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GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND

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

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

Senate Bill 2156, Senate 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.



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES



HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2156: Wildlife Violators Compact
House Water & Land Committee
March 14, 2016, 10am

Submitted by Inga Gibson, Hawaii Senior State Director
The Humane Society of the United States-Hawaii, Humane Society International
igibson@humanesociety.org or 808.922.9910

Dear Honorable Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Cullen 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.

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 REMAINING STATES JOINING THE INTERSTATE WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT

As Chairman of the Board of Wildlife Violator Compact Administrators, I am joined by Col. Overturf, president of the North East Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs Association and director of the Connecticut State Environmental Conservation Police, in respectfully urging your support of legislation that would enter your state into the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (“Compact”).

The Compact is a nationwide law enforcement effort to streamline compliance with hunting, fishing and other wildlife laws and regulations of participating states, while providing for the fair and impartial treatment of wildlife violators. Membership in the Compact allows a state to deter violations by revoking a person’s hunting or fishing privileges based upon wildlife convictions and license revocations in another member state.

Hawaii, Massachusetts, Nebraska, and New Jersey are the only states that have not passed bills to join the Compact, though legislation to join is advancing in Massachusetts and New Jersey. With nearly all states as members of the Compact, your state is at risk for becoming a safe haven for poachers and other 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.

Membership requires no additional funding, nor does it require hiring additional agency staff. Entering violators into the Compact and ratifying other states’ suspensions requires a minor time commitment and is typically carried out by existing state wildlife agency personnel.

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 membership.

Hopefully this information will be a catalyst for your state’s participation in this nationwide effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Deckard".

Captain David Deckard
Chairman, Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact
Law Enforcement Division
Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle Overturf".

Colonel Kyle Overturf
President, NECLECA
Director, State Environmental Conservation Police
Conn. Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection

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
101th Annual Convention
Omaha, Nebraska
September 13, 2011



NSEFU WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION (NWCF)

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2156: Wildlife Violators Compact
House Water & Land Committee**

March 14, 2016, 10am

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

Dear Honorable Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Cullen 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”. 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



Testimony Submitted to the House Water & Land Committee

Hearing: March 14, 2016, 10:00 am

House Conference Room 325

In Support of SB 2156: Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact

Dear Honorable Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Cullen and Committee Members:

We respectfully urge your SUPPORT of SB 2156. This bill would allow DLNR to become a member of the national law enforcement network known as the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact. Currently, this network is comprised of 47 states joined together to help support wildlife law enforcement.

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. It also establishes a process by which nonresident wildlife law violators can be treated as state residents for purposes of law enforcement, thereby easing the administrative burden on the enforcement agency and reducing enforcement gaps that may allow the violator to fall to comply with the terms of the citation.

Existing member states to The Compact have reported little to no added costs or administrative burdens associated with participating in the compact.

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.

If enacted in Hawaii, The Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact would prevent wildlife violators who have lost their wildlife related privileges in member states from engaging in those activities in Hawaii.

We urge you to support this important legislation. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,

Rosemary Alles
Julie Callahan

Core Members
Global March for Elephants and Rhinos (GMFER)
March for Elephants (MFE)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 6:22 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: octopus@maui.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2156 on Mar 14, 2016 10:00AM

SB2156

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rene Umberger	For the Fishes	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Yamane and committee members, For the Fishes respectfully urges your support of SB2156 that would allow DLNR to become a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact. Sincerely, Rene Umberger Executive Director For the Fishes Kihei, HI

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
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 4:34 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: ndavlantes@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2156 on Mar 14, 2016 10:00AM*

SB2156

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
Nancy Davlantes	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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