

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
WATER & LAND**

**Wednesday, January 29, 2014
9:45 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1902
RELATING TO HUNTING**

House Bill 1902 proposes to prohibit any net reduction of public hunting area on each island, and requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to make comparable land available for hunting upon making land unavailable for hunting. **The Department appreciates the intent of this bill but has concerns that it would be impractical to implement and may have unintended consequences. The Department provides the following comments on this bill.**

The Department has concerns that the requirements imposed by the bill may be impractical or impossible to achieve. Many of the state's most important public hunting areas are managed through voluntary cooperative agreements with private landowners, or through agreements with other governmental agencies. The Department does not necessarily have control over areas that a landowner may choose to withdraw from such agreements. Similarly, the Department may be required to restrict or close areas to comply with court orders, to protect public safety, or to manage wildlife disease outbreaks. In such cases, securing comparable lands to replace those lost may not be possible.

In addition to managing public hunting areas, the Department is mandated to manage lands for the protection of natural and cultural resources that provide vital environmental and economic benefits to the people of Hawaii. Control of game mammals in certain areas is an essential management tool for that purpose. Restricting the Department's ability to carry out those responsibilities will result in loss of watershed yield and function, damage to native ecosystems, sedimentation and damage to near shore fisheries and marine environments, and may result in lawsuits resulting from take of endangered species.

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

The Department is committed to enhancing public hunting and increasing hunting opportunities. Statewide, 900,000 acres of public hunting lands are available, with over 700,000 acres on Hawaii Island alone. This constitutes a large proportion of the approximately 1,000,000 acres managed by the Division of Forestry and Wildlife statewide. Acreages of public hunting areas are increasing, not decreasing. In the past decade, more than 17,000 acres of new hunting opportunities have been added to the Division's managed lands and an additional approximately 28,000 acres are in the process of being added. In addition, the Department has included a request for \$750,000 in general funds for the public hunting program. Those funds will be used to directly benefit the approximately 11,500 licensed hunters in Hawaii through improved game management and to continue the Department's public hunting access and acquisitions program.

The Department is actively and successfully pursuing net increases in public hunting areas but urges the committee to consider that this measure may be impossible to comply with and that support for the administration's budget request for the hunting program will provide a more productive means to achieve the desired goal.



***To Protect & Promote
Sustainable Public
Hunting in Hawaii***

Testimony from The Hawaii Hunting Association

Committee on Water & Land

Wednesday January 29, 2014, 9:30am

Supporting H.B. 1902

Relating to Hunting HB1902

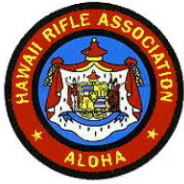
The Hawaii Hunting Association supports with Reservation H.B. 1902 because of the dates of implementation. We ask that the date of implementation be immediate and that the dates of affected hunting areas be those that existed as of January 1, 2014.

We see many positives that could result from such a requirement. No net loss mandates would encourage a more positive interaction with the affected forest use communities.

Sustainable yields of game animal and consumptive plant resources and watershed protection are compatible goals of effective management. It's time that a mechanism for establishing such cooperation be implemented for the benefit of our resources and their users.

Thank you for your time in consideration of our requested amendments to HB 1902.

Tom Lodge
Hawaii Hunting Association.



Hawaii Rifle Association

State Affiliate of the National Rifle Association
Founded in 1857

January 28, 2014

Testimony on HB 1902
Before WAL, Wednesday, January 29, 2014, Rm 325, 9:45am
IN SUPPORT

Hon. Chair and Members,

HRA supports preservation and expansion of public hunting areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Hawaii Rifle Association.

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

lowen2-Lanaly

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 2:34 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: yonedak001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kent yoneda	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: I support HB1902, local hunters are losing areas to be able to hunt

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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Before the House Committee on Water and Land

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Conference Room 325, 9:45 a.m.

Re: Support for HB 1902, with Amendment

Chair Cindy Evans, Vice Chair Nicole E. Lowen, and Committee Members:

I am a resident of Maui and a sport hunter. I support HB 1902, with amendment, because it will help maintain hunting areas for the public to use for subsistence, recreation, and environmental management.

Hunting on public lands is an important component of Hawaiian culture worthy of being passed on to all residents of the State of Hawaii. It also provides an opportunity for hunters to provide food for their families which otherwise might not be affordable to all of them. The act of hunting, regardless of whether game is actually harvested, is a form of recreation that helps promote the health of participants and respect for the natural environment. In addition, hunting helps maintain a healthy environmental balance between land and wild animals.

On the island of Maui, the rapidly growing population of Axis deer increasingly poses an economic and health hazard to farmers and motorists. Allowing hunters access to land where the deer herds live helps maintain an environmental balance at little or no cost to the State of Hawaii.

I hunt wild boar. Every time I hunt I observe firsthand the damage that one wild pig does to native plants, birds, and other animals as well as to agricultural land. Without a natural predator, hunters help keep the wild boar population in check, again at little or no cost to the State of Hawaii.

For the preservation of the Hawaiian culture, and to provide opportunities for subsistence harvests, recreation, and environmental management, hunters must have access to the land where the deer and wild boar populations thrive. HB 1902 is a big step towards ensuring this access for the future.

Proposed Amendment:

In the interest of humane treatment of all wild game and for the safety of hunters, I wish to raise for your consideration an amendment to HB 1902. Current hunting regulations limit the means of harvest carried by an individual hunter to only one weapon.¹ From my personal experience, this means that if I hunt with bow and arrow, I may not carry a long knife or other backup weapon. Similarly, when I hunt with a long knife or spear, I may not carry another long knife, spear, or pistol as a backup weapon.

There are a number of areas in Hawaii's hunting regulations which warrant updating to reflect changes in technology and safe hunting practices. From experience, I know that amending Hawaii Administrative Rules can be a slow process. In the immediate interest of humane treatment of wild game and of hunter safety, however, I propose a clause be added to the Hawaii Revised Statutes to remove any limit on the number of weapons or means of harvest carried on or employed by a hunter as long as the weapons are consistent with the most lethal means allowed in that area. This might be accomplished by modifying HRS §183D-3 to read as follows:

§183D-3 Rules. Subject to chapter 91, the department shall adopt, amend, and repeal rules:

- (1) Concerning the preservation, protection, regulation, extension, and utilization of, and conditions for entry into wildlife sanctuaries, game management areas, and public hunting areas designated by the department;
- (2) Protecting, conserving, monitoring, propagating, and harvesting wildlife;
- (3) Concerning size limits, bag limits, open and closed seasons, and specifications of hunting gear which may be used or possessed, **provided that there shall be no limitation on the number of weapons carried by a hunter**; and
- (4) Setting fees for activities permitted under this chapter, unless otherwise provided for by law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,


John W. Roberts

¹ HAR §13-123-22 (b) (2) states, "While hunting, each hunter shall be limited to carrying on their person only one legal firearm that is consistent with the hunt. (Emphasis added.) However, a hunter may carry another hunter's unloaded firearm in addition to his own unloaded firearm in close proximity to the other hunter. In addition, each hunter is required to make their weapon, cartridges or muzzleloader firing components, game and license available for inspection, upon the request of a duly authorized representative of the department. Refusal to permit said inspection shall be considered a game law violation and may result in the revocation of hunting privileges by the department, after notice and hearing." Inquiries of State of Hawaii biologists have confirmed that this restriction is extended to all weapons or means of harvesting wild game. As a result, a hunter may not carry a backup weapon to humanely dispatch a wounded animal or protect him or herself in the event that his or her primary weapon malfunctions.

lowen2-Lanaly

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2014 4:10 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: topknotchlawns@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
moses keola toledo	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: It's amazing how people that have grown up doing things that bring food to there tables are being limited and sometimes completely stopped from providing for there families they way they learned and were taught. Because of people in positions are uneducated in the field if conservation. We as hawaii citizens should be able to have places to gather and provide for our families the way we learned and were taught how our family before us did. They way they knew how it's a shame to see these resources taken away because of lack of education or lack of the ability to want to learn. Poor management is like no management and with that being said , make a change for the better of future not for the worse.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2014 5:54 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: chadmata84@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM*

HB1902

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
chad mata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2014 2:33 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: nanihawaii@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
nani pogline	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Committee on Water And Land, 1/29/14 9am hearing, measure HB1902: On behalf of myself and my entire family of 9, we strongly support this measure. If anything, hunting lands should be increased. This is a critical right and opportunity that should not be denied to the public.

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I strongly support HB 1902 to keep current public hunting land available for public hunting.

I would also like to request that the hunting areas considered for no net loss be hunting areas listed in HRS 183D as of January 1, 2014.

In a recent article addressing the controversial American Jungle series, Gov. Neil Abercrombie stated, "Hunting serves important historical, cultural and practical roles in Hawaii. When guided by lawful and ethical hunting practices, hunting supports worthy conservation objectives in protection of native species and habitats against invasive and destructive elements."

Based on this statement by our Governor and DLNR publicly supporting subsistence public hunting, a message and bill to protect our public hunting opportunities should be in place. The current trend of our hunting acreage is removing public access from public lands through mass fencing projects and renaming of these areas and prohibiting access indefinitely. This bill is not about protecting non-native species or ungulates (like the opposition may state); this bill is about protecting hunting access and overall public access to public lands.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,

-Ryan Kohatsu

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 2:26 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: ilojerry@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jerry Ilo		Support	No

Comments: Aloha, My name is Jerry Ilo, I am a lifetime outdoorsman. In addition to that I am a State of Hawaii Hunters Ed. Program Volunteer Instructor and Archery Coach at Leilehua High school as well as a owner of a business that caters to Hunters and Shooting enthusiasts. I strongly urge you to pass this bill. Hunting serves a needed service to the Environment, and helps to supplement many families diets in these hard economic times. Not only that but Hunting is a wholesome Family activity passed down from generation to generation. Contrary to what many believe Sport Hunting has never lead to the dangerous reduction of any species and in turn has HELPED many endangered species. Mahalo, Jerry Ilo

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 6:40 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: dgh70@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Hanners	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Public access to public lands is so very important for our freedom as a people. Please continue support for our future public access and the generations to come, protect our historic access and assure the future.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 7:36 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: manueliv1990@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
manuel soares iv	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support bill HB1902 in order to keep public hunting land available. I believe hunting is a strong cultural up bringing for future generations in Hawaii of gathers and suppliers for our family's. In a recent article addressing the controversial American Jungle series, Gov. Neil Abercrombie stated, "Hunting serves important historical, cultural and practical roles in Hawaii. When guided by lawful and ethical hunting practices, hunting supports worthy conservation objectives in protection of native species and habitats against invasive and destructive elements." A bill should strongly be put in place to protect our heritage and hunting in Hawaii. Thank you for your consideration

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 7:52 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: troy.samura@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM*

HB1902

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
troy samura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 8:40 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: reo9mm@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
russell ryan rudel	Individual	Support	No

Comments: THIS, is what we need for our children! So there will always be land/ area to hunt. Juss like back in the day. This bill is excellent!! Support support support!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 9:28 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: garrick_yamamoto@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
garrick yamamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I feel that this is needed for the fact that we should have a place to hunt we are paying money for state hunting licenses and yet I highly doubt the money is going back to the conversation of our hunting rights if there is land that is going to be closed we need have land that will be opened I feel that is only fair

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**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2014
STATE OF HAWAII**

H.B. NO.1902

To: The Hawaii State Legislature,
The Water & Land Committee

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1902

Subject: DLNR; Hunting; No Net Loss

Purpose: Prohibits any net reduction of public hunting area on each island. Requires the DLNR to make comparable land available for hunting upon making land unavailable for hunting. Requires the DLNR to submit an annual report. Effective 12/01/2014.

Summary: This is an important measure to the Hawai'i community in that it ensures continued access for hunting and gathering opportunities on public lands for all the people of Hawai'i. By passing this measure we will be able to continue improving the "quality of life" of the people of Hawai'i. By allowing them to benefit from the public lands in activates that contribute to good health and well-being.

Signature: _____



Date: 1/27/2014

Address: PO Box 5535

Email: paul.buelmann@gmail.com

lowen2-Lanaly

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 10:23 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: tcuyo@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tyrel Cuyo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB 1902 to keep current public hunting land available for public hunting. I would also like to request that the hunting areas considered for no net loss be hunting areas listed in HRS 183D as of January 1, 2014.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 12:23 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: sschoppenhorst@juno.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
scott schoppenhorst	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am not a resident of Hawaii but spend a few month a year here on the Big Island.along with several friends, family members and others . Part of what we come for is the opportunity to hunt and view game on public lands, we also contribute a fare amount of revenue to local businesses. The loss of public hunting grounds and the eradication of the supposed invasive wildlife has made most of us think maybe of new places to go and not come to Hawaii.....at one point every living thing on this island is/was invasive...how do you judge? I am in total support of this bill and hope to see no reduction in public hunt lands and opportunities.

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From: Webmail bhnr <bhnr@isp.com>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 12:34 PM
To: waltestimony
Subject: #1902

Hello,

I would like to show my support for #1902, we need to maintain our hunting heritage and rights (or priviledges) Keep an equal amount of land set aside without slowly diminishing acreage.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Leo A Millan

January 24, 2014

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 1902. No net loss.

**Representatives Evans and Lowen,
Chair and Vice chair of Water and Land committee.**

I would like to submit testimony in support of HB 1902," No Net Loss" on behalf of our club. Hui Kuahiwi is a club made up of members which includes three generations of avid and concerned conservationists.

Hunting is conservation and utilizing our game animals as a tool to help manage our public lands including our native species is sound management. Hunting has a deep and rich history on our island and if nothing is done to support this tradition we lose much more than the ability to feed ourselves. We increase the risk of also losing our native habitat.

Supporting HB 1902 makes good sense and is a win-win for everyone concerned about our public lands. It shows commitment on the part of the community, our law makers and the environmentalist. No Net Loss has proven to be extremely successful in other states.

HB 1902 does not indicate anyone choosing sides. It shows that our law makers understand and support the value of balance. It is our responsibility to our keiki that we lead by example that giving and taking is part of life and HB 1902 is a perfect example.

Thank you,



Colin Onaka
President: Hui Kuahiwi- The Club
75-5620 Mamalahoa Highway
Holualoa, HI 96725
808-960-7373

HAWAII SPORTSMEN ALLIANCE

SUPPORTING H.B. 1902

RELATING TO HUNTING/NO NET LOSS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2014, 9:45AM, ROOM 325

The Hawaii Sportsmen Alliance strives for balanced conservation and wise use of all our natural resources.

<http://www.hawaiisportsmensalliance.com/>

I strongly support HB1902: No net loss of public hunting areas.

I have been an avid hunter for years and have seen the continual degradation of both public hunting lands and game animals available for hunting. Previous available hunting lands are rapidly being re-named and re-designated as forest reserves, natural area reserves, and critical habitat. Once this happens animals are completely eradicated from these areas and public access is eliminated.

With this new trend of the decline and destruction of game animals and the removal of public hunting areas; the sport of hunting will also decline and soon be a thing of the past.

Therefore, I respectfully urge you to also support this bill to help ensure our hunting areas and the sport of hunting in Hawaii will be preserved for future generations.

Sincerely,
Travis Figueira
Member, Hawaii Sportsmen Alliance
Honolulu, HI

HAWAII SPORTSMEN ALLIANCE

SUPPORTING H.B. 1902

RELATING TO HUNTING/NO NET LOSS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2014, 9:45AM, ROOM 325

*The Hawaii Sportsmen Alliance strives for balanced conservation and wise use of all
our natural resources.*

<http://www.hawaiisportsmensalliance.com/>

The Hawaii Sportsmen Alliance does so support HB1902. Hunting is just one of our most cherished outdoor activities second only to fishing here in Hawaii. We are losing much of our designated hunting areas due to preservation projects such as watershed protection and critical habitat designations. HB1902 can insure that not all our public lands will fall into "no use".

Please join us in support of HB1902.

Mahalo,

David B. Toyomura
5 Malihini Pl.
Wailuku Hi. 96793

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

January 29, 2014, 9:45 A.M.
(*Testimony is 1 page long*)

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 1902

Aloha Chair Evans and Members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i, with over 12,000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, *opposes* HB 1902. This measure requires a one-for-one trade: for every acre of land protected for natural resources, an equal amount of land must be set aside for hunting.

The Sierra Club strongly believes we can have *both* adequate public hunting areas and protection of Hawai'i's amazing and unique natural resources. Too often we slip into an "either/or" discussion. And, when that happens, protection of natural resources typically loses. Hawai'i is known as the endangered species capitol of the world, largely because of a lack of vigorous protection, and now much of our precious cultural and natural heritage is disappearing before our eyes.



The rationale for balance also comes from smart land use planning. As the photo above demonstrates ungulates can overgraze our natural vegetation, thus leading to massive erosion problems. This erosion eliminates our source of drinking water as well as causes sediment to settle on our coral reefs.

We encourage this Committee to find a better solution. Hawai'i can have adequate public hunting areas and protect critically threatened habitat reserves from the impacts of invasive species. We can achieve both goals without having to resort to an eye-for-an-eye approach.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

lowen2-Lanaly

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 2:10 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: susan@schouinard.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Chouinard	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hunting areas should not be reduced - subsistence hunting is alive and well here on the Big Island, and helps keep invasive ungulates under control without unnecessary waste. Reducing hunting area will result in economic hardship for many families as well as have a negative impact on many other local businesses that support hunting selling supplies and services. I support this bill.

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To: waltestimony
Cc: d_wamar@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dustin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill given the fact enough land has been taken from us hunters and gatherers already. Enough is enough! And what a coincidence it is that all areas that are being fenced and eradicated are prime hunting and gathering areas. The local people have been living on these islands along with all the ungulates marked for eradication for decades! A lot of people live off the land and feed their family's with the animals and from the areas which are now fenced and where game has been eliminated. Take away our lands and game animals and what do you get? With the number of people unemployed you'll have family's starve, leading to crime or robbery, ultimately leading to people killing eachother over food because they can't just go to the mountain to go and get it. We need these lands and animals for the survival of the local people now and for generations to come. Not everyone can dish out hundreds of dollars every week to feed their family

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To: waltestimony
Cc: pono.cann@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pono G. Cann	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support HB 1902. Removing public land from hunters destroys generations of passed down hunting in the islands. Replacing areas with preservation with comperable areas for regular people to hunt makes a "Fair" Tic for Tac so to speak! Us small people dont have orgizations with grants and nothing but time to take off and testify. Please pass HB 1902. For the small people with no voices.

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Testimony of the Game Management Advisory Commission
Supporting H.B. 1902
Committee on Water & Land
Relating to Hunting No Net Loss
Wednesday, January 29, 2014, 9:45am room 325

The Hawaii Game Management Advisory Commission (GMAC) was instituted in 2012 to advise County, State, and Federal agencies on matters relating to the preservation of subsistence hunting and fishing, as well as the protection of traditional and cultural gathering rights.

We respectfully request that HB1902 be amended to reflect an Act date of January 1, 2014.

Hunting has played a crucial roll in a sustainable lifestyle for many families in our State. Hunting is a generational activity and an important foundation for good quality time with family and friends, a source of good exercise and a way of preserving culture and traditions. Economically speaking hunters contribute approximately \$36 million annually to our communities through the purchase of hunting gear, equipment, license, fees, food, fuel, off road vehicles and other associated expenses related to hunting. One other very important service hunters provide is keeping game animal populations in check within designated hunting areas at little cost to the State. If you visit any designed hunting area you will see managed levels of game with little to no impact on the environment. Where animals present a potential problem you will find that hunting is not permitted. These areas for one reason or another are rarely if at all open for hunting. It is very frustrating to see good quality game out of reach of hunters to only be eradicated and left to rot.

The Rain Follows The Forest Watershed Protection Plan will severally impact game and cultural hunting practices in Hawaii. We respect the ten year objectives of the Watershed Protection Plan that will double the area that is currently protected. Unfortunately the one hundred year plan and associated map of priority watershed protection areas will encompass all our vegetative lands. At this rate there will be little to no land available for hunting. Will there be a future for hunting in Hawaii?

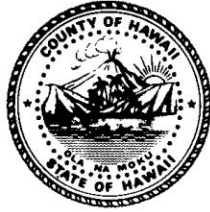
In all verity, we would like to see that any further acreage set aside for Watershed Protection or preservation projects by DLNR or related agencies require equal and comparable land to be established for hunting.

For these reasons the Hawaii County Game Management Advisory Commission resolutely support HB1902.

Mahalo,

Tony Sylvester, Chairman
Hawaii County Game Management Advisory Commission

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Walter K.M. Lau
Managing Director

Randall M. Kurohara
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy., Bldg. C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

January 29, 2014

The Honorable Cindy Evans, Chair
And Members of the House Committee on
Water and Land
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room, 325
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: House Bill 1902, RELATING TO HUNTING

Aloha, Chair Evans and Committee Members:

Mahalo for this opportunity to express our support of HB 1902, which seeks to preserve state lands set aside for the perpetuation of hunting in the State of Hawai'i.

The county's recently established Game Management Advisory Commission (GMAC) has identified this bill as key to the survival of hunting in Hawai'i. The nine members of this commission, all long-time outdoorsmen who represent the interests of Hawai'i's hunters, fishermen and others who enjoy Hawai'i's natural resources, have advised me that game management areas on the Island of Hawai'i are disappearing at alarming rates. HB 1902 requires that there be no net loss of these lands. This measure is ideal as it will protect the interests of Hawai'i's hunters, and give the state the flexibility to move suitable lands into game management status and unsuitable lands into conservation.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

William P. Kenoi
MAYOR

DENNIS "FRESH" ONISHI
Council Member
District 3



PHONE: (808) 961-8396
FAX: (808) 961-8912
EMAIL: donishi@co.hawaii.hi.us

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

January 27, 2014

The Honorable Cindy Evans, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Water and Land

Dear Representative Evans and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 1902. I ask that its effective date be amended to January 1, 2014.

When the State makes decisions regarding the use of its limited land resources it should always keep in mind the importance of preserving hunting lands.

House Bill 1902 prevents the loss of acreage of public hunting areas by making other lands available on the affected island.

Currently there is no requirement for the State to make public land available for hunting should it close an existing parcel for any reason. House Bill 1902 ensures that hunting lands will be available on each island for the future.

I ask that your committee give full consideration to the recommendations of the Hawai'i County Game Management Advisory Commission, which was established by Charter amendment in 2012 to give county, state and federal agencies. The Commission strongly supports this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dennis Onishi'.

Dennis "Fresh" Onishi
Hawai'i County Council Member

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HB1902

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James S Kawasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB1902

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dwayne Mukai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am not a hunter but I feel that the rights of hunters have been severely overlooked. Land that can be used for hunting has been seriously reduced. In all fairness, going forward, any planned future reduction of hunting areas should include the opening of similar size areas for the purposes of hunting.

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HB1902

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
D'Armand Cook	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: brian@lkshawaii.com
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HB1902

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Cabreira	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB1902

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sanoe Sakata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: waltestimony
Cc: voggymtn@yahoo.com
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HB1901

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: I strongly support HB 1901.

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To: waltestimony
Cc: wjc3030@hawaiiintel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura A. Camara	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB1902. The only change I would recommend is that we not wait till 12-01-2014 for the bill to be put into play. It should start immediately after passing.

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HB1902

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Philip Heilesen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: SUPPORTING H.B. 1902 RELATING TO HUNTING/NO NET LOSS HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2014, 9:45AM, ROOM 325 My Name is Philip Heilesen of 66-1728 Kawaihae Rd. and I support bill H.B. 1902 Over the last 10 years the state has drastically reduced the amount of hunting lands in the islands (by several hundred thousand acres) and this is destroying the hunting tradition, culture and heritage of the islands. While many thousands of acres have been closed to hunting or are currently under eradication, very few lands have been opened up to the public for hunting. I support this bill because it insures that there will be lands available for hunting for our future generations and a continued food source in our very resource limited islands. Aloha, Philip Heilesen The Hawaii Sportsmen Alliance strives for balanced conservation and wise use of all our natural resources.

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HB1902

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Willie-Joe Camara	National Wild Turkey Federation	Support	No

Comments: The Volcano Island chapter of the NWTF strongly supports HB 1902 which will prohibit any net reduction of public hunting land's statewide. This Bill will ensure continued available public land's for hunting,gathering, and cultural opportunities for the people of Hawaii both present and future generations.

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To: waltestimony
Cc: daltonkaitoku_lucas@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dalton H.Y. Lucas-Camara	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB 1902. This will ensure available public land for both present and future generations of hunters and gatherer's to enjoy.

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REPRESENTATIVE CINDY EVANS, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, VICE-CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1902
RELATING TO HUNTING

January 29, 2014, 9:45 a.m.
Conference Room 325

Good morning Chair Evans, Vice-Chair Lowen, and members of the committee:

My name is David Lane Henkin, and I am an attorney with Earthjustice. We appreciate the opportunity to testify regarding House Bill 1902, which would prohibit any net reduction of public hunting area on each island.

We have no objection to the apparent intent of the bill – to ensure adequate hunting opportunities for Hawai‘i’s residents. We have serious concerns, however, about the way the bill seeks to accomplish that goal. Requiring the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to replace, acre-for-acre, any land that is made unavailable for hunting would drastically increase the cost of long overdue efforts to protect our irreplaceable native forests and the watersheds they protect from the devastating impacts of feral pigs, goats, sheep and other game mammals. In many cases, these vital conservation efforts take place in remote areas that, while nominally currently open to public hunting, are rarely used and accessed.

Because so much land is already set aside for hunting (over 900,000 acres statewide), DLNR may not always be able to acquire on the same island replacement land of equal or higher wildlife habitat, as HB 1902 demands. Conservation measures that are essential to prevent species extinctions, to protect watersheds so that future generations have adequate supplies of fresh water, or to provide recreational opportunities would be unable to go forward.

The Legislature should not impose on DLNR a mandate to replace every square inch of land withdrawn from hunting, regardless of the value of the land to actual hunters or the public benefit conferred by protecting the area from destruction by game mammals. Accordingly, we urge the committee to hold HB 1902.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

I, Alan Nakagawa, strongly support HB 1902 – No net loss of public hunting area. I have been a hunter on the Big Island for over 40 years and have witnessed the continued loss of hunting opportunities and areas. Large scale fencing projects throughout the island (especially in the Mauna Kea and Pohakuloa Training Areas) have not only eliminated large populations of animals but also prevents access. Loss of hunting areas with the opening of the new saddle road provided mitigation for loss of plant/wildlife habitat but no value or mitigation was awarded for the loss of hunting areas. As hunting areas are lost due to fencing, poor habitat management, or reduced game populations the demands on the remaining areas are greater causing poor hunting quality and dangerous situations. It is also important that hunting lands are not only equal in size but the quality of the habitat needs to be considered.

Once again I strongly support this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Testifier's name:

Alan Nakagawa
65-1156 Spencer Road
Kamuela Hawaii 96743

The Committee(s) to which the comments are directed:

Committee on Water and Land

The date and time of the hearing:

DATE: Wednesday, January 29, 2014
TIME: 9:45am
PLACE: Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Measure number.

HB 1902

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Opposing H.B. 1902 Relating to Hunting
House Committee on Water and Land
Wednesday, January 29, 2014, 9:45 AM, Room 325

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which life in these islands depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 35,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.

The Nature Conservancy opposes H.B. 1902.

We believe that a more effective solution than requiring a one-for-one acreage exchange would be to support the DLNR's programs to improve hunting access, including its supplemental budget requests for:

- **\$750,000 in general funds to match federal funds in support of programs and staff that improve access to those State lands already open to hunting as well as create hunting access to other appropriate non-state lands; and**
- **\$10,000,000 in general obligation bond funds to help purchase Central O'ahu lands that would include expanded hunting opportunities.**

While we agree that both native and introduced wildlife resources need to be wisely managed both for their benefits and, in some cases, for the risks they pose, we don't believe that a statutory directive requiring the Department of Land and Natural Resources to provide an absolute minimum acreage for public hunting areas is necessary or appropriate.

There are currently **more than 900,000 acres of public hunting areas** across the state managed by the DLNR's Division of Forestry and Wildlife. The State constitution, State statutes and administrative rules currently provide sufficient directive, authority, and process—including resource user and stakeholder participation—for managing wildlife, hunting and hunting areas in Hawai'i. Certainly, reasoned discussion and planning is important to determine where and how to manage both native and introduced wildlife, including significant areas for both enhanced game animal production for public use and enjoyment, as well as game animal removal for native species, habitat, watershed, public health, private property, and agricultural protection.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 9:11 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: akiraomik@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM*

HB1902

Submitted on: 1/28/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimo Sakata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: waltestimony
Cc: jktaxidermyhawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 1/28/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jon Katada	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please amend date to beginning of calendar year. Thank you

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To: waltestimony
Cc: matthoeflinger@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 1/28/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: Please support the local people trying to get by. Hunters have lost alot already and can't afford to lose any more. Thank you.

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CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR HAWAII'I

Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Water and Land
Wednesday, January 29, 2014 9:45 am Room 325
In Opposition to HB 1902 Relating to Hunting

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i opposes HB 1902, which legislates no net loss of hunting areas. Such policy is not in the public's best interest. It would hinder ongoing and necessary programs to protect native Hawaiian forests, watersheds, and habitat for unique, rare, and endangered Hawaiian plants and animals. We do not support sustained-yield mammal hunting in Hawaiian native forests, watersheds, and habitats.

HB 1902 is also unnecessary because there is no shortage of public hunting areas in Hawai'i with over 700,000 acres currently available on the Big Island and over 900,000 acres statewide. There are huge areas on the Big Island in which public hunting is not adequate to control the large numbers of feral pigs, goats, and sheep on the island. For example, large herds of feral goats graze along the highway and roadways of Kona and Kohala – a traffic incident and tragedy waiting to happen and an example of how public hunting alone cannot control the exploding populations of feral and game mammals on the Big Island. Feral sheep and mouflon by the hundreds, if not thousands, occur in critical habitat for the palila on Mauna Kea in spite of court orders to the State to remove all feral goats, sheep, and mouflon from palila critical habitat. Feral pigs are virtually everywhere unless they have been fenced out, including private yards, gardens, farms, ranches, and nurseries.

Our members include hunters and fishers. We support responsible game management in appropriate areas. We support fencing around appropriate hunting areas to restrict the range of feral and game mammals, and to reduce the damage they cause on public and private land. We support programs and public access to hunting areas that allow hunters to help remove feral and game mammals from sensitive native forests and watersheds. We support better game management in appropriate areas.

For decades, native forests were neglected. Most of them still are. A mere 10 percent of our native forests and watersheds is currently protected and managed. What does this mean for the remaining 90 percent? Slowly, funding and political will have resulted in a renewed commitment to manage our native forests for their highest and best use – watersheds, habitat for rare and endangered Hawaiian species, and recreational uses that do not involve incompatible feral and game mammals. Just because people may have hunted in native forests prior to their management as watersheds and important habitats, this does not mean these forests should continue to support introduced common feral and game mammals for hunting. Other areas are much more suitable for sustained-yield hunting, including forests and woodlands that are predominantly non-native in species.

Instead of bills, such as HB 1902, we recommend the following: 1) fund game management in appropriate areas; 2) require fencing around public hunting areas to reduce the damage caused by feral and game mammals, and resulting conflicts; 3) facilitate access to hunting areas and to areas where public hunting is needed as a management tool; and 4) explain to hunters that watersheds and native species habitat are the highest and best uses of our remaining and diminishing native forests. HB 1902 does not address the inherent conflicts that arise from maintaining introduced, continental feral and game mammals in native Hawaiian forests, watersheds, and ecosystems. Please oppose HB 1902 and instead make a positive difference for both the hunting community and the general public. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Marjorie Ziegler



Hawai'i's Voice for Wildlife – Ko Leo Hawai'i no na holoholona lohiu

Telephone/Fax 808.593.0255 • email: info@conservehi.org • web: www.conservehi.org

P.O. Box 2923 • Honolulu, HI 96802 • Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 220 • Honolulu, HI 96814

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Cc: lavaracer@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dean Foster	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Below are my previously submitted comments for the Puu Waawaa enclosure fencing proposal that summarize my support for hb 1902 and my reasoning. Cumulative effects of state of Hawaii ungulate fencing projects on acreage of public lands open to hunting: Recently DOFAW and other agencies (NPS) have been reducing the total number of acreage on Hawaii Island that is available to hunting. Past and planned large scale fencing projects have removed public lands that were historically utilized for hunting and other recreational uses (planned Pu'u Wa'a wa'a fences and existing forest bird sanctuary, NAR fences) and converted them into ungulate free enclosures for the purpose of conserving and protecting native species. In addition to fencing lands to eliminate ungulates, DOFAW currently (2013) utilizes aircraft shooters to reduce or eliminate the ungulate population within the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve and Game Management Area thus effectively removing this large tract of land from the public lands available to Hawaii citizens for hunting big game (goats, pigs, and sheep). This situation is frustrating to hunters as the area is both a "Game management Area" and palila critical habitat and it appears DOFAW can't accomplish both goals in the same place. The Natural Area Reserve system is also fencing their public lands to remove ungulates and is planning additional fences and ungulate removal operations in the near future (example Manuka). This would seem reasonable as the intended use of NARS lands is to preserve native species. However, some of the NARS public lands were historically utilized by hunters and the Manuka reserve is currently utilized by goat hunters. Protecting Hawaii's native species is a noble goal and supported by many citizens of the state of Hawaii. However, many hunters in Hawaii are concerned that more and more tracts of historic public hunting lands are being reclassified as conservation/preservation lands without mitigating those losses by opening up other public lands of similar quality to hunting. Moreover, Hawaii citizens want assurances that not all of the public hunting lands will be converted to ungulate free zones and that there will be some minimum public acreage left for hunting purposes on Hawaii Island. As part of the cumulative effects analysis for the Pu'u Wa'a wa'a fence project environmental assessment, Hawaii citizens need certain assurances that a minimum percent of public lands will not be fenced to eliminate ungulates and that losses of hunting lands by planned fencing projects will be offset (mitigated) by creating at least an equal acreage of accessible, quality public lands for the management of wildlife for hunting purposes.

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 4:13 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: brf@maui.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 1/28/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bruce R. Faulkner	Kaupo Wildlife Club	Support	No

Comments: Testimony from Kaupo Wildlife Club Kaupo Wildlife Club appreciatively supports H.B. 1902. Kaupo Wildlife Club has a membership of approximately 60 members most of whom reside on Maui. Thank you for your support regarding this very important issue.

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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STATE & LOCAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
DANIEL REID, HAWAII STATE LIAISON

January 28, 2014

The Honorable Cindy Evans
Chair, House Water and Land Committee
Sent Via Email

Re: House Bill 1902 – SUPPORT

Dear Representative Evans:

On behalf of the Hawaii members of the National Rifle Association, I support House Bill 1902.

This is critical legislation to help preserve the rich hunting traditions of Hawaii for generations to come. One of the biggest threats to preserving hunting for future generations is the availability of hunting opportunities. This legislation helps ensure those opportunities will remain available. This is done so by establishing a net amount of available public hunting acreage and requiring that the department not fall below that threshold. In the event that lands do need to be closed to hunting, a mechanism is provided to allow for this to happen, by requiring that land of equal or greater size and similar in location and hunting opportunities be opened in its place.

I would recommend that the committee amend the bill to establish the net amount of acreage be set as of January 2014 or upon enactment.

Thank you for your attention and I ask that you support this important piece of hunting legislation.

Cordially,

Daniel S. Reid
State Liaison

Cc: Members, House Water and Land Committee

HAWAII SPORTSMEN ALLIANCE

SUPPORTING H.B. 1902

RELATING TO HUNTING/NO NET LOSS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2014, 9:45AM, ROOM 325

The Hawaii Sportsmen Alliance strives for balanced conservation and wise use of all our natural resources.

<http://www.hawaiisportsmensalliance.com/>

Hunting in Hawaii has been a tradition in my family for decades. We have seen hunting areas, game animal numbers, and hunting opportunity all decline in recent years. This has mainly been the result of loss of hunting land due to new classifications such as critical habitat and natural area reserves. When hunting areas are classified as these new preservation areas and no longer classified as hunting areas, game animals are killed and removed and access to the land is restricted.

The loss of hunting areas is therefore directly linked to the loss of hunting itself. One way to help prevent the loss of the sport of hunting in Hawaii is to enact a no net loss provision. HB1902 will facilitate this. **Therefore I strongly support HB1902.** This bill will create a balance so that any hunting lands that are taken away for other purposes will be replaced with comparable lands suited for hunting.

Please join us in preserving the sport of hunting in Hawaii by supporting this bill.

Additionally, I request that the effective date of this bill be changed to immediate instead of 10 months from now on the arbitrary date of December 1, 2014 that is stated in the draft of the bill.

Sincerely,
Steven Sylvester
Member, Hawaii Sportsmen Alliance
Honolulu, HI

AMSOHANA FARM
Hilo, Hawaii



Committee on Water & Land

Wednesday, January 29, 2014, 9:45am

SUPPORT H.B. 1902

Relating to Hunting No Net Loss

I support HB1902. My family has been hunting for generations. This is how we preserve our culture and share our traditions. We will lose all of our public hunting lands. What will be available for future generations to continue our culture and traditions here in Hawaii?

Sincerely,

Michelle Sylvester
AMSOHANA FARM
Proprietor

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014
COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Rep. Cindy Evans, Chair

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair

Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen	Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say
Rep. Faye P. Hanohano	Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto
Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami	Rep. Richard Lee Fale
Rep. Chris Lee	Rep. Cynthia Thielen

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, January 29, 2014

TIME: 9:45am

PLACE: Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

A G E N D A

HB 1902

RELATING TO HUNTING.

WAL, FIN

Prohibits any net reduction of public hunting area on each island. Requires the DLNR to make comparable land available for hunting upon making land unavailable for hunting. Requires the DLNR to submit an annual report. Effective 12/01/2014.

Dear Hawaii State Legislators,

Please accomodare this Bill for an Act relating to wildlife in perpetuating the heritage of hunting; whereby, a sizable share of your constituents hold hunting dear to their beliefs, as an inalienable right of the human race.

According to this belief, your constituents are not alone in striving to maintain this heritage.

The Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation; whereby, assists the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus nationally; has help other states in the union with legislation such HB 1092.

The Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation highlights in their history of involvement with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus that since 2008:

More lands opened to hunting; No Net Loss Legislation passed in 9 states which ensured more than 8 million acres will remain open to hunting forever. As of June 2011, thirteen states have passed no-net-loss legislation that prevents state lands open to hunting and fishing to be closed without an equal amount of suitable lands becoming available for hunting and fishing access, (<http://www.sportsmenslink.org/#sthash.uM7je7pi.dpuf>)

I appreciate your heartfelt public service work for the citizens Hawaii.

Very truly yours,

Cleon M. Bailey

December 28, 2014

Dear Sir:

We strongly support HB 1902 to keep current public hunting land available for public hunting.

We would also like to request that the hunting areas considered for no net loss be hunting areas listed in HRS 183D as of January 1, 2014.

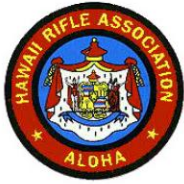
In a recent article addressing the controversial American Jungle series, Gov. Neil Abercrombie stated, "Hunting serves important historical, cultural and practical roles in Hawaii. When guided by lawful and ethical hunting practices, hunting supports worthy conservation objectives in protection of native species and habitats against invasive and destructive elements."

Based on this statement by our Governor and DLNR publicly supporting subsistence public hunting, a message and bill to protect our public hunting opportunities should be in place. The current trend of our hunting acreage is removing public access from public lands through mass fencing projects and renaming of these areas and prohibiting access indefinitely. This bill is not about protecting non-native species or ungulates (like the opposition may state); this bill is about protecting hunting access and overall public access to public lands.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,

Rory and Sandra Tokeshi



Hawaii Rifle Association

State Affiliate of the National Rifle Association
Founded in 1857

January 28, 2014

Testimony on HB 1902
Before WAL, Wednesday, January 29, 2014, Rm 325, 9:45am
IN SUPPORT

Hon. Chair and Members,

HRA supports preservation and expansion of public hunting areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Hawaii Rifle Association.

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