



TOURISM LIAISON

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Written statement of
MARSHA WIENERT
Tourism Liaison

Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, CULTURE & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Monday, April 6, 2009

9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 312

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 Manahan, Vice Chair Tokioka and Members of the House Committee on Tourism, Culture and International Affairs.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) is offering comments on HCR 174 / HR 138 but, due to budgetary concerns, cannot support this measure. 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.

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Amy Luke

From: Richard Hoeflinger [mailto:rich@hawaii.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 05, 2009 3:33 PM
To: TCItestimony
Subject: Support of HCR 174

In addition to providing recreation and supporting a chosen lifestyle for many residents, hunting provides an economic benefit to the state. Nationally, hunting generates more than \$67 billion in economic output and more than one million jobs (International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, 1961). The top 10 states all receive over \$ 1 billion annually in economic benefit from hunting. The top two, Texas and Pennsylvania, which actively promote hunting, 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. Although Hawaii does not promote its game resources, the state economy nevertheless benefits 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 regulations, could increase the state's economic benefit substantially.

There are three impediments to realizing increased hunting revenue in Hawaii: (1) There is no DLNR hunting advocacy and negligible state financial support; the existing program continues mainly on past momentum and user financing. (2) There is no promotion of the state's unique game resources and hunting opportunities. (3) The program is burdened with unreasonable policies and excessive regulation that discourage both resident and visitor participation.

Implementation of HCR 174 would begin to address these problems. Please support this resolution.

Richard Hoeflinger, Keaau, Hawaii

Amy Luke

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, April 05, 2009 8:34 AM
To: TCItestimony
Cc: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
Subject: Testimony for HCR174 on 4/6/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for TCI 4/6/2009 9:00:00 AM HCR174

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: J. Curtis Tyler III
Organization: Individual
Address: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
Phone: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
E-mail: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
Submitted on: 4/5/2009

Comments:
Thank you for your 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.