



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1901 HD1
House Finance Committee
February 21, 2014, 12:00pm
By Inga Gibson, Hawaii Senior State Director
The Humane Society of the United States-Hawaii**

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States-Hawaii office, we respectfully urge your SUPPORT of House Bill 1901. This bill would allow the state to become a member of the national law enforcement network known as the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact. We are in continued contact with DLNR and have offered any assistance with their becoming a member of this important Compact, including if necessary, an extended effective date of January 1, 2015, to work out any administrative issues.

Wildlife officials estimate that nationally tens of millions of animals are poached each year. Poaching is a serious problem and far more often than not, poaching activity remains undetected and poachers go unpunished for their crimes. In fact, it is estimated that despite the tireless efforts of game wardens and wildlife protection officers, a mere one to five percent of poachers are ever apprehended by law enforcement.

Poachers exploit wildlife and callously disregard the laws that protect it. They steal from legitimate sportsmen and wildlife watchers. Adequate penalties are imperative for deterring illegal hunting activity. An important component of any law enforcement effort, including one that protects wildlife, is enforcement reciprocity with other states. This truth has already been realized by the **47 states that have passed the legislation necessary to join the compact. These states report that there is little if any fiscal impact as the database containing this information is free to access for state wildlife personnel, who are members of the Compact.**

Modeled after the equally successful Driver's License Compact, the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact was first developed back in the early 1990s. If enacted in Hawaii, it would prevent wildlife violators who have lost their hunting, trapping, or fishing privileges in member states from coming to Hawaii to circumvent those license revocations.

Enacting the compact would also ensure that those who have been punished with license revocations for illegal hunting, fishing, or trapping in Hawaii can't avoid their punishment by engaging in those activities in another member state.

In addition, if a nonresident violates wildlife laws in a member state, the compact streamlines the citation process which conserves valuable law enforcement time and court system resources. Without the compact, a nonresident violator is required to immediately post collateral or a bond to secure appearance for a trial at a later date, or is taken into custody until the collateral or bond is posted, or is taken directly to court for an immediate appearance. Under the compact, the wildlife officer treats the nonresident like a resident and where appropriate can issue a citation and release the person on personal recognizance and they can comply with the terms of the citation just as a resident would. The possibility of losing their license if they fail to comply with the terms of the citation serves as the incentive to comply, just as it would for resident lawbreakers.

Over the past two decades, states across the country have become members of the compact, and today only 3 states have yet to pass the legislation required to join. These 3 states, including Hawaii, are unable to reap the benefits of a commonsense and successful law enforcement tool enjoyed by other member states. No state deserves to be a safe haven for lawbreakers and joining the compact would end Hawaii's status as a hunting destination for out-of-state wildlife criminals.

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States and our supporters in Hawaii, I strongly urge your support of HB 1901 HD1.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. Please also see below Resolution #2011 of support from the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

RESOLUTION #2011

**LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE SUPPORT FOR
WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT**

WHEREAS, the National Association of Conservation Law enforcement Chiefs recognizes the Wildlife Violator Compact as a significant tool to be utilized by fish and wildlife agencies to discourage the unlawful taking of our States' fish and wildlife resources; and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife Violator Compact is instrumental in assisting in the protection of every State's fish and wildlife resources, by discouraging interstate violator movement; and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife Violator Compact enhances the efficiency of wildlife enforcement officers by allowing for the issuance of citations to non-residents, rather than arrest; and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife Violator Compact has been joined by the states of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, the greatest success of this fish and wildlife protection tool is predicated on full participation in all aspects of the Wildlife Violator Compact by all fifty states.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the *International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies* supports and encourages membership and participation in the Wildlife Violator Compact by all fifty states.

**International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
at its
101th Annual Convention
Omaha, Nebraska
September 13, 2011**



Hawaii Rifle Association

State Affiliate of the National Rifle Association
Founded in 1857

February 19, 2014

Testimony on HB 1901, HD1 Relating to Wildlife
Before FIN, Friday, February 21, 2014, 12pm, Rm 308

IN SUPPORT

HRA supports this measure to counter interstate poaching. Poaching is theft, not only of game animals, but via loss of federal Pittman-Robertson funds distributed to the states partly based on the number of hunting licenses sold. Poachers don't bother to buy a license. Some can't, because they are convicted felons with firearms. Hawaii should be sharing enforcement information with the mainland.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HRA.

Dr. Maxwell Cooper,
HRA Legislative Liaison
macooper.1941@gmail.com
225-6944

finance1

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 5:42 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: voggymtn@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1901 on Feb 21, 2014 12:00PM*

HB1901

Submitted on: 2/20/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 21, 2014 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Willie-Joe Camara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 7:40 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: wekeis333@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1901 on Feb 21, 2014 12:00PM*

HB1901

Submitted on: 2/20/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 21, 2014 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tony Sylvester	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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Cc: morrislures@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1901 on Feb 21, 2014 12:00PM*



HB1901

Submitted on: 2/20/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 21, 2014 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nick Morris	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Friday, February 21, 2014
12:00 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 308

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1901, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO WILDLIFE**

House Bill 1901, House Draft 1, proposes to create an “Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact” task force within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), which would examine the feasibility of Hawaii’s participation in the Compact. Compacts are voluntary formal interstate agreements among states, and are not federally initiated. **The Department supports the intent of this bill.**

The majority of the other 49 states have enacted legislation for this compact, whereby lawbreakers who have lost their hunting, fishing, or trapping licenses in one state (e.g. due to poaching) would also lose their ability to hunt, fish, or trap in other member states within the Compact agreement for the same duration.

Implementation of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact in Hawaii would involve the co-operation and coordination of three divisions within the Department: Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement, Division of Aquatic Resources, and Division of Forestry and Wildlife, as well as input from other stakeholders. Some small amount of funding would be needed in order to properly coordinate and establish the system within Hawaii. If implemented, a single point in law enforcement would input local data and derive data from the national database.

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

ESTHER KIA’AINA
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
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

LATE