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TESTIMONY OF THE BIG ISLAND INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE SUPPORTING H.B.1041 HD2

RELATING TO HUNTING

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2016, 2:45PM, ROOM 224

LATE

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

DEAR CHAIR GABBARD AND VICE CHAIR NISHIHARA:

BIISC supports this measure, as it will give greater voice to people living outside of Honolulu and who are most directly involved in matters related to hunting.

BIISC continues to view game mammals as among the most destructive of invasive species in the islands. We support efforts to reduce game populations in key areas to protect local farmers from their impacts and we support large scale conservation of native forests, woodlands, shrublands, and coastal areas -- native ecosystems which cannot co-exist with feral pigs, goats, sheep, and cattle—through exclusion.

There are, however, large tracts of both public and private land degraded beyond the state's means of restoration, dominated by alien vegetation, and serving as host to vast numbers of animals used for sport hunting. Frequently situated between residential & farming areas and state forest reserves, these include some ideal sites for focused improvement of access and improved game management based on study of populations and impacts to the watershed. Recent studies have shown that certain of these areas may provide better forage for game animals compared to native forests, and some have more open understory, the better for hunters to navigate. Continued strong support for access into these areas may help reduce the overspill of animals from degraded areas into intact native forests and into agricultural production areas.

In supporting the game management advisory commission, we support well-informed, fact-based discourse and frequent clear communication between agency and user groups. We strongly suggest the use of a joint-fact finding process by the new commissioners and the administrators of the advisory commission, to lay a foundation of shared acceptance of certain facts right from the start. It has been our experience that previous efforts to integrate representatives of hunting groups and DLNR decision-makers could have benefited from taking the time to jointly examine pertinent statutes, regulations, on-the ground conditions, and studies of animal populations, and to come to agreement on what is known, unknown, and needs to be known. Undertaking this work before any proposals are made or decisions are rendered will surely help all parties unify behind a strategy for conservation of our community hunting practices, our native natural resources, our watersheds, and our agricultural economy.



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Executive Director
Bennette Misalucha

OUR MISSION

HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices and build a healthy economy.

In Support of HB1041 with Comments
Relating to Hunting

Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Monday 03-14-16 2:45PM in conference room 224.

LATE

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA). HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization promoting agricultural bio tech to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy state economy.

HCIA stands in **support of HB1041 with comments.**

HCIA stands alongside Hawaii's local hunters acknowledging their wealth of knowledge and notable contribution to nature and food sustainability. Through combined efforts, we hope to establish a positive environment for hunters, fishermen, and farmers alike, so that we may pass that gift to the future generations of Hawaii.

We believe a State Game Management Advisory Commission will enable hunters to better work with the appropriate agencies to efficiently coordinate efforts. This commission should directly address and advise the Board of Land and Natural Resources to have a fair and unified representation.

Other states strongly advocate for hunting and fishing programs and typically have a "fish and game commission" comprised of sportsmen and wildlife experts from their respective communities. They work collaboratively and assist in conservation and resource management. State-level "Fish and Game Commissions" are standard practice in nearly every state except Hawaii.

HCIA supports the intent of the amendments put forth by the Hunting, Farming, and Fishing Association listed below.

(6) provided that each member, other than the chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, shall be a hunter licensed in the State of Hawaii under chapter 183D, and must have leadership experience in working directly with local hunter or shooting organizations;

(12) Assist the department on policies, plans, and procedures related to the control of game mammals, including aerial shooting activities by the department and its contractors.

HB1041 will lead to an equitable system of natural resource management by empowering local communities, sharing knowledge, and responsibility.

In conclusion, HCIA supports HB1041 and the establishment of a State Game Management Advisory Commission to help both our state agencies and local hunters.

Bennette Misalucha
Executive Director, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

gabbard2 - Donna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2016 7:52 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: ulua_hunter@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1041 on Mar 14, 2016 14:45PM*

LATE

HB1041

Submitted on: 3/13/2016

Testimony for WLA on Mar 14, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Grant Kow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

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gabbard2 - Donna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2016 9:33 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: yamaguchd009@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1041 on Mar 14, 2016 14:45PM*

LATE

HB1041

Submitted on: 3/13/2016

Testimony for WLA on Mar 14, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennis Yamaguchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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gabbard2 - Donna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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To: WLA Testimony
Cc: fonga004@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1041 on Mar 14, 2016 14:45PM

LATE

HB1041

Submitted on: 3/13/2016

Testimony for WLA on Mar 14, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrew R. Fong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing in support of HB 1041 establishing a game commission to advise the BLNR. I am a resident of the island of Hawai'i and a hunter and feel there has been very little public involvement and representation from hunters regarding management of our natural resources. The creation of this commission will allow us to work collaboratively to address the declining access to our public lands.

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