

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE  
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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 & LAND

Friday, March 23, 2018  
10:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of  
**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 182/HOUSE RESOLUTION 153  
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO WORK  
WITH LOCAL HUNTERS TO ACCOMMODATE TRADITIONAL AND CUSTOMARY  
NATIVE HAWAIIAN HUNTING PRACTICES AND CHANGE ITS POLICIES BASED  
ON THE CONCERNS OF LOCAL HUNTERS**

House Concurrent Resolution 182/House Resolution 153 urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to work with local hunters to change management policies. **The Department offers the following comments on these measures.**

The Department does not consider goat hunting to be a constitutionally protected traditional and customary Hawaiian practice.

The Department is charged with the responsibility of managing watersheds, endangered species, and native habitats, along with recreational uses, such as hiking, hunting, and camping on public lands. Where management of these resources conflict, the Department relies on best available science, technical expertise, and knowledge of the land to make hard decisions in the best interest of public trust resources. As such, different alternative methods of wild ungulate control are considered before resorting to aerial shooting.

To best manage critical watershed and unique native species found in the Waianae Mountains, the Department has initiated a project to control feral goats that damage these trust resources and put watershed function at risk. Most of the land areas targeted for this work are not designated public hunting areas and/or are remote areas, not readily accessible by the public. The Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) identified one area, Makua Keaau, that would be retained as a location to accommodate the goat hunting user group. The Department has proactively engaged

the local community in the aerial shoot project on Oahu, both before commencement of the project and during the project. Based on community input, DOFAW has adjusted the target control area, issued salvage permits, and issued increased bag limits within the Waianae Kai Forest Reserve. Aerial shooting is a critical tool to control goats in the project area because of the steep, dangerous terrain. The Department considers public hunting the first line of defense for animal damage control, and welcomes the assistance provided by the local hunting community in helping us to achieve our management goals for the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.

**HR-153**

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 8:20:25 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/23/2018 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**HR-153**

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 10:26:29 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/23/2018 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments:

We STRONGLY SUPPORT this resolution. Mahalo.

**LATE**

**HR-153**

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 8:10:05 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/23/2018 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dean Sensui	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Gov. David Ige wants to double food production in just a couple of years. Hunting contributes directly toward that effort.

Each pound of meat harvested in the wild equals a pound of meat that doesn't have to be imported into the state. It also means at least five pounds of feed for domestic animals don't have to be imported to raise livestock here in Hawaii.

The only shortcoming of the bill is to stipulate a bag limit at all. If the goal is to control the number of invasive animals, the bag limit should be removed. Hunters should be encouraged to take as many as they can.

Another suggestion: Have a way for hunters to easily report what they take so the state can track the harvest rate for planning purposes.

Aloha,  
Dean Sensui.

**LATE**

**HR-153**

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 11:52:17 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/23/2018 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Natashja Tong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

My Name is Natashja Tong and I am submitting testimony in support of HR153. I have lived in Wai'anae all my life and am a current resident.

I myself am not a hunter, but I rely on family and friends who gather meat from the mountains as a source of fresh, local, and free-range meat. I support the mana'o of DLNR working more closely with the community of Wai'anae, especially our hunters, who know this resource the best.

In our history as 'Āiwi we have a good track record of managing our resources well, it is only when things are mismanaged, or not managed at all that a resource gets out of control and becomes a problem. If the goats are a problem to the watershed, DLNR should work more closely with the hunters who are the actual on the ground managers and utilizers of these resources to develop a better system so that the meat can be gathered by the community and not wasted and the goats can be eradicated in order to protect the watershed.

me ka ha'aha'a,

Natashja Tong, Wai'anae resident and kanaka 'Āiwi