

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

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FIRST DEPUTY

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

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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

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

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

**Wednesday, January 31, 2018
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1970
RELATING TO HUNTING**

House Bill 1970, proposes to establish the Hawaii Apprentice Hunting License Program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department); allows a license holder to participate in hunting under certain conditions. **The Department supports this measure, subject to the following edits and comments.**

In an attempt to encourage novice hunter participation, many states now offer some form of apprentice hunting license to encourage potential hunters to take to the field. There are at least 41 states offering a program. The apprentice hunting license is a tool for recruitment that provides both youth and adult novice hunters the opportunity to hunt under the supervision of a licensed hunter before they have completed their hunter education course.

In general the Department supports the concept of an apprentice hunting program. However, placing specific rules in legislation may hinder effective development. Legislative authority for the program can be granted and then the program development may be best served through the rule making process.

Deleting the following proposed language in the measure and implementing a fee structure in rule is preferable:

~~[(f) The license fee for a Hawaii apprentice hunting 20 license shall be:~~

~~(1) \$10 for any person who has resided in the State for one year or longer, or who is a member of the armed forces of the United States on active duty; and
(2) \$95 for all other persons.]~~

The Department has discussed this bill with both the Hawaii County Game Management Advisory Commission and the Statewide Game Management Advisory Commission. The Department would like to emphasize that it 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 and the promotion of safe outdoor experiences. The Apprentice Hunting License is not intended to be a standalone effort; rather, the Department supports this bill with the understanding that positive mentorship and formal hunter education are complimentary components toward promoting legal, safe, and ethical hunting.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair
Arthur Brun
Mason K. Chock
Arryl Kaneshiro
Derek S.K. Kawakami
JoAnn A. Yukimura



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk
Scott K. Sato, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188
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Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii 96766

January 29, 2018

TESTIMONY OF DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
HB 1970, RELATING TO HUNTING
House Committee on Water & Land
Wednesday, January 31, 2018
10: 00 a.m.
Conference Room 325

Dear Chair Yamane and Members of the Committee:

Aloha. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1970, Relating to Hunting. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a Councilmember for the islands of Kauai and Niihau, and as Chair of the Council's Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

Apprentice hunting, also known as mentored hunting, is a fantastic way to grow a great sport and lifestyle. The concept of "try before you buy" is a way for young people to enter a sport that many are curious about. Thirty-three (33) States currently sell apprentice or mentored hunting licenses. Hunting is a great way to bring families together and helps to build advocacy for conservation and environmental protection.

For the reasons stated above, I urge the Committee on Water & Land to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Mahalo nui loa,

DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI
Councilmember, Kauai County Council

AMK:lc

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:40:58 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Lodge, Chair	County of Hawaii Game Mngmt Advisory Commission	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 11:02:36 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/26/2018 10:34:44 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ron Klapperich	ASSE	Support	No

Comments:

Hunting is a skill that needs a mentor for responsible kokua of the aina.

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 3:53:10 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harvey Gerwig	Hawaii Rifle Association	Support	Yes

Comments:

The **HAWAII RIFLE ASSOCIATION** is in full support of this bill. Introducing more hunters to the sport will strengthen the support and funding for DLNR's efforts to maintain and improve the habitat and animal well being on all the islands. It also will help to carry on the rich heritage of hunting in Hawaii. This bill creates a win-win scenario for all concerned.

Thank you, Harvey Gerwig, President, Hawaii Rifle Association

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:19:06 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 5:48:31 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments:



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
(916) 446-2455 voice ▪ (703) 267-3976 fax
www.nraila.org

STATE & LOCAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
DANIEL REID, HAWAII STATE LIAISON

January 30, 2018

The Honorable Ryan Yamane
Chair, House Committee on Water and Land
Sent Via Email

Re: House Bill 1970 – SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Yamane:

On behalf of the Hawaii members of the National Rifle Association, we support House Bill 1970. The NRA believes that this legislation represents an important policy that can be implemented to help preserve and strengthen the future of our cherished hunting heritage by allowing mentors to invest in our youth.

There are many children and young adults who would jump at the chance to try their hand at hunting when given the opportunity. However, they are currently prevented from a spontaneous trial run due to the hunter education requirement. HB 1970 would allow a prospective hunter to actually accept an offer to go hunting as long as they are directly supervised by an adult mentor who is a licensed hunter and over the age of twenty-one. The creation of an apprentice license is a proven method of recruiting new hunter conservationists.

After the implementation of similar programs in 41 states and the issuance of more than two million apprentice licenses, apprentice hunting has proven to be a safe, effective way to learn to hunt. This safety record does not surprise the NRA and other advocates of HB 1970 because the apprentice and mentor are always working together to make appropriate decisions in the field.

Thank you for your attention and I ask that you support this important measure.

Cordially,

Daniel S. Reid
State Liaison



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

HB1970 – SUPPORT

January 30, 2018

Committee on Water and Land
For Hearing on January 31, 2018
Conference Room 325
House Bill HB1970

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd
RE: HB1970

The Hawaii Hunting Association is in support of this legislation. The Apprentice License concept allows for a sensible means of hunter recruitment that provides opportunity to reach those who have never hunted before particularly women and people in urban areas, like Honolulu, who aren't exposed to hunting and fishing economies and lifestyles as they are in more rural environments.

Those introduced to hunting through apprenticeship programs are given opportunity to learn and experience hunting safely with a qualified mentor and can learn and appreciate the value of our game animals and those experiences we share with family and friends.

The Hawaii Hunting Association, **fully supports** this legislation and urge you to pass this out of Committee.

Much Aloha,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Lodge".

Tom Lodge, Chair

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

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/26/2018 4:21:54 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
steven a kumasaka		Support	No

Comments:

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/27/2018 7:13:37 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shyla Moon		Support	No

Comments:

This is the right direction.

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 6:32:13 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jerry Ilo		Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 10:13:32 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matt		Support	No

Comments:

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 10:45:53 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Todd Yukutake		Support	No

Comments:

I am a hunter and support HB1970 which will allow my nephew to go on hunting trips.

I am a new hunter and I enjoy bird hunting on the mountain ridges and forests because I get to experience unspoiled nature, learn about animals and conservation, and get a lot of exercise hiking on the trails. I would like to bring my 12 year old nephew to gain the same experience and knowledge while hunting in the forests.

My nephew is unable to attend the hunter's education course because they are only held once per month, usually on school nights, and his school studies prevent him from attending them. This law would allow him to go hunting with me while he searches for a class that he can attend. This bill will also allow me to introduce hunting to my friends who are hesitant on finding the time to attend a 2 day hunter's education class.

Please support HB1970 which will allow my nephew to go hunting and learn valuable life lessons.

Mahalo

Todd Yukutake

Ph (808) 255-3066

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:23:11 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stanley Mendes		Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB-1970

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:31:06 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
nani pogline		Support	No

Comments:

According to the 2017 Legislator session, Resolution HCR22 was set forth with unanimous support. Page 2 lines 12-18 state that rules, policies, and strategies to integrate the local hunting industries should be employed. Hunting and game resources should be preserved, protected, and promoted, and the practices should be nurtured into viable and sustainable economic, nutritional, and cultural resources. Legislators supporting this bill will be caring out their duties to uphold HCR22, by encouraging and accomidating families and associates with hunting opportunities, in a user freindly and reasonable way.

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:16:27 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonagustine Lim		Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.

LATE

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 6:17:49 PM
Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
chris burner		Oppose	No

Comments:

There is already a law stating that a person can attend a hunt as long as he does not carry a rifle or participate in the kill.

This will create a database to future efforts of collecting money and creating more red tape for People.

This is the ultimate form of big government

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 6:23:41 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Galli		Support	No

Comments:

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 6:31:10 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
D. H. Kondo		Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.

LATE

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 6:44:55 PM
Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alvin Rodrigues	Mr.	Support	No

Comments:

I support bill HB1970

LATE

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 6:50:22 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Russell Takata		Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. The practical field training with a licensed hunter will enhance the understanding of hunting principles, firearm safety, and wildlife conservation. This is a positive contribution in the development of apprentice hunters and should be passed and implemented.

LATE

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 6:51:58 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jack Covington		Support	No

Comments:

I hunted when I was twelve with my uncle before Hunter education was required I am now 71 years old and still hunting. My uncle was a good mentor in teaching me the proper way to handle a weapon, safety while in the field, and respect for the animal. These were valuable lessons that carried over into my adulthood. This bill if passed would allow a parent, uncle, or friend to teach and prepare a youth these valuable lessons prior to becoming of age to take the Hunter Education course.

LATE

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:04:16 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin J. Cole		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I wish to express my strong support for HB 1970. By allowing people to take a trial run at hunting, they can decide if they wish to properly pursue this fine activity. Hunting teaches respect, discipline, and an appreciation for the beauty of nature. Anything that can encourage more Hawaiians to enjoy this has my full support.

Mahalo,

Kevin J. Cole, Col USAF ret.

Mililani HI.

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:08:30 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tony Sylvester	Hawaii Sportsmen's Alliance	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:25:08 PM
Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa L. Nakama	BIFA	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf of BIFA organization this bill will enable to educate our youth on the safety use of the hunting equipment. This will provide the proper opportunity for the youth to learn the required skills from experts that will be part of the programs that this bill provides for the greater hunting youth communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support this bill. Teresa L. Nakama

LATE

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:51:58 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kory Ohly		Support	No

Comments:

I support HB1970. It will make it easier for people to get an introduction to hunting in a safe manner before deciding if they want to go through the time and expense of a sanctioned hunter safety course.

LATE

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:16:08 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Savard		Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:34:21 PM
Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter Gutierrez		Support	No

Comments:

I feel that this bill creates a very positive experience for a new or beginner hunter. While having the Hunter's Education class requirement teaches very basic skills, providing a Mentor in the field helps ensure compliance and hopefully eliminates costly mistakes that novices make due to inexperience. Let's have a positive piece of legislation that would do some good for the hunting community and potentially good for the environment.

LATE

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:36:26 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jon Abbott		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly urge you to support this bill. How many times have we heard the phrase "common sense gun laws"? Far too often, and almost always in a way meant to obfuscate the real meaning of most gun laws.... to infringe upon a Constitutional Right.

Finally, in this legislation, we find a law that will help spread gun safety, through educating young people in the safe handling and use of firearms whilst hunting. We need more legislation like this that fosters the transfer of safe handling of firearms, archery, and similar tools from the older generation to the younger.

I applaud this legislation and ask you support it in every way possible.

LATE

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:13:51 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mario C Yano		Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:32:27 PM
Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
PJ Long III		Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this measure and urge the committee to pass it.

This legislation would further support Hawaii’s strong hunting heritage by ensuring the vital contributions made by hunters to conservation efforts, game management and the economy are preserved for generations to come.

LATE

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:23:23 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Soon		Support	No

Comments:

This is a great idea. I approve.

LATE

HB-1970

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:34:11 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Seth Addison		Support	No

Comments:



NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION, INC.

Headquarters: 11 Mile Hill Road, Newtown, CT 06470-2359

400 N. Capitol Street NW, Suite 490, Washington, D.C. 20001

202-220-1340 ext. 205 tsantos@nssf.org

Trevor W. Santos

Director,
Government Relations - State Affairs

LATE

**TESTIMONY FROM TREVOR W. SANTOS
DIRECTOR, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS-STATE AFFAIRS
NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY, 31, 2018, 10:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325
STATE CAPITOL
415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET**

**HOUSE BILL 1970 – HAWAII APPRENTICE HUNTING LICENSE PROGRAM -
SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, and our industry members in Hawaii, I write to you today to express our strong support for House Bill 1970 (“HB 1970”). This legislation would establish the Hawaii apprentice hunting license program.

As the trade association for America’s firearms, ammunition, hunting, and recreational shooting sports industry, the National Shooting Sports Foundation (“NSSF”) seeks to promote, protect, and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. NSSF has a membership of 12,000 manufacturers, distributors, firearms retailers, shooting ranges, and sportsmen’s organizations. Our manufacturer members make the firearms used by law-abiding Hawaii sportsmen, the U.S. military and law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

To combat a decline in the number of hunters across the nation, NSSF was part of a national effort in 2004 to recruit new hunters by expanding apprentice hunting opportunities throughout the country. The “Families Afield” program seeks to remove unnecessary legal barriers to hunting and create opportunities for adults to mentor those wishing to try hunting. Lengthy hunter education requirements often dissuade new hunters from getting out in the field, because they are unwilling to put in the time in order to try something. Such apprentice hunting licenses allow new hunters a “try-before-you-buy” approach and allow the new hunter to get in the field under the direct supervision of an experienced mentor. The ultimate goal of this program is to have the apprentice hunter complete a hunter education course in the future so that they may hunt on their own.

For every 100 adult hunters today, only 69 youth hunters are coming up to take their place. If allowed to continue, economic projections indicate funding for wildlife conservation could drop 25 percent by 2025. This decline could cause a 24 percent drop in revenue for the hunting industry, including many of Hawaii’s guides, outfitters, and retailers. Since the passage of the first Families Afield measure in 2006, more than two million apprentice licenses have been sold nationwide. As you can see, the creation of an apprentice hunting license is much needed in order to get new hunters afield.

Due to the efforts of NSSF and other organizations such as the Sportsmen’s Alliance, National Wild Turkey Federation, Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation, and the National Rifle Association, some 40 states have enacted Families Afield measures by creating apprentice hunting licenses. It is critical that we work to maintain our hunting heritage for the generations that follow us.

It is for the reasons stated above that the National Shooting Sports Foundation supports House Bill 1970 and the creation of an apprentice hunting license program in Hawaii.