

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
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1901
RELATING TO WILDLIFE**

House Bill 1901 proposes to amend Chapter 183D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by adding a new section to be appropriately designated as "Reciprocity Enforcement Agreements", whereby the State of Hawaii would join 37 other states in an Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, where lawbreakers who have lost their hunting, fishing, or trapping licenses in one state, e.g. due to poaching, would lose their ability to hunt, fish, or trap in other member states within the Compact agreement. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the intent of this measure, and offers the following comments:**

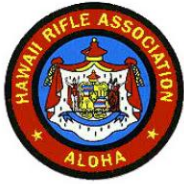
Licenses are currently sold by agents other than the Department's Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement (DOCARE) Officers, and currently no database is checked prior to issuing a license to a hunter. In many states, wildlife enforcement is carried out by state police. Hawaii's licensing agents would not have access to the interstate database, and all hunting license purchases would have to be somehow checked at a clearing house location, such as the DOCARE Office on each island, or centrally in Honolulu. Unique identification, such as drivers' licenses and social security numbers, would need to be verified and entered into the database in order to check for violations in other states. Logistically, the process of entering violators into a database, maintaining a centralized database, and checking new licensees against the interstate database, will require significant extra staff time and addition funding. Potentially, the issuing of hunting licenses would be delayed. The administrative rules would have to be amended if the statute was changed, in order to coordinate the law and rules with the other states.

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
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ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



Hawaii Rifle Association

State Affiliate of the National Rifle Association
Founded in 1857

January 26, 2014

Testimony on HB 1901
Before WAL, Wednesday, January 29, 2014
IN SUPPORT

Hon. Chair and Members,

HRA supports this measure in the hope that it will help reduce poaching in Hawaii. Poaching is prevalent here, but the public perception that it is stealing, often with a firearm, is not. Poachers threaten lawful hunts, do significant property damage, and give hunting and ethical law-abiding hunters a bad name.

In an anonymous statewide poll of recreational activity, an estimated 10,000 people report they hunt annually, but DLNR sells only about 2,000 licenses annually.

Federal Pittman-Robertson funds from excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment, earmarked for multi-use habitat improvement and hunter safety programs, are distributed to the states partially based on the number of hunting licenses sold annually. Poachers cheat those programs.

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

County of Hawai'i
Game Management Advisory Commission

Testimony of the Game Management Advisory Commission
Supporting H.B. 1901
Committee on Water & Land
Relating to Wildlife

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.

Providing the tools and support to protect and manage our natural and game resources is paramount.

The Hawaii County Game Management Advisory Commission will support HB1901.

Mahalo,

Tony Sylvester, Chairman
Hawaii County Game Management Advisory Commission



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

Testimony in Support of HB 1901
House Committee on Water and Land
January 29, 2014
945 am

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.

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.

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

lowen2-Lanaly

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2014 6:06 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: chadmata84@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1901 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM*

HB1901

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	Oppose	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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To: waltestimony
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HB1901

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 hearing, I support HB1901. I support hunting and hunters In Hawaii, and encourage responsible management and preservation of game animals and designated hunting lands.

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To: waltestimony
Cc: wjc3030@hawaiiintel.net
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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
Laura A. Camara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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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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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
Dalton H.Y. Lucas-Camara	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support hb1901.

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To: waltestimony
Cc: jktaxidermyhawaii@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1901 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM*

HB1901

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:

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HB1901

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
Cleon Bailey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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