

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

ROBERT K. MASUDA
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 Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND**

**Wednesday, April 25, 2018
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 705
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE GAME
MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
STANLEY RUIDAS, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2022**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports Governor's Message 705, nominating Mr. Stanley Ruidas to the Game Management Advisory Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2022.

Pursuant to Section 183D-4.5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), the Game Management Advisory Commission (Commission) shall: 1) serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board); and 2) consist of nine members to be appointed by the Governor in the manner provided in Section 26-34, HRS. The Commission shall include a member from the County of Kaua'i, three members from the County of Maui (one member from each of the islands of Maui, Moloka'i and Lāna'i), two members from the County of Hawai'i (one member from East Hawai'i and one member from West Hawai'i), one member from the City and County of Honolulu, one at-large member, and the Chairperson of the Board or the Chairperson's designated representative. Each member, other than the Chairperson of the Board, is required to be a hunter licensed in the State and have leadership experience in working directly with local hunter or shooting organizations. At least one member shall have knowledge, experience and expertise in the area of native Hawaiian cultural practices, and no more than three members shall represent, be employed by, or be under contract to any sector of government.

Mr. Ruidas is currently a member of the Commission from the County of Maui, Island of Lāna'i whose term will expire on 06-30-2018. He has been nominated to continue serving as a member of the Commission until 06-30-2022. He is an active licensed hunter who serves on the Lāna'i

Hunter's Focus Group which assists landowner Pūlama Lāna'i and the Department in the management of the game management area on the island. Mr. Ruidas has also been on the Lāna'i Community Plan Advisory Committee and the Lāna'i Planning Commission. As an avid hunter, he has hunted in Hawai'i, Wyoming, and New Zealand. Mr. Ruidas also attended four Safari Club International conventions in Reno and Las Vegas, Nevada.

Mr. Ruidas' extensive knowledge and experience with hunting will make him an excellent member of the Game Management Advisory Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support on this nomination.



Testimony for
Committee on Water and Land
Wednesday, April 25, 2017, 1:30 p.m. Room 224

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

GM 705 Stanley Ruidas for Game Management Advisory Commission

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

This testimony is in STRONG SUPPORT of GM 705 which is for your consideration and confirmation of Stanley Ruidas to the Hawaiʻi Game Management Advisory Commission. Mr. Ruidas was an initial appointment at the start of the Commission in 2017 and this would be his second term in serving as the Lānaʻi representative.

I am Lynn McCrory, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs for Pulama Lanai. Pulama Lānaʻi is the entity that was set up by Larry Ellison to work with the community and government as we move the island of Lanai forward toward sustainability.

Lānaʻi has a Game Management Area for the Hawaiʻi Division of Forestry and Wildlife that encompasses approximately 30,000 acres. This Axis deer and Mouflon sheep hunting area is and has been utilized by many hunters from across the state. Stan has been on the Hunter Advisory Committee almost since its inception, twenty-five years ago. This Advisory Committee works with the State, Pulama Lānaʻi, and the hunting community on Lānaʻi to communicate concepts and issues.

Stanley Ruidas is a Lānaʻi resident that contributes on many levels to our community. He voices his positions and asks questions to new concepts and/or changes that will affect Lānaʻi in a thoughtful, realistic, and respectful manner, which results in the surrounding community members hearing what he says. We value his input and know that he will be a valuable member of the Hawaiʻi Game Management Advisory Commission.

We humbly ask for your support of GM 705. Mahalo!

Me ke aloha pumehana
With warm aloha,

Lynn P. McCrory
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs

- What issues do you believe that the Commission has handled well in the past? What should it address moving forward?

The largest issue that the GMAC has dealt with is the aerial eradication of the goats in the Waianae mountains. It has been very frustrating at times, especially when we advise DOFAW to put a temporary halt, while the GMAC tries to find a solution to the problem. DOFAW has ignored our requests three times and I can see why there's disappointment by the Waianae community and its hunters. This made the GMAC commissioners also wonder what is our purpose if we cannot get cooperation? In the March GMAC meeting, we approved a letter that was sent to the BLNR asking for a temporary aerial eradication stop. We have got to know the DOFAW staff and how their programs work and the GMAC has done well with bridging the gap between the hunters and them. I can see how the GMAC will be vital in the future to the culture of sustainable hunting in Hawaii, while conserving and protecting Hawaii's natural resources and ungulate control. Issues that will be addressed are: Hiking/hunting permits on Oahu-focusing on having days/times to conduct both activities safely. Having a longer term for hunting licenses, similar to drivers licenses. Criteria to address medical marijuana and hunting, if marijuana becomes legal - because alcohol is legal, prescription drugs are legal and currently it is legal to hunt(not to mention drive a vehicle) as long as the operator isn't under the influence. Every island should have a Game Management Plan, something DOFAW has failed to create for the last 20 years. We will also need to create an internal procedure plan on how the GMAC meetings are conducted. Currently there is a commissioner that has not attended any meetings, in this GMAC plan, we can address attendance.

- What are some of your accomplishments as a member of the Commission and what would you like to accomplish during an additional term?

As a member of the GMAC, I haven't missed any of our meetings. On Lanai, I have been instrumental in achieving 3 year extension on the GMA lease from Pulama Lanai. It is required that DOFAW creates a Management Plan within this time to enter into another term lease with Pulama Lanai. If this requirement is not met, the lease will be Terminated and we will lose 30,000 acres of hunting land. It is imperative that a management plan is completed, and I have expressed that to the commission at every meeting! DOFAW said that they will need additional funding to hire a consultant, but until this date, no one has produced a monetary cost. I'm afraid that DOFAW will put this issue on the back burner and we will lose our public hunting on Lanai. On a recent survey, hunting on Lanai creates a 3 million dollar revenue to the State of Hawaii and that reciprocates exponentially throughout our economy. Hunting on Lanai is a part of Hawaii's culture, we have 4 generations of families that hunt on Lanai, and some have hunted here for over 50 years! To lose this will be a great shame to our Aloha State. In the last six months, I have conducted two meetings to hear the concerns of the hunters. DOFAW has also conducted a meeting, in which I was on the panel. Historically, this was never done. Communication between the hunters and DOFAW on Lanai has been a success. Hunters are very concerned about the lease and the lack of DOCARE officers. We have started the process of introducing an extra day to the archery season, allowing archers the opportunity to hunt on two full weekends, as opposed to one. This will create a safer hunt since the high influx of archers will be spread out. We have also started the conversation about the health and quality of the Mouflon sheep. Hunters are reporting low numbers of animals, dead carcasses and small horns. They are very concerned that the species will die off if issues are not addressed. My next meeting with the public hunters will be in June. I'm pursuing another term

because of the issues stated above and to ensure that DOFAW will complete the Management plan for Lanai.

Aloha,
Stan Ruidas

Stan Ruidas

1 - I understand that the Game Management Advisory Commission will advise the Board of Land and Natural Resources on managing public hunting areas in sustainable ways, ensuring that the traditional culture of hunting in Hawaii will not be endangered or threatened.

2 - I feel that the role of the GMAC would be to look at existing policies and recommend changes or new policies, that would protect, promote, and manage both existing and possibly new hunting areas in Hawaii. I believe that each commissioner should be able to look at the big picture of issues and evaluate decisions based on all hunters and all future young hunters.

3 - I applied to be a member of the GMAC because I feel it would be an honor to represent Lanai. I also see an opportunity to help all the residents of Hawaii, ensuring that being stewards of the land, also involves ungulate and habitat management. The future of sustainable hunting will also depend on realistic policies and funding, so I hope that I will be able to help make a difference.

4 - I have lived on Lanai for all of my life, and my family has been a part of the Lanai community for almost a century. I am an avid hunter and for the past seven years, I have been on the Lanai Hunters Focus Group - with Castle and Cooke previously, and now with Pulama Lanai. I have also been on the Lanai Planning Commission for five years and the Lanai Community Plan Advisory Committee for four years. I was also on the Lanai Youth Center Board. I was introduced to hunting by my dad, at the age of nine. In 1981, I completed the Hunter Education Program, which was the very first class for the Lanai residents. I have experienced hunting in New Zealand and Wyoming. I have also attended four Safari Club International conventions in Reno and Las Vegas.

5 - I hope that one year is enough time to be involved in decisions that would benefit the State of Hawaii residents.

6 - The GMAC should address appropriation of funding to support game management plans. It should also address the challenges of sustainable hunting and wildlife management.

7 - I don't foresee any conflicts. If there is a possibility, I will reclude myself from voting on the issues, but I would still be involved in all of the discussions.

8 - I am a United States Air Force Veteran and an Eagle Scout.