

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

M. KALEO MANUEL
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
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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committees on
WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
and
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Wednesday, February 6, 2019
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1325
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill 1325 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to obtain the approval of the Game Management Advisory Council when establishing new watershed projects or watershed management plans, or amending existing watershed projects or watershed management plans. The bill also proposes to require the Department to suspend all aerial shooting activity until the Board of Land and Natural Resources adopts, and the governor approves, rules that integrate the recommendations of the Game Management Advisory Council into its watershed management plans. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) opposes this bill.**

The Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) is responsible for managing over 1 million acres statewide, including important watershed forests that are vital to our future water security. Unfortunately, due to the proliferation of non-native ungulates, other invasive predators and plant species, and wildfire over half of Hawaii's original forest has been lost. The Board of Land and Natural Resources was established as the decision-making entity that reviews the Department's watershed plans and projects that identify and address these concerns in a public forum. The Game Management Advisory Commission (GMAC) current role is to advise the Board on game animal management matters. This bill would provide an unprecedented and inconsistent level of power for an advisory commission to be able to approve or reject the Division of Forestry and Wildlife's primary management responsibility- watershed protection.

When watershed protection and public hunting uses are inconsistent, the Department must often make a difficult choice about whether to prioritize an area for hunting or for watershed protection. Watershed plans provide information on significant and important natural and cultural resources, as well as guidance on management activities within certain priority watersheds and which include identification of future watershed protection projects. Watershed protection projects and activities may include invasive species removal, tree planting and restoration, forest health monitoring, wildfire threat mitigation and prevention, and the construction of remote ungulate-proof fences to keep ungulates (pigs, deer, goats, sheep) out of important watershed areas. In some places, watershed projects may conflict with public hunting uses. To limit the impact to hunters, the Department undertakes the following due diligence when planning for watershed projects:

- Engage with hunters and community stakeholders during initial planning phase for new watershed protection projects to better understand how the area is currently used for hunting, recreation, etc. This includes outreach to individual hunting families who have a direct connection to a particular place or area.
- Re-align proposed watershed protection projects, to the extent possible, to reduce land taken out of public hunting. For example, in 2017 a proposed fence on Kaua'i was reduced in size to accommodate hunters.
- Install step-overs and gates to allow continued public access into fenced areas. Hunter and community input helps determine the location for these access points.
- Include public hunting in the initial stages of animal removal in newly watershed protection projects whenever safe, feasible and effective.
- Present to GMAC on watershed protection priorities. The Department will continue to include the GMAC on watershed and land management projects and seek recommendations on hunting issues.

Aerial Shooting, Standard Wildlife Management Tool:

- The Department's aerial shooting policies were updated and approved by the Board of Land and Natural Resources in 2006 following a publicly vetted process. The Department does not own helicopters or employ pilots, and instead contracts certified helicopter companies to transport State gunners.
- Safety protocols for staff shooters and helicopter operators follow the rigorous Federal standards, requiring numerous specialized certifications and are consistent with Federal laws that permit States to conduct aerial shooting.
- Public legal notices are issued prior to each mission, and lands are temporarily closed. The Department also uses trained spotters in the helicopter and ground personnel to ensure that operational boundaries are secured and safe.

- In many places, aerial shooting is the only method to control hooved animals due to remote, steep, and dangerous terrain, such as the 3,000-foot high cliffs of Molokai's north shore. Placing staff or the public in such areas is either impossible or creates an unacceptable safety risk. Additionally, in many cases aerial control is the only effective method when thick vegetation and vast distances prohibit staff and the public from spotting and pursuing animals on the ground.
- Without aerial shooting in Hawaii County, the State is vulnerable to lawsuits that allege the State is in violation of the Federal Endangered Species Act. This issue has already been litigated over the Palila, a highly endangered bird, whose critical habitat is found only on Mauna Kea.
- Aerial shooting was necessary in the successful removal of all goats from Kahoolawe, where unexploded ordnance and steep terrain prevented control of some surface areas.
- Aerial shooting for hooved animal control occurs in many other locations nationally and internationally.
- Aerial shooting is also a necessary tool to control wildlife that threatens public safety. Axis deer have caused dozens of vehicle accidents on Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. Aerial shooting has been proposed to cull these populations in remote areas to prevent their expansion into populated locations.

Involvement of Public Hunters as standard policy:

- The Department's policy is to first allow public hunting for hooved animal removal when safe, feasible and effective to reduce numbers as much as possible before progressing to the use of other methods such as staff hunting, trapping and aerial shooting.
- The Department actively seeks public hunting participation by providing hunters special access, transport to, and animal control permits. However, there remain many areas too dangerous, remote, or difficult for public hunters and staff to control animal populations. In these locations, animal populations are unchecked, causing significant resource damage.

The Department opposes this bill for the following reasons:

- Pursuant to Section 183D-4.5, HRS, the Game Management Advisory Commission (GMAC) was established to serve exclusively in an advisory capacity to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. The section clearly defines the role and responsibilities of the GMAC as well as the required qualifications of the commission members. Currently, the GMAC is comprised of individuals who have extensive backgrounds in hunting non-native game species. As such, they provide expert advice on hunting and hunting related issues across the state. However, they were not selected for their training or knowledge of watershed, endangered species, native forest protection, or general wildlife management practices. It is inappropriate to require them to make informed decisions for the

Department about the management of these other public trust resources. This bill reaches well beyond the original advisory role of the GMAC, as described in Section 183D-4.5, HRS.

- In 1903, the Forest Reserve System and the predecessor to the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (the first forestry agency established in the country) were established by the government, because nowhere else was the connection between forests and water supplies more apparent. By empowering the GMAC to be the decision-making authority on watershed protection matters, it elevates hunting as the top priority for the Division's management. This could contradict the original purpose of the Division and primary purpose and intent of much of the land the Division manages (including most of the forest reserves), which has guided it for over a century. It would also conflict with the mandates of other commissions, such as the natural area reserve commission, as well as the primary goals of our watershed partnership alliances.
- If the GMAC does not allow the Department to remove game animals from certain locations proposed in watershed plans, this will lead to the extinction of Hawaii's plants and animals, accelerate the loss of native forests, and allow for degradation of our essential watersheds. For example, if the GMAC rejects a Departmental plan to protect a last remaining rare plant population because it would constrict game animal movements, that rare plant would be eaten and trampled by goats, pigs, sheep, or deer and be forever lost. It is unacceptable to provide an advisory commission the power to prevent the Department from fulfilling its constitutional and statutory duties to protect forests, watersheds, and endangered species from their biggest threat – hooved game animals.
- If the GMAC does not allow the Department to remove game animals from certain remote and dangerous locations with aerial shooting, the Department will need to weigh the risk to sending staff into dangerous situations on foot or letting the ungulates remain and continue to denude and erode our watersheds and mountaintops.
- This bill provides GMAC the power to approve or reject watershed management plans and watershed projects and areas in all areas, regardless of whether they are affecting public hunting opportunities. This would create the burden of an additional approval needed in many situations that do not affect hunting. For example, much of the Department's watershed activities are done on private lands which are not open to public hunting. Or, many of these watershed activities do not include projects that directly affect game animal management, such as tree planting, forest and species surveys, etc. Thus, this requirement would unnecessarily hamper a wide range of projects that are not relevant to the GMAC. This would be particularly burdensome for the many watershed projects that need to be completed quickly, such as wildfire prevention and control, hazardous tree removal, and rare species protection.

The Department has been implementing recommendations of the GMAC and making impressive progress on surveying hunters, connecting via newsletters and meetings, opening up new lands for hunters, and improving access and overall hunting experience. For example in October 2018, the Department successfully acquired nearly 2,900 acres in Central Oahu for the Helemano

Wilderness Area that will provide for new access and areas for public hunting. The Department does recognize; however, additional funding would be required to implement most of the proposals recommended by the GMAC. In particular, increased funding is needed to support access and acquisition to new or existing public hunting areas as well as for game animal management. This would provide the Department the ability to more quickly address and carry out the priorities of the GMAC to improve the hunter experience.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 10:04:30 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shyla Moon	Hunting Farming and Fishing Association, board member	Support	No

Comments:

We support the opinions of the appointed GMAC.

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 10:16:09 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pooya Motlagh	Waianae Hunting Association	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha my name is Pooya Motlagh and I'm the president of the Waianae hunting association. I'm in support of hb1325 I was raised hunting and gathering as a way of life. I never would believe that the state would actually fly helicopters and Ariel eradicate ungulates in our Waianae mountain range. It just blew my mind. What a waste of an important resource for us. That's why we have been working closely with our GMAC to stop this from happening again. Our forest lands are under constant assault by the department to manipulate forest use and practices with little to no regard or input from the forest use practitioner or their families. The depart has deliberately neglected past created management plans. The department has also neglected game management principles. Worst of all the department has both neglected and failed to preserve, promote and protect public hunting and recognized sustainable resources (HCR22). I humbly ask for your support in this matter

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Opposing HB 1325 Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources
House Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Wednesday, February 6, 2019, 10:30 AM, Room 325

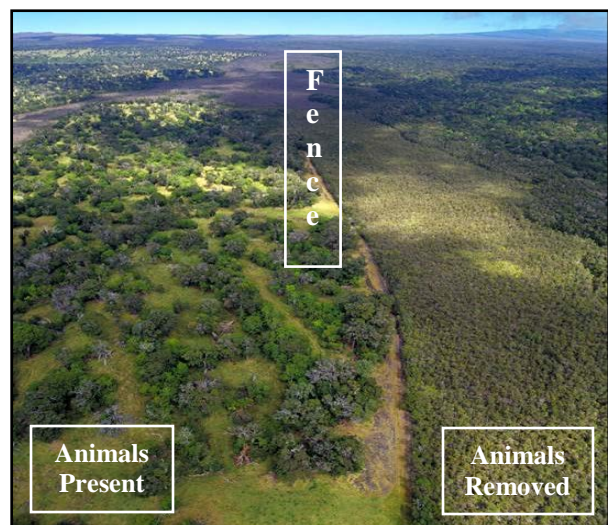
The Nature Conservancy opposes HB 1325 because it would create an inappropriate decision-making authority for establishing public policy in an advisory body, and unreasonably hinder the Department of Land and Natural Resource's ability to carry out its responsibility to manage the public trust resources of the State.

We agree that introduced wildlife resources need to be wisely managed both for their benefits and, in some cases, for the risks they pose. Hawai'i has an important history of hunting game mammals for food and recreation that should be perpetuated and even enhanced, but it is a modern history. With the exception of the Hawaiian bat, Hawai'i has no native land mammals. Wild pigs were introduced from Europe and Asia after 1778. The smaller Polynesian pig brought by the first Hawaiians is gone (except on Ni'ihau), crowded out by these later introductions.



While an important resource, wild pigs, goats, sheep, deer, and cattle are also a major threat to the health of some of our most important native forests and watersheds. Centuries before the introduction of game mammals, Hawai'i's native plants and animals evolved in geographic isolation to form the unique ecosystems that make up these islands. In the absence of predators, native species did not develop defenses against thorns or other mechanism to deter browsing or rooting animals. As a result, our native forests have no natural defenses against wild mammals. Left unmanaged, feral ungulates can strip large areas of forest bare, contributing to erosion, sedimentation harmful to coastlines and coral reefs, and impairing the natural absorptive function of watersheds. The areas disturbed by these animals also create open soil for weed invasions, further enhancing the decline of native ecosystems and watershed values.

Effective animal control is essential in specific high priority natural areas for preserving native species and managing healthy watersheds. However, hundreds of thousands of acres can be maintained for managed populations of game and livestock animals. A balance can be achieved between game production for recreational and subsistence uses, livestock production, public health, property protection, and conservation of irreplaceable native ecosystems and watersheds.



Advisory groups of stakeholders, experts and community members provide important knowledge and experience to the Department of Land and Natural Resources as it carries out its governmental responsibility to care for and promote wise use of Hawai'i's unique and limited natural resources. However, by intention and establishment they are advisory. They are not final decision-making or approving bodies. This is not only the case for the game management advisory commission, but also the Department's endangered species recovery committee, the aha moku advisory committee, the legacy land commission, the natural area reserves system commission, and the forest stewardship advisory committee.

While the Department should and does benefit from the experienced advice of the game management advisory commission and these other advisory bodies, it also draws from the knowledge, training and expertise of its own personnel, academia, and scientific data and analysis, amongst others. No one source of input or expertise has individual approval or veto authority over decisions that must ultimately rest with the Department's leadership and the statutorily established Board of Land and Natural Resources.

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 12:18:19 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Syreen Hostallero	Beekeeper/ Waianae Hunting Association	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am from the Waianae Hunting Association and I support this bill.

Thank you,

Syreen

Hawaii Sportsmen's Alliance

Supporting HB1325

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

Committee on Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair - Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair
Committee Members

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair - Rep. Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair
Committee Members

Balancing of our natural resources must include good resource management for sustainable use of all our natural resources for subsistence and survival. Our subsistence and survival includes all of our human demands mutually defined and determined. Subsistence and survival are not the exclusive privilege of the few. It is an **inclusive** human legacy and heritage.

Outdoor recreation, including hunting and gathering is an integral part of the health and well-being of Hawaii's residents. Of further importance and of necessity to many residents in rural communities is the ability to enjoy and share in a sustainable subsistence lifestyle.

Hawaii's game animals were introduced to the Islands as an alternative source to ocean protein dating back to the arrival of early Polynesians. They have become a fixture in our culture as a sustainable food resource.

Properly managed, they contribute to our Islands self-sufficiency, generate income, and provide recreational opportunity for the people of Hawaii.

To further enjoy this lifestyle a more balanced approach to resource management is required. This means more balance in policy making and implementation.

Current forest conservation and watershed management plans do not address long term mixed use resource management practices.

The difference between preservation and conservation must be understood.

Preservation is usually based on the principle that things simply have the right to exist, therefore they must be protected. In other words, to keep possession of and no touch no access.

Conservation implies that the reasons behind protecting something are based on using and managing that resource wisely.

Wildlife management is challenging, engaging, and often controversial. The beauty of working collaboratively with all parties of interest allows us to take down barriers and build partnerships to overcome differences while completing important work on the ground. This is especially important in the face of habitat fragmentation, drought, human population expansion, and conflicting agendas that could be disastrous for wildlife, for hunting and gathering, and for other types of outdoor recreation that we all hold so dear.

Mahalo,

Tony Sylvester



The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs

The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
House Committee on Energy, Environmental Protection

State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

HEARING: Wednesday, February 6, 2019, at 10:30am

RE: HB1325 Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources

Aloha Members of the House Committees,

The Hawaii Firearms Coalition SUPPORTS HB1325

The watershed areas are important to hunters as they provide habitat for game animals. This bill ensures that DLNR works with the Game Management Advisory Council (GMAC) for cooperation on watershed projects to protect hunting areas. Hunting and conservation can coexist together and this bill will ensure both sides work together for mutual benefit.

The widespread use of aerial eradication on game animals must be stopped. The elimination of game animals hurts hunters who depend on them for sustenance, recreation, and family traditions. It is also a waste of taxpayers' money and waste of meat which rots away untouched. DLNR must work with the GMAC to develop a solution agreeable to both sides and the suspension of aerial eradication combined with the required coordination between DLNR and GMAC contained in this bill will aid in that.

For these reasons the Hawaii Firearms Coalition Supports HB1325. Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo

Todd Yukutake
Director, Hawaii Firearms Coalition
PH. (808) 255-3066
Email: todd@gmail.com

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 9:11:15 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:



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

HB1325 – SUPPORT

February 4, 2018

Committee on Water and Land
For Hearing on February 6, 2019
Conference Room 325
House Bill HB1325

Dear Chairs Yamane, and Lowen,
RE: HB591

The Hawaii Hunting Association is in **full support** of this legislation. The Depiction you see here, represents the watershed protection plan implemented by DLNR for the Big Island without a single public hearing or comment on how these plans affect forest users. These are not watershed **crisis** issues, these are DLNR **management** issues.

I invite all of you when you have time, read this assessment of water resources on the Big Island.

<https://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2011/5078/sir2011-5078.pdf>

Half of our rainfall goes into recharge or 6,594,000,000 million gallons a day, that's 32,900 gallons a day for every man woman and child.

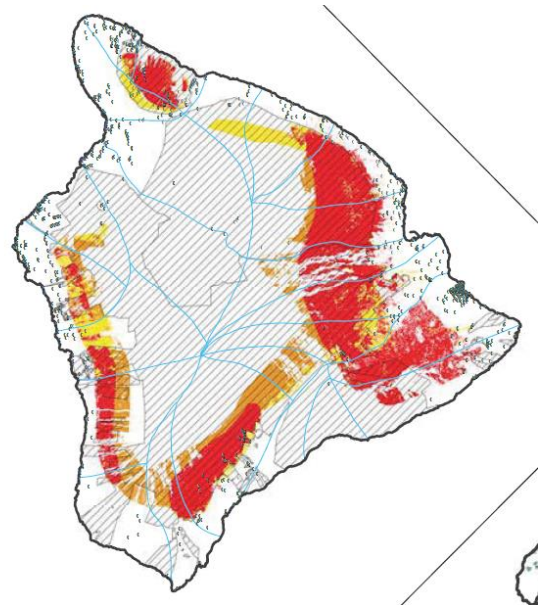
The reason that the Game Management Advisory Commission, needs their voices to be heard, is that our forests have been bathed in rivers of blood based upon **ideology** rather than **science, Crisis Management** as opposed to **Cooperative Resource Management**.

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

Much Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Lodge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom Lodge, Admin



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

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 10:59:52 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha my name is David Pepperman. Supporter of the hunting community in Hawaii. My thoughts are simple: I believe that nature is a resource, and a resources and not to be wasted. Hunters are there to gather and feed our families. They make use of our god given gifts and at the same time reducing goverment spending. I believe they deserve their yearly funding they are granted and they sould be working with not against our government in this matter. Mahalo for listening.

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 10:09:59 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Isaac Moon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:03:29 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James S Kawasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:25:34 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elijah Medeiros	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 4:42:23 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Riley De Mattos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 5:31:46 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randall Leonard	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm writing in support of hb1325 giving the Game Management Advisory Council a say in matters affecting public hunting lands.

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 7:27:32 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Hurt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:51:26 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Ley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 10:43:07 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kellen Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:50:13 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Quentin Kealoha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill that requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to obtain the approval of the Game Management Advisory Council when establishing new watershed projects or watershed management plans, or amending existing watershed projects or watershed management plans. Requires the Department to suspend all aerial shooting activity until the Board of Land and Natural Resources adopts, and the governor approves, rules that integrate the recommendations of the Game Management Advisory Council into its watershed management plans.

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 6:56:30 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
mitchell weber	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Strongly SUPPORT HB1325,

Please allow Hawaii hunters to aide the state in managing wildlife. The outside contractors that you hire to cull our game usually leave the carcass to rot, it is a senseless waste of life. There is also data to indicate that not having grazing animals to keep wild grasses from overgrowing is leading to higher risk of wildfires.

Mahalo,

Mitch

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:15:17 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Woody Child	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:49:52 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
dale obrien	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 1:14:37 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The forests, hunters, game mammals, our ocean are in constant assault by the DLNR to manipulate and forest practices with no regard to the public or cultural practitioners or the game management commission. They have deliberately neglected to implement or even recognize any past game management plans. The department has deliberately and arrogantly dismissed and fails to work with the current seated game management commission. Moneys received are not spend as intended. DLNR has failed to Preserve, protect and promote public hunting and Continuously fails to recognize and protect our natural resources and cultural sacred sites.

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:03:16 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cherise Castro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:33:38 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kymberly child	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:59:35 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
trevor child	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:08:19 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter J Long III	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this proposal.

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 2:14:48 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Watershed projects have had an overwhelming negative effect on game resources, hunting rights, culture, public access, and the history of Hawaii. There has been no restraint and or consideration as to the legalities or all inclusive science. No due process of law has been applied. Hopefully the State GMAC will provide a speed bump, at least. Game resources can bennificially co-exist with native species, and provide a wise back pocket local food security resource, as was always the intent.

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 1:45:22 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leo A Millan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 4:18:34 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stanley Mendes	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:06:29 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Len Fergusen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill and ask the support of the legislative committee members. I am a 52 year resident of Hawaii, a veteran, a high school teacher, a voter and supporter of the 2nd Amendment of the US Constitution.

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 7:57:17 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I Teresa L. Nakama hereby strongly support HB1325. The Game Management Advisory Council which is the voice for the Hunters and Fisherman, that feed their family and neighborhood. It is a vital conduit representing communities at large from every Island. I implore your support to involve the voice of our GMAC in matters that affect our communities

On December 18, 2018 the Honolulu Star-Advertiser published an article entitled "Wildland Fire Danger Elevated in Hawaii with Drought in Forecast" (see Attachment 1). It described a study by Clay Trauernicht of the University of Hawaii focused on the Big Island predicting a 375 percent increase in wildfire risk over the next few decades.

Last year's fire in Waikoloa burned 18,000 acres, barely missing Waikoloa Village because of favorable winds. A total of 34,000 acres was burned in Hawaii last year (.6 percent of the state), with the Waikoloa fire 53 percent of that total. Ironically, last year's devastating fires in California also burned .6 percent of that state.

When I participated in a DLNR bird survey on Mauna Kea last October I saw firsthand what few people have seen or even know about. The grasses on much of Mauna Kea are 3 to 5 feet tall and so thick that my dog and I could not walk through much of it (see Attachment 2). The wildfire fuel load on the mountain is enormous.

The California fires started in the uninhabited hills; by the time they got to the towns, driven by strong winds, they were impossible to stop. A wildfire starting on Mauna Kea could grow so large by the time it gets to inhabited areas that it could also be impossible to stop. The fuel load on Mauna Kea is a disaster waiting to happen.

The eradication of sheep on Mauna Kea by the state is clearly the major cause of this overload of grasses. Required by various court rulings from the 1970's to the 1990's to protect the mamane trees deemed essential to the survival of the endangered palila bird, the unintended consequence of the eradication of grazers is the creation of a huge fire hazard to our community. In spite of the state's efforts, the palila population has declined 76 percent since 1998 according to a study published this year by the US Geological Survey and UH Hilo (see Attachment 3). The study goes on to suggest that the current palila population of one thousand birds could be halved in ten years and they could become extinct in 20 years in spite of decades of effort to protect the species.

Millions of dollars have been spent fencing Mauna Kea, trapping predators, planting mamane trees and eradicating the sheep (including by helicopter hunting). In spite of this the palila population continues to decline. It clearly doesn't make sense to continue this effort when it is not working and creates a significant danger to our lives and welfare.

A more focused effort to provide palila habitat in intensely managed areas while allowing a controlled population of sheep to manage vegetation on the rest of Mauna Kea may be a workable solution. The Kaohe and Puu Mali Native Forest Restoration Areas could serve this purpose given better management to control the pasture grass currently inundating those areas.

The state administration will need to go to court to overturn the order to eradicate the sheep because it is causing a significant fire danger to our community, is not saving the palila, and is a waste of our tax dollars.

ATTACHMENT 1



Tuesday, December 18, 2018 | 74°

HAWAII NEWS

Wildland fire danger elevated in Hawaii with drought in forecast

By Timothy Hurley

Posted December 18, 2018

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The National Interagency Fire Center is predicting that Hawaii will be especially vulnerable to wildland fire this winter as drought appears to be setting in under developing El Nino weather conditions.

In addition, a new study from a University of Hawaii-Manoa researcher indicates that the islands will be at increasing risk of wildfire due to climate change.

The study, which focused on Hawaii island, found the annual risk of wildfire increasing as much as 375 percent for parts of the island over the next several decades.

As for current conditions across the islands, the latest U.S. Drought Monitor data show abnormally dry conditions reaching out to more than 41 percent of the state, mostly leeward locations and including all of Lanai and Kahoolawe.

On the Big Island, officials with Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park announced Monday the closure of Mauna Loa Road at the gate near the Kipukapuulu parking area due to "Very High Fire Danger."

"The strong winds and dry weather over the past week has led to a rapid escalation of fire danger on Mauna Loa, and fire danger indexes have reached critical thresholds at the Mauna Loa weather station," the park's fire management officer, Greg Funderburk, said in a release.

The increasing dryness of the islands comes after two months of drought-free weather followed by the second- wettest dry season in the past 30 years,

according to the National Weather Service in Honolulu.

What that means for Hawaii is that “fuel loading” — or the ample growth of grasses, bushes and trees — has boosted the chance of fire activity across the state to “above average,” the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, said.

Additionally, sea surface temperatures around the islands are warmer than usual, and air temperatures are expected to be slightly above average through March, according to the center’s seasonal forecast.

Rainfall was above normal in October but dropped off sharply in November.

“Fuel loading has been above average since last spring, and fire activity was above average during the drier portions of the summer. Therefore, as dry weather continues, significant fire potential will increase to above normal in December and remain there through March and likely beyond,” the forecast said.

While Hawaii is the only region of the country labeled with above-normal wildland fire potential throughout the winter months, the coastal region of California, from San Francisco to the Mexican border, is tagged similarly through December only.

The National Weather Service’s Climate Prediction Center last week raised the chances of El Nino occurring this winter to 90 percent.

For Hawaii, El Nino often translates into summer moisture followed by winter drought.

Drought conditions will be increasingly prevalent in the coming decades, said Clay Trauernicht, UH-Manoa wildland fire specialist and author of a study that examined how climate change will affect wildfires in Hawaii and tropical areas around the world.

The paper, published in *Science of the Total Environment*, not only discusses the effects of climate change on fire, but demonstrates how tracking rainfall patterns year to year can help better forecast near-term wildfire risk, including the danger that excess rainfall in advance of drought can pose to Hawaii’s vulnerable grasslands.

As for the current fire danger, Trauernicht said environmental conditions are quite similar right now to the period right before August, when a string of storms built up the fuel load and the drying islands were struck by a rash of wildland fires that burned nearly 30,000 acres.

“It’s looking real sketchy going into January and February,” Trauernicht said.

Changing weather patterns and fire-prone, non- native grasses that have invaded a quarter of the state in recent decades have put Hawaii’s forests and

natural areas at greater risk of fire, experts say.

Both the frequency and size of the wildland fires have increased dramatically over the years, stretching wildland firefighting budgets to their limits and sometimes past.

Elizabeth Pickett, executive director of the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization, said most people don't realize the scale of Hawaii's wildfire problem. Each year about 0.5 percent of Hawaii's total land area burns, which is equal to or greater than the proportion burned of any other U.S. state, she said.

Pickett said 98 percent of wildfires are started by humans, most of them accidentally. People have to accept that we live in a fire-prone state and be extra careful to prevent fires, she said.

One common way to start a wildfire is from a spark or hot components of a motor vehicle. It's the primary reason why Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park closed Mauna Loa Road.

"By reducing the number of vehicles in high-risk areas, the park can mitigate the potential for a catastrophic event," the park said.

Pickett said there are a number of simple things folks can do: Park cars on pavement and never on dry grass. Keep yards maintained and free of debris. Be careful with equipment that could spark. Practice family emergency plans.

More tips can be found at HawaiiWildfire.org/lookout.

"Prevention is the most important thing we can all do," Pickett said. "Firefighting is really just a last defense."

ATTACHMENT 2



Kaohu Restoration Area – 3-4 feet tall – thick and impassable



FB5 – 4-5 feet tall



Parker Cabin – 4-5 feet tall

ATTACHMENT 3

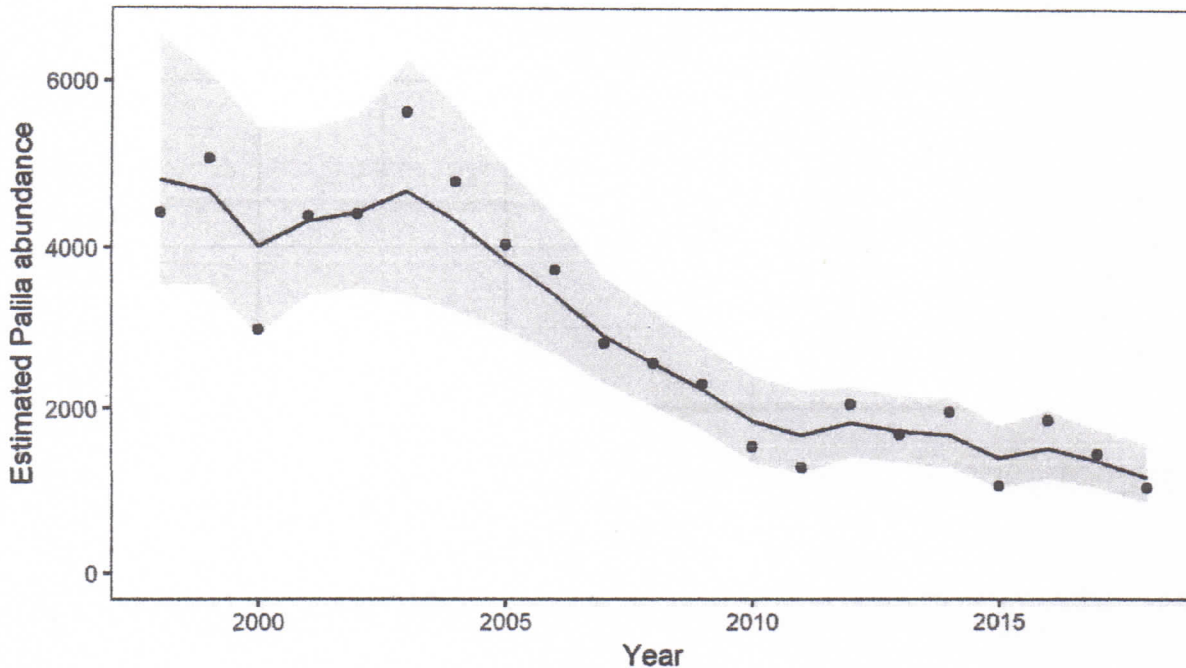


Figure 5. State-space model estimates of palila abundance from 1998 through 2018. Points are estimates from DISTANCE models, the line shows the median estimate from the Bayesian posterior distribution of abundance, and the shaded area shows the 95% credible interval of abundance posteriors.

CONCLUSIONS

The 2018 palila population was estimated at 778–1,420 birds (point estimate of 1,051). There was very strong evidence that the palila population declined after 1998, with the greatest decline occurring after 2003. The average rate of decline during 1998–2018 was 168 birds per year, resulting in a 76% decline in the population over the 20-year period.

Trends assessment shows very strong evidence that the palila population is in decline. The most optimistic interpretation shows only an 8% chance of it being stable or increasing. Despite the 2017 survey having almost twice the survey effort in the core area (825 vs. 419 survey visits) the width of the bootstrap uncertainty interval for the two years was almost the same (636 vs 642).

MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The palila population has been in decline since 1998. The 2018 abundance estimate is the lowest published since regular surveys began in 1998, although Johnson *et al.* (2006) attempted to correlate historical survey methods with modern techniques, and suggests it may have been lower during the mid-1980's. A naïve projection of the decline since 2009 would predict the population will half the current abundance in 10 years and become extinct in another 20.

In the 2017 mountain-wide survey, no palila were detected along the southeast and eastern slopes of Mauna Kea, where they have been detected historically. There were two detections on the north slope of Mauna Kea where wild birds were translocated (1997–1998, 2004–2006) and captive-reared birds were released (2003–2005, 2009; Banko and Farmer 2014). This area is adjacent to and upslope of the Pu`u Mali mitigation area where former pasture land has been taken out of grazing and reforestation of native trees has begun. There were also palila detected below the core area on the southwest slope (lower stations on transects 124 and 125), another area where former pasture lands are subject to a reforestation project. Despite these hopeful signs that reforestation has begun to rehabilitate former pasture land into palila habitat, palila range has been relatively constant across the annual surveys and is only about 5% of its historical extent (Figure 1 inset; Banko *et al.* 2013).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Funding for annual palila surveys since 1998 was provided by Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Army Garrison Hawai`i, Hawai`i Division of Forestry and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, American Bird Conservancy, and the U.S. Geological Survey Wildlife Program. Funding for analyses of the data since 2012 was provided by the Hawai`i Division of Forestry and Wildlife. We are grateful to the many agency staff and volunteers who helped collect survey data and to C. Farmer and S. Hess for reviews of an early draft. Editorial assistance was provided by J. Rowe.

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:41:32 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicolai Barca	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Similar to HB591, to which I have given more descriptive comments, this bill would create dysfunctional government by relying on the Game Management Advisory Commission (GMAC) to approve watershed management plans. I would expect GMAC to not approve any watershed management plan which includes any fencing of ungulates from any state land. Thank you for the opportunity to state my opinion.

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 11:07:03 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrew Namiki Roberts	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 6:56:36 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Abraham Antonio sr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:22:09 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

support



LATE

HB1325
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
House Committee on Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

February 6, 2019

10:30 a.m.

Room 325

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend that the Board of Trustees **OPPOSE** HB1325, which may unnecessarily tie the Department of Land and Natural Resources' (DLNRs') hands in the protection of Hawai'i's native forests and watersheds, and undermine efforts to ensure our future water security in today's era of climate change.

The Game Management Advisory Commission (GMAC) plays a laudable and important role in advising the Board of Land and Natural Resources on game management issues that may arise throughout the islands, including those relating to the subsistence hunting needs of Native Hawaiians. OHA understands that GMAC members are selected based largely on their connection with and leadership in the hunting community, and as such can provide the BLNR with particular insight into the wide range of needs and concerns of hunters throughout the islands, which BLNR and DLNR staff may not necessarily possess.

However, GMAC members are not required to have any specialized expertise in hydrogeology, native forest restoration science, climate change resiliency strategies, groundwater recharge, and the various other disciplines which should inform watershed protection efforts, particularly given the critical role such efforts may play in ensuring our future water security and protecting our culturally and ecologically significant native species. Accordingly, while their hunting expertise allows them to play an important advisory role in game management and ensuring adequate hunting opportunities for state residents, including Native Hawaiians, GMAC members may not necessarily have the expertise or background to fully evaluate all aspects of watershed protection proposals. Providing GMAC with absolute veto authority over watershed protection initiatives, such as establishing new or amending existing watershed projects or management plans, may therefore significantly inhibit our ability to protect our aquifers, native forests, and public trust resources for future generations.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committees to **HOLD** HB1325. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

LATE

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:24:23 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joel Berg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Arial eradication programs paid for by tax payer dollars that leave game animals to rot without first attempting to engage local hunters should require significant oversight. On an island with limited resources it is unethical to not first attempt to utilize these animals for meat, to continue our island hunting culture, and to harvest them in an ethical and human manner. An errant shot from a helicopter that leaves a wounded animal to suffer as its internal organs are digested by its own stomach acid should keep you up at night.

LATE

HB-1325

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:37:59 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fred Delosantos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB1325. Aerial shooting activity should be suspended until the recommendations of the GMAC has been taken into account.