for HCR60 on 3/30/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2009 1:54 PM

**To:** WLOtestimony

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

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Testimony for WLO 3/30/2009 9:00:00 AM HCR60

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Steven Vannatta

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 3/29/2009

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Members:

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 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 nor enforceable.. What good is any rule or law if no one pays attention to it?

Much Aloha,  
Steven Vannatta

031