

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA  
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
WATER & LAND**

**Monday, February 1, 2016  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1754  
RELATING TO HUNTING**

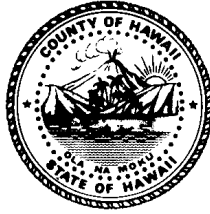
House Bill 1754 proposes to establish a Hawaii apprentice hunting license to authorize persons without a hunting license to hunt under direct supervision of a licensed hunter. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) acknowledges and appreciates the intent of this bill and provides the following comments.**

The Department is committed to preserve, protect, and promote public hunting (Section 183D-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes) and is aware that the maintenance and expansion of the state's hunting program hinges on continual recruitment of new hunters. The hunter education program was established to assure that personal and public safety are a priority for all hunters, as well as ensuring that hunters have a basic understanding and respect for game resources, non-game resources, and firearm regulations in Hawaii.

The Department agrees that a combination of mentorship and formal hunter education are necessary to promote legal, safe, and ethical hunting, and that this bill will provide potential hunters with these sound hunting principles. However, the Department suggests that issuance of apprentice hunting licenses be limited to a single license year and not be eligible for renewal.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**William P. Kenoi**  
Mayor



**Walter K.M. Lau**  
Managing Director

**Randall M. Kurohara**  
Deputy Managing Director

# County of Hawai'i

## Office of the Mayor

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


### The County of Hawaii Game Management Advisory Commission

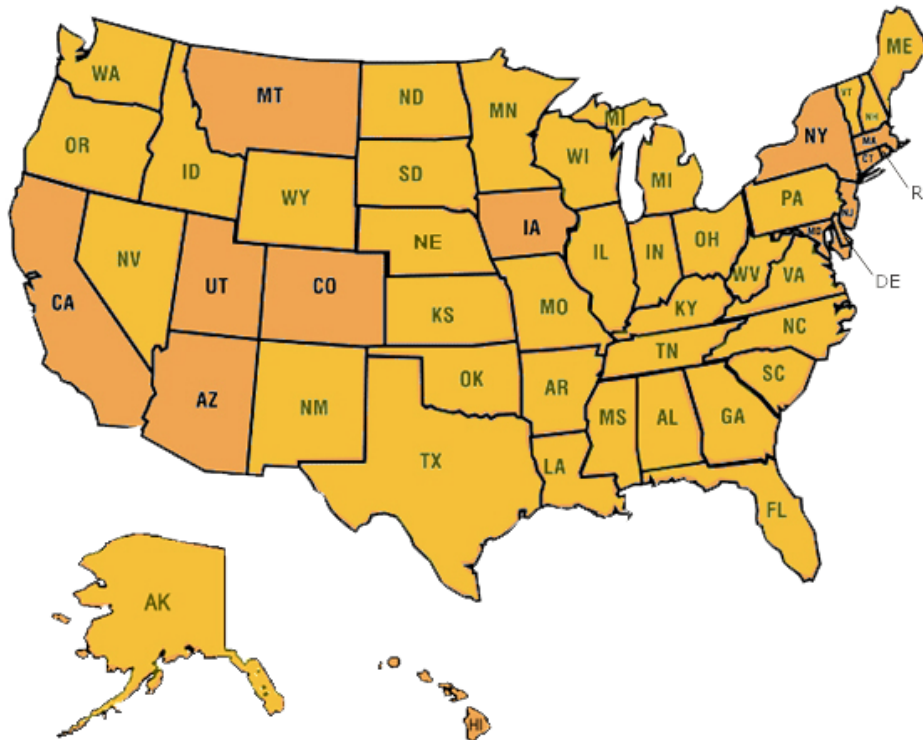
January 30, 2016

Committee on Water And Land; 10:00 AM Conference Room 325; 2/01/2016

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Cullen, Honorable Members of the  
Committee on Water And Land,

Regarding House Bill 1754 – STRONGLY SUPPORTS

 = Apprentice Hunting Available



Hawaii Apprentice Hunting License represents an opportunity for Hawaii to join the many other states who recognize the importance of bringing dedicated new sportsmen and women into the field.

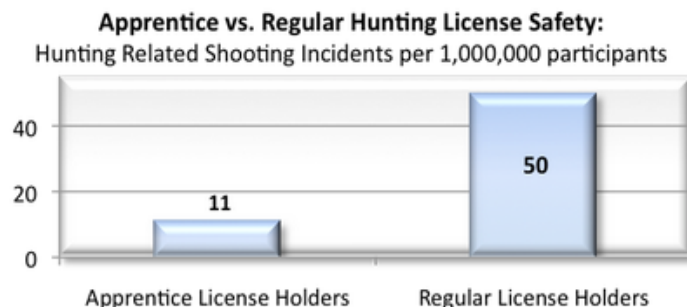
Hunting has been and continues to be an important family recreation. Hawaii is one of 14 states that don't yet recognize the application and benefits of a mentored introduction to hunting at a time when the new hunter, whether child or adult is apt to be most enthused by the experience.

A Hawaii Apprentice License **won't circumvent Hunter Education!** It has been suggested that this is just a tactic to get around the requirement to sit through 14 hours of Hunter Education in order to go hunting. This is a "try before you buy" opportunity to introduce folks to the value and experiences of hunting and only temporarily defers the requirement of attending Hunter Education.

An Apprentice License allows for a prospective hunter, under the direct supervision of a Hawaii Licensed Adult to be able to be mentored in safe field practices from start. If successful in creating in their mentee an ongoing desire to become a hunter, they will then sit for their Hunter Education Certificate with positive outlook and eagerness.

The Statistics that surround Apprentice License programs are all positive. **Safety, Demographics, and an early interest in taking Hunter Education** in order to get permanently licensed are all reasons to support this legislation.

A lot of folks know that the apprentice hunting license is a remarkably effective method to attract new hunters from the young to the young at heart. Many might not be aware, however, **that the apprentice hunter is THE safest hunter** in the woods. In fact, hunting under supervision as an apprentice hunter has been shown to be more than four times safer than the general hunting population.

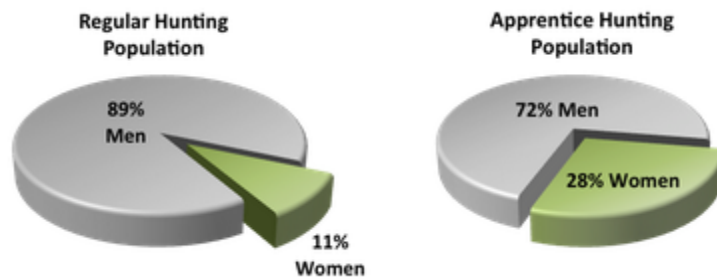


# Apprentice Licenses for Everyone

## Apprentice Licenses Recruit Women to Hunting

Women are the largest group of underserved Americans in the hunting community. While representing more than 50% of the US population, only 11% of hunters are women. They are essential to the future of hunting because women are often the parent that makes decision about which activities are safe and legitimate forms of recreation for their families.

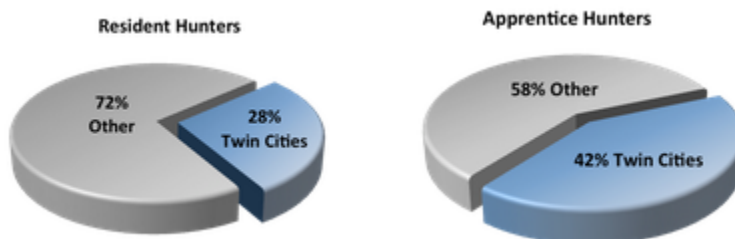
Families Afield is making inroads with this important demographic. Data from Minnesota reveals that nearly 30% of apprentice license buyers were women, a rate roughly 3x greater than women participate in the general hunting population.



## Apprentice Licenses Attract Urban Hunters

The future of hunting in America depends on its ability to attract newcomers from the urban and suburban areas of the country. The growth of metropolitan areas has increased their political clout that it is a growing reality that city dwellers will determine future hunting and firearm laws. Data from Minnesota details the success Families Afield has had in recruiting non-traditional hunters from metropolitan areas.

The research showed that 42% of apprentice license buyers came from urban locations. Metropolitan hunters account for just 28% of the general hunting population in the state.



## **Apprentice Licenses are for People of All Ages**

More than kids benefit from the availability of apprentice licenses because it is safe and an effective method to recruit new hunters thirty-one states offer apprentice hunting to adults as well as kids.

Examples of potential adult apprentices include:

- Retirees, looking for an activity to join
- College students who meet hunters on campus and become interested
- Empty-nesters with time on their hands for the first time in years
- A new work-mate or neighbor who meets a hunter while socializing or working

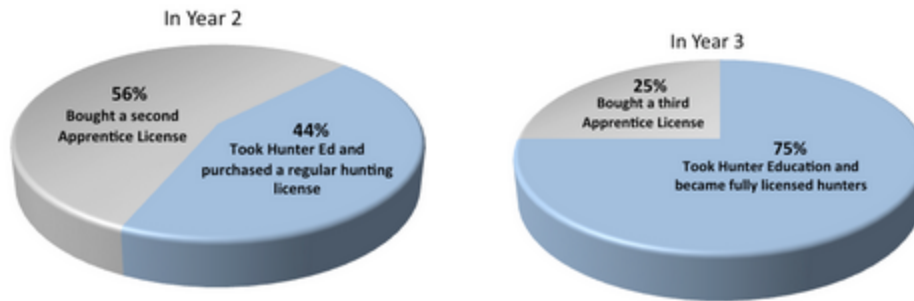
These and other examples like them present opportunities to show others the fun that can be had in the outdoors. That is why the Families Afield partners support apprentice hunting licenses for both adults and young people.

## **Apprentice Hunters Take Hunter Education:**

Apprentice hunting allows new hunters to try hunting before spending countless hours in a hunter education class This “try-before-you-buy” concept allows mentors to instill safety, ethics, and their passion for the sport in new hunters in a safe setting while they get to experience the thrill of the hunt Its important to note that a component of Families Afield is the requirement that prior to becoming a full licensed hunter a newcomer must pass hunter education.

**The program is working!** Research from the Ohio Division of Wildlife shows that once Apprentice hunters are hooked, they voluntarily transition to becoming a fully licensed hunter by taking Hunter Education before it’s required by law.

### What Happens to Apprentice License buyers in Years 2 & 3?



Data Compiled by: Ohio Division of Wildlife

In year two, nearly 1/2 of repeat license buyers (44%) took Hunter Ed when they could have continued to hunt on an apprentice license for two additional years. By year three, it jumps to 75%. This data demonstrates that Apprentice hunters are giving up the remaining years of eligibility for Apprentice licenses and transitioning to Hunter Education and regular hunting licenses.

Lastly, "some have suggested that Families Afield attracts apprentice license buyers who would have become hunters anyways. Research from Minnesota shows that is true for less than 1/4th of apprentice hunters in the state. The data makes it clear that without apprentice hunting to help recruit new hunters, the majority of those individuals would have not hunted, and another 26% report that they are not sure if they would have or not without the new license." ([www.familiesafield.org](http://www.familiesafield.org)) -

The Hawaii County Game Management Commission strongly supports HB1754 and asks that you pass this legislation as written. Thank you.

Much Aloha,

Tom Lodge, Chair.



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

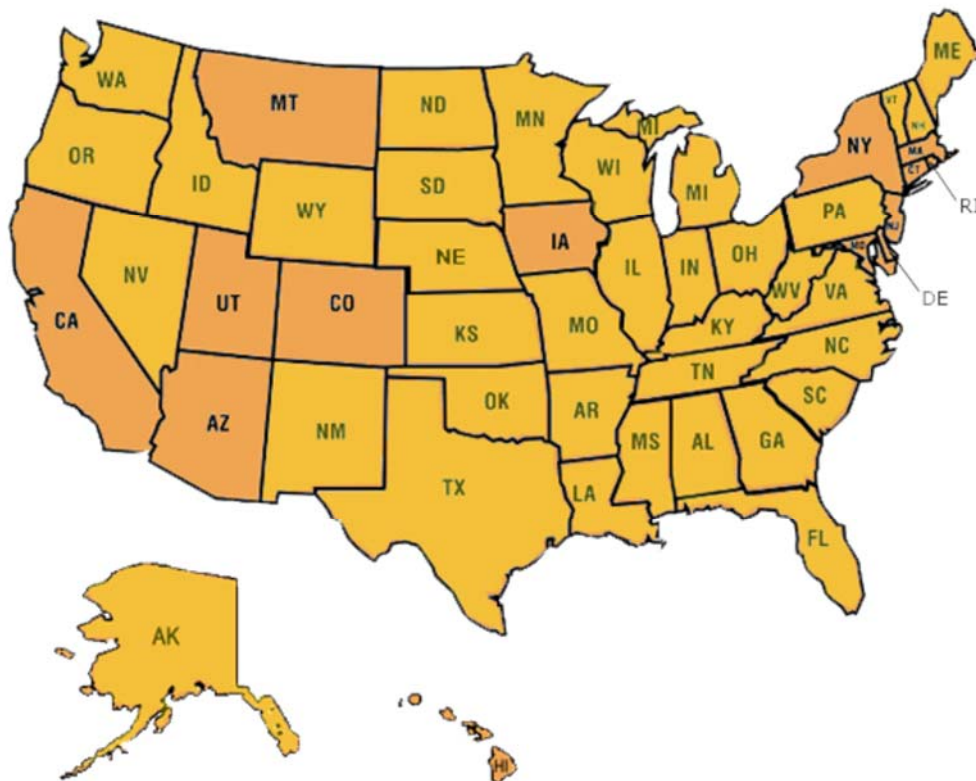
**HB1754**

House of Representatives  
The Twenty Eighth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2016;  
February 1, 2016; 10:00 AM, RM 325,

Committee on Water and Land  
Ryan I. Yamane  
Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
Committee Members

Hawaii Hunting Association **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1754**

 = Apprentice Hunting Available



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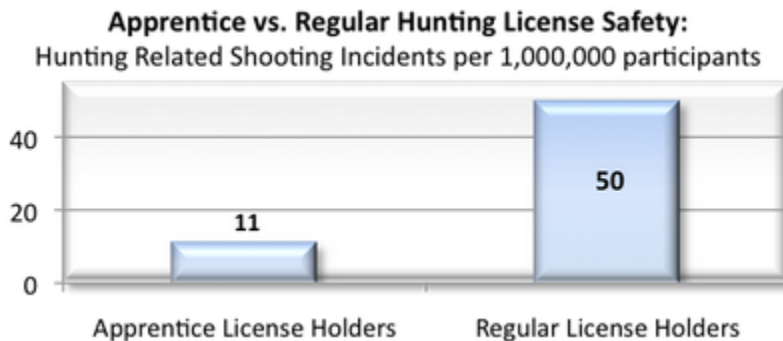
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16-1596 Keaau Paho Road; Keaau, Hi 96749  
hawaiihuntingassociation@hawaiiantel.net  
(808) 982-4747

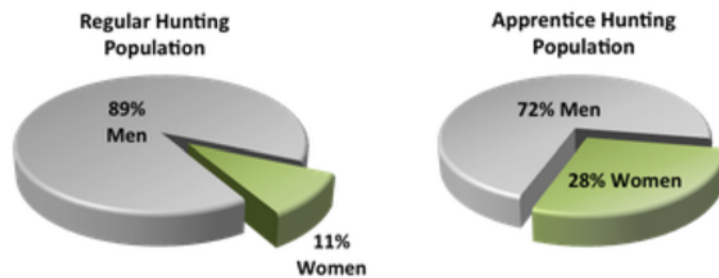


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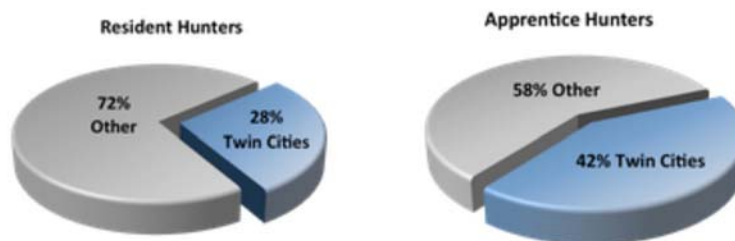
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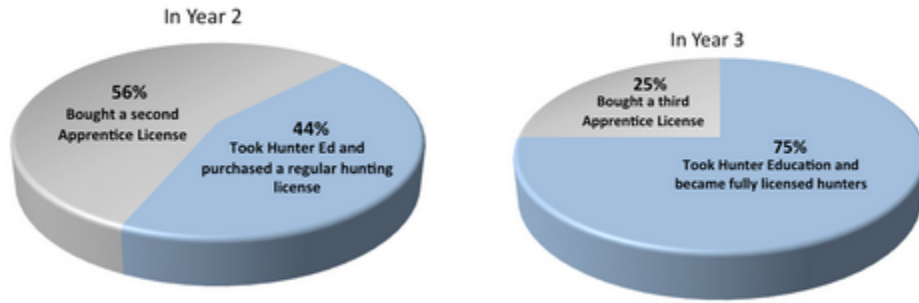
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Much Aloha,

Tom Lodge

16-1596 Keaau Paho Road; Keaau, Hi 96749  
hawaiihuntingassociation@hawaiiantel.net  
(808) 982-4747

cullen2-Chantelle

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2016 9:58 AM  
To: waltestimony  
Cc: shyla.moon@ymail.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB1754 on Feb 1, 2016 10:00AM\*

**HB1754**

Submitted on: 1/31/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 1, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shyla Moon	Hunting Farming Fishing Association	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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cullen2-Chantelle

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2016 6:04 AM  
To: waltestimony  
Cc: voggymtn@yahoo.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB1754 on Feb 1, 2016 10:00AM\*

**HB1754**

Submitted on: 1/31/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 1, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2016 8:58 AM  
To: waltestimony  
Cc: bethbartell7@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1754 on Feb 1, 2016 10:00AM

**HB1754**

Submitted on: 1/31/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 1, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mark Bartell	GMAC	Support	No

Comments: Very important piece of legislation that allows new users to gain initial experience with the harvesting of an important resource. Similar programs have been implemented across the country with outstanding success. Please support. Thank you.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Saturday, January 30, 2016 10:07 PM  
To: waltestimony  
Cc: ilojerry@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1754 on Feb 1, 2016 10:00AM

**HB1754**

Submitted on: 1/30/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 1, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jerry Ilo	Babooze Bowstrings	Support	No

Comments: I very strongly support this bill.

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# **The Society for Hawaii Heritage Animals**

## **SUPPORTING HB1754**

### **COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND**

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
Committee Members

Monday, February 01, 2016  
10:00am  
Conference Room 325

### **RELATING TO HUNTING**

#### **Establishes the Hawaii apprentice hunting license program**

Outdoor recreation, including hunting is an integral part of the health and well being of Hawaii's residents. Of further importance and of necessity to many residents in rural communities is the ability to enjoy and share in a sustainable subsistence lifestyle.

Apprentice hunting allows new hunters to try hunting before spending countless hours in a hunter education class. This "try-before-you-buy" concept allows mentors to instill safety, ethics, and their passion for the sport in new hunters in a safe setting while they get to experience the thrill of the hunt. It's important to note that a component of Families Afield is the requirement that prior to becoming a fully licensed hunter a newcomer must pass hunter education.

Passage of this bill will create greater opportunities for young hunters and their families to enjoy hunting traditions together.

Mahalo,

Tony Sylvester  
Executive Director  
The Society for Hawaii Heritage Animals



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Saturday, January 30, 2016 1:24 PM  
To: waltestimony  
Cc: hicogmac1@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1754 on Feb 1, 2016 10:00AM

**HB1754**

Submitted on: 1/30/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 1, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tom Lodge, Chair	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Hunting, Fishing, and Farming are important aspects of rural life in Hawaii. SB2026 is a long needed recruitment devise to introduce both the young and the young at heart to the outdoors. Much Aloha,

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Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 1:16 AM  
To: waltestimony  
Cc: BRF@MAUI.NET  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1754 on Feb 1, 2016 10:00AM



**HB1754**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 1, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bruce R. Faulkner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill as it will encourage our men, women, and our youth to get outdoors and away from electronic devices for a change!

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