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GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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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  
JUDICIARY

Tuesday, March 22, 2016  
2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 2156, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO WILDLIFE

Senate Bill 2156, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1 proposes to authorize the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to enter into the interstate wildlife violator compact or similar agreement for mutual assistance in the enforcement of wildlife laws. Compacts are voluntary formal interstate agreements among states and are not federally initiated. **The Department appreciates the intent of this bill and offers the following comments.**

The majority of the other 49 states have enacted legislation for this compact, whereby lawbreakers who have lost their hunting, fishing, or trapping licenses in one state (e.g. due to poaching) would also lose their ability to hunt, fish, or trap in other member states within the Compact agreement for the same duration.

Implementation of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact in Hawaii would involve the cooperation and coordination of three divisions within the Department: Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement, Division of Aquatic Resources, and Division of Forestry and Wildlife, as well as input from other stakeholders. A small amount of funding is necessary to establish and maintain the system, but member states have reported that the costs are minimal.

If implemented, local law enforcement data could be input by a single entity, yet many departments and divisions could derive data from this national database.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.



**Conservation Council  
for Hawai'i**

*Hawai'i's voice for wildlife*

*Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu*



Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Judiciary

Hearing: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 2 pm  
Conference Room 325

In Support of SB 2156 SD 1 HD 1 Relating to Wildlife

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee.

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 2156 SD 1 HD 1, which authorizes the Department of Land and Natural Resources to enter into the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact or similar agreement for mutual assistance in the enforcement of wildlife laws, and appropriates funds.

Enforcement of wildlife laws is important. Lack of enforcement is one of the most common complaints we hear from the public and one of the most common excuses for failing to move forward on wildlife and habitat conservation.

Please appropriate sufficient funds needed for this additional mandate.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

*Marjorie Ziegler*

Marjorie Ziegler

Telephone/Fax: 808.593.0255 | email: [info@conservehi.org](mailto:info@conservehi.org) | web: [www.conservehi.org](http://www.conservehi.org)  
P.O. Box 2923 | Honolulu, HI 96802 | Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 220 | Honolulu, HI 96814

President: Julie Leialoha | Vice President: Koalani Kaulukukui | Secretary: Wayne Tanaka  
Treasurer: Ryan Belcher | Directors: Rick Barboza | Anne Huggins Walton  
Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, March 18, 2016 7:45 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Cc:** cathyg@animalrightshawaii.org  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2156 on Mar 22, 2016 14:00PM\*

**SB2156**

Submitted on: 3/18/2016

Testimony for JUD on Mar 22, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	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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**THE HUMANE SOCIETY**  
OF THE UNITED STATES



**HUMANE SOCIETY**  
INTERNATIONAL

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2156: Wildlife Violators Compact**

**House Judiciary Committee**

**March 22, 2016 2pm**

**Submitted by Inga Gibson, Hawaii Senior State Director**

**The Humane Society of the United States-Hawaii, Humane Society International**

**[igibson@humanesociety.org](mailto:igibson@humanesociety.org) or 808.922.9910**

Dear Honorable Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair San Buenaventura and Committee Members:

We respectfully urge your SUPPORT of SB2156. This bill would allow DLNR to become a member of the national law enforcement network known as the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact. 47 states are currently members of this Compact.

The Compact is an agreement between states to gain further compliance with wildlife related laws, ordinances, and regulations of participating states, while providing for the fair and impartial treatment of wildlife violators. Membership in the Compact only requires a \$300 annual database maintenance fee. According to existing member states, an estimated 10 hours per month of existing staff time entering information into the national database is all that is needed, so no new staffing is needed. **Further, we will be providing a grant to DLNR to cover 3 years of Compact membership and any necessary training.**

Wildlife officials estimate that nationally tens of millions of animals are poached each year. Poaching is a serious problem and far more often than not, poaching activity remains undetected and poachers go unpunished for their crimes. In fact, it is estimated that despite the tireless efforts of wildlife protection officers, a mere one to five percent of poachers are ever apprehended by law enforcement. Crimes that may be recorded and accessed via the IWVC database include but are not limited to the following: Illegal take or possession of big game, Illegal take or possession of threatened or endangered species, Felony wildlife violations, License violations, fraud, false statement, Waste of wildlife, Accumulated wildlife violations, Violations while on revocation, Sale/purchase of prohibited wildlife, Illegal take or possession of small game or migratory birds and Federal Wildlife Violations.

Modeled after the equally successful Driver's License Compact, the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact was first developed back in the early 1990s. If enacted in Hawaii, it would prevent wildlife violators who have lost their wildlife related privileges in member states from coming to Hawaii to circumvent those license revocations. Enacting the compact would also ensure that those who have been punished with license revocations for illegal wildlife acts in Hawaii can't avoid their punishment by engaging in those activities in another member state.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. Please see below Resolution #2011 of support from the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and subsequent letters of support from the IWVC Chair.



## IN SUPPORT OF HAWAII JOINING THE INTERSTATE WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT

March 1, 2016

As Acting Chairman of the Board of Wildlife Violator Compact Administrators, I respectfully urge your support of legislation that would enter Hawaii into the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, a nationwide law enforcement network developed to address the problem of interstate wildlife violator movement.

The Compact is an agreement between states to gain further compliance with hunting, fishing and other wildlife laws, ordinances, and regulations of participating states, while providing for the fair and impartial treatment of wildlife violators. Membership in the Compact allows a state to revoke a person's hunting or fishing privileges based upon wildlife convictions and license revocations in another member state. This prevents a wildlife lawbreaker from leaving Hawaii to evade punishment and allows Hawaii to deny licenses to convicted wildlife violators. Revocations have been shown to be a great deterrent to potential poachers.

Hawaii, Massachusetts, Nebraska, and New Jersey are the only states that have not passed legislation to join the Compact, though legislation is advancing in Massachusetts and New Jersey. With most states as members of the Compact, Hawaii is at risk for becoming a safe haven for wildlife violators.

The Compact, modeled after the equally successful Driver's License Compact, allows officers in most instances to release non-resident violators with a citation in the same manner that a resident violator would be. Doing so takes a burden off of charging officers by allowing them to return to patrol duties sooner, rather than having to jail the person or handle collection of fines. Additionally, non-resident violators cannot evade punishment by crossing state lines without risking loss of hunting privileges in their home state. Once the violator complies with the citation, privileges are restored in his or her home state. If a violator is convicted, he or she will be entered into the Compact database and may have his or her hunting privileges revoked in all member states.

Entering violators into the Compact and ratifying other states' suspensions requires a minor time commitment and this responsibility is typically carried out by existing state wildlife agency personnel. There is currently a \$300.00 annual maintenance fee for member agencies for maintenance and upgrades to the compact database.

Joining the Compact is a two-step process. First, the state must pass legislation to enter into the Compact. Next, the agency will adopt regulations to implement Compact membership.

Hopefully the information provided will be a catalyst for your state's participation in this nationwide effort. We trust that Hawaii will consider joining the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact and respectfully ask you to support this legislation. If you have questions, please contact me or any member state for additional information.

Sincerely,

Bob Thompson  
Acting Chairman, IWVC Board of Compact Administrators  
Colorado Parks and Wildlife

**RESOLUTION #2011**  
**LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE SUPPORT FOR**  
**WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT**

**WHEREAS**, the National Association of Conservation Law enforcement Chiefs recognizes the Wildlife Violator Compact as a significant tool to be utilized by fish and wildlife agencies to discourage the unlawful taking of our States' fish and wildlife resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wildlife Violator Compact is instrumental in assisting in the protection of every State's fish and wildlife resources, by discouraging interstate violator movement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wildlife Violator Compact enhances the efficiency of wildlife enforcement officers by allowing for the issuance of citations to non-residents, rather than arrest; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wildlife Violator Compact has been joined by the states of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming; and

**WHEREAS**, the greatest success of this fish and wildlife protection tool is predicated on full participation in all aspects of the Wildlife Violator Compact by all fifty states.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the *International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies* supports and encourages membership and participation in the Wildlife Violator Compact by all fifty states.

**International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies**  
at its  
**101<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**  
Omaha, Nebraska  
September 13, 2011

**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2016 8:01 AM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Cc:** octopus@maui.net  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2156 on Mar 22, 2016 14:00PM\*

**SB2156**

Submitted on: 3/22/2016  
Testimony for JUD on Mar 22, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rene Umberger	For the Fishes	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 19, 2016 12:18 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Cc:** mmmmahalo2000@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2156 on Mar 22, 2016 14:00PM

**SB2156**

Submitted on: 3/19/2016

Testimony for JUD on Mar 22, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Moran	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha Chair and committee members, I respectfully urges your support of SB2156 that would allow DLNR to become a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact Mahalo, Mike Moran Kihe

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## **NSEFU WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION (NWCF)**

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2156, SD1, HD1: Wildlife Violators Compact  
March 22, 2016, 2 pm**

**LATE**

**Submitted by Tony Hunstiger , Secretary & Treasurer  
Nsefu Wildlife Conservation Foundation  
tonyh@nsefu.org or 808.722.0838**

Dear Honorable Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair San Buenaventura & Committee Members:

We respectfully urge your SUPPORT of **SB2156, SD1, HD1**. This bill would allow DLNR to become a member of the national law enforcement network known as the “Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact”. Forty-Seven (47) states are currently members of this Compact.

The Compact is an agreement between states to gain further compliance with wildlife related laws, ordinances, and regulations of participating states, while providing for the fair and impartial treatment of wildlife violators. Membership in the Compact only requires a \$300 annual database maintenance fee. According to existing member states, an estimated 10 hours per month of existing staff time entering information into the national database is all that is needed, so no new staffing is needed.

Wildlife officials estimate that nationally tens of millions of animals are poached each year. Poaching is a serious problem and far more often than not, poaching activity remains undetected and poachers go unpunished for their crimes. In fact, it is estimated that despite the tireless efforts of wildlife protection officers, a mere one to five percent of poachers are ever apprehended by law enforcement.

Modeled after the equally successful Driver’s License Compact, the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact was first developed back in the early 1990s. When enacted in Hawaii, it would prevent wildlife violators who have lost their wildlife related privileges in member states from coming to Hawaii to circumvent those license revocations. Enacting the compact would also ensure that those who have been punished with license revocations for illegal wildlife acts in Hawaii can’t avoid their punishment by engaging in those activities in another member state.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. Please see Resolution #2011 of support from the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and subsequent letters of support from the IWVC Chair.

Regards,

*Tony Hunstiger*

Tony Hunstiger