



HAWAIIAN HUMANE SOCIETY

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*The Hawaiian Humane
Society is dedicated to
promoting the human-
animal bond and
the humane treatment of
all animals.*
■

March 31, 2011

Rep. Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources

Re: Testimony on HCR 174, HR 150

Dear Chair Chang, Vice Chair Har and Members of the Committee on
Water, Land & Ocean Resources:

The Hawaiian Humane Society strongly supports HCR 174, HR 150
which would establish a feral animal working group.

This working group would address the lack of consistent policies
regarding methods used for animal control and the gaps across land
ownerships and jurisdictions. While it is a large group of agencies
involved, it reflects the complicated and far reaching concerns needed to
address this important issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support for this
measure.

Sincerely Yours,

Pamela Burns
President & CEO

har3 - Megan

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 4:11 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: exec.dir@hihs.org
Subject: Testimony for HR150 on 4/1/2011 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 4/1/2011 10:30:00 AM HR150

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Donna Whitaker
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: exec.dir@hihs.org
Submitted on: 3/31/2011

Comments:

TO: Honorable Chair Chang, Vice-Chair Har and Committee Members

House Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources

The Hawaii Island Humane Society supports the intent of HCR 174/HR 150; requesting the DLNR to convene a working group to discuss and develop recommendations related to feral animals, however, we have a number of concerns with the resolution to include:

The mission and interests of the proposed 29 member working group participants puts our organization's interests in animal welfare and the protection of all animals, in the minority from the onset of the convening of the group. Fair and balanced representation should include a smaller number of participants with more diverse interests rather than numerous agencies with similar positions and activities related to feral animals, specifically, existing eradication and control efforts. If reducing the number of listed representatives is desired, identifying duplication of same-island similar interests, held by different representatives, could help streamline the working group membership.

A 29 member working group may prove too large to produce any substantive results in the limited number of meetings (4) and by the date required (November 2011). A more workable option may be for the working group to develop subcommittees to address the resolution requested deliverables. These subcommittees can be smaller, tailored to their deliverable, can meet on a more flexible or frequent basis, and then report back to the overall working group.

Regardless of whether or not this particular resolution moves forward, our organization remains committed to continuing communication and collaboration with various stakeholders and agencies on feral animal issues, and will continue to pursue other opportunities to serve on similar working groups, taskforces or coalitions to more humanely and effectively reduce feral animal conflict.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony.

Donna Whitaker
Executive Director
Hawaii Island Humane Society
808-329-8002
808-329-7375 Fax

March 31, 2011

To: Jerry L. Chang, Chairman, Vice Chair Sharon E. Har and Water Land and Ocean Committee members
From: Patrick Conant, P.O. Box 1172, Volcano HI 96785
Re: Testimony on HCR 174, in Favor of Convening of Feral Animal Conflict Resolution Working Group
Chairman Chang and Committee members,

Thank you for holding this hearing on HCR 174 regarding this important topic. It is high time that the problems caused by at least feral and so-called "game" (mouflon and deer) ungulates are addressed. I support this concurrent resolution. Obviously, as the resolution states, a definition of "feral animal" for this working group (WG) needs to be agreed on. Since by definition, mouflon and deer are not feral, they would be left out of the discussions and clearly they need to be included because of the damage they do to native forests (and deer are significant agricultural pests) on all islands they occur on. Interested parties are well represented on the WG, but perhaps too well. I suggest that one person be chosen to represent the different Humane Societies so that the WG can be smaller and more effective.

I am encouraged to read in the text of the resolution that there will be subcommittees to divide up the work. My interest is indeed "wild ungulates" since they cause such tremendous, permanent ecological damage to forests and watersheds and economic damage to agricultural crops. I would like to see a subcommittee address such issues specific to those animals.

Referring to the text of the resolution more specifically, on page 5 paragraph 6 I am much in favor of cost/benefit analyses especially with respect to the "game mammals" (all are ungulates). The economic recreational benefits to the licensed hunters (and hunting gear merchants) in the State needs critical comparison to the economic and/or economic damage caused by these animals to our forests, watersheds and crops. Where should these animals be allowed to roam for hunting and where should they be excluded to avoid those losses? They do not belong in any native forest, but in low elevation alien forest are much less harmful. Taxpayers, farmers and homeowners (wild pigs damage landscaping) should not bear the burden of paying for expensive fences (8 ft. tall for deer) to keep these pests out just so a minority of hunters can enjoy them.

Paragraph 8 on that same page 5 is pertinent to this discussion. Title 13 Chapter 123 rules pertaining to game mammals is under review right now, and it is clear to me that a major shift in game mammal hunting rules is needed. There should be no bag limits anywhere, ever, and rifle hunting seasons should be year round unless there is a conflict that would cause safety concerns, such as bird or archery hunting seasons. Public hunting has never been shown to be an effective method of control of wild ungulates in Hawaii, but increasing hunting opportunities for hunters is a good thing, if there is no other form of more effective control available on a landscape level (e.g. exclusion fences).

I hope I have given the Working Group food for thought here, although I obviously have my own preferred agenda. I am very frustrated that farmers and taxpayers are paying for losses caused by "game animals", that are only utilized by a very small proportion of the State's population. Extinct endangered species or severely damaged native Hawaiian plant communities cannot be brought back. How do you put a value on that? Something needs to change, and I am encouraged that this Working Group will (hopefully) see the need to make those changes.

har3 - Megan

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 6:25 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: jairus@interpac.net
Subject: Testimony for HR150 on 4/1/2011 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 4/1/2011 10:30:00 AM HR150

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Bob Riley
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jairus@interpac.net
Submitted on: 4/1/2011

Comments:
Regarding: HR150, along with concurrent bill HCR174

I am opposed to having the government fund the killing of feral or non-feral animals. I am told that the way the government does is cruel, where as when hunters do it they go for the kill as quickly as possible, illimating as much suffering as possible.