

lowen1-Kyli

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2013 8:36 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: ann.kobsa@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB104 on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM

HB104

Submitted on: 1/24/2013

Testimony for WAL on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Kobsa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Passage of this bill would be a disaster for native Hawaiian ecosystems! I work very hard to try to reduce the pig population in the area of my farm, and I am next to State Forest Reserve so I hope my efforts make a difference there. I removed 18 pigs from this forest in 2012. I watch as patch by patch the destructive pigs convert native forest to weeds. Even though I am a subsistence farmer and hunter, living entirely off my land, I value native ecosystems over free, easy game animals, which are not free at all but come at a great cost to nature. The axis deer especially must be eradicated, and all introduced ungulates should be eliminated or reduced on all the state lands where native plants and animals remain, to maximize the chances that native species will survive.

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1/24/13

Dear representative,

I oppose HB 104. Please do not amend the state constitution to game management and conservation on state land. Game and feral mammals are prolific; their populations are exploding and are extremely difficult to control. The legislature does not need to mandate their conservation. I do not believe this would be in the public's best interest.

Thank you

Cindy Dupuis



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Phone: (808) 848-2074 • Neighbor-Islands: (800) 482-1272
Fax: (808) 848-1921 • Email: info@hfbf.org
www.hfbf.org

JANUARY 25, 2013

COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Rep. Cindy Evans, Chair
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair

TESTIMONY ON HB 104

**PROPOSING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT RELATING TO THE CONSERVATION,
CONTROL AND DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES.**

Room 325

8:30 AM

Chair Evans, Vice Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committee:

I am Dean Okimoto, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,950 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF has grave concerns about the potential impact of a constitutional amendment to protect and conserve game animals. We believe that serious consideration must be given to adequately balance competing interests with regard to a future protected status of feral sheep, deer, pigs, and other "invasive" animals. While we understand there is interest in the hunting of game animals for food and for sport, it is well recognized that:

- game animals severely damage the watershed upon which all of us rely for water.
- farmers and ranchers have been negatively impacted by game animals that eat their way through entire crops and compete with their livestock for grass on pasture lands. As an example, we would like to point out the damage to farms and ranches on Maui caused by axis deer.
- game animals foraging on farms and ranches could spread disease and trigger demerits under food safety standards that could prevent a farmer from selling his crop.
- endangered species are threatened where game animals destroy their forest habitat.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

lowen1-Kyli

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2013 9:56 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: duluay@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB104 on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM

HB104

Submitted on: 1/24/2013

Testimony for WAL on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donn Yanagisawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of saving all wild game animals on public land for recreational hunting and being able to use these animals as a food source. I feel that this will also give us the opportunity to teach the younger generations to hunt as well as to conserve these animals for future generations. Hawaii is one of the only states left that does not have any type of state run game management to keep sustainable numbers up for consumption. Please protect the wild game as they are part of our culture and diet.

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Shaping the future for birds

House Committee on Water and Land
325 State Capital
Hawai'i State House
Honolulu, Hawai'i

24 January 2013

Dear Chairwoman Evans and other board members,

The American Bird Conservancy very strongly opposes HB 104, "Proposing a constitutional amendment relating to the conservation, control and development of resources." Hawaiian forests are internationally renowned for their unique and precious native species. One of the biggest threats to Hawaiian forests is the destructive impacts of non-native game mammals. Governor Abercrombie has recognized this with his "Rain Follows the Forest" initiative, and directed the Department of Lands and Natural Resources to protect forests and watersheds from these damaging mammals. Numerous scientific studies have shown that Hawaiian forests and their native animals and plants are especially susceptible to damage from non-native ungulates, such as pigs, sheep, goats, and deer. Your proposed changes to the Hawai'i State constitution are diametrically opposed to what is needed to protect Hawai'i's natural beauty and resources. Hawai'i is the bird extinction capital of the world, and the legislature and constitution should be increasing the protection of its native species, those found nowhere else in the world, not seeking to protect the game animals that are destroying the State's irreplaceable natural beauty.

The State already has the authority to administer public hunting and game management on state lands, a constitutional amendment is unnecessary. There is sufficient state land for public hunting and game management, and the State's lands need to be managed for other cultural and biological values. These game animals are renowned for their rapid population increases, and their populations can quickly explode out of control, destroying Hawaiian ecosystems for future generations. The axis deer on Maui and Moloka'i, the mouflon on Mauna Kea, the goats in Hawai'i Volcanoes – these game species are all known to cause dramatic damage to Hawai'i. These animals must be managed responsibly, and the State is attempting to do so and protect its unique biological treasures at numerous sites through control and removal of these non-native ungulates. The American Bird Conservancy has many programs focused in Hawai'i, and we are supporting and cooperating with the State on forest restoration and habitat protection, including the removal of these ecosystem-destroying ungulates on Maui and the Big Island, and looking for additional opportunities to increase our efforts. The State's difficult and expensive task of protecting Hawaiian biodiversity should be supported by the legislature, not undermined. Enshrining game animals in the constitution prioritizes these injurious species above the native species of Hawai'i, above the watershed services, and above the needs of Hawai'i's citizens. **The proposed constitutional amendment is NOT in the best interests of the people of Hawai'i, please vote AGAINST this bill.**

Aloha,

George E. Wallace, Ph.D.
Vice President, Oceans & Islands Division
gwallace@abcbirds.org
540-253-5780

lowen1-Kyli

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2013 6:42 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: Jsi808.300@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB104 on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM*

HB104

Submitted on: 1/24/2013

Testimony for WAL on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Imamura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife

HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2013

COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
Rep. Cindy Evans, Chair
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair

Friday, January 25, 2013
8:30 a.m., Conference Room 325, State Capitol

HOUSE BILL NO. 104
Proposing a Constitutional Amendment Relating to the Conservation, Control, and
Development of Resources

Chair Evans, Vice Chair Lowen, and members of the committee, my name is Linda Paul and I am testifying today in behalf of the 2,500 members of the Hawaii Audubon Society. The Hawaii Audubon Society is dedicated to the protection and restoration of native ecosystems and conservation of natural resources through education, science and advocacy in Hawaii and the Pacific. We are opposed to HB 104, which proposes to amend Article XI, section 2 of Hawaii's Constitution to add non-native game animals to the list of natural resources that the Constitution mandates the State conserve and protect. Game animals are not natural resources of the State of Hawaii. In fact, they destroy Hawaii's natural resources.

It is common knowledge that grazing axis deer have turned most of the island of Lanai and the western portion of Molokai into barren landscapes, which produce clouds of dust that smother corals on offshore reefs. Unfortunately they have also been illegally transported by hunters to Maui and Big Island, where they now threaten native forests there.

Haleakala National Park had to be completely fenced off at great taxpayer expense to protect the native silver sword from wild pigs. On the other side of the fence the once lush native habitat has been reduced to plowed fields by the rooting of these animals. Wild pigs have now become so numerous that they are showing up in Manoa neighborhoods.

Alien Mouflon sheep still browse on mamane trees on the slopes of Mauna Kea; these trees are critical to the survival of the endangered Palila bird. Despite a federal court order issued in the late 1970s the State has still not eradicated these sheep from the mamane forest.

This past week DLNR announced that it is proposing to designate 376 acres of windward Oahu as a natural area reserve to help preserve four rare native plants in the Kaluanui forest area that "are perilously close to extinction from the impacts of invasive plants and animals." The invasive animals that are threatening those plants are pigs and goats -- barnyard animals that are now considered game animals and which HB 104 mandates be given constitutional protection.

Sustainable management of game animals is not a new concept. The State has been engaging in this type of game animal management for decades through hunting licenses, bag limits and open and closed seasons. The result has been disastrous. Populations of game animals have proliferated and are out of control. They have destroyed watersheds, agricultural crops, and homeowners' gardens. The legislature should direct DLNR to enact rules that eliminate bag limits and closed seasons for all game animals. Barnyard animals need to be confined to barnyards. Alien sheep and deer need to be removed from all of our remaining native forests and confined to game preserves located in unused pasture lands that are surrounded by high fences.

Please do not pass HB 104. Thank you.

Linda M. B. Paul
President
808-262-6859

lowen1-Kyli

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2013 10:13 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: lisandonn@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB104 on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM

HB104

Submitted on: 1/24/2013

Testimony for WAL on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Yanagisawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of HB 104 as I feel that game animals on state lands are a precious resource that should be managed and conserved by the State. Many people use these animals as an important food source and especially in a struggling economy, being able to live off the land by hunting and fishing is important to many families on the island. There should be a system in place to sustain these animals so that we may perpetuate our culture by continuing to teach our keiki the importance of conserving our wildlife while still being able to respectfully live off the land.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2013 6:53 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: matthoeflinger@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB104 on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM

HB104

Submitted on: 1/24/2013

Testimony for WAL on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matt Hoeflinger	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support a sustainable food source for the people of Hawaii.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2013 6:10 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: shansford@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB104 on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM

HB104

Submitted on: 1/24/2013

Testimony for WAL on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sam hansford	Individual	Support	No

Comments: game animals are a resource for my family, a resource that put low cost meat on the table. it is also a teaching tool to teach our young responsability, surrviavals skills and nature. without these animals (resources) none of this will be possible. saqm hansford

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January 24, 2013

**TESTIMONY
COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND**

Rep. Cindy Evans, Chair
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair

TESTIMONY ON HB 104
PROPOSING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT RELATING TO THE CONSERVATION,
CONTROL AND DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES.
Room 325
8:30 AM

Chair Evans, Vice Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee:

Maui County Farm Bureau on behalf of our commercial farm and ranch families and organizations working to increase Hawaii's level of self sufficiency, opposes HB104 proposing a Constitutional Amendment protecting game animals for future generations.

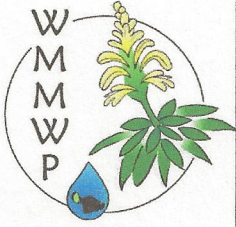
While the intent of this measure may be laudable, the unintended consequences of this initiative challenges our ability to provide basic food and fiber critical to our State's self-sufficiency. The measure advocates that the intent is to promote self sufficiency, yet numerous examples across the State show feral animals to create significant problems reducing farm and ranch viability. Without farm and ranch viability increased self sufficiency will not be possible. Game hunters do not provide food for the average consumer struggling to meet daily expenses. We must be pragmatic when we seek to identify implementation steps to self sufficiency.

Feral animals are out of control and the State has not demonstrated an ability to bring their populations under control. On Maui and Molokai, crops are destroyed, livestock feed eaten, public safety threatened and sale of crops threatened due to feces on crops impacting food safety. Additionally, ranchers spend significant time repairing fences and farmers repairing drip tubing destroyed by deer.

Deer damage grapevines at Tedeschi vineyards – it will take time for vines to regrow so grapes can be harvested.



Hard decisions need to be made. Recreational hunting is a privilege. Increasing Hawaii's capacity for self sufficiency has been identified as a State priority. Maui County Farm Bureau respectfully requests your support in opposing this measure. If there are questions, please contact Warren Watanabe at 2819718. Thank you.



West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership

January 23, 2013

H.B. 104
PROPOSING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT RELATING TO THE
CONSERVATION, CONTROL AND DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES.

&

H.B. 105
RELATING TO WILDLIFE RESOURCES.

COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Friday, January 25

Aloha Legislators,

The West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership opposes H.B. 104 & H.B. 105 and we urge the legislature to carefully consider the broader implications of the language found in these two bills. Although the conservation of the state's wild game resources is important to the enjoyment of Hawaii's people, it is also critical that game be managed in ways which do not upset the ability of the land to support them, only be conducted in appropriate areas and kept out of many state and private lands which serve a higher purpose as watersheds. Great and often permanent harm can result from the proliferation of wild game in Hawaii's fragile native ecosystems and vital water recharge areas. Examples of this exist on the barren goat impacted slopes and the pig denuded wet forests prevalent across hundreds of thousands of acres of our islands. Perhaps Kaho'olawe's naked and eroded lands typifies what historically unmanaged landscapes can become and the extreme and costly efforts that are required to restore event the smallest forest patches once degraded by browsing animals.

Since their introduction to Hawaii, in the 1790's we have lost over half of our native forests to these and other invasive species. King Kalakaua ordered the protection of forests in 1879 and Hawaii has been trying to get ahead of the invasive game animal problem ever since and is still underfunded to fully accomplish the task. The Governor's "Rain Follows the Forest" seeks to increase the capacity of resource management to protect Hawaii's watersheds and water resources against the threat of invasive species including unchecked wild game animals.

Here in West Maui, as in 10 other watershed partnerships throughout the state, we have been working hard with limited resources to reverse the degradation caused by wild game on state and private lands. These lands are far more important to our people as pristine watersheds and we rely on them for water resources which quench the thirst of all our people through residential, agricultural, and business uses.

Clearly wild game management is needed, but implementation must safeguard watershed areas and only permit wild game in areas which can handle the stress. Game

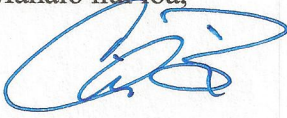
West Maui Mountains
Watershed Partnership
P.O. Box 13240
Lahaina, Hawai'i
96761
Phone (808) 661-6600
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Watershed Partners

County of Maui
Dept. of Land &
Natural Resources
General Finance
Group, Inc.
Ka'anapali Land
Company, LLC
Kahoma Land, LLC
Kamehameha Schools
Makila Land Co., LLC
Maui County
Department of Water
Supply
Maui Land &
Pineapple
Company Inc
Wailuku Water Co.
LLC
The Nature
Conservancy

management areas must also consider appropriate herd sizes which do not exceed the capacity of the land to carry the related stress. This is both important to the preservation of the herd and lands on which the game relies. This will be a considerable challenge which is currently being addressed under the Powers and programs present within the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Mahalo nui loa,



Christopher N. Brosius
Program Manager