

HB1902

HB1902 HD2 [\(?\)](#)

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Measure Title: RELATING TO HUNTING.

Report Title: DLNR; Hunting; No Net Loss; Hunting Advisory Commission; Report

Description: Requires DLNR to make reasonable efforts to prevent and mitigate the loss, destruction, or degradation of public hunting areas. Establishes the hunting advisory commission. Requires DLNR to report to the legislature regarding public hunting lands. Makes an appropriation. Effective July 1, 2014. (HB1902 HD2)

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: WTL, WAM

Introducer(s): EVANS, AQUINO, AWANA, CABANILLA, CARROLL, CHOY, CREAGAN, CULLEN, HANOHANO, ING, KAWAKAMI, MCKELVEY, MIZUNO, MORIKAWA, NAKASHIMA, ONISHI, OSHIRO, SAIKI, SOUKI, TAKAI, YAMASHITA

Sort by Date		Status Text
3/6/2014	S	Received from House (Hse. Com. No. 269).
3/6/2014	S	Passed First Reading.
3/6/2014	S	Referred to WTL, WAM.
3/10/2014	S	The committee(s) on WTL has scheduled a public hearing on 03-17-14 1:15PM in conference room 225.

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 Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND**

**Monday, March 17, 2014
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1902, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO HUNTING**

House Bill 1902, House Draft 2 proposes to: 1) Require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to make reasonable efforts to prevent and mitigate the loss, destruction, or degradation of public hunting areas, 2) Establish the hunting advisory commission, 3) Require the Department to report to the Legislature regarding public hunting lands, and 3) Makes an appropriation for the administrative expense of the Hunting Advisory Commission. **While the Department supports the establishment of a hunting advisory commission to advise on matters affecting hunting, the Department opposes other aspects of this bill's requirements and unfunded mandates.**

The Department is committed to enhancing public hunting and increasing hunting opportunities. Nearly 900,000 acres of the 1 million acres managed by the Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) are available for public hunting. In the past decade, more than 17,000 acres of new hunting opportunities have been added to DOFAW's managed lands and an additional 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 mandated by Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §183D-2 (12) to "preserve, protect, and promote public hunting." The bill's requirement that "the Department shall make reasonable efforts to prevent the loss, destruction, or degradation of public hunting areas" may conflict in cases where control of game mammal populations is required to implement the mandates of HRS, Chapters 183, 183D, 195, and 195D. These statutes require the protection of natural and cultural resources that provide vital environmental and economic benefits to the people of Hawaii. Restricting the Department's ability to carry out those responsibilities will

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

JESSE SOUKI
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

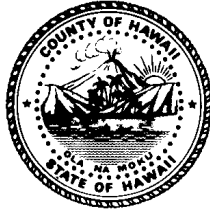
AQUATIC RESOURCES
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ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

result in loss of watershed yield and function, damage to native ecosystems, and may result in lawsuits resulting from take of endangered species.

If the land within a public hunting area becomes unavailable for hunting, the bill requires the Department “to make reasonable efforts to acquire, restore, enhance, and manage public lands to replace the unavailable land.” This creates an unreasonable expectation as the State may not have an inventory of appropriate new public hunting lands, as approximately two-thirds of State lands are already open to public hunting. Of the remainder, a significant portion is in urban or agricultural lands or otherwise may be impractical, inappropriate, or unsafe for hunting. Most importantly, securing comparable replacement lands creates enormous financial impacts for the State. For example, if the State were to lose its agreement with the landowner of Lanai, the State would need to seek replacement of 35,000 acres of hunting land at the Department’s expense.

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

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Walter K.M. Lau
Managing Director

Randall M. Kurohara
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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March 17, 2014

The Honorable Malama Solomon, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee
on Water and Land
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room, 225
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: House Bill 1902, HD 2 RELATING TO HUNTING

Aloha, Chair Solomon and Committee Members:

Mahalo for this opportunity to express our support of HB 1902, HD 2, 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 outdoorspersons who represent the interests of Hawai'i's hunters, fishers 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, HD 2 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



23 E. Kawili St, Hilo, HI 96720 • Phone: (808) 933-3340

OPPOSING HB 1902 RELATING TO HUNTING

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

MARCH 17, 1:45 PM RM 308

The Big Island Invasive Species Committee is a partnership of private citizens and government agencies working to address invasive species issues on the island of Hawaii. Our mission is to prevent, detect, and control the spread of the highest risk invasive species threats to the Big Island environment, economy, and way of life.

BIISC OPPOSES THIS MEASURE, AND OFFERS THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

BIISC understands hunting to be a part of the way of life on Hawaii Island, and that wild caught meat makes up a substantial part of the diet for some. There is a genuine concern, even fear, among hunting families that their source of game, recreation, and family tradition are under siege. However, we ask that the legislature consider that those fears may be unfounded, and suggest that legitimate needs may be better addressed by providing the \$750,000 funding to the State Hunting Program in the DLNR budget request, which seeks to *increase* access to existing and new hunting areas through cooperative agreements with landowners and purchasing access easements.

We thank our legislators for amending this bill, however, our committee continues to respectfully request that the bill be deferred.

The proposed hunting advisory commission has several potential drawbacks. First, it elevates the voices of a particular group above those of the majority of the population, and above a multitude of other DLNR responsibilities. Second, it may give the false impression that a single appointed person speaks for “the hunting community” from each county, and holds some authority with fellow hunters. We find this is rarely the case.



SADDLE ROAD AREA DEVASTATED BY GOATS, WHICH STRIPPED THE BARK FROM TREES AND SHRUBS DURING A DROUGHT.

Finally, we suggest the following changes to the proposed composition of the commission. As ornithology and mammalogy are two very different fields, we suggest amending the requirement to say that one member *of each* field be appointed to the commission. As the Statewide Assessment and Resource Strategy (2010) reported that numbers of non-resident tourists engaging in hunting was too small to report, we suggest that the tourism industry need not be represented. All game mammals in Hawaii, including the European provenance of the modern wild boar, were introduced post-contact, as were nearly all methods (tools) used in modern hunting, making game hunting a traditional and customary practice of a wide range of cultural groups in the islands and mainland U.S. Considering case history (79 H. 246 (App.), 900 P.2d 1313) we therefore recommend clarification in the bill on the rationale and specific advisory role of a representative of traditional and customary Hawaiian practices. We further suggest that a member of the agriculture industry from each county be represented on the commission, to advise on status and impacts to water availability as a result of watershed destruction, and on any increased costs of nuisance animal control on agricultural lands.

ACCESSIBILITY, NOT ACREAGE.

The Island of Hawaii has 700,000 acres, or 27% of the total land mass, in public hunting lands. This is about the same acreage as the entire state of Rhode Island (775,000 acres), and greater than the acreage of all agricultural lands on the island; there are 638,000 acres of pasture land and 43,000 acres of planted crops on the island (Melrose and Delparte, 2012).

Information campaigns organized by the national Congressional Sportsmen's Association and by individual Hawaii residents have led many to believe that "hunting lands are disappearing at an alarming rate." We *are* losing native species, forests, water supply, erosion control, and clean air at an alarming rate. DLNR Chair William Aila reports, to the contrary, an active access and acquisitions program, 5% statewide increase in hunting lands over a decade, and that 90% of DLNR lands--900,000 acres--are public hunting areas.

In fact, the state is losing *hunters* at a surprising rate. The National Shooting Sports Foundation predicts a 39% loss in hunters during this generation. Along with other national lobbying groups they launched the "No Net Loss" (HB 1902) and "Families Afield" (HB 1905) initiatives with the goal of passing legislation in every state to recruit new hunters to combat projected financial losses to the gun sports industry. HB 1903 and HB 1905 are each based on a different, and mutually exclusive premise: we don't have enough land to meet the demand of hunters, or we don't have enough hunters to justify the lands they have already been provided. The data seems to support the second premise.

BALANCING PUBLIC INTERESTS.

The state sells approximately 11,500 hunting licenses each year; a number equal to 0.8% of the population (USFWS, 2012; US Census, 2010). This means that less than 1% of the population legally hunts in a state public hunting area; less than 1% of the population demands access to 27% of the state's public land. That's 900,000 acres in the state, and 700,000 acres on the Big Island. This is about 80 acres per hunter.

An estimated 413,000 lbs of game meat are consumed on the Big Island annually (Melrose and Delparte, 2012). This sounds like a lot—but it is just over 2 pounds per person per year; the equivalent of 910 head of cattle. It is the amount of meat that can be raised on 4,000-20,000 acres of pasture land.

In fact, it does mostly come from pasture land—the authors of the study found that 90% of game meat is hunted on private land to prevent crop damage. In a separate study, a federal biologist estimated the number of acres needed to keep all Big Island pig hunters in good supply of pigs, and arrived at approximately 15,000 acres. These may be more reasonable, fact-based estimates of the acreage actually needed to sustain meat supply to interested hunters.



THESE NATIVE AKOKO TREES DIED AFTER FERAL GOATS AND SHEEP STRIPPED THE BARK FROM THEIR TRUNKS FOR WATER. AFTER THE 2009-2010 DROUGHT EVERY AKOKO IN THE 150 ACRE STAND WAS DEAD. IN NEARBY FENCED AREAS, AKOKO CONTINUED TO FLOWER AND SPROUT KEIKI THROUGHOUT THE DROUGHT. AKOKO IS A STATE "SPECIES OF CONCERN."

The 680,000 acres devoted to cattle and crop production on the Island of Hawaii produces roughly 95% of the fresh milk, over 17% of the fresh beef, more than 34% of the vegetables, and more than 32% of the fruit consumed on the island (Melrose and Delparte, 2012). It is the equivalent of 3 acres per island resident.

We have entrusted the Department of Land and Natural Resources to protect our state's water supply, our forests, our ocean and fresh water bodies and fisheries, and regulate hunting. Despite the fact that allowing large populations of introduced animals to roam freely reduces our water supply, harms our native forests, pollutes our ocean, reef, and fresh water bodies, DLNR continues to work diligently with the 0.8% of the population who are legal hunters to be sure hunting continues as a valued recreational and subsistence activity. **We ask that the committee vote to oppose this legislation**, and allow DLNR to continue to shoulder the responsibility for actively and responsibly managing game hunting and a diversity of other public interests in the state.



THE ONLY GREEN PLANT AROUND WAS IN THIS LITTLE FENCE. MOST OF THE LAND IN THIS IMAGE IS A PUBLIC HUNTING AREA.



TWO MILES AWAY: 5,000 ACRES OF FENCED, UNGULATE-FREE LANDS WERE GREEN AND HEALTHY.



Committee on Water and Land
Senator Malama Solomon, Chair
Senator Brickwood Glauteria, Vice Chair

Testimony of the Oahu Invasive Species Committee in **opposition** of HB 1902:
Relating to Hunting.

Monday, March 17, 2014, 1:15 PM, Room 225

The Oahu Invasive Species Committee opposes HB 1902 which would require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to replace, acre-for-acre, any land that is made unavailable for hunting. This bill would increase the cost of conservation measures to protect our irreplaceable native forests and protect our watersheds and water supply. In many cases, areas closed to hunting in conservation areas are located in remote areas that are rarely used and accessed for public hunting because of the remote location, difficulty to access due to terrain or lack of roads or do not have the density of game animals that make it worthwhile to hunt in.

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. **This is a larger area than the 741,760 acres of Maui County:** the islands of Maui, Molokai, Lānai, Molokini and Kahoolawe combined. Due to so many acres already set aside for hunting, it may make it impossible to match acre for acre with equal wildlife habitat on islands.

A potential alternative to this bill could be increasing hunting right of ways and access to current inaccessible hunting areas and approving DLNR's supplemental budget request of \$750,000 in general funds that would match federal funds that would improve access to State lands already open to hunting.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Kaua'i Watershed Alliance

Ben A. Dyre Limited Family Partnership, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Department of Water County of Kaua'i, DLNR – Division of Forestry and Wildlife & Land Management Division, Grove Farm Company, Inc., Jurassic Kahili Ranch, Kamehameha Schools, Kaua'i Ranch LLC, Lihu'e Land Company, McBryde Sugar Company, Ltd., National Tropical Botanical Garden, Princeville Development, LLC

"The Mission of the Kaua'i Watershed Alliance is to PROTECT, PRESERVE and MANAGE our valuable watershed resources for the benefit of our residents, communities and all future generations through the concerted efforts of its members."

Testimony of Kaua'i Watershed Alliance Opposing H.B. 1902 HD2 Relating to Hunting Senate Committee on Water and Land Monday, March 17, 2014, 1:15 PM, Room 225

The Kaua'i Watershed Alliance (KWA) strongly supports the testimony submitted by the DLNR and suggests that HB 1902 does not represent the best interests of the people of Hawai'i nor does it improve upon the best way to manage state lands.

The KWA has been actively managing portions of the mauka watershed on Kaua'i since 2003. Its members make up a diverse group of public and private entities who own land within the mountainous watershed and understand the importance of protecting and preserving the forests that capture the water - our most precious resource.

At this time there are approx. 1million acres that the DLNR manages for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i. Of this, about 900,000 acres are committed to public hunting under varying management rules. Yet these lands have considerable value to our people and not just to hunters. These lands provide:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ○ Ground water quality - \$ 4.5 - 8.5 billion | ○ Hunting - \$ 63 – 237 million |
| ○ Surface water quality- 83 - 394 million | ○ Aesthetic Values - 1 – 3 billion |
| ○ In-stream uses- 82 - 242 million | ○ Commercial Harvests - .6 – 2.5 million |
| ○ Species habitat - .5 - 1.4 billion | ○ Ecotourism - 1 – 3 billion |
| ○ Biodiversity - .5 - 5.5 million | ○ Climate Control - 82 million |
| ○ Subsistence - 34 - 131 million | |

(Data estimated by University of Hawai'i researchers, from the publication: *Last Stand The Vanishing Hawaiian Forest 2003*)

There are approximately only 13,000 licensed hunters out of over a million people with diverse interests in Hawai'i today that have put their trust in our elected representatives and those appointed officials who manage our public lands. Article XI, section 1 and Section 7 of the State Constitution cited.

What this bill does is create an intractable law that precludes the very agency given the lawful authority to manage these lands for the benefit of all of the people of Hawai'i. This bill will make it unlawful for the DLNR to change the use of these lands for whatever critical or good use or purpose or mandate that exists now or in the future. There is not enough state land left to offset other uses which include watershed protection.

It is well documented in scientific literature that the existence of feral ungulates are a source of destruction to resources on public and private lands in Hawai'i and across the country.

Please allow the DLNR to manage these lands without a law that may potentially harm the majority of our people in Hawai'i if enacted.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Chipper Wichman, Chair
Kaua'i Watershed Alliance

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: matthoeflinger@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Monday, March 10, 2014 8:08:43 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matt Hoeflinger	mauna kea recreational users group	Support	No

Comments: Mauna Kea Recreational Users Group supports this bill. Our motto is public lands for public use. Please help keep public lands open to the public by supporting this bill. The local people of Hawaii need your help. Thank you, Matt Hoeflinger Chair Hunting Committee MKRUG

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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Friends of Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 6065

Hilo, HI 96720

Website: FriendsOfHakalauForest.org

Email: FriendsOfHakalauForest@gmail.com



Testimony of Mr, Layne Yoshida

Opposing H.B. 1902 HD2 Relating to Hunting

Senate Committee on Water and Land

Monday, March 17, 2014, 1:15 PM, Room 225

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 1902 HD 2.

Our mission, as the Friends of Hakalau Forest (FOHF), is to foster understanding and conservation of the natural and cultural resources of the Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge. However, our interest in conservation extends statewide. We believe that recreational and subsistence hunting are legitimate uses of State-owned lands, yet we are very concerned about the ecological impact of feral game mammals on native ecosystems.

We oppose HB1902 HD 2 for several reasons. The "no net loss" policy embodied in this bill is unnecessary, impractical and inappropriate. Hunters in Hawaii already have access to most of the State-owned land and, in some areas, to Federal and private land as well. Also, the "no net loss" provision in this bill could jeopardize the completion of planned or pending forest conservation projects.

The bill, if enacted, would also create an 11 member "hunting advisory commission" within the Department of Land and Natural Resources. We do not believe that the commission, as proposed, would serve a useful purpose. The State's statutory responsibilities extend across a wide diversity of user groups. There is no justification to single out hunting as the only land-based activity that would enjoy a direct pipeline to a Department. This heavy bias is also reflected in the proposed representation on the Commission. Three members would be DLNR employees and four would be hunters. Only four would represent other disciplines or user groups (tourism, science, endangered species, cultural). For these reasons, we oppose legislation that would result such a narrowly focused and biased agenda.

Aloha,

Mr. Layne Yoshida

President



For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife

HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

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TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION OF 2014
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Senator Malama Solomon, Chair
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

Monday, March 17, 2014, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 225, State Capitol

HOUSE BILL NO. 1902 HD2 - Relating to Hunting

Chair Solomon, Vice Chair Galuteria, and members of the committee, my name is Linda Paul and I am submitting testimony on behalf of the 2,000+ members of the Hawaii Audubon Society **against** House Bill 1902 HD2. As you know, the purpose of this measure is to ensure no net loss of public hunting areas throughout the State by prohibiting the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) from reducing the total amount of state land open to hunting on each island and requiring DLNR to designate replacement land if DLNR makes public hunting area land unavailable. However, we strongly urge this committee to amend this bill and direct DLNR to significantly **reduce** the amount of land occupied by feral alien "game" animals, not maintain it, if we want our native forests and the native species that depend on them to survive.

During the 2013 legislative session, DLNR testified that 950,000 acres out of 1.3 million acres of state land are currently open to hunting, and approximately 10,000 animals are "harvested" each year. Hawaii county estimates 413,000 pounds of dressed meat are harvested annually from that island alone. But there are hundreds of thousands of feral alien "game" animals still out there and they are decimating our native forests. Axis deer graze vegetation down to the roots, totally denuding the land, with the result that clouds of dust blow offshore from the bare land and smother coral reefs. Goats graze on native plants up to the highest mountain tops in Kauai and Oahu. After wild pigs finish foraging in an area, it looks like a plowed field.

The only way "game management" can help restore our native ecosystems is by confining these animals to fenced-in game management areas, and eliminating them from all other habitat. But as a practical and financial matter this isn't going to happen. The least we can do is reduce the amount of native forest set aside as "game management areas", not maintain it. Either amend this bill to require DLNR to significantly reduce the amount of state land set aside for game animals or kill this bill. Thank you.

Linda Paul, President, Hawaii Audubon Society

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Opposing H.B. 1902 HD2 Relating to Hunting
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Monday, March 17, 2014, 1:15 PM, Room 225

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 HD2.

We believe that a more effective solution than a one-for-one acreage exchange would be to support the DLNR's programs to improve hunting access and opportunities:

- **Support \$750,000 in DLNR's budget request to match federal funds for programs and staff that enhance hunting on land already open to hunting by securing additional access easements, improving roads and trails, and creating access to other appropriate non-state lands;**
- **Support general obligation bond funds to help purchase Central O'ahu land that, amongst other things, includes expanded hunting opportunities;**
- **Support hunting rules that ease restrictions on bag limits, hunting days and seasons;**
- **Support true science-based game management in DLNR to improve hunting yields and experiences; and**
- **Require the DLNR to report annually on progress toward improving hunting opportunities across the state.**

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 policy seeking to establish a minimum acreage for public hunting areas is necessary or appropriate, particularly when there are already about **900,000 acres of public hunting areas** across the state.

While the DLNR has a responsibility to provide recreational and subsistence hunting opportunities for the approximately 11,500 licensed hunters, it also has a responsibility to promote other uses and activities on public lands. The Department also has a State Constitutional duty to conserve and protect all natural and cultural resources for the benefit of all of the state's 1,400,000 residents. Lastly, there is no documented evidence by any land management entity in Hawai'i that shows that public hunting alone is effective at managing ungulates in native watershed forests.

The State constitution, State statutes and administrative rules currently provide sufficient directive, authority, and process—including resource user and stakeholder participation—for managing forests, wildlife, hunting and hunting areas in Hawai'i.

Attachments:

- Photos before and after fencing and animal control in priority watershed areas.
- Article on the cultural history of pigs in Hawai'i.

Before and After Fencing and Animal Control in Selected Priority Watershed Areas

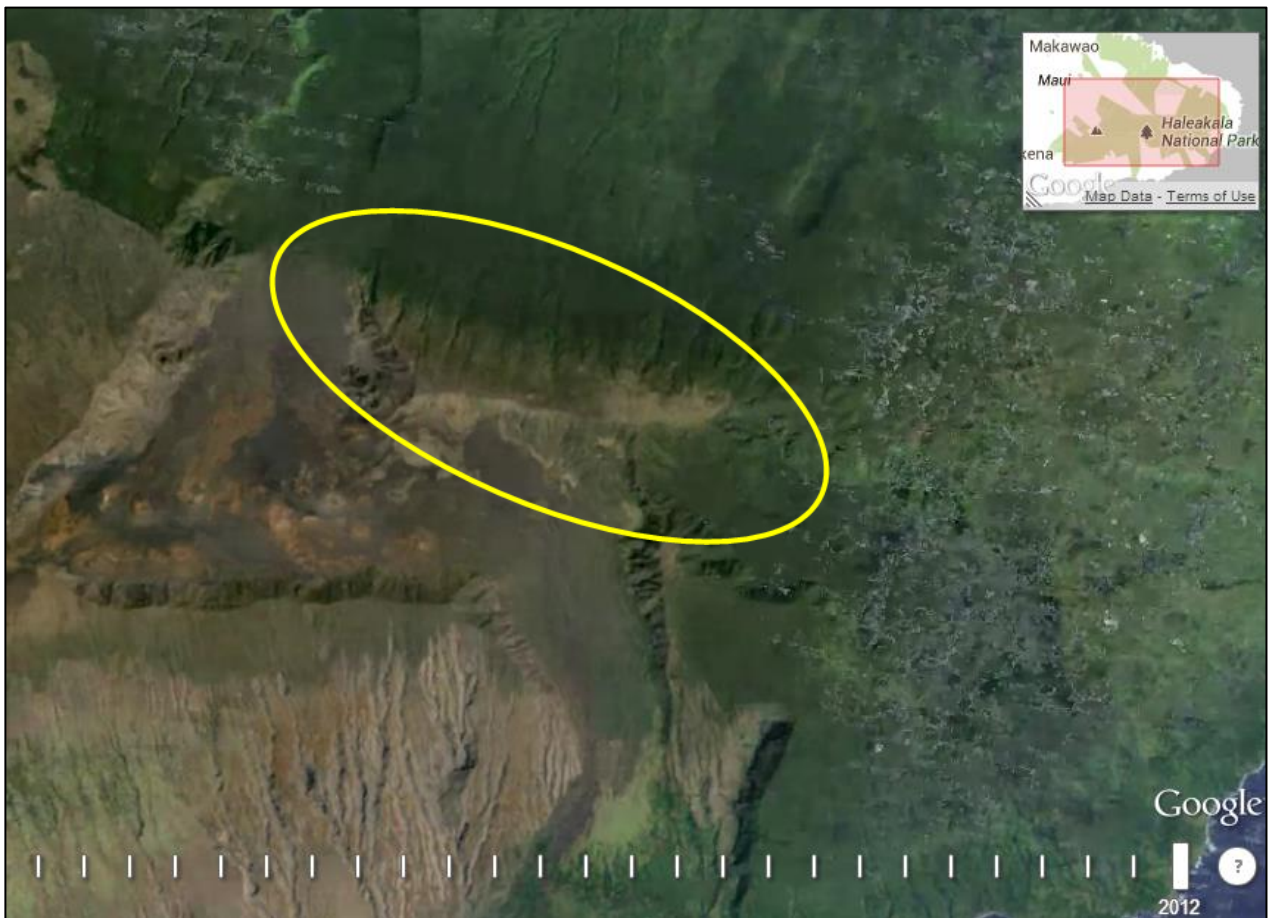
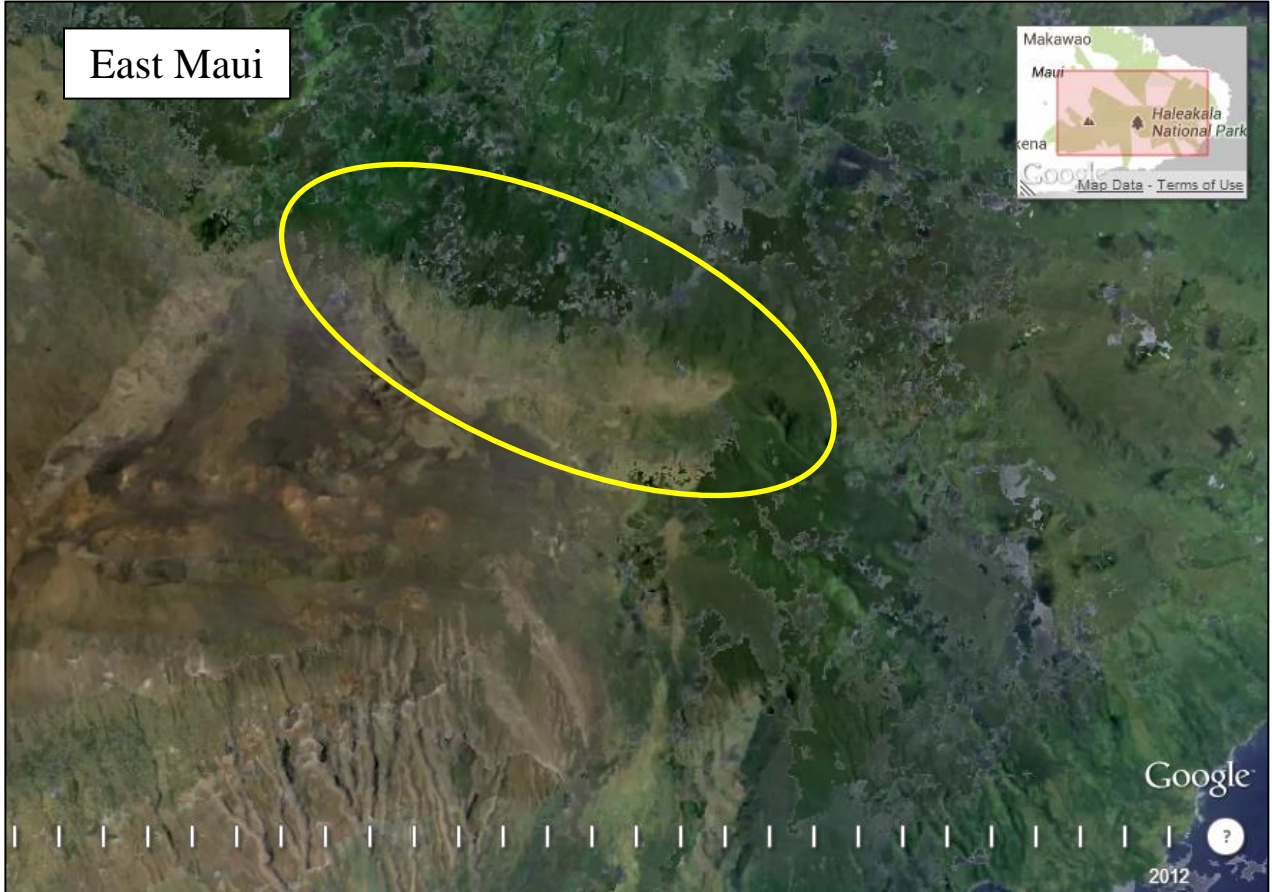






East Maui





Pua‘a: Hawaiian Animal?

Sam ‘Ohukani‘ohi‘a Gon III

Senior Scientist / Cultural Advisor

The Nature Conservancy, Hawai‘i Program

It is certainly well known that feral ungulates -- browsing mammals such as cattle, goats, and pigs -- pose one of the most serious threats to the survival of native plants and animals in Hawai‘i. Yet, isn't the *pua‘a* (pig) a Hawaiian animal? Weren't pigs important in Hawaiian culture, and shouldn't they be allowed to roam free in the islands as a hunting resource? It turns out that these questions are more complex than they seem, and the story of pigs in Hawai‘i is one worth telling.

To begin with, pigs of any sort are not native to Hawai‘i. Imagining a pig (or any large land mammal) swimming 2,000 miles across the Pacific to get here makes it clear why our two native mammals are a seal, and a bat. Indeed, our native vegetation evolved for millions of years without the need to defend against grazing, rooting, or trampling, and had lost defenses such as thorns or poisons.

It remains a popular misconception that pigs are native to Hawaiian forests and that ancient Hawaiians hunted them as a way to get meat. The first pigs were brought to the Hawaiian Islands by Polynesians as early as the fourth century AD.¹ These *pua‘a*, or Polynesian pigs, were much smaller than the feral European swine found today in Hawaiian forests. They were the product of a long and close domesticated relationship with people, and rarely strayed far from the *kauhale* (family compound) where they enjoyed familial status. Taro and sweet potato agriculture in Hawai‘i is incompatible with free-roaming pigs, and the common presence of *pā pua‘a* (pig pens) in a typical house site reflects the controlled nature of pig management in traditional Hawai‘i.

Ungulate introductions to Hawai‘i (Tomich 1986)

- Polynesian pig – ca 400 AD
- European swine – 1778
- Goat – 1778
- Sheep – 1791
- Cattle – 1793
- Horse – 1803
- Donkey – 1825
- Axis deer – 1868
- Mouflon sheep – 1954
- Pronghorn – 1959*
- Mule deer – 1961

* Now extirpated

One key factor during pre-contact times was that native forest then lacked large edible fruit such as guavas and mangos, both introduced after Western contact. Without such fodder, pre-contact pigs stayed close to their human source of shelter and food and did not stray far into surrounding forest. Clearly, *pua‘a* carried strong cultural significance in traditional Hawai‘i. Even the name of the traditional land division, *ahupua‘a*, hearkens to the importance of *pua‘a* as one of the resources offered during the annual Makahiki tributes. *Pua‘a*, however, were but one land resource, produced by *kanaka* (people) and belonging to the *wao kanaka* (realm of people). But there were also the thousands of native plants and animals who represented the *kinolau* (physical forms) of the *‘aumakua* (ancestral deities). These resided in the upland forests, the *wao akua* (realm of the gods) and were held sacred as the *kini akua* (myriad gods). In the traditional Hawaiian experience, *pua‘a*, as human-reared, were denizens of the *wao kanaka* and alien to these sacred forests. There are no pre-contact traditions of hunting pigs for meat (though rat-hunting with arrows was celebrated), and even the exploits of Kamapua‘a

describe pursuit of the demigod – not for sport or sustenance – but so that he might be punished for his wrong-doings.

This entire context changed following Cook. Following contact, European swine were introduced and, over time, the Hawaiian pua‘a interbred with and were displaced by these larger foreign animals. In quick succession, goats, sheep, cattle, and other ungulates followed. Introduction of this working stock, the spread of western agriculture, a decline in the native Hawaiian population, and a growing westernization of concepts of private land property contributed to the collapse of traditional Hawaiian land management systems, and with it, the careful control of animals such as pigs.

Over the 1800s, uncontrolled spread of introduced ungulates led to the watershed crisis of the late 19th century, and widespread fencing, feral animal control, and forest restoration were undertaken to try to reverse the damage. King Kalākaua himself led a party into the head of Nu‘uanu Valley in the late 1870s to plant trees. The custom of recreational hunting evolved over the last 200 years as Hawaiians assimilated western traditions dealing with these introduced feral animals.

Today we face the continued destruction of native forest, and risk losing a huge and irreplaceable natural and cultural resource to uncontrolled feral animals. Pua‘a were valuable cultural resources, but in ancient times were kept away from the wao akua, which held much more of value to Hawaiians than a single species. As we strive to strike a balance between protecting native Hawaiian plants and animals and our dwindling native forests and the more recent practice of game hunting, we need to reassert the value that the wao akua represents, and protect it and the kini akua for the descendants of the future.

¹ Tomich, P. Quentin. 1986. *Mammals in Hawai‘i*. Bishop Museum Press. Honolulu, Hawai‘i.



Hawaii Rifle Association

State Affiliate of the National Rifle Association

Founded in 1857

March 14, 2014

Testimony on HB 1902, HD2

Before WTL, Monday, March 17, 2014, Rm 225, 1:15 pm

IN SUPPORT

Hon. Chair and Members,

HRA supports preservation and expansion of public hunting areas. We support the amendments put forth by the Hawaii County Game management Advisory Commission.

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

Testimony of the Game Management Advisory Commission
Supporting H.B. 1902 HD2 with amendments

Committee on Water and Land
Senator Malama Solomon, Chair
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair
Committee Members
Relating to Hunting, No Net Loss

Monday, March 17, 2014, 1:15PM room 225

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 are tied to our lands. It is as much a part of us as we are of it."

In full Support of HB1902 HD2 with amendments

We seek a balance

*Balancing of our natural resources must include good resource management for sustainable use of all our natural resources for subsistence and survival. Our subsistence and survival includes all of our human demands mutually defined and determined. Subsistence and survival are not the exclusive privilege of the few. It is an **inclusive** human legacy and heritage.*

Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 183D establishes by law that DLNR shall manage Our game resources in a manner that preserves, protects and promotes public hunting.

DLNR has a failed resource management policy. This is why we have become federalized. Federalization has occurred because we (the state) have not carried out its responsibilities as stated in our laws and finessed our purposes and goals using the federal law. The environmental and preservation interests have used the federal laws to further their purposes and goals and we become an exclusive society.

With our amendments to H.B. 1902 HD2 we hope that DLNR will accept, implement and establish game resource management and general resource best practices within our State public lands.

In speaking with USFW service, they welcome DLNR approving a Game Management Plan. It is a first step in demonstrating responsibility, action and removing their dereliction of duties.

Fencing our forests and eradicated our wild food resources is not the answer.

To further the interests of transparency and full participation by the affected Stakeholders, the Hawaii County Game Management Advisory Commission respectfully requests that this Committee consider amending H.B. 1902 HD2, as follows, In red:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES H.B. NO. 1902 H.D. 2
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE,
2014

STATE OF HAWAII
A BILL FOR AN ACT
RELATING TO HUNTING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the enhancement and maintenance of **sustainable** public hunting opportunities **for subsistence and recreational purposes** is of critical importance to the State **and its people**. A coordinated **resource management** effort involving stakeholders is needed to prevent and offset the loss, destruction, or degradation of public hunting areas on any island of the State and expeditiously find replacement land for hunting.

SECTION 2. Chapter 183D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding two new sections to part I to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§183D- No net loss of public hunting areas. (a) The department shall make reasonable efforts to prevent the loss, destruction, or degradation of public hunting areas on any island of the State. The department, if possible, shall preserve hunting land within public hunting areas that were designated on the respective island as of January 1, 2014, through a coordinated effort involving stakeholders.

(b) If land within a public hunting area becomes unavailable for hunting, the department shall make reasonable efforts to acquire, restore, enhance, and manage public lands to replace the unavailable land. **Before the State public hunting areas become unavailable for hunting, the department shall first make reasonable efforts to manage those State public lands and resources by implementing established and accepted game resource management and general resource best practices within the area. There shall be established purposes and goals, an implementation strategy, monitoring and assessment tools to determine success or failure.**

(c) If the resource management effort is shown to have empirically failed to meet its desired purposes and goals then that section of the State public hunting area shall be removed from the inventory of public hunting areas. At that point, the department shall replace the unavailable land with land that:

(1) Has wildlife habitat of equal or greater quantity and quality; and

(2) To the greatest extent possible, is located within the same geographic region and provides the same types of hunting that the department allowed on the unavailable land.

(d) The department shall submit to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session an annual report that includes:

(1) The acreage managed by the department open to public hunting;

(2) The acreage managed by the department that has been closed to public hunting during the previous year and the reasons for the closures;

(3) An inventory of game bird and mammal populations in public hunting areas and the current conditions of the habitats in public hunting areas that support the game bird and mammal populations; and

(4) Efforts to acquire, restore, enhance, and manage public lands in accordance with subsection (b) to replace land within a public hunting area that becomes unavailable for hunting.

(e) For the purposes of this section, "public hunting area" shall have the same meaning as defined in section 183D-4.

§183D- Hunting advisory commission. (a) There is established within the department a hunting advisory commission, which shall serve in an advisory capacity to the board. The commission shall consist of eleven members to be appointed by the governor in the manner provided in section 26-34. Membership on the advisory commission shall consist of **one** two members of the department designated by the chairperson of the board, **and experienced in sustainable game management principles and practices**, one member from the division of conservation and resource enforcement, one member of each county's hunting community, one member from the tourism industry, **five members from the hunting community with two members from Hawaii county and one member from each of the other three counties, one independent member from an Ahu Moku Council from Lanai or Molokai**, one member who is a scientist with expertise in the field of mammalogy or ornithology, one member representing the endangered species recovery committee, and one member possessing a background in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices. The commission shall select its own chairperson. The members shall receive no compensation for their services on the commission but shall be entitled to reimbursement for necessary expenses while attending meetings and while in the discharge of their duties.

(b) The commission shall advise the board on proposals to enhance and maintain the quantity and quality of public hunting areas.

(c) The commission shall also advise **be required to consult with** the board on any matter affecting hunting, including proposed rules. The commission may take testimony and acquire information as it desires and shall communicate its findings and recommendations to the board.

(d) **The commission shall submit to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session an annual report that includes:**

(1) **The success of the commission in its ability to work collaboratively within these partnerships.**

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the administrative expenses of the hunting advisory commission established pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

Report Title:

DLNR; Hunting; No Net Loss; Hunting Advisory Commission; Report

Description:

Requires DLNR to make reasonable efforts to prevent and mitigate the loss, destruction, or degradation of public hunting areas. Establishes the hunting advisory commission. Requires DLNR to report to the legislature regarding public hunting la

Thank you for your consideration of our view.

Tony Sylvester, Chairperson
Hawaii County Game Management Advisory Commission

HAWAII SPORTSMEN ALLIANCE

Supporting H.B. 1902 HD2 with amendments

Senate Committee on Water and Land

Honorable Chair Malama Solomon & Vice Chair Brickwood Galuteria

Committee members

Relating to Hunting, No Net Loss

Monday, March 17, 2014, 1:15pm room 225

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

Protecting the culture and traditions of our Island residents is paramount in seeking balance within our community.

The landscape approach that DLNR are attempting to achieve is not reality. Current science and research demonstrates that the landscape approach is not physically real or environmentally sustainable and a drain on our resources and funding.

Natural recruitment is the ability of native plant species to propagate on its own, is the benchmark of success, but is not achievable in a landscape approach.

Photos shall be provided. Even small enclosures are not maintained of invasive plants. These invasive grasses such as fountain and kikuyu, form thick mats that crowd out desirable species. It is obvious that even small enclosures are difficult to maintain yet they think they can manage tens of thousands of acres this way? Do we keep throwing more money at it? No natural recruitment will occur. With no natural recruitment, no species can be taken off the threatened and endangered list. Even if humans propagate and plant thousands of a particular threatened or endangered plant species it is not counted as recovery and that species will not be removed from the endangered species list.

Other photos show larger areas that are fenced and eradicated with most regeneration overrun with invasive plants and grasses that prevent seeds from germinating while vines like German ivy and banana poka are left to smother the native forest.

They focus on fencing and eradicating of the ungulates as the first step to recovery but have no plan to effectively control all the other factors that prevent our native forest from regenerating.

Instead resources should be directed to existing areas in need of further protection, get the invasive plants, insect and plant diseases and rodents under control, improve chances for natural recruitment and support replanting efforts in a more sustainable manner. Otherwise what we get is a self-fulfilling prophecy, and the need to acquire evermore lands to prove their validity.

DLNR, please restore and manage what you have in your inventory. There is no need to take more.

Respectfully submitted,

Hawaii Sportsmen Alliance
614 Haihai St
Hilo, HI. 96720

To further the interests of transparency and full participation by the affected Stakeholders, GMAC respectfully requests that this Committee consider amending

H.B. 1902 HD2, as follows:

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

H.B. NO.

1902
H.D. 2

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HUNTING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the enhancement and maintenance of **sustainable** public hunting opportunities **for subsistence and recreational purposes** is of critical importance to the State **and its people**. A coordinated **resource management** effort involving stakeholders is needed to prevent and offset the loss, destruction, or degradation of public hunting areas on any island of the State and expeditiously find replacement land for hunting.

SECTION 2. Chapter 183D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding two new sections to part I to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§183D- No net loss of public hunting areas. (a) The department shall make reasonable efforts to prevent the loss, destruction, or degradation of public hunting areas on any island of the State. The department, if possible, shall preserve hunting land within public hunting areas that were designated on the respective island as of January 1, 2014, through a coordinated effort involving stakeholders.

(b) If land within a public hunting area becomes unavailable for hunting, the department shall make reasonable efforts to acquire, restore, enhance, and manage public lands to replace the unavailable land. Before the State public hunting areas become unavailable for hunting, the department shall first make reasonable efforts to manage those State public lands and resources by implementing established and accepted game resource management and general resource best practices within the area. There shall be established purposes and goals, an implementation strategy, monitoring and assessment tools to determine success or failure.

(c) If the resource management effort is shown to have empirically failed to meet its desired purposes and goals then that section of the State public hunting area shall be removed from the inventory of public hunting areas. At that point, the department shall replace the unavailable land with land that:

(1) Has wildlife habitat of equal or greater quantity and quality; and

(2) To the greatest extent possible, is located within the same geographic region and provides the same types of hunting that the department allowed on the unavailable land.

(d) The department shall submit to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session an annual report that includes:

(1) The acreage managed by the department open to public hunting;

(2) The acreage managed by the department that has been closed to public hunting during the previous year and the reasons for the closures;

(3) An inventory of game bird and mammal populations in public hunting areas and the current conditions of the habitats in public hunting areas that support the game bird and mammal populations; and

(4) Efforts to acquire, restore, enhance, and manage public lands in accordance with subsection (b) to replace land within a public hunting area that becomes unavailable for hunting.

(e) For the purposes of this section, "public hunting area" shall have the same meaning as defined in section 183D-4.

§183D- Hunting advisory commission. (a) There is established within the department a hunting advisory commission, which shall serve in an advisory capacity to the board. The commission shall consist of eleven members to be appointed by the governor in the manner provided in section 26-34. Membership on the advisory commission shall consist of ~~one~~ ~~two~~ members of the department designated by the chairperson of the board, ~~and experienced in sustainable game management principles and practices~~, one member from the division of conservation and resource enforcement, ~~one member of each county's hunting community~~, ~~one member from the tourism industry~~, ~~five members from the hunting community with two members from Hawaii county and one member from each of the other three counties~~, ~~one independent member from an Ahu Moku Council from Lanai or Molokai~~, one member who is a scientist with expertise in the field of mammalogy or ornithology, one member representing the endangered species recovery committee, and one member possessing a background in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices. The commission shall select its own chairperson. The members shall receive no compensation for their services on the commission but shall be entitled to reimbursement for necessary expenses while attending meetings and while in the discharge of their duties.

(b) The commission shall advise the board on proposals to enhance and maintain the quantity and quality of public hunting areas.

(c) The commission shall also ~~advise~~ ~~be required to consult with~~ the board on any matter affecting hunting, including proposed rules. The commission may take testimony and acquire information as it desires and shall communicate its findings and recommendations to the board."

(d) The commission shall submit to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session an annual report that includes:

(1) The success of the commission in its ability to work collaboratively within these partnerships.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the administrative expenses of the hunting advisory commission established pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

Report Title:

DLNR; Hunting; No Net Loss; Hunting Advisory Commission; Report

Description:

Requires DLNR to make reasonable efforts to prevent and mitigate the loss, destruction, or degradation of public hunting areas. Establishes the hunting advisory commission. Requires DLNR to report to the legislature regarding public hunting lands. Makes an appropriation. Effective July 1, 2014. (HB1902 HD2)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: teresamlee.51@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Thursday, March 13, 2014 11:31:54 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/13/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa L. Nakama	BIFA	Support	No

Comments: HB 1902 HD2 The BIFA organization and it's members strongly support the amendments to HB1902 HD2. We humbly ask for your approval to the amendments. Sincerely, Big Island Fisheries Alliance Teresa L. Nakama-Director

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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Re. HB1902 HD2, relating to hunting

Chairwoman and Members:

We are writing to express our strong opposition to this bill. Its content shows that its originators have little understanding of the complex suite of issues, of the 'aina, and of the politics that surround the various situations on the ground where hunting takes place. Even more so, the bill confounds those conflicting mandates that the underfunded State Division of Forestry and Wildlife has to balance. Existing law presents enough confusion in how to best resolve these resource and management conflicts, and year after year the legislature adds more requirements for special interests but not enough funding to carry out their existing mandates. This results in an ever-increasing gap between what is needed and what can be done. Please do not pass this bill out of committee in any form to further exacerbate the situation.

The most effective way to help both hunters and residents is to deregulate game animals--take away all hunting restrictions other than to be licensed and to have the permission of the landowner. Let DLNR grant permission liberally on most state lands. If the hunting community wants dedicated, regulated hunting areas with restrictions, do it only in fenced hunting areas so the rest of the public won't be victimized by the ungulates maintained for hunting. Liberalized hunting rules and responsible hunters working in concert with state and private landowners can increase hunting opportunities and decrease the animals' impacts in places where the ungulates most adversely affect the rest of Islands' residents. Remember, licensed hunters make up less than one percent of the population, and we all drink water and want our agriculture to thrive.

For years the numbers of game animals have been increasing dramatically, and the ranges of these animals have been expanding to produce conflicts with farmers, ranchers, homeowners and native ecosystems throughout the islands. Just look at the deer situation on Maui. The Legislature directed DOFAW to introduce axis deer to Maui, the numbers grew over the years and now private landowners all over the island have to deal with the adverse consequences. Whose fault is it?

As if that is not bad enough, in an effort to expand hunting opportunities for themselves, hunters introduced these same deer to the Big Island without any authorization, and mouflon sheep to Maui on the return flights. These lawless, selfish actions will cause enormous consequence to private and public landowners in the future. Whose fault is it? We have witnessed the explosive expansion of mouflon on the Big Island and deer on Maui, so there is no reason not to expect the same result of these two illicit ungulate introductions. Yes, public funding has paid for a deer eradication effort, but the inadequate funding runs out in weeks and there are still enough deer left to continue the population expansion. Without fences, effective control of ungulates is extremely difficult and eradication is almost impossible once the ungulate have been spread across the island. Please consider these consequences well.

Please do not complicate matters further with this bill. Please do not reward the outlaws. Most of the hunters are well intended and responsible. Find ways to work together for proper hunting opportunities by responsible parties on all sides.

From: [Colin Onaka](#)
To: [Sen. Malama Solomon](#); senguluteria@capitol.hawaii.gov
Cc: [Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.](#); [Sen. Russell Ruderman](#); [Sen. Maile Shimabukuro](#); [Sen. Brian Taniguchi](#); [Sen. Laura Thielen](#); [Sen. Sam Slom](#)
Subject: Support of HB 1902 HD2 with amendments
Date: Sunday, March 16, 2014 10:37:29 AM

Aloha chair Solomon and others on the committee,

My name is Colin Onaka from Hawai'i Island. I am the president of a club named Hui Kuahiwi. Hui Kuahiwi is a club with 74 members throughout the state. Our membership includes three generations of Hawai'i residents that cherish and respect our ability to pass down the traditions of fair chase hunting which feeds our families, friends and others in the community. Hunting is not our only mission of our club. Equally important is to teach our community the importance of protecting our native plants and animals. Hunting is conservation and by utilizing our game animals as tools to help us manage our diverse eco system in Hawai'i is a goal of our club along with many others in our state.

Our testimony comes with the utmost respect but there are times when things have to be said in order to make others realize that being silent has the opposite affect of being productive.

Hunting to many lifelong residents, newcomers and visitors alike is not only a passion but it's a tradition passed down from generation to generation where friends and families spend time away from there busy lives to pursue the opportunity to not only harvest a animal to put food on there table but it is time spent with people that is special because it happens in special places.

HB 1902 HD2 with significant amendments protects our ability on our public lands that we are able to continue pursuing this passion and pass on the traditions of fair chase hunting on to our keiki. DLNR have proven that they have not been good stewards of our public lands. They have not been transparent with law makers as well as the public when it comes to the watershed initiative with one sided data.

DLNR is asking for millions of our tax dollars to fence off thousands of acres but as other testimony you will see today DLNR cannot manage what they have now. How is that fiscally responsible to continue to fund more if they cannot manage what they have now? We support fencing off small areas and as DLNR can prove that they can rid these small fenced areas of **"all"** invasive species and not only game animals then at that time they should expand there protected areas but to give DLNR a blank check is wrong and irresponsible.

This is not supposed to be DLNR against the hunting community. DLNR is tasked to work with and provide for the hunting community but this is clearly not the case and it has not been the case for decades and now by passing HB 1902 HD2 with amendments law makers have the ability to start the process of fixing this by forcing DLNR to have the hunters at the table and to have a guaranteed voice.

Our membership humbly ask you for your support on HB 1902 HD2 with much needed amendments which we hope law makers will allow the hunting community to have a voice in these amendments.

Mahalo,

Colin Onaka
Hui Kuahiwi

--

Hui Kuahiwi - The Club
President. Colin Onaka
75-5620 Mamalahoa Highway
Holualoa, HI 96725
Phone: [808-960-7373](tel:808-960-7373)

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: hogdog44@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Sunday, March 16, 2014 11:51:06 AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rosetta James	Creative Child Collabrative	Support	No

Comments: Hello, I strongly support this bill! I'm an early childhood education teacher and hunter/gatherer. I believe that hunting/gathering teaches children their history and connection to the land. It also teaches them the symbiotic relationship between people and the land. The responsibility of caring for the land and the land cares for you. This gives the children great exposure to world and whats in it. Teaching them the great circle of life. Hunting/Gathering is as old as Man itself the children of today have a right to continue this age old tradition. This bill would guarantee the future of hunting/gathering for the future generations of Hawai'i Nei. Please pass this bill...Mahalo!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: voggymtn@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Sunday, March 16, 2014 10:19:35 AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments: The Volcano Island Chapter of The National Wild Turkey Federation Fully supports HB 1902 HD2 with amendments. Available hunting lands in our state are being Threatened more and more by programs such as Gov. Abercrombie's "Rain Follows The Forest" plan, and USFWS endangered species protection plans. Without a measure such as HB 1902, these plans will continue to take away valuable lands used not only by Hunters and their families but also by traditional groups such as Hula Halau's for the gathering of forest resources. We support the amendments brought forward by the Hawaii County Game Management Advisory Commission, and ask for your support in adding these amendments to the measure. Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 183D establishes by law that the DLNR shall MANAGE our game resources in a manner that Preserves, protects, and Promotes public hunting. We believe that due to the lack of resource management by the DLNR, our state is looked upon by the USFWS as being incapable of maintaining a suitable Balance within our forest reserve's. Therefore requiring them to step in and "take over". The U.S Fish And Wildlife Service is a Bureau within the Dept. of Interior. The Mission of USFWS is to "WORK WITH" others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish,wildlife, and plants for the continuing benefit of the american people. The objective's of the agency are as follows: 1)"ASSIST" in the development and application of an environmental stewardship ethic for our society, based on ecological principles, scientific knowledge of fish and wildlife, and a sense of moral responsibility. 2)"GUIDE" the conservation, development, and management of the Nation's fish and wildlife resources. 3)"ADMINISTER" a national program to provide the public opportunities to understand, appreciate, and wisely use fish and wildlife resources. USFWS should be a support agency to our state Departments, but because of the lack of responsible Forest management by the DLNR, they Have become the Governing agency. Thank you for your continued support, Willie-Joe Camara

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: dreid@nrahq.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM*
Date: Sunday, March 16, 2014 6:36:06 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Reid	National Rifle Association	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: bulldog.revelations@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Sunday, March 16, 2014 12:44:44 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ben Manuel	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: My name is Ben Manuel. I am a hunter and a concerned community member. I strongly support HB 1902 because I think it is essential to ensuring that lands suitable for hunting continues to be accessible in our state. Loss of viable hunting areas due to erection of fences is of great concern to me as our sport and or means to subsistence is greatly impacted by what can be viewed as "land grabs". I am interested in seeing our concerns as hunters fully represented in the political arena and strongly urge that our voices be heard and given real consideration. Thank you.

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Testimony of Bryan Harry

Opposing H.B. 1902 HD2 Relating to Hunting

Senate Committee on Water and Land

Monday, March 17, 2014, 1:15 PM, Room 225

My name is Bryan Harry and I am opposed HB 1902 HD1.

I am member of the board of the Hawaii Conservation Foundation and formerly I directed the National Parks in the Pacific Area.

I oppose this bill because, if enacted, Hawaii will be unable to retain, manage, and preserve its remaining native habitats when alien ungulates are allowed to be present.

Based on my experience in attempting to preserve native ecosystems in Hawaii National Parks I co-authored the Hawaii Conservation Alliance's position paper "Controlling Ungulate Populations in Hawaii" which concluded that the conservation and restoration of native Hawaiian ecosystems is unsuccessful in the presence of alien ungulates. Controlling these ungulate populations, specifically goat, pig, cattle, sheep, and axis deer, is the vital first step. Dramatic and otherwise unaided ecosystem recovery has been documented when ungulates are removed, and public hunting fails to remove needed % of population to affect ungulate population control required to preserve native ecosystems.

I have attached this paper to my testimony.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Bryan Harry, Conservation Alliance Foundation

Attachment (HCA Ungulate Position Paper)

Controlling Ungulate Populations in Hawaii
position paper, Hawaii Conservation Alliance
Edited by Don Reeser, Bryan Harry^a

It is firmly established that the conservation and restoration of native Hawaiian ecosystems is unsuccessful in the presence of alien ungulates.^{5, 11, 16, 18} Controlling these ungulate populations, specifically goat, pig, cattle, sheep, and axis deer, is the vital first step; dramatic and otherwise unaided ecosystem recovery has been documented when it has been accomplished. Despite this demonstrated success, some public groups strongly oppose ungulate population control. Clearly, there is a need to effect the control in the most efficient ecological, social, and humane manner possible. Finding the right balance between these needs is critical in preserving our ethical integrity as well as in preserving both the cultural and the natural aspects of Hawaii's rich heritage. This paper addresses the ethical, social, economic and ecological costs and benefits to ungulate population control by drawing from the accumulated knowledge of seven and a half decades of ungulate population control and research on selected areas in Hawaii.

Hawaii's economy and the health and quality of life of Hawaii's people depend upon the richness of Hawaii's natural resources. Isolated in time and space for millions of years, the Hawaiian Islands harbor tremendous biological diversity and incredible life forms found nowhere else on this planet. The few species that managed to wash up onto Hawaiian shores, or that got carried over by wind or wings evolved into thousands of new species in dramatic displays of adaptive radiation. Ungulates were not among these initial colonizers, and our endemic life forms evolved without need to compete with or defend against them. Ungulates devour and destroy native plants and ground cover, facilitating sediment run-off and the smothering of coral reefs. The soil disturbance caused by rooting ungulates also facilitates the introduction and expansion of invasive plants, and creates breeding grounds for mosquitoes that transmit avian disease to native forest birds. The invasion of non-native species poses one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's native ecosystems and their inhabitants. Already nearly three quarters of the extinctions in the United States are from Hawaii, and nearly forty percent of the endangered species in the United States are Hawaiian species. Although many species continue to decline in number, some species are on their way to recovery as a result of habitat protection and management efforts. Continued progress toward recovery will require the application of good science to natural resource management and policy decisions.

Several examples exist in Hawaii where goat, pig, sheep and cattle populations are successfully kept at low or zero population levels over large areas.^{1, 10, 12, 15, 18, 19} In these cases successful control of ungulate populations involved: 1) a strategy of barriers to isolate populations, 2) take of significantly greater percentages from populations than can be replenished by reproduction and ingress from adjoining areas,³ 3) barrier inspection and maintenance, and 4) vigilance in monitoring and removal of animal population increase and ingress. These four components are explained in more detail in Attachment 1. Present control strategies for each species are outlined in Attachment 2. Attachment 3 provides a summary table of animal removal techniques, and their levels of effectiveness and public acceptance.

^a With the field background knowledge of Steve Anderson, Howard Hoshide, Larry Katahira, Ron Nagata, Ted Rodrigues, and Tim Tunison.



Figure 1. The Kukalauula Study Exclosure classically illustrates the newfound ungulate control understanding of the early 1970s: 1) goats did not jump 4' hogwire fences, even when malnourished and highly palatable plants visibly grew inside, and 2) rare native Hawaiian plants, safe from ungulates, sprouted and flourished inside the fence. Outside the fence all were alien plants, browsed to the rootstalks.²

Public acceptance is often crucial to the success of restoration plans on public lands. Ungulate population control has met with criticism regarding the economic practicality of fencing. Arguments are made that the high construction, installation and sustained maintenance costs of fence barriers to ungulate movement is prohibitively expensive. However, experience indicates that fences are the cheapest way to achieving ungulate control goals. For example, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park removed goats (at a rate of even 5,000/year at times) for a half century without any effect whatsoever upon the remaining goat population. After resorting to fences, the park zeroed out its goat population within a decade.¹⁵ Despite the daunting upfront costs incurred with fencing, this investment in natural resource conservation is key to maintaining the tourism industry upon which Hawaii's economy relies.

There is also public opposition to animal removal techniques deemed inhumane. As outlined in Attachment 3, the most ecologically efficient removal techniques from fenced or isolated populations involve using professional trappers and shooters, and snares and "Judas" goats and sheep for removal of remnant populations. Those who view the trapping and shooting of ungulates as inhumane may favor far less effective and more labor intensive techniques such as live capture and sterilization of animals. Both methods fail to remove a significantly greater percent of the population than can be replenished by reproduction, a key component to the success of native ecological restoration plans. Some of these techniques purported to be "humane" could also be regarded as prolonged, sustained animal harassment. Unfortunately, no techniques currently exist to effectively control ungulate populations that are widely regarded as humane.

Thus, some opponents insist that preservation of native Hawaiian ecosystems must be achieved in ways which do no harm to ungulates. They feel it is unethical to harm any animal. This narrow view would subject the rarest plants and animals in the world to direct consumption or loss of their only home on the planet by common barnyard animals. Resource managers consider the big picture, and attempt to conserve the integrity of native ecosystems in order to protect the most species possible. To sacrifice watershed health and potentially dozens or hundreds of rare and endangered species to extinction in order to spare the lives of a few individuals of a populous and widespread species runs counter to sound ethical logic. There is a strong social desire to preserve native Hawaiian ecosystems, but this is impossible without ungulate control.^{9, 18} The

use of fence barriers with the maintenance of near zero populations results in the need to eliminate the fewest numbers of animals, and confines the control to finite areas.^{2, 15, 18}

Ungulate removal techniques have also come under attack for being wasteful. In particular, there has been public criticism of land managers who leave behind animal carcasses killed at remote sites.⁹ Previous attempts at helicopter removal of ungulates from remote control areas have revealed that even the simplest handling of carcasses and removal by helicopter incur costs far greater to consumers than purchasing equal poundage of prime cuts of pork or mutton at the food market. Moreover, field handling of the carcasses and removal from remote sites does not meet USDA requirements for meat handling and processing for public consumption. No technology that meets public health codes is available to salvage carcasses from remote sites for public use. Thus, land managers have concluded that it is in far greater public interest to leave animal carcasses for nutrient recycling in the natural areas being protected. Indeed, this nutrient recycling is regarded as ecologically wise, not wasteful.

Perhaps the strongest resistance to ungulate population control comes from the hunting community. Hunters claim a traditional right to hunt, and perceive the elimination of ungulates from Hawaiian forests as a great threat to Hawaiian culture. However, goats, sheep, deer, the European boar, and cattle were all western introductions to Hawaii. The Polynesian pig traditionally was raised in enclosures as opposed to hunted in the wild. These established historical facts reveal that the hunting of ungulates was not a part of Hawaiian cultural tradition.¹³ However, the gathering of natural plant resources for wood and medicinal purposes, and of native bird feathers to make capes for Hawaiian royalty is part of Hawaiian cultural tradition. In fact, ancient Hawaiians used fencing to protect these valuable native resources. Their extinction would be an immeasurable loss to the heritage of Hawaiian people.

Central to Hawaiian culture is a strong land stewardship ethic. Hawaii's unique and precious natural resources form the very foundation of this culture, as well as Hawaii's economic stability. The loss of any individual life is unfortunate, but the extinction of an entire species is permanent, and may have far reaching effects. Sound ecological and ethical values embrace the knowledge that all life forms do not exist in a vacuum. Removal of ungulates is the critical first step in preserving and restoring native Hawaiian ecosystems, thereby preserving the richness of Hawaii's unique heritage to pass on to future generations.

End Notes

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Attachment 1

Four main components in successful ungulate population control

- 1) **Ungulate barriers** to isolate populations usually consist of fences, sometimes abutting against barren, inaccessible habitat (the sea, cliff faces, or expansive open lava) to form management units. Currently 4-foot high hog-wire with no gaps at the ground is used to deal with goats, cattle, domestic sheep, and pigs. Since deer and sheep are jumpers, 6-foot high hog wire is used (with the realization that some animals will still be able to penetrate the barrier). The size of the units in some instances are as large as 10,000 acres, but must be smaller if managers are not able to reliably remove an acceptable percent of the population each year. Pig units must be much smaller unless managers are able to use snares on a widespread basis.
- 2) **Taking animals in greater number than their annual reproduction**, augmented by numbers which penetrate the barrier fences requires massive and relentless energy.^{3, 10, 15} This requires taking more than a third of the remaining goat (or deer or sheep) population each year. Before 1970, management staff at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park were removing 2,000 goats per year without any effect on the remaining goat population.² With a goat population numbering about 15,000 and an annual increment capable of reaching 5,000 per year, taking just 2,000 a year from this population was meaningless.² Pigs are more prolific which requires take of than 70% each year.^{3, 10, 20} As populations are squeezed, the remaining animals become extremely wary.³ One hypothesis is that it requires an equal cost or energy input to cut a population from 100 down to 50 as it did to cut the 1,000 population down to 500.¹⁰ Careful records of number, sex, age and reproductive status of removed animals form the basis for reviewing control progress and refining strategy through adaptive management.
- 3) **Inspecting and Maintaining barriers** such as fencing never ends. Failure to mend fences and to remove the annual increment of animals or those that leaked through will result in the negation of all previous labor, costs, and ecosystem recovery gains.^b Monitoring both barrier fences and animal populations are integral to controlling ungulate populations.^{12, 15}
- 4) **Vigilance in monitoring** and removing any animal population increase and ingress, like fencing, never ends if an area is to be kept ungulate free. Monitoring animal populations is integral to controlling ungulate populations. To achieve a sizable area free of ungulates where they were previously numerous is so difficult, and so rarely accomplished, that it is unconscionable to neglect monitoring and thus enable populations to rebound to former levels. A tiny goat population, left undetected, can recover to 90% of its former levels in only four years. Pigs recover more quickly.^b Years of ecosystem recovery can be reversed in a few short months of renewed feral ungulate depredation. Most monitoring involves regular helicopter transect inspections, ground transect analyses to detect 'sign' or browsing, and snare transects (pigs) in remote sites. Judas goat searches are very effective in monitoring goat-free areas.

Attachment 2

Present Control Strategies (in sequence) by Species

^b Uncontrolled, a pig population can double in numbers every four months until the population approaches carrying capacity.³

Goats 2, 9, 11, 15, 18, 19

- Fence management unit (4' hogwire with no gaps at ground; can be 10,000 acres)
- If not remote, public/volunteer shooters may make initial population reduction.
- Specially recruited, trained, and supervised volunteers remove initial numbers of animals.
- Release Judas goats.
- Professional shooters kill most remaining population, aided by Judas goats.
- Professional shooters from helicopter mop up remnant individuals along cliffs.
- Fences are routinely mended; Judas goats are left to help professional hunters monitor and shoot any strays or new entries.

Pigs 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 17, 18, 20

- Fence management unit (4' hogwire with no gaps at ground; can be 2,000 acres), sometimes including one-way gates and traps
- If not remote, public/volunteer shooters may make initial population reduction.
- Professional shooters with dogs kill most remaining population.
- Baiting with papaya helps concentrate pigs for shooting and/or snaring.
- Professional technicians set snares (ratcheted Kelly snare) to mop up pig populations.
- Snares are used to take any strays and to monitor for new entries.
- Keep fences mended.

Cattle 18

- Fence management unit (4' hogwire; can be 10,000 acres)
- Perform cattle drives using cowboys, dogs and helicopters.
- Install one-way gates.
- Set trap corrals, baited molasses and with water. Harvest or kill captured animals or seek cooperation from adjacent ranch to remove animals from trap.
- If not remote, public/volunteer shooters may make initial population reduction.
- Keep fences mended.

Sheep (There is still much to be learned about removing mouflon sheep populations.)^{9, 18}

- Fence management unit (6' hogwire; can be 5,000 acres)
- If not remote, public/volunteer shooters may make initial population reduction.
- Professional shooters with dogs kill most remaining population. (Combining professional shooters with dogs, and helicopter search and shooting is effective).^c
- Experiment with Judas mouflon as aid to monitoring strays or new entries. (Mouflon sheep socialize in small groups and, if lucky, collared animals may help occasionally.)
- Run helicopter King Index surveys to monitor strays and new entries.
- Keep fences mended.

Attachment 2, continued

Present Control Strategies (in sequence) by Species

^c Effective technique is for ground teams of several hunters with dogs sweep through area with the objective of flushing sheep hiding under brush and trees. Mouflon sheep are very sensitive to presence of man or dogs and break cover to escape. Then they are vulnerable to the helicopter aerial team.

Axis Deer (There is still much to be learned about removing axis deer populations.)^{9, 18}

- Fence management unit (6' hogwire; can be 5,000 acres)
- Install one-way gates and traps.
- If not remote, public/volunteer shooters may make initial population reduction.
- Professional shooters with dogs and night spot lighting kill most remaining population.
- Experiment with Judas deer as aid to monitoring strays or new entries.
- Run helicopter King Index surveys to monitor strays and new entries.
- Keep fences mended.

Attachment 3

Summary of Animal Removal Techniques (assuming from fenced or isolated population)

Technique	Effectiveness	Comment
Live capture	Fails to remove needed % of population. (Low density animals are very trap wary.) ^{6, 9, 15}	Good for Public Relations only.
Public hunting	Fails to remove needed % of population. ³	Good for Public Relations only. Helps only with initial reduction, in very accessible areas. ⁹
Volunteer hunters	By itself, fails to remove needed % of population. ^{3, 15}	Can be effective (if with selective recruitment and direct supervision for organized drives), with initial population reduction. ^{9, 15}
Professional trapper/shooters	Capable of removing needed % of population. ^{9, 10, 18, 19}	Current effective method in Hawaii. ^{9, 10, 15, 18, 19}
'Judas' Animal	Highly effective w/ goats, specially for remnant populations. Partially effective for sheep. Ineffective with other species. ¹⁹	Greatly simplifies goat control for mop up by professional shooters. ¹⁹
Professional Aerial shooting	Very effective method along steep cliff faces.	Very high risk
Neck Snares	Highly effective w/ pigs, goats, & deer if left untended. Ineffective for pigs if snares are closely monitored. ^{8, 9, 10}	Low public acceptance (in part because it works so well, and since snare zones are closed to public hunters) ^{8, 9}
Poison	Very Effective in New Zealand. ^{9, 14}	Not acceptable for use in Hawaii. ⁹
Contraception/Sterilization	Ineffective / impossible ⁹	Cannot remove all ungulates in a population. ⁹
Biological control	Not been used. There are no specific agents. ⁹	Effect not contained within barrier area & will kill desirable farm animals nearby. ⁹

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HB1902

Submitted on: 3/15/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments: Supporting HB1902 HD2 with amendments.

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HB1902

Submitted on: 3/13/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Lodge	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Support with Amendments that will reduce the necessity for DLNR to remove hunting lands from inventory.

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HB1902

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nani pogline	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aurora Perez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill Thank you

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HB1902

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

Comments:

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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

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HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
CJ Armstead	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill. Please protect the hunting areas from being taken away. Hold DLNR responsible if they do take it away please make them replace it so we dont lose any more of our hunting area's. Mahalo nui loa

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HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments: I support HB 1902 HD2 with amendments. The DLNR's "Rain Follows The Forest" plan continues to threaten valuable hunting lands in our state. HB 1902 will help ensure that there will be quality lands for future generations of hunters and Gatherer's.

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HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia Souza	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support bill 1902! I want my children to be able to hunt and gather like our family before us did. Hunting area's have been shrinking due to being fenced off and little to no access. I would like to ask that the bill be amended to remove one DLNR member and add one more member from Hawaii Island. Thank you for your time

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HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charlene Nakagawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danae Souza	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support bill 1902. My family has hunted/gathered for generations and I hope hunting/gathering will be protected by bills like these for generations to come. Please pass this bill. Mahalo

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HB1902

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments: HB1902 is so beneficial to our future as harvesters and potential future users, without good access conservation becomes very difficult and resource management much more difficult. I sincerely hope for this preservation tool and your opportunity for excellence in management. Daniel Hanners

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HB1902

Submitted on: 3/14/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Davenette Souza	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha I am writing in strong support of this bill. My family has a long hunting/gathering history going back many, many generations. My children are beginning to hunt and gather and I would hope that they will have the opportunity to continue this cherished family cultural practice. The continued loss of public hunting area without replacement is unacceptable. I feel the commission should remove one of the department members and add another from Hawaii Island. Hawaii Island should have two members on the commission board being that they represent over 50% of the state's hunting area. Mahalo!

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To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: david@hawaiipighunter.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Monday, March 10, 2014 7:40:34 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Oshiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Relating to HOUSE BILL 1902 : RELATING TO HUNTING SUPPORT with COMMENTS Dear Senate Committee on Water and Land, I support HB 1902 with comments that proposes to prohibit any net reduction of public hunting area on each island. There are certain changes to the bill since the House committees' review that I would like to comment on. Page 1 Line 12 : "...shall make reasonable efforts..." Line 14 : "...if possible shall preserve hunting..." Page 2 Line 2 : "...shall make reasonable efforts ..." The above change of language does not reflect the original intent of the bill as it was recommended by the House. The original intent was to "prohibit" the loss of public hunting area on each island, not "make reasonable efforts" to prevent the loss of public hunting area. The whole intent of this bill was due to the public outcry over the fencing off and prohibiting access of lands that were once available for public use (which included hunting). Environmental conservation groups are continually pressuring the DLNR to remove many of these lands from public access and to remove/eradicate all non-native species without full knowledge of the environmental impact and loss of public benefit of these resources. The language of "shall make reasonable efforts" is unacceptable and ambiguous. Either DLNR does it, or they don't. It should also further be stated that this bill does not, in any shape or form, promote the proliferation of any non-native species or degradation of the native forest that the opposition to the bill would like to make this a discussion of. If the special interests of environmental conservation groups should so pressure the DLNR to eradicate every non-native species in the area, there is nothing in this language that stops them from it. However, the PUBLIC LANDS should remain PUBLIC LANDS and accessible to hunters and other recreational users, even if there is nothing in the area to hunt. The DLNR volunteer hunter education program is overwhelmed by the numbers of the public interested in the outdoor recreation and this should be supported by not reducing public hunting lands. Mr. Aila can attest to the popularity of the program and can support these upcoming recreationalists by keeping current public hunting lands, PUBLIC. Page 3 Line 7 : "Hunting Advisory Commission" I strongly support a hunting advisory commission. The DLNR is "out of touch" with the gathering community, which includes hunters, and this should be enacted to address that. However, what good is a hunting advisory commission if the HUNTERS are the MINORITY of the commission? 11 appointed members and of that only 1 from each county's hunting

community. That is 4 from the hunting community and 7 from appointed individuals potentially outside of the hunting communities. This is unacceptable. The amount of hunting community members should be at least 50% of the commission and should be at least 1 from each county and potentially more for the Big Island due to the larger land mass of public hunting available and diverse hunting community of such a large land mass. On a different but similarly related situation, appointed members should have little or no economic CONFLICT OF INTEREST when selected to this commission; unlike the current BLNR, that has many appointees that represent various special interest groups, non-profit organizations, and businesses that directly benefit and profit from public DLNR lands. The public's disapproval of DLNR may very well be due to the direction, leadership, and conflicts of interest of the appointed BLNR.

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Date: Sunday, March 16, 2014 12:37:48 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Souza III	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support bill 1902. I love to hunt with my uncle and friends when I can. I would love to be able to take my 4 and 2 year old when they're old enough. Please pass this bill. Thank you

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HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Souza Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I can no longer hunt due to an accident I had many years ago. But my children and now grandchildren desire to go and learn how to hunt and carry our traditions on for the future generations. Please consider the next generations when paaing this bill. Thank you

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Cc: d_wamar@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Monday, March 10, 2014 5:51:04 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments: I support this bill, however I do not support the amendments that were made to it. DLNR is just trying to find away around this bill so that they still can control and take land as they want it. There should be no grey area in this bill. Black or white. DLNR has done nothing but take away from the community. It's time for us to be able to use what belongs to us...the community, hunters, gatherers, we are the state of Hawaii not DLNR. It's time we are heard!

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Date: Sunday, March 16, 2014 12:20:27 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Earl Perez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have been hunting for almost 60 years now and continue to do so every weekend. I have passed this tradition down to all my children and grandchildren. I would hope that they will be able to continue to hunt and teach the next generations how to survive off the land. Thank you!

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HB1902

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Kellam	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary Fernandez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I've been hunting for over 40+ years and have taught my child and grandchildren the love for hunting/gathering I have. Both my daughter and her children love and enjoy to go hunting. It brings food for the table and builds bonds between them that will last a lifetime. Please pass this bill. Mahalo!

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Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Sunday, March 16, 2014 12:29:59 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hana Perez-Wasson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support bill 1902! My Papa Earl has taken me hunting with him since I was a little boy. I have come to love and enjoy hunting as much as I can. I have my own son now and cant wait to take him hunting when he becomes old enough. Please consider my son and the next generations of hunters and pass this bill. Mahalo Nui!!!

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM*
Date: Monday, March 10, 2014 8:53:59 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harley Fujii	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 11:48:43 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/12/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harley Souza	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha my name is Harley Souza, I am 17 yrs old and I strongly support this bill. I come from a long line of traditional hunter/gatherer's. I personally do not hunt but I support this bill because I strongly believe that these traditions should not perish but be protected. I admire those of my Ohana who go into the forest and bring home food to eat and to share with other's less fortunate. Mahalo for hearing my testimony.

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Date: Thursday, March 13, 2014 12:05:58 AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/13/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harmony Souza	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha my name is Harmony Souza I am 14 years old and I strongly support Bill 1902. I love hunting with my Daddy and go with him whenever I can. Although school and Hula takes up most of my time. Once in awhile I am able to go with my Dad and its the best. Mahalo!

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Cc: holly@kuaokala.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Sunday, March 16, 2014 10:34:56 AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments: I would like to show my support for this bill, that should mandate DLNR to replace lands that they may take in the future. My Husband is an avid hunter and fisherman, Our diet consist of the gifts from the land and sea here in the Big Island. This bill will ensure my husband can teach our sons to do the same and why its important to do so. It also ensures that my husband can take us camping and fishing in the future. Many of the fishing spots here you need a 4 wheel drive truck and have to travel far. But that makes the trip well worth it. As you travel through some of the hunting area's to get there its important to keep or replace similar lands to keep our traditions alive and well for the future generations.

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HB1902

Submitted on: 3/12/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hunter Souza	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this measure. I'm only 19 years old but have been hunting and gathering with my Ohana since I was a young child. I support this measure because it will ensure that future generations have the chance to practice our cultural traditions and heritage. Mahalo for your time...Aloha

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HB1902

Submitted on: 3/13/2014

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jaslyn Okamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB1902

Submitted on: 3/13/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments:

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Date: Monday, March 10, 2014 6:29:00 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments: While i do support this Bill, I also support the following changes to language within: Page 1 Line 12 : "...shall make reasonable efforts..." should be amended to read "Shall make all efforts possible" Line 14 : "...if possible shall preserve hunting..." Should be amended to read "shall preserve hunting" Page 2 Line 2 : "...shall make reasonable efforts ..." should be amended to read " Shall make every effort possible" It is our responsibility as a people to support any natural gathering type activity. Also as for the establishing of a Hunting Advisory committee. Please see to it that each county as well as the Hunting community in general is properly represented. One from each county (4) is hardly fair against 7 Governors appointees. Mahalo, Jerry Ilo Babooze Bowstrings

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From: [Joe Griffiths](#)
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Subject: Support
Date: Sunday, March 16, 2014 11:46:46 AM

Hi , my name is John Griffiths and i am in support of HB 1902 .

This bill brings DLNR to do the first ever game management plan and a carrying capacity of our game resource and save the owners of the land "People of Hawaii "millions of tax payer dollars . Please pay special attention if DLNR says we don't have land to do this and would cost a lot of money . DLNR isn't being transparent with the state of Hawaii ,they have taken millions of acreage statewide for conservation /preservation .DLNR left those lands dead and dormant with invasive plants running rampant over endangered plants never doing what was intended to be done but told us all state of Hawaii they must have these lands . DLNR own biologist would tell you if DLNR wants 10,000 acres only 100 acres would need to fenced correctly ,not the whole 10,000 acres .The lands that are in DLNR Jurisdiction that aren't in use by the thousands of acres need to be fenced correctively ,by doing corrective fencing DLNR actually does what they always say they can do "MANAGE " This gives back a lot of land

and saves millions of tax payers money that DLNR and associates will want from us tax payers to do unnecessary watershed plan . Also by DLNR doing their fiduciary responsibility they don't Violate article 12 section 7 of the state Hawaii constitution,cultural traditional and religious beliefs of Hawaiian people .

Thank you
John Griffiths

John W. Roberts
460 Liholiho Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Before the Senate Committee on Water and Land

Monday, March 17, 2014

Conference Room 225, 1:15 p.m.

Re: Support for HB 1902, HD2, With Amendment

Chair Malama Solomon, Vice Chair Brickwood Galuteria, and Committee Members:

I am a resident of Maui and a sport hunter. I support HB 1902, HD2, 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 which 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 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 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 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 land where the deer and wild boar populations thrive. HB 1902, HD2, is a big step towards ensuring this access for the future.

Proposed Amendment:

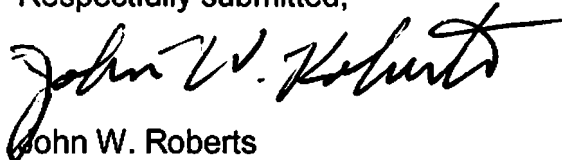
In the interest of humane treatment of all wild game and for the safety of hunters, I wish to raise for your consideration an amendment to HB 1902, HD2. Current hunting regulations limit the means of harvest carried by an individual hunter to only one weapon.¹ From my personal experience, this means 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 Rules (3) to read as follows:

"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;"

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." My 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 himself or herself in the event that his or her primary weapon malfunctions.

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Cc: jktaxidermyhawaii@gmail.com
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Date: Monday, March 10, 2014 7:52:20 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments:

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HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Perez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Im in strong support of this bill Thank You

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HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kawai Souza	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In strong support of this bill Thank You!

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HB1902

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keadin Fujii	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Friday, March 14, 2014 7:25:30 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/14/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kuuleihiwa Ahquin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I like to hunt with my twin makamae with my uncle and hope I can continue to hunt so we can eat smoke meat and sausage and laulau. Mahalo

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HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Larry Kodama	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Im in strong support of bill 1902

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Date: Sunday, March 16, 2014 10:26:33 AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments: I greatly support HB 1902 HD2 with amendments. This measure is very important to ensure that there will be lands available for future generations of hunting and gathering in our great state. I support the amendments which have been brought forward by the GMAC. thank you for your continued support.

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Cc: hogdog44@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Sunday, March 16, 2014 12:23:46 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leslie Perez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill! I've hunted over 40 years and would like to be able to continue to do so especially with my grandson when he is old enough. Thank you

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Cc: lo112773@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM*
Date: Thursday, March 13, 2014 7:55:47 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/13/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Logan Okamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: lo112773@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM*
Date: Thursday, March 13, 2014 7:54:38 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/13/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Loretta Okamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Friday, March 14, 2014 7:19:52 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/14/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Makamae Ahquin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha I am 11 years old and want to be able to hunt with my uncle. I want to be a hunter just like my Papa and uncles. My Papa just passed away and we want to keep our hunting legacy alive. Mahalo Nui Loa!

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To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: makani.christensen@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Monday, March 10, 2014 10:05:44 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments: I am in support of HB1902. This bill has brought light to our hunters concerns. This bill will also right some of the injustices that have been done.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Sunday, March 16, 2014 11:55:44 AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Ann James	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill! please consider passing this bill for our next generations to enjoy the outdoors while hunting...Aloha!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: matthoeflinger@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Friday, March 14, 2014 1:10:05 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/14/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments: Please support the amendments to HB 1902 that The Hawaii Hunting Advisory Council has worked on to help keep hunting lands available for future generations. A state wide council to advise DLNR is a good start. Sustainable hunting is a never ending food source. Lets insure food for the future and protect hunting and game animal resources. Thank You, Matt Hoeflinger.

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Cc: matthoeflinger@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Monday, March 10, 2014 8:00:52 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments: Hunters are an important part of the community. They provide a sustainable food source to many people. We are enviromentalists. We need your help.Please support this bill. Thank you, Matt Hoeflinger a hunter.

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HUNTING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the enhancement and maintenance of **sustainable** public hunting opportunities **for subsistence and recreational purposes** is of critical importance to the State **and its people**. A coordinated **resource management** effort involving stakeholders is needed to prevent and offset the loss, destruction, or degradation of public hunting areas on any island of the State and expeditiously find replacement land for hunting.

SECTION 2. Chapter 183D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding two new sections to part I to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§183D- No net loss of public hunting areas. (a) The department shall make reasonable efforts to prevent the loss, destruction, or degradation of public hunting areas on any island of the State. The department, if possible, shall preserve hunting land within public hunting areas that were designated on the respective island as of January 1, 2014, through a coordinated effort involving stakeholders.

(b) If land within a public hunting area becomes unavailable for hunting, the department shall make reasonable efforts to acquire, restore, enhance, and manage public lands to replace the unavailable land. **Before the State public hunting areas become unavailable for hunting, the department shall first make reasonable efforts to manage those State public lands and resources**

by implementing established and accepted game resource management and general resource best practices within the area. There shall be established purposes and goals, an implementation strategy, monitoring and assessment tools to determine success or failure.

(c) If the resource management effort is shown to have empirically failed to meet its desired purposes and goals then that section of the State public hunting area shall be removed from the inventory of public hunting areas. At that point, the department shall replace the unavailable land with land that:

(1) Has wildlife habitat of equal or greater quantity and quality; and

(2) To the greatest extent possible, is located within the same geographic region and provides the same types of hunting that the department allowed on the unavailable land.

(d) The department shall submit to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session an annual report that includes:

(1) The acreage managed by the department open to public hunting;

(2) The acreage managed by the department that has been closed to public hunting during the previous year and the reasons for the closures;

(3) An inventory of game bird and mammal populations in public hunting areas and the current conditions of the habitats in public hunting areas that support the game bird and mammal populations; and

(4) Efforts to acquire, restore, enhance, and manage public lands in accordance with subsection (b) to replace land within a public hunting area that becomes unavailable for hunting.

(e) For the purposes of this section, "public hunting area" shall have the same meaning as defined in section 183D-4.

§183D- Hunting advisory commission. (a) There is established within the department a hunting advisory commission, which shall serve in an advisory capacity to the board. The commission shall consist of eleven members to be appointed by the governor in the manner provided in section 26-34. Membership on the advisory commission shall consist of ~~one two~~ members of the department designated by the chairperson of the board, ~~and experienced in sustainable game management principles and practices~~, one member from the division of conservation and resource enforcement, ~~one member of each county's hunting community, one member from the tourism industry~~, ~~five members from the hunting community with two members from Hawaii county and one member from each of the other three counties~~, ~~one independent member from an Ahu Moku Council from Lanai or Molokai~~, one member who is a scientist with expertise in the field of mammalogy or ornithology, one member representing the endangered species recovery committee, and one member possessing a background in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices. The commission shall select its own chairperson. The members shall receive no compensation for their services on the commission

but shall be entitled to reimbursement for necessary expenses while attending meetings and while in the discharge of their duties.

(b) The commission shall advise the board on proposals to enhance and maintain the quantity and quality of public hunting areas.

(c) The commission shall also ~~advise~~ **be required to consult with** the board on any matter affecting hunting, including proposed rules. The commission may take testimony and acquire information as it desires and shall communicate its findings and recommendations to the board."

(d) The commission shall submit to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session an annual report that includes:

(1) The success of the commission in its ability to work collaboratively within these partnerships.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the administrative expenses of the hunting advisory commission established pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

Report Title:

DLNR; Hunting; No Net Loss; Hunting Advisory Commission; Report

Description:

Requires DLNR to make reasonable efforts to prevent and mitigate the loss, destruction, or degradation of public hunting areas. Establishes the hunting advisory commission. Requires DLNR to report to the legislature regarding public hunting lands. Makes an appropriation. Effective July 1, 2014. (HB1902 HD2)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: rileydemattos@gmx.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Monday, March 10, 2014 5:28:51 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Riley De Mattos	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senate Committee, I highly disagree with the wordings "...shall make reasonable efforts..." , "...if possible shall preserve hunting..." , and "...shall make reasonable efforts ...". Its either you make it happen or you don't. The whole purpose of this bill was to prohibit the loss of hunting lands....not to "attempt" to prohibit the loss of hunting lands. Sincerely, Riley De Mattos

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Testimony of
RYAN N. KOHATSU

Mechanical Engineer, Avid Hunter/Gatherer, Hawaii Hunter Education Volunteer

Before the Senate Committee on
Water and Land

Relating to
HOUSE BILL 1902 : RELATING TO HUNTING
SUPPORT with COMMENTS

Dear Senate Committee on Water and Land,

I **support** HB 1902 **with comments** that proposes to prohibit any net reduction of public hunting area on each island.

There are certain changes to the bill since the House committees' review that I would like to comment on.

Page 1

Line 12 : "...shall make reasonable efforts..."

Line 14 : "...if possible shall preserve hunting..."

Page 2

Line 2 : "...shall make reasonable efforts ..."

The above change of language does not reflect the original intent of the bill as it was recommended by the House. The original intent was to "prohibit" the loss of public hunting area on each island, not "make reasonable efforts" to prevent the loss of public hunting area. The whole intent of this bill was due to the public outcry over the fencing off and prohibiting access of lands that were once available for public use (which included hunting). Environmental conservation groups are continually pressuring the DLNR to remove many of these lands from public access and to remove/eradicate all non-native species without full knowledge of the environmental impact and loss of public benefit of these resources. The language of "shall make reasonable efforts" is unacceptable and ambiguous. Either DLNR does it, or they don't.

It should also further be stated that this bill does not, in any shape or form, promote the proliferation of any non-native species or degradation of the native forest that the opposition to the bill would like to make this a discussion of. If the special interests of environmental conservation groups should so pressure the DLNR to eradicate every non-native species in the area, there is nothing in this language that stops them from it. However, the **PUBLIC LANDS** should remain **PUBLIC LANDS** and accessible to hunters and other recreational users, even if there is nothing in the area to hunt.

The DLNR volunteer hunter education program is overwhelmed by the numbers of the public interested

in the outdoor recreation and this should be supported by not reducing public hunting lands. Mr. Aila can attest to the popularity of the program and can support these upcoming recreationalists by keeping current public hunting lands, PUBLIC.

Page 3

Line 7 : "Hunting Advisory Commission"

I **strongly support** a hunting advisory commission. The DLNR is "out of touch" with the gathering community, which includes hunters, and this should be enacted to address that. However, what good is a hunting advisory commission if the HUNTERS are the MINORITY of the commission? 11 appointed members and of that only 1 from each county's hunting community. That is 4 from the hunting community and 7 from appointed individuals potentially outside of the hunting communities. This is unacceptable. The amount of hunting community members should be at least 50% of the commission and should be at least 1 from each county and potentially more for the Big Island due to the larger land mass of public hunting available and diverse hunting community of such a large land mass.

On a different but similarly related situation, appointed members should have little or no economic CONFLICT OF INTEREST when selected to this commission; unlike the current BLNR, that has many appointees that represent various special interest groups, non-profit organizations, and businesses that directly benefit and profit from public DLNR lands. The public's disapproval of DLNR may very well be due to the direction, leadership, and conflicts of interest of the appointed BLNR.

Sincerely,
- Ryan Kohatsu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: rydersouza@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM*
Date: Monday, March 10, 2014 8:06:21 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryder Souza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: sheldonqb9@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM*
Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 8:49:13 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments:

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Cc: keithsakatas@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Monday, March 10, 2014 8:32:52 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments: My name is Stephaine Sakata. I am writing this testimony in support of this bill. But I would like to say that they should prohibit any loss of land for hunting. I am the mother of two boys one already hunts and one will one day since he is still only and infant. I am married to a hunter. This is something that is very important to my family and many others. It is a great way for my family to bond and something to keep my son out of trouble. What will happen if there is no place to hunt. I believe that DLNR needs to talk to the hunters and listen hear what that people are asking for. Why are they trying to keep this from us? Have you seen the waiting list for hunter education classes? It is a growing sport why are they trying to kill it. They want the sheep and goats and pigs gone anyway so why not allow the people of Hawaii to benefit from it. Our family eats sheep at least once a week and this is sheep harvested from hunting not from the store. Please the hunting community is crying out for someone to hear us. Thank you for taking your time to read this. Aloha Stephaine Sakata (proud wife and mother of hunters)

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Cc: hogdog44@hotmail.com
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Date: Sunday, March 16, 2014 12:51:27 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Souza	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Im in strong support of bill 1902! My son who is 5 years old wants to hunt with his uncle very badly. I hope that he can go with his uncle but he will need to have places that they can hunt and gather. please pass this bill so my son and others like him may get to enjoy the great outdoors while bringing home food for the table. Thank you

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From: [Stephen T. Hazam](#)
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Subject: Please support HB1902, HD2
Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 5:22:08 AM

Feb 19

I urge you to support HB1902 as amended by HD2. The preservation of land for hunting and other sporting activities protects our heritage and the rights of our people. Please support "No Net Loss". Mahalo for allowing me to submit testimony.

Respectfully,

Stephen T. Hazam
1288 Kapiolani Blvd., #1104
Honolulu, HI 96814-2867
Tel: 808-593-2798
<http://www.linkedin.com/in/stephenhazam>

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: meedolly@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Sunday, March 16, 2014 10:21:53 AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
taylor sumida	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I would like to express my support for this bill due to its nature of protecting the people from losing more land access. Here on the Big Island We all hunt and fish and to get to the fishing area's we cross through designated GMA's. I feel that DLNR shall, replace lands when taking an area. Not if possible but shall and will replace lands back to the people of Hawaii. Its our culture to hunt and fish and gather things we use from the mountain. And replacing lands will ensure we can pass these things on to our children. I have two boys and would rather see them hunt and fish than sit around and play video games. Its important to share these things with our keiki and for them to be able to share it with theirs.

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Cc: hogdog44@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Sunday, March 16, 2014 1:07:17 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tony Fautanu	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support Bill 1902! I do not hunt at the moment but my son really wants to go. I would like to learn how to hunt and bring food home for our family. My wife's family are ancestral hunter's and I would like them to teach me and my son how to gather from the forest. Please pass this bill for the next generations and those of us who want to learn. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: tcuyo@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM*
Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 2:26:03 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments:

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Cc: walkeratmksp@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM*
Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 7:56:22 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/12/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: wayne.perriniii@Jenningscivil.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM*
Date: Sunday, March 16, 2014 5:05:12 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wayne A Perrin 3	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: joanyosh@aol.com
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony Opposing H.B. 1902, HD 2 Related to Hunting
Date: Friday, March 14, 2014 11:35:57 AM

Testimony of Joan Yoshioka
Opposing House Bill No. 1902, HD2 Relating to Hunting
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Monday, March 17, 2014, 1:15 PM, Room 225

Dear members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land. My name is Joan Yoshioka and I am representing myself. I live in Volcano, Hawaii Island, and I am a licensed hunter.

As a licensed hunter in the State of Hawaii, I OPPOSE House Bill No. 1902. I am writing to inform committee members that this bill is short-sighted and addresses the special interests of only a small minority of hunters and not its entire body. As a member of the 1% of licensed hunters in the State of Hawaii, I can unequivocally state that my friends and family members that are also licensed hunters DO NOT support this bill as well.

This bill essentially inhibits the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) from implementing its State Constitutional duty to conserve and protect all natural and cultural resources for the benefit of the State's 1.4 million residents! Hawaii's native plant and animal species are fast dwindling with inadequate fencing to protect them from the damage of pigs and other animals. I feel it is unconscionable to force the agency responsible for their protection to do so with one hand tied behind their back. Any loss of conservation land to keep public hunting areas open so there is "no net loss," essentially dooms our native Hawaiian plants and animals to further loss. Most of our native plants and animals are found only in Hawaii and nowhere else on Earth! Once they are gone, they will be gone forever.

I learned to hunt from my father and he taught me that even if we enjoy hunting and eating the meat of animals we hunt, we still have a moral responsibility to protect our native forests, which is first and foremost. Even as a hunter, I don't support this bill because I'd rather err on the side of conserving, not destroying.

This bill was drafted with a lack of understanding of just how much land is already available to hunting. The State Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) has about 1,000,000 acres under its control statewide and 90% is already open to public hunting! The problem is not the AMOUNT of hunting areas, it is ACCESS to those areas. The DLNR has continued to open more and more new hunting areas, now exceeding more than 17,000 acres in the past 10 years with 28,000 acres in the process of being added. This is more than adequate for hunting. For these reasons, I humbly ask you to oppose H.B. 1902, H.D. 2.

Respectfully,

Joan Yoshioka

Testimony of Karin Schlappa
Opposing H.B. 1902 HD2 Relating to Hunting
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Monday, March 17, 2014, 1:15 PM, Room 225

I write to express my strong opposition to H.B. 1902 HD2. I have been working in Conservation related jobs in Hawaii for the last 25 years, yet many of my friends, colleagues, as well as my son are avid hunters. The interests of conservationists and hunters can and should both be served by DLNR, but H.B 1902 does not provide a balanced approach.

Of the roughly 1,000,000 acres under DLNR Management about 900,000 acres are already open to public hunting. Even if a small fraction of land is fenced to protect it from ungulates, the balance currently is so far in favor of hunting lands that adding more is not necessary.

The hunting advisory commission proposed in HB 1902 would not reflect the breadth of DLNR's management responsibilities for State-owned lands and elevates the voice of a particular interest group above others and the general public in the health and management of public resources.

DLNR has submitted a supplemental budget request for \$750,000 in general funds to be used for game management and enhancement of public hunting access and land acquisition. This funding request provides a much more balanced approach and should be approved.

Karin Schlappa, Volcano, HI

From: kivalier@gmail.com
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Subject: H.B. 1902 HD2 Relating to Hunting
Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 8:26:01 AM

Testimony of Kathy B. Valier
Opposing H.B. 1902 HD2 Relating to Hunting
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Monday, March 17, 2014, 1:15 PM, Room 225

Dear Fellow Residents of Hawaii,

I am a life-long resident of Hawaii, born and raised on Oahu in 1953. I grew up hiking the ridges and valleys of Oahu and spending time exploring Kauai, where I now reside. I got my master's in environmental planning from the UH Geography Department. Over the decades I have watched as our native plants and animals have continually lost habitat. Hawaii is now arguably the endangered species AND extinction capitol of the world. Numerous plants and three species of birds have become extinct on Kauai during my life time. I believe it is a tragedy to allow these species that have taken millions of years to evolve and exist nowhere else on the planet to vanish for the interests of hunters who are a minority of Hawaii residents. It is time we stopped putting our native species at risk for the sake of hunters.

There is no lack of animals to hunt. Burgeoning pig populations expanding into residential areas around Kauai are proof of that. Ask the stores that sell fencing and they will tell you about brisk sales of fencing materials to keep pigs out of peoples' properties. Pigs are not a native species. They did not exist in Hawai'i's forests before human contact. They are destructive to both plants directly and birds indirectly because of the wallows they make that encourage disease-bearing mosquitos to breed.

I have crawled on my hands and knees through native forest to remove invasive plants and followed the of destruction left by pig in pristine native forest and the trail of invasive weeds they spread in their *kukae*. I have seen where they have uprooted native plants and killed them. I have watched plants in unprotected areas like Na Pali and the back of Waimea Canyon go from common to rare. I have watched 'I'iwi likewise go from common to few in Koke'e because avian malaria carried by mosquitoes is almost 100% fatal for them. These are the birds from which feather cloaks of the *ali'i* were made. Do we stand by as they are lost, as was the 'o'o 'a'a or do we stand up to defend this part of Hawai'i's heritage? If we open new spaces for hunting, as proposed in this bill, we do just that.

We should be protecting our natural heritage like the Galapagos or Bhutan. Instead we manage it like Las Vegas, with very little of the protection that New Zealand offers their native specie, which they view as their nation treasures.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Kathy Valier

Wainiha, Kauai

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: kim@bigislandplants.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Sunday, March 16, 2014 9:44:30 AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/16/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Dillman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please vote in opposition to HB1902 a bill proposing to replace withdrawn hunting areas with same in other locations. The cost and unknown consequences to the aina, the land and watershed is not worth the risk. Resources management takes good planning and ample funding, and this bill only proposes more expense. I am confident the Dept. of Land & Natural Resources provides for both natural resources and hunting resources in its long range plans. Thank you for voting NO to HB1902.

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
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: the_dreamer47@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Friday, March 14, 2014 12:44:49 PM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/14/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LS	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose this bill. I feel that it is an unreasonable request and it is more important to preserve our watersheds so that we can enjoy our natural resources. Degraded watersheds and smaller conservation areas leads to less fresh water sources and a healthy community. I feel there are more than enough hunting lands with game animals out there. Every time I enter state land I see a pig or goat or sheep. Hunters need to be educated on the importance of conservation and realize that it's main goal is NOT getting rid of hunting, but to maintain and replenish our lands of healthy watersheds.

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Re. HB1902 HD1, relating to hunting

Chairwoman Senator Malama Solomon, Chair and Members:

This bill should be killed. While hunting in Hawaii is a valid and reasonable recreational activity, this bill is not reasonable nor is it a valid approach to a non-existent problem. A much better approach to increase hunting opportunities on current state lands is to liberalize the hunting rules.

Numerous news articles over recent years have documented that all over Hawaii game animals are **increasing** their numbers and spreading into new areas, often into urban, suburban, and agricultural areas. All of the efforts from all of the hunters have not been able to contain the ranges of game animals or to reduce their increasing numbers. Hunting is simply a recreational activity, and it does not provide any effective protection of watersheds and native species. This is why our watersheds and native species are declining so rapidly, especially on state land.

Licensed hunters make up only 8/10ths of one percent of Hawaii's population. It is a near-impossible task to attempt to control hunted animals on the 900,000 acres (90%) of DOFAW land open to hunting with so few hunters. This bill would grant hunters even more prioritization over our limited natural resources, in effect pre-empting choices to protect watersheds, native species and agricultural lands. Overabundant game on state lands spills animals onto neighboring private lands, at private landowners' expense. Privately-built protective fences and damages to crops and property cost the state's economy a lot of money. Even the state is forced to use costly fences to protect their most valuable watersheds and rare organisms.

As forest protection measures progress across Hawaii, a much better way to expand or replace hunting areas is to direct hunters to other state lands which are closer to residential and agricultural areas that are impacted by too many animals. Perhaps hunting organizations can help to design, manage and regulate such new lands dedicated to hunting opportunities.

Lyman Perry

Volcano, Hawaii

March 13, 2014

March 13, 2014

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Water and Land

From Mary Ikagawa, Kailua

In opposition to HB1902, to be heard Monday, March 17, 2014, 1:15 p.m., Room 225

This testimony is lengthy and supported by figures because I did my Master's thesis on the problem of poorly managed game mammals in Hawai'i. (Attached figures of Hawai'i Island hunting areas and mouflon range in relation to protected public land zoning and private lands are from Ikagawa, M. 2013. Mouflon sheep and rare plants on the island of Hawai'i, with an analysis of State ungulate management. Master's thesis. University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Dept. of Botany.)

Both conservationists and hunters have legitimate, longstanding grievances about game management, including unjustified bag limits (see hunting area rules tables at <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dofaw/rules/>); inattention to Game Management Areas; poor communication with hunters and conservationists; lack of access, data collection and sharing about animal range and populations; and a failure to limit game mammal range to prevent damage to crops, private lands, and important natural areas. DLNR has acknowledged and seeks to address some of these grievances. Notably, a request has been made to the Legislature this session for \$750,000 for game program and access improvement.

Though well-intentioned, HB1902 if passed will do nothing to address the fundamental problems with the game program. It will instead do a disservice to the public by misdirecting effort, impeding DLNR's effectiveness as the agency grapples with widespread forest damage and insufficient funds for management. The Legislature could better serve the public by providing DLNR with the funds it has requested to improve the game program, and requiring DLNR to report on how the funds (a) improved the hunting experience and (b) supported, rather than hindered, protection of agricultural and natural resources.

In the furor over fencing remote areas, the serious problem of game animal damage to farms and ranches has been overlooked (the cost to agriculture from deer, game bird, and feral pig damage is unfortunately not tracked by HDOA). Creative ways to apply the effort of hunters and trappers to protect agricultural lands from the high numbers of pigs in the lowlands would do far more for both subsistence hunters and farmers than tripling the amount of hunting area would do.

Past prioritization of hunting over native species and healthy watershed forests has resulted in promoting the spread of invasive game animals (see attached figures) and the wholesale endangerment of Hawai'i's native flora and fauna. Hawaii has **437** species of animals and plants listed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered or threatened. Loss of habitat resulting from poorly controlled game animals is a primary cause of native species endangerment in Hawai'i.

Directed (closely managed for a specific purpose) hunting has a place in game animal control in accessible areas and could be further developed. Undirected public hunting is such an ineffective method of controlling non-native animals where they have become invasive—particularly in remote areas—that professionals do not consider it a control method at all. In Hawai'i, the ability of hunters to contribute to animal control is further handicapped by the prevalence of take restrictions such as archery only, weekends only, and bag limits. Professional *shooting*, particularly aerial shooting, is a highly effective control method in some remote situations.

Hawaii has far more hunting area than hunters can make use of. "Hunting areas" include large areas zoned for preservation where hunting was never meant to be a primary use and that only now have an opportunity to be protected from hoofed animals with fencing. Such areas presently included in the State definition of "hunting area" include Natural Area Reserves, native species sanctuaries, and restricted watersheds (see HRS 13-123-2). Resource managers can attest to the rarity of encountering hunters in the remote areas where most fencing is planned. Most hunting occurs within a relatively short distance of roads, for obvious reasons. In other words, there is a great deal more land presently considered public hunting area than is significantly used for hunting. A more useful concept for actively managed public hunting is the Game Management Area, where hunting is a primary use, and hunters could be better engaged by the game program to improve animal habitat and manage animal numbers.

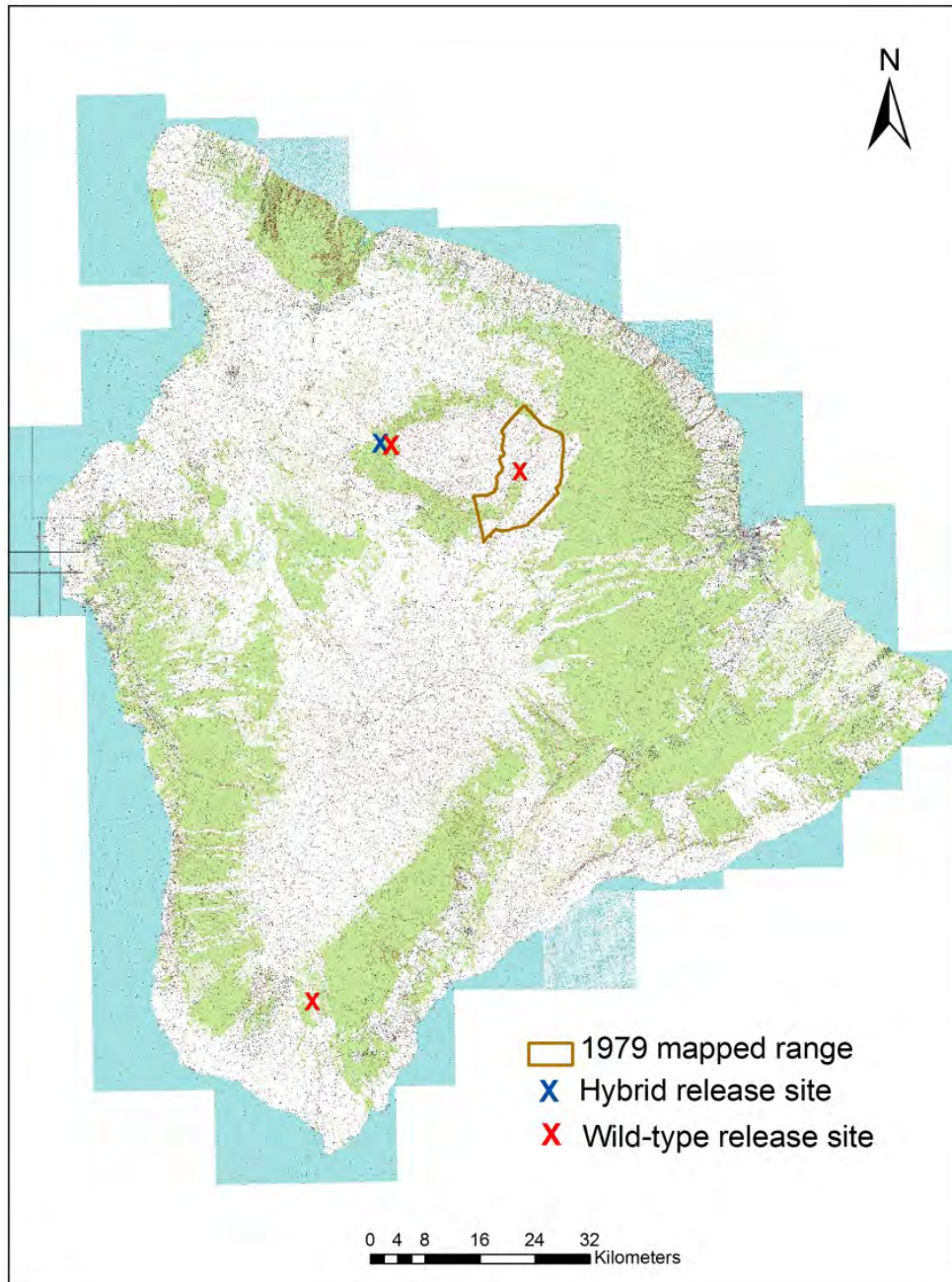
An issue that is known to all hunters but rarely if ever discussed in public forums is the tendency of some individuals to consider certain spots "theirs," which can lead to unpleasant standoffs and a natural desire for very large tracts of available hunting lands to reduce encounters. This issue should be acknowledged and addressed in some way other than leaving hundreds of thousands of acres of imperiled, publicly owned native forest unfenced for occasional hunting use.

DLNR is making a serious effort to improve hunting access as well as the health of our land and water. They deserve a chance to implement before being saddled with new responsibilities or this advisory committee. Please vote No on HB1902.

Regards,

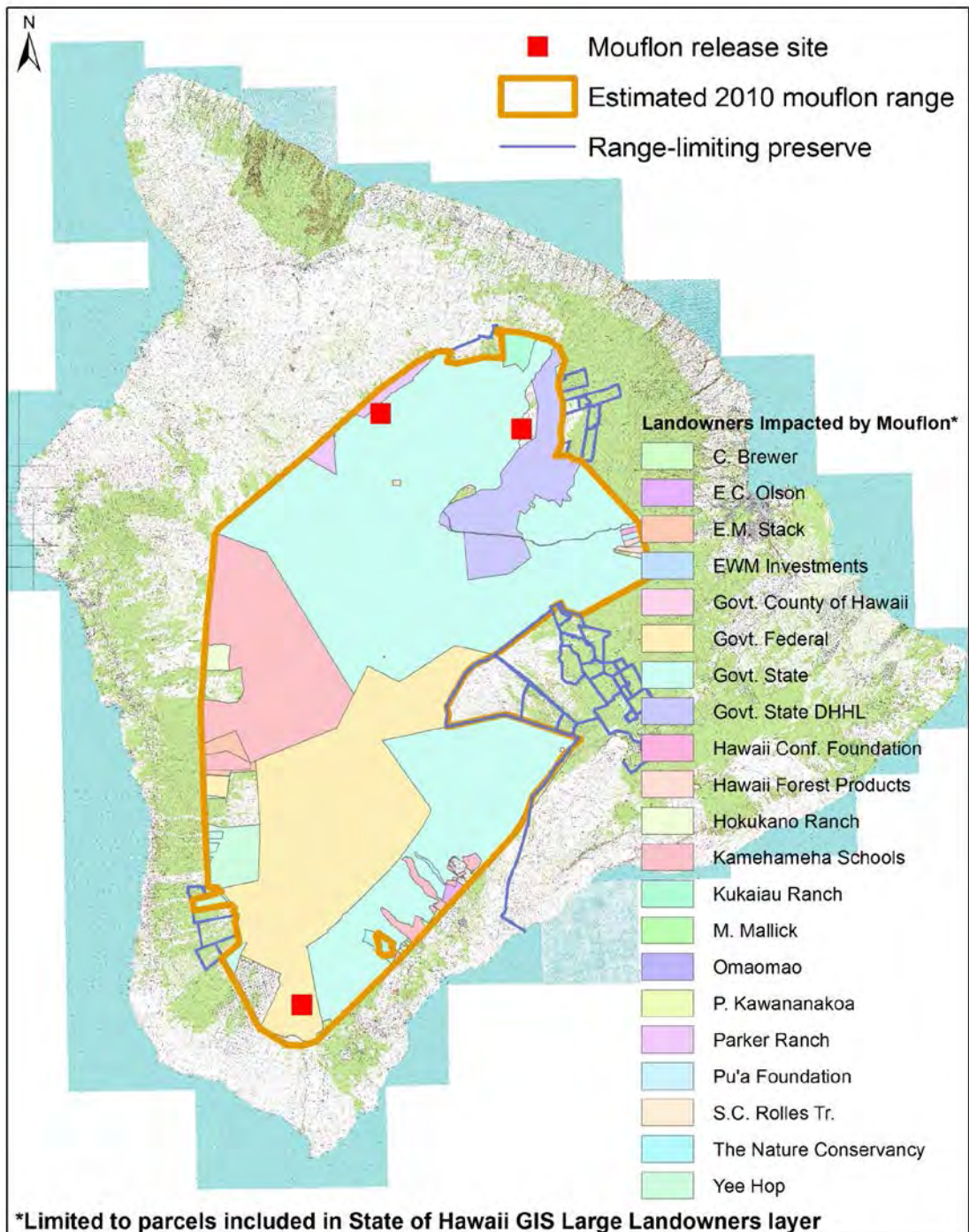
Mary Ikagawa

Mouflon Range on Hawai'i, 1979



Release sites of pure (wild-type) mouflon and mouflon/feral sheep hybrids on Hawai'i. Mouflon and feral sheep/mouflon hybrid animals were released for hunting on Mauna Kea between 1962 and 1966 (99 hybrid and 94 pure mouflon) and on Mauna Loa in 1968 (8 mouflon) and 1974 (3 mouflon). The range of the mouflon population on east Mauna Kea in 1979 was mapped by Giffin (polygon reproduced from Giffin 1982; measures ~55 square miles in ArcMap). (Giffin did not map the west range in this study.)

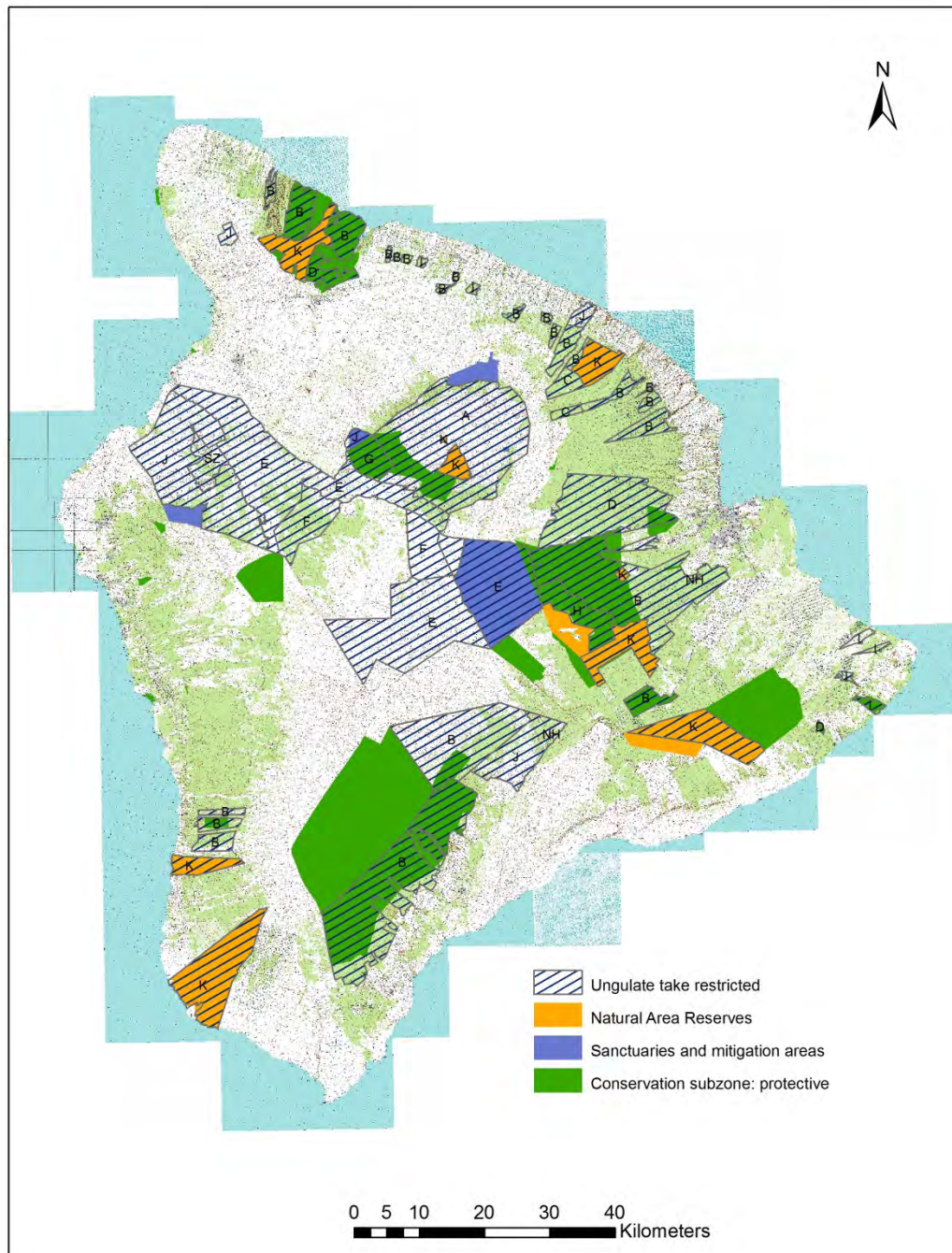
Mouflon Range on Hawai'i, 2010 (and Affected Large Landowners)



Ikagawa, M. Master's thesis, University of Hawaii Dept. Botany, 2013

Mouflon range 40-50 years after release. Game managers prepared no plan to limit mouflon range, and bag limits remain in place today, supporting their continued spread. Private landowners are forced to control state-regulated game animals, including pigs, deer, and sheep, at their own expense. (Note from a Big Island hunter, March 2014: "Note that the range expansion since 2010 is considerable, and that hundreds can be seen on any day driving along many miles of the upper Saddle Road.")

Public Hunting Areas in Relation to Hawai'i Protected Areas



Hawai'i hunting areas in relation to state-designated protective conservation subzones, Natural Area Reserves, and native species sanctuaries and mitigation areas. Some form of take restriction on game mammals applies in every public hunting area. Take restrictions in various units (indicated with letters A–K) include limited hunting days, bag limits on one or more species of ungulate, and limits on allowed means of take (e.g., archery only). SZ, safety zone. NH, small no-hunting zone within unit (which is visible in hunting rules maps). Note: In 2010, a rule change was proposed that would remove take restrictions in Hawai'i island NARS and in unit A, which is being fenced; however the proposed rule changes have not gone to the Board of Land and Natural Resources for approval as of January 2013.

Hoofed animals accelerate erosion and weed invasions



An aerial view is worth 1,000 words. Climate change will only accelerate an already bad situation resulting from the ubiquitous presence of hoofed animals in Hawai'i's natural areas. Experts discussing watershed recovery for Lanai were unequivocal in agreeing that fencing and animal removal is a watershed protection measure "without which all other measures were likely to fail." Maui County Water Use and Development Plan, 2011, Part 6, p. 64.

To: Malama Solomon, Chair
Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair
and Members of the House Comm. On Water and Land,

From: Patrick Conant, Volcano, Hawaii.

Subject: Testimony Against HB 1902 HD 2 to be heard on 3/17/14.

I am opposed to this bill because there is presently not an equitable way to make it effective without irreversible damage to our watersheds composed of native forests and shrub lands. Ongoing game animal damage to our watersheds is reducing our ability to conserve water for crops, commercial and domestic use. Global warming in Hawaii is predicted to decrease rainfall, meaning we need to protect all the watershed capacity we can, right now.

Ideally, there would be ample State lands or private lands accessible to hunters that are dominated by alien plants where damage to our watersheds would not result. But, there is no "land bank" of such State lands at present to make this proposed legislation work. It would be great if more private land owners freely entered into agreements with the State to provide hunting on their non-native forest and shrub lands. However, it seems there are not enough that do. Wild ungulates (including game animals) are well documented as very destructive to native forest and vegetation cover of our mountain slopes. Having grown up on Oahu and having lived and worked in agriculture on most of the different islands over 30 years, I have seen much of this damage myself. **Also, note that Mr. William Aila, Chair of DLNR points out that over 700,000 acres on the Big Island alone (900,000a. State wide) is available to hunters, out of a total of 1 million acres of land under DLNR-DOFAW control in the entire State.**

I understand that there was funding to hire only a single person (who has now left) by DLNR to improve access to hunting areas, so I suggest that the legislature fully support Mr. Aila in his expansion of that much needed program. The problem is that presently large areas of intact native forest and watersheds are legal hunting areas that really need protection from game animals via fencing them out. Those hunting areas were established many decades ago when wild ungulate damage to forests was not as well understood.

Densities of game animals can often be higher in intact native forest because those areas have not yet been degraded to the point that the animals have destroyed the understory plants they feed on. That is where the young replacement trees and shrubs start that keep our watersheds self-regenerating. No understory means erosion of soil and no forest when the old trees die. Intact native forest has already been shown by University of Hawaii Geography Dept. researchers to be the best form of watersheds in the State. Protecting watersheds also protects soil and coastal reefs that become smothered by soil when wild game animals are not fenced out of erosion prone lands.

Should we be allowing the destruction of our best forests and watersheds because less than 1.5% of the population wants the animals at high densities there for their benefit, at the expense of the rest of the population of the State? Do hunters really need 900K acres AND our best forest and watersheds for a past time that is well documented as ineffective in management of animal damage?

To provide high densities of game animals in actual appropriate hunting areas, DLNR will need increased capacity to create hunting areas in DLNR or private lands already dominated by alien plants that can recover from browsing pressure. Areas dominated by alien plants such as former sugar cane lands, degraded State land formerly leased for ranching or unencumbered Land Division Land could be planted with non-invasive alien plants (to also control erosion) the animals prefer. I believe that identifying such areas and making them accessible to hunters is just what Mr. Aila wants to do, so I suggest that the Legislature fund such an effort, rather than adding more reporting requirements for DOFAW staff. They know what needs to be done so allow them to do it.

If the Legislature is going to propose such a land exchange, then the Legislature is obligated to see that native forests and intact watersheds that benefit all Hawaii residents are not given up to the less than 1.5% hunting public, at the expense of the rest of the public, our environment and long term sustainability. The present form of this bill will permanently adversely affect all residents of Hawaii well into the future.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: rtb808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 7:46:56 AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randal Bartlett	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Solomon, Vice Chair Galuteria & Committee Members: As a lifetime Hawai`i citizen & hunter on Maui for over 25 years, I respectfully oppose HB 1902 because it sets unreasonable expectations on DLNR that may cost taxpayers untold millions of dollars for land purchases or exchanges. Mahalo nui loa no kou kokua, Randal Tadashi Bartlett 19A Huina Place Kula, HI 96790

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Re. HB1902 HD1, relating to hunting

Chairwoman Senator Malama Solomon, Chair and Members:

This bill makes no sense, is unjustified and should be killed. I speak as a Hawaii hunter for over fifty years. While hunting in Hawaii is a valid and reasonable recreational activity, this bill is not reasonable nor is it a valid approach to a non-existent problem. It also makes very little sense in the context of this century's realities, with overabundant game animals. A much better approach to increase hunting opportunities on current state lands is to liberalize the hunting rules.

Numerous news articles over recent years have documented that all over Hawaii game animals are increasing their numbers and spreading into new areas, often into urban, suburban, roadside and agricultural areas. All of the efforts from all of the hunters have not been able to contain the ranges of game animals or to reduce their increasing numbers. Hunting is simply a recreational activity, and it does not provide any effective protection of watersheds, native species, farmland, pastures, backyards or other areas. This is why our watersheds and native species are declining so rapidly, especially on state land.

This is no surprise, as we licensed hunters make up only 8/10ths of one percent of Hawaii's population. It is a tough task to attempt to control hunted animals on the 900,000 acres (90%) of DOFAW land open to hunting with so few of us. We can, however, provide an inordinate amount of political pressure for unreasonable demands. Listen up--even though we are a tiny minority of the state's population, we have ready access to 90% of DOFAW land for our recreational activities and the right to demand even more considerations at each legislative session. Every year our incredulous claims supersede actual facts on the status of our watersheds and hunting areas, especially when the adverse impacts of over-abundant game animals are concerned. This bill will grant us even more prioritization over our limited natural resources, in effect pre-empting choices to protect watersheds, native species and agricultural lands. Overabundant game on state lands spills animals and adverse consequences onto neighboring private lands, at private landowners' expense. Privately-built protective fences and damages to crops and property cost the state's economy a lot of kala and are a direct result, more every year. Even the state is forced to use costly fences to protect their most valuable watersheds and rare organisms.

As forest protection measures progress across Hawaii, a much better way to expand or replace hunting areas is to direct hunters to other state lands which are closer to residential and agricultural areas that are impacted by too many animals. Perhaps the state could lease hunting rights on private lands as well, where respect and accountability on private lands can be assured, such as via bonded hunting organizations. Most of us are reasonable, respectful and accountable for our actions. Hunt clubs on Maui have been doing this for years on important watershed lands on East Maui. Perhaps hunting organizations can help to design, manage and regulate such new lands dedicated to hunting opportunities. Let us step up to the plate to help better our chosen recreational activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Warshauer, Volcano

RE: HB 1902

I am in strong opposition to HB 1902 which would degrade the native-dominated natural areas upon which we all rely for fresh water. On other islands, State managed hunting areas may be less accessible than on Hawai'i Island, but in Ka'u and South Kona there are over 155,000 acres of accessible lands designated for hunting. DLNR manages 900,000 acres statewide that are open for public hunting, and only a small fraction of those lands are ungulate-free.

Ungulates increase soil erosion by digging, trampling, and eating native vegetation in our forests. Soil erosion leads to muddy run-off during periods of heavy rainfall, degrading the health of the forest and smothering our reefs. Fencing and removal of non-native ungulates from the Hawaiian forest allows young seedlings to survive to maturity, becoming trees that catch fog and rain which seeps into the forest floor to increase our supply of fresh drinking water.

This bill works against DLNR's protection of our source of fresh water, and saddles the taxpayer with the burden of paying for land that has "wildlife habitat of equal or greater quantity and quality [and] is located within the same geographic region and provides the same types of hunting" as the best quality native forest lands.

Thank you for considering my opposition.

-submitted 3/14/14

From: [Tina Arapkiles](#)
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Subject: H.B. 1902 HD2 Relating to Hunting
Date: Sunday, March 16, 2014 8:55:40 PM

Testimony of _Tina Arapkiles

Opposing H.B. 1902 HD2 Relating to Hunting

Senate Committee on Water and Land

Monday, March 17, 2014, 1:15 PM, Room 225

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on HB 1902. I am a resident of the Big Island and am extremely concerned about hunting.

My pain points of opposition the HB 1902 HD2 are as follows:

The Division of Forest and Wildlife has about 1,000,000 acres to oversee and 900,000 acres are already open to public hunting. This ratio is heavily weighed in favor of the roughly 11,500 licensed hunters in the state. There are so many other factors to consider while managing and overseeing our public lands. The State Constitution requires DLNR to conserve and protect all natural and cultural resources for the benefit of all the state's 1,400,000 residents. We who do not hunt are unfairly represented.

It will be very difficult for DLNR to achieve the "no net loss" instructions in HB 1902 if no money is appropriated to buy land with "wildlife habitat of equal or greater quantity and quality [and] is located within the same geographic region and provides the same types of hunting..."

The Legislature should support \$750,000 request to DLNR's budget to match federal funds in support of programs and staff. It just makes fiscal sense. This is important so that State controlled lands have appropriate access for hunters and recreational users.

Mahalo,

Tina Arapkiles

PO Box 383718

Waikoloa, HI 967389

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: cburner1@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1902 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 6:45:05 AM

HB1902

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
chris burner	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: As a paying registered hunter I think its only fair that if something is taken away it should be replaced. Example poamaho was fenced in and no grounds were open to replace the area that was fenced. I think the whole project was sneaked in by the government but that is another issue "communication". So 1/3 of a public hunting area is now gone.....and this is on an island that does not have sufficient hunting area. Hence hunters hunting in places that they are not supposed to. There is plenty a mountain to open for us hunters.

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