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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
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
KAIHOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

Monday, February 06, 2012
10:20 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2880
RELATING TO HUNTING

House Bill 2880 proposes to prohibit the establishment of a land lease on Lanai for hunting for any period less than 10 years, and to create a task force to promote public hunting on Lanai. The purpose of the proposed legislation is to encourage the development of a long-term agreement for public hunting on Lanai to add a greater element of stability and predictability to the future of public hunting on Lanai. While the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of the bill, the Department opposes its passage out of concern that it could be counterproductive and actually result in the loss of hunting opportunities on Lanai.

The Department has leased and managed approximately 30,000 acres of private lands on Lanai for the purpose of promoting sustainable public hunting on Lanai for decades through a cooperative agreement with the landowner. The Lanai Cooperative Game Management Area (CGMA) represents one of the finest hunting areas in the state and is very popular with residents and visitors. The CGMA supports outstanding game resources, provides recreational and subsistence hunting opportunities for residents, and is a very important component of the Lanai economy. Maintaining that lease for the long-term is a high priority for the Department.

The Department currently holds a 10-year lease for the CGMA, which expires this month. For the last two years, the Department has been in negotiations with the landowner to extend that lease, and have proposed a renewal for a period of 20 years. However, the subject lands are private lands and the Department has no legal authority to dictate the terms of such a lease without the consent of the landowner. When it became clear that a long-term lease extension could not be established prior to the expiration of the present lease, the Department and the landowner agreed to a one-year extension while negotiations continue. The request for approval of that extension will be put before the Board of Land and Natural Resources at its February 24, 2012 meeting.

The Department is committed to maintaining a long-term lease but must operate within the constraints and desires of the private land owner and their plans for leases of their lands. The one-year extension will allow hunting to continue while discussions proceed. A prohibition against a one-year lease would have prevented the interim extension and likely resulted in a loss of hunting opportunities.

With regard to the task force, the Department has no objections in principle but the Department notes that its staff meets regularly with constituents and the landowner to discuss the status of game resources and management issues. That dialogue is highly productive and plays a key role in the management of the game resources on Lanai and facilitates the enhancement of opportunities for hunting. The proposed task force would expand and enhance those discussions but the Department and most of the proposed members of the task force have no real control or authority to implement any possible initiatives that may be recommended by the task force. Whether and how any such recommendations would be implemented is highly uncertain.

The Department is opposed to the measure but is committed to working with the landowner and constituents to enhance public hunting opportunities on Lanai to the greatest degree possible.

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 6:54 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: thunderdomeinc@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2880 on 2/6/2012 10:20:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/6/2012 10:20:00 AM HB2880

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: max renigado
Organization: Lanai Hunters United
E-mail: thunderdomeinc@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

As an avid hunter and resident of Lanai, the loss of the state lease is huge. hunting is a way of life here. please do not give up on this program. it is the only State Hunt in the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, where a legal hunter can sign up and shoot 2 exotic game animals per year. it is special and unique. please DO NOT give up the lease.

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND & OCEAN RESOURCES
Representative Jerry L. Chang
Representative Sharon E. Har

DATE: Monday, February 6, 2012
TIME: 10:20 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 325
BILL: HB 2880

Dear Representatives:

I am in SUPPORT OF HB2880 for the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to secure a long term lease to administer an equal opportunity viable hunting industry on Lanai as they have done for over 50 years.

Words cannot express enough of what it has meant for the people of Lanai, visiting hunters, families who come together in camaraderie on a special place such as Lanai. It is good for the economy of the island. The Lanai Hunter Focus Group is comprised of individuals who were elected by the community in a meeting held by Castle & Cooke (CCR) to represent "the community" and hear their concerns. The focus group put together a hunter survey and collected over 840 responses over a 6-week period during the hunting season last year. The surveys concluded that hunters were unanimously in support of State administration of the Cooperative Game Management Area on Lanai. Of this survey, 108 were Lanai residents and the remaining 734 hunters were off-island and out-of-state hunters. Attached is a short list of comments received from those surveys in support of preferred State managed public access hunting on Lanai, and take heed that this is not "inflammatory", these are real comments.

Public access hunting and CCR's private hunting works well together as off-island hunters look forward hunting on both managed areas. However, we are losing prime hunting areas that local & off-island hunters have paid to hunt in turning to closed areas for exclusive high paying clientele. Please note that it is not true that privatized hunting will bring in the same economic values to the island. Privatized hunting allows certain people with priority hunts rather than equal opportunity hunting as administered by the State.

We are a special place, in a special time and we would like to have it available for our children, grandchildren and future hunters.



Christine Costales
Lanai City, Hawaii

LANAI HUNTER FOCUS GROUP SURVEY - March to May 2011
COMMENTS

7/4/2011

DO YOU SUPPORT PUBLIC HUNTING ACCESS PROVIDED BY THE STATE OF HAWAII IN THE LANAI COOPERATIVE GAME MANAGEMENT AREA?

This is something I may pass down to my children and teach them how to respect the land. Something other than staying in the house watching tv & playing video games
Please don't take the hunting area away!
I am a hunter from Oahu and I find it a great privilege to come to Lanai and hunt and to contribute to the economy of the island of Lanai business, whether to shop for goods in preparation for the hunt. Jeep, 4 x 4, food, gas and having dinner at one of the hotels and playing a round of golf
Public hunting access brings me and many hunters to Lanai. We rent places to stay, buy from local merchants; We play a major role in managing the wildlife (A veterinarian from Oahu)
You need to keep hunting available for hunters because it gives the younger generations something other than drugs and sex/violence. Also, it brings money to the island. Hunters come from different islands when they get here, they buy food, gas, groceries, rent homes and vehicles. I was born and raised on hunting, it would be hard to see it go
Private hunting will cost a lot of money, which I cannot afford to pay. Have the State run public hunting and all hunters will be happy. NO PRIVATE!!!!
It provides an outlet for many of us. Provides jobs, recreation, source of income for our neighbors on Lanai; provides all in State means for residents of Hawaii to hunt rather than having to go out of state of country. It is an American tradition we grew up with.
Hunting provides a lot to the islands economy as well as recreational activity to State of Hawaii and some out of state persons. The island of Lanai's economy would suffer greatly if hunting access is not provided
I'm presently 65 years old and have hunted on Lanai since I was 12 years old. Not being able to hunt (public hunting) here anymore would be very disappointing. The deer and mouflon season was something I would look forward to each year.
This has been a life long experience - to deprive our youth of these opportunities would be devastating to our lifestyle.
I am in full support of a State-run system. The infrastructure is in place and is working well for all of the present parties involved, from administrative to end-users. (A dentist from Honolulu who has hunted here for 15 years)
Public hunting is necessary to provide economy for the residents of Lanai. It also provides food for those who are willing to engage in the sport of hunting which is part of our heritage. Many people cannot afford spending dollars on privatization hunts which only make few individuals rich. The privilege of hunting should be shared and made available. Lanai is such a vast resource to provide hunting to the public.
Yes. This is only my second time hunting here and it would be sad to see it go. (A youth)
This is a very important hunt to my family and I. We travel from California to hunt here every year we can.
One of an ever increasingly threatened areas in Hawaii. As time goes by, fewer and fewer areas are available to hunters. Hunters are responsible individuals who can pursue their sport without conflict with or damage to windmills
Yes, I support it because this is the only public hunting area for axis deer
I support this because this is the only public area to hunt axis deer in Hawaii
We come to Lanai at least two times a year and spend in excess of \$800 each person to hunt. If public hunting ends, it is doubtful we'd spend the extra money for a private hunt.
I first came to Lanai deer hunting with my dad when I was 10 years old. I'm 55 years now. You could say it's "a tradition" in my family. My father taught me how to hunt, clean and prepare the meat. It's part of the Hawaiian culture.
As a Lanai resident, I believe that the cooperative agreement has been beneficial to both the State of Hawaii and Castle & Cooke. It should continue
Public hunting should be by the State to give residents of Hawaii a chance to perpetuate our way of life and customs. Not everyone can afford to pay for private hunts. For the residents of Lanai they depend on the additional income to make ends meet. I can see the economy there suffering without public hunting to supplement their income

LANAI HUNTER FOCUS GROUP SURVEY - March to May 2011
COMMENTS

7/4/2011

DO YOU SUPPORT A PRIVATE ENTITY TO MANAGE THE LANAI COOPERATIVE GAME MANAGEMENT AREA OTHER THAN THE STATE OF HAWAII?

Just as long as it remains as a lottery system
Private company running the management at game will have favorites for their hunts. The public will never get to hunt unless well connected or have a lot of extra money to spend.
DLNR has successfully managed the Lanai area for many many years. What advantage would a private entity bring other than raising prices and being empowered to make unilateral decisions.
My experience with private entities have all been about money. Private entities don't have the best interest of the land and the community
Bad for sport. Lanai already has commercial area for hunting.
A private entity would not be beneficial to our society. It would eventually become an entity which once started would be impossible to change.
Only if it's runned like the State lottery hunt or even better
No. By doing this, you will price out the local hunter for high payment out of State people. Look what has happened on Maui - \$3000 for a trophy. This is not good to our local people.
No Way, please
No. This would be disastrous for the local community, financially as well as spiritually. I predict that there would be a tremendous resistance from the local community. It would deprive a majority of recreational outdoorsmen from Hawaii from a past time enjoyed for generations. <i>(a dentist from Honolulu who has hunted here for 15 years)</i>
A private entity means nothing but problems and further would restrict public hunting which is nearly extinct in Hawaii
No. Why change what is always in place and acceptable. Never was this way. Why confuse the people.
NO. Has been working if it is not broke why fix it.
If this becomes a private entity managed hunt, it will likely become a hunting area restricted to the very wealthy, and not something my family and I could participate in. <i>(hunter from California)</i>
Private cooperative will probably do a better job than the State. The State doesn't seem to care about hunting.
It's good to have both
Cost will be prohibitive. Corruption with certain people getting priority hunts
No. This should be a State function under DLNR. It should NOT be parcelled out to a private entity
Hunting is for all economic levels
Special interest groups would keep from being fair.
Concerns that stringent rules would be implemented plus access would be limited
Will limit access
Only if the State cannot do it first. If a private entity is to manage the land, at what cost is it to the hunters and the island's residences?

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 9:23 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: ahakea346@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2880 on 2/6/2012 10:20:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/6/2012 10:20:00 AM HB2880

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: SAMUEL B DIMAYA JR
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ahakea346@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

I support the long term lease so my keiki may be able to hunt and provide for their family as I and my forefathers have done.

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 7:44 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: lisa.m.galloway@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2880 on 2/6/2012 10:20:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/6/2012 10:20:00 AM HB2880

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lisa Galloway
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lisa.m.galloway@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

The people of Lana'i are mostly under-employed and hunting allows them to get by in a town where gas, energy and food are more expensive than elsewhere in the state. Please do not take away their access to hunting grounds! Please support this bill!

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 10:27 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: Kahoohalahala@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2880 on 2/6/2012 10:20:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/6/2012 10:20:00 AM HB2880

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kaulana Kahoohalahala
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Kahoohalahala@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 10:26 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: Roseluvkau@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2880 on 2/6/2012 10:20:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/6/2012 10:20:00 AM HB2880

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Roselani Kahoohalahala
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Roseluvkau@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 9:35 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: ml.goyin@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2880 on 2/6/2012 10:20:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/6/2012 10:20:00 AM HB2880

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mary Lynne Loughran
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ml.goyin@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 9:53 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: psmgmt1@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2880 on 2/6/2012 10:20:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/6/2012 10:20:00 AM HB2880

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shawn Loughran
Organization: Individual
E-mail: psmgmt1@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 5:46 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: Clayrich.hi@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2880 on 2/6/2012 10:20:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/6/2012 10:20:00 AM HB2880

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Henry Richardson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Clayrich.hi@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 7:26 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: Uistokes@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2880 on 2/6/2012 10:20:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/6/2012 10:20:00 AM HB2880

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Uilani Stokes
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Uistokes@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:
Please keep hunting on Lanai open to the public!

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 10:42 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: charitymei@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2880 on 2/6/2012 10:20:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/6/2012 10:20:00 AM HB2880

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: CHARITY TEXEIRA
Organization: Individual
E-mail: charitymei@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

I am in full support for the State of Hawaii - DLNR to contract to procure a lease for the term of 10 years, for the purpose of continued viable public access hunting in the cooperative game management areas, on the island of Lanai. My family has been involved in hunting on the island for over thirty years, with my children, being fourth generation. It not only serves as the islands livelihood, it also contributes to the islands' economy. Mahalo!