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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER AND LAND

Monday, March 14, 2016
10:00AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2026, SENATE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO HUNTING

Senate Bill 2026, Senate Draft 2 proposes to: 1) Establish the Hawaii Apprentice Hunting License Program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department); 2) Provide for the issuance of a Hawaii apprentice hunting license to program participants between the ages of ten to seventeen; 3) Establish requirements for program participation; and 4) Exempt a holder of an apprentice license from taking the required hunter education class prior to licensure under Section 183D-22, Hawaii Revised Statutes. **The Department offers the following comments.**

The Department believes that the establishment of an apprentice hunting license program requires much more discussion and consideration to be safely and successfully implemented. Therefore, the Department believes it would be best to defer this bill until next year to provide time for meaningful review by everyone interested in this type of program.

The State Game Management Advisory Commission as proposed in House Bill 1041, House Draft 2 would be an appropriate entity to review this proposal further with the Department and interested persons to ensure broad input is received from Hawaii's hunting community and law enforcement entities.

Such considerations that need further discussion that are not addressed in this measure are:

- 1) Whether the sponsor should be unarmed while supervising the apprentice hunter;
- 2) Whether there should be a maximum number of apprentice hunters that a sponsor can supervise while hunting;

- 3) Whether a sponsor must be an immediate relative of the apprentice hunter;
- 4) Whether state sponsored lottery hunts held on private property can include apprentice licensed hunters; and
- 5) Whether there should be restrictions on game species and game seasons pursued by apprentice licensed hunters.

These are the types of considerations that other states have taken into account when implementing a mentored hunting license program that are not addressed in this measure and have helped to ensure safe and successful mentoring programs.

The Hawaii Hunter Education Program course is the Department's primary mechanism in recruiting new hunters and educating them on game resources, non-game resources, hunter responsibility and hunting regulations in Hawaii. The twelve-hour course is provided free-of-charge throughout the State, and attendance is required in order to obtain a hunting license. Currently, the Department does not find that the need to attend the Hawaii Hunter Education Program course poses a significant barrier to the recruitment of new hunters. However, to make the course more easily accessible, the Department will be offering an online Hunter Education course later this year.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2016 11:08 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: hicogmac1@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2026 on Mar 14, 2016 10:00AM*

SB2026

Submitted on: 3/13/2016

Testimony for WAL on Mar 14, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Lodge, Chair	County of Hawaii Game Mngmt Advisory Commission	Support	Yes

Comments:

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The Society for Hawaii Heritage Animals

SUPPORTING SB2026

COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Committee Members

Monday, March 14, 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



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

SB2026 – SD1

House of Representatives
The Twenty Eighth Legislature
Regular Session of 2016
March 13, 2016

Committees on Water and Land; Agriculture
Conference Room 312, March 14, 2016; 10:00 AM.

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members,

Hawaii Hunting Association **Supports SB2026 SD1 with the following suggested amendment.**
First page starting with line 12 through 17:

12 (b) A Hawaii apprentice hunting license shall be issued to
13 a person who is:
14 (1) **Ten years of age or older; and**
15 (2) Sponsored by an adult who is eighteen years of age or
16 older and who holds a valid hunting license under this
17 part.

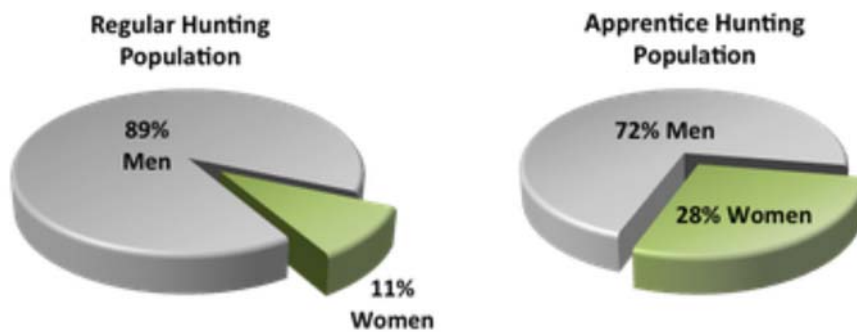
The purpose of the Apprentice License is to attract new hunters to the outdoors and the sport of hunting. To discriminate against adults and force them into either an online course or 14 hours of classroom plus weeks of waiting for a license before being able to join in a mentorship opportunity is counterintuitive especially in urban areas like Honolulu.

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(808) 982-4747

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.

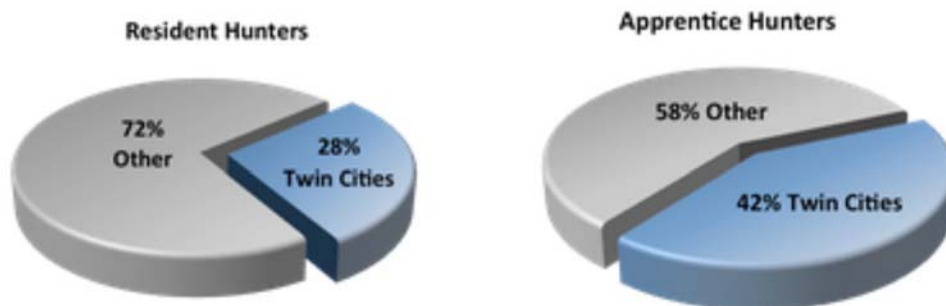
Families Afield is making inroads with this important demographic. Data from Minnesota reveals that nearly 30% of apprentice license buyers were women, a rate roughly 3x greater than women participate in the general hunting population.



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.

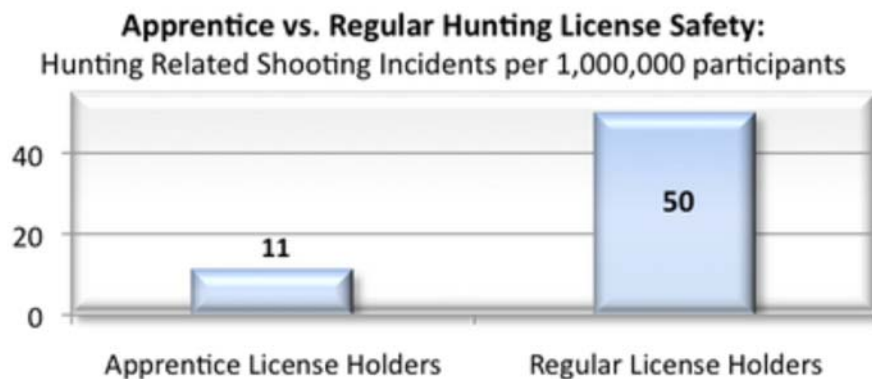
Examples of potential adult apprentices include:

- 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.

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. (www.familiesafield.org)



Much Aloha,

Tom Lodge

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2016 4:07 PM
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Cc: churkel@msn.com
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SB2026

Submitted on: 3/13/2016

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Hurt	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Long overdue!

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Cc: kabel.g@gmail.com
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SB2026

Submitted on: 3/13/2016

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kabel gebeke	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The best way to learn is to do. This has been proven in every type of situation and Hunting and gun safety is the same, real world teaching is way better than a couple days of class.

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Cc: cathyg@animalrightshawaii.org
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SB2026

Submitted on: 3/11/2016

Testimony for WAL on Mar 14, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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