

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
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

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

**Thursday, February 6, 2020
9:15 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1862
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

House Bill 1862 proposes to prohibit Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) from establishing or implementing bag limits for game mammals in public hunting areas. **The Department supports this measure with comments.**

Hunters are essential partners in conservation efforts, helping to mitigate damage to the environment that game mammals cause when they proliferate in environments where they are not native, and in which they have no natural predators. Hunting provides significant benefits to Hawaii, as a means for animal control, and a recreational and subsistence resource. The Department is committed to maintaining a viable hunting program.

In most areas, bag limits for mammals are mostly symbolic and have little practical impact. Hunters are limited to a relatively small number of animals they are able to find, kill, dress and carry on any given day, and it is questionable whether bag limits are necessary to maintain a viable hunting program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

LATE



House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

House Committee on Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Chris Todd, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Room 325

HEARING: Thursday, February 6, 2019, at 9:15am

RE: HB1862 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Aloha Members of the House Committees,

The Hawaii Firearms Coalition OPPOSES HB1862.

DLNR plays an important role in managing the game mammal populations to ensure future sustainability. DLNR, working with the GMAC and hunters, can manage overpopulations by raising the bag limit or lowering the bag limit when populations are too low due to environmental factors or over hunting.

Hunting with firearms is a tradition that needs to be sustained for future generations.

For these reasons the Hawaii Firearms Coalition OPPOSES HB1862. Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo

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

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 6:30:35 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Robert Hanson	Hawaiian Reforestation Program	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha to our honorable Senators of this commettee. Please abide by the aloha spirit law. Reside with the life force of the land. Pass this bill, for the life. That lives in the land.

I will quote form the famous document of "James K. Baker" of Hawaii's Volcano National Park. In 1975 " the feral pig in Hawaii." The pigs habits of hallowing out the interiors of tree ferns and making mud wallows, that create mosquito habitats..... The exotic pigs in Hawaii, is also endangering native forest and grasslands communities. After the report. Fences began to be installed across the state to keep all ungulates out. And our forest began to come back. Pigs are farm animals , Swine are feral pigs. Left to destroy farms, across the state. They live in State forest land, in the day. At night they come out. Hunters that say, no need, for unlimited bag take. Are the ones that want sheep back on Mauna kea and cut fences, when ever can. Then Introduce Russian Boars and deer. The Hunting committees, Do not Represent most hunters. Most hunters of pigs, have no permit and follow no bag limits.Do not even own a gun. One sharp Blade, all they need, to make that pig bleed. Docare is only a few officers in 4x4's. That never, go into the forest, unless made to go. There are State bills to Pay USDA to trap pigs coming on farms. When all we need. Is No bag limits, on any ungulates on State Land. Let the dogs in and we all win.

Mark R. Hanson President, Hawaiian Reforestation Program The Sandalwoodman A hunter, farmer and enviormental activest and survialist.

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 11:36:26 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 1:37:30 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Ley	hawaii sportsman association	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is the whole reason the DLNR exists, they are supposed to protect and enhance all the plants and animals. this is a horrible piece of legislation. This is nothing but a poorly disguised, eradication plan. this is no different than legalizing the dumping of pesticides into water ways to harvest prawns.

If the DLNR doesn't want to do its job, turn it over to the state or local GMAC and let them manage the game animals.

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 4:51:35 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jerry Ilo	Babooze Bowstrings	Oppose	No

Comments:

Our Resources must be managed not eradicated!



February 5, 2020

RE: HB1862

Aloha,

We would like to express our support for HB1862, which would restrict bag limits on game mammals in managed hunting areas. It is well documented that feral mammals cause devastating impacts to Hawaii's native environments, and increased take of these animals by hunters is a welcome support in conservation efforts.

On the Big Island, feral pigs are causing significant problems even outside of conservation areas. Once populations have reached carrying capacity in game areas, the populations spill over and invade residential and farm land. In the last two years on the Big Island, we have seen a significant increase in reports of feral pig damage. One landowner in Puna, who returned to his property after a 9 month absence during the eruption, reported that he killed 92 pigs on his 5-acre property in just a couple of months. Multiple residents across the island have shared their experience of losing gardens, landscaping, and crops to overnight damage by pigs.

Feral animals can also become harbors for disease which can infect important agricultural production; for instance, deer can transmit bovine tuberculosis to cattle, and feral hogs can transmit many diseases and parasites to domestic hogs. Decreasing feral mammal populations can help reduce risk to our animal husbandry industry and reduce crop damage due to herbivory.

We hope that this bill will encourage more hunting of these animals and a bring about more of a balance with the environment, economy, and health of our island.

Mahalo for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Frances Brewer'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Frances Brewer
Communications Director
(808)933-3340
Fbrewer@hawaii.edu

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 5:02:51 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Kohatsu	Hawaii Sportsmen's Alliance	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

We OPPOSE this legislation.

I also serve on the State Game Management Advisory Commission ("Commission") in the capacity of the East Hawaii Representative. The purpose and genesis of the Commission was the public hunting community's need to form game management plans for its future. It will be impossible if this legislation is passed.

This legislation is not necessary. This legislation seeks to circumvent the powers of the Department of Land and Natural Resources' to set bag limits through administrative rules. Should the DLNR need to lift bag limits in State controlled lands, they have the power to do so through administrative rule or damage control clause. This legislation seeks to provide environmentalists' special interest agendas the power to supercede the DLNR and the public by legislating what is otherwise a wildlife management duty of the DLNR. There also already exists many State controlled lands with no bag limits set by administrative rule. This legislation could be contradictory to HRS 183D-2-12 : "The Department shall preserve, protect, and promote public hunting." Bag limits are a wildlife management tool around the world to preserve, protect, and promote public hunting. The lifting of bag limits will degrade and hamper current DLNR regulated public hunts and has a real potential to remove it entirely. That would not be consistent with "preserve, protect, and promote public hunting"

For these reasons we oppose this legislation and hope the committee can understand this.

Mahalo,

-Ryan Kohatsu

The Society for Hawaii Heritage Animals

STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1862

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

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

NOTICE OF HEARING

Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 9:15AM Conference room 325

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

Prohibits DLNR from establishing or implementing bag limits for game mammals in public hunting areas.

We respect and value the opportunity to work collaboratively with the Department of Land and Natural Resources and assist in conservation and resource management.

Bag limits for hunting game mammals (our food resource) is set by the Department of Land and Natural Resources through the administrative rule making process. Public hearings are a very important part of the administrative rule making process. This process allows people that rely on our game animals for food and sustenance to have the opportunity to be a part of the decision making process.

Why do you want to remove the only possible way for our Island people to have a voice in our government?

Has The State Game Management Advisory Commission been made aware of your decision to legislate away the rule making process?

Are you, as our Hawaii Legislators, that willing and ready to remove us, the people, our voices from our public lands that you hold in the public trust for all of us?

For this reason, we OPPOSE HB1862. Please defer this measure, thank you

We strongly believe that the department and our stakeholders should continue this collaborative and transparent effort to achieve balance regarding all of our natural resources.

Tony Sylvester, Executive Director, The Society for Hawaii Heritage Animals



Hawaii Hunting Association

Preserve, Protect, and Promote Public Hunting

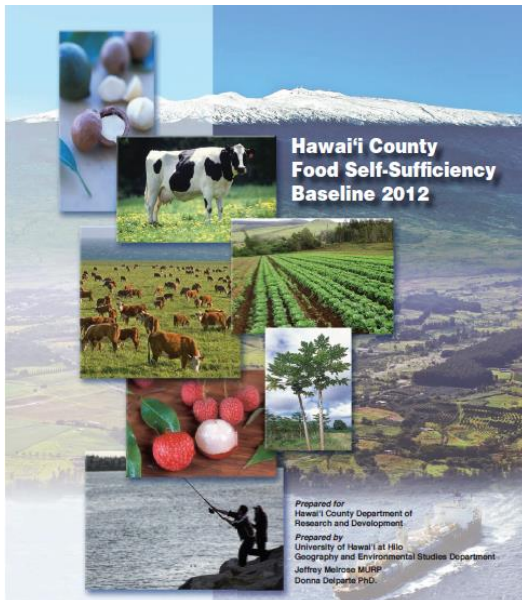
RE: House Bill 1862

February 5, 2020

STRENUOUSLY OPPOSE HB1862

House Bill 1862 states... “provided that the department shall not establish or implement a bag limit for game mammals in public hunting areas.”

When is the legislature going to **REQUIRE** that DLNR actually manage the resources that they have been charged with? When are you going to stop penalizing the innocent for the crimes of the guilty? The guilty parties here are The Board of Land and Natural Resources, and the Department of Land and Natural Resources.



Our game animal resources are a huge part of the legislature’s unanimous approval of HCR22 during the 28th Legislature in 2016 wherein the salient references of that unanimously approved Joint and Concurrent Resolution were:

“BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that this body urges the **conservation, development, and utilization of game mammal, game bird, and fishing resources**; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body recognizes that **pioneered introductions**, such as the **pig**, and later sustainability introductions, such as **goats, sheep, and**

deer, are now recognized as game mammal and game bird resources and should be included among the game management resources supported to achieve sustainability and food security; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges **state departments** to develop and



Hawaii Hunting Association

Preserve, Protect, and Promote Public Hunting

update their rules and policies to integrate the local hunting and fishing industries into any food security or sustainability strategies they employ and to **preserve, protect, and promote** these industries and local cultural practices to nurture them into viable and sustainable economic, nutritional, and cultural resources;

Further, the University of Hawaii, in 2012, visited Hawaii Islands' food sustainability profile and noted several key points; page 5: There is also an informal food system that is even more difficult to measure but which has a significant impact on local food consumption patterns. Food sales at farmers markets, *trade and sharing among neighbors, recreational fish catch, subsistence hunting, home gardening and animal husbandry* are important, yet unmeasured, parts of the island's rural economy and lifestyle.

These practices are also integral to the island economies of Molokai, Lanai, Maui and Kauai, and to a lesser noticed degree, Oahu's rural communities.

For example, on Friday, October 11, 2013, **Molokai News- TAGS: Neighbors: Subsistence Living on Molokai** by [CATHERINE CLUETT \(/PEOPLE/CATHERINE-CLUETT\)](#), she reports:

"A variety of lifestyles thrive on different islands across the state. For example, many residents rely on grocery stores to put dinner on the table.

But on Molokai, a 2012 survey showed that **about 40% of food consumed** comes from subsistence sources like hunting, fishing, gathering and homegrown produce." This holds true for pretty much **all local rural communities!**

DLNR has since 2002, and technically back to 1987 when hunters and legislators started questioning DLNR about management of their resources, has FAILED to do their job inspite of years of "effort". They had no Management plan back in 2002, they started on a game management plan in 2007, didn't get a DRAFT produced until 2015, started on a Habitat Conservation Plan for Puuwaawaa and Puuanahulu, both GAME MANAGEMENT AREAS, got delivered \$128,000 by Rep. Patsy Mink, from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to **finish** the

16-1596 Pahoia Hwy; Keaau, HI 96749
808-982-4747



Hawaii Hunting Association

Preserve, Protect, and Promote Public Hunting
Habitat Conservation Plan around 2010, and that too has not been accomplished, and YOU want to now penalize the public consumptive user of these required to be managed resources by DLNR for their inaction and irresponsibility?

No! This isn't a game problem that is destroying habitat, that is a myth. This is a management failure by the State of Hawaii, The Board of Land and Natural Resources, and the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Hawaii Hunting Association STRENUOUSLY OPPOSE HB1862. Have them do their job.

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:04:03 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Hurt	Big Island Bird Hunters	Oppose	No

Comments:

Simply stated, this is an eradication bill and worsens the balance of nature on Mauna Kea. Pig hunters and bird hunters all agree that this is an ugly and disastrous bill.

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 11:53:49 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

As Hawaii County Game Management Advisory Committee chair, I have followed the issues of our game, environment, and native species for years on GMAC. Our commission has been working very hard for a long time to get DOFAW to create a game management plan. Un-managed, game can do damage, but well managed game can be bennificial to the environment and native species by providing weed control and grass fire fuel build up, to mention a few. Unlimited bag is a plan to eradicate our game resources via the hunter. It is not careful game management for the purpose of upholding the interests and rights of all stake holders, nor does it consider the out come of game eradication.

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 1:38:10 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stanley Mendes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1862 no bag limit means eradication of our game .DLNR needs to manage our game not kill it because they don't have any idea of a game management plan . There answer fence and eradicate they know nothing else

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 2:15:41 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Don Baker	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Game animals are a resource that should be managed and not eliminated. The hunting community has indicated that if bag limits are removed they will self regulate themselves. The word is that if this occurs the DLNR's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) will remove all game animals within their jurisdiction.

This is contrary to the State of Hawaii's goal of sustainability as this valuable resource is routinely used to feed hungry people. Removing game animals is not practicing sustainability. Please do not let this happen.

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 2:36:53 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Ross	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill. Bag limits on game mammals are critical to the survival of our hunting community. While there are many cases where there should not be a bag limit on some animals, prohibiting DLNR outright from using this management tool is entirely inappropriate.

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 3:04:08 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Don Fujimoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill to prohibit the State from setting bag limits for game mammals is a terrible idea. The current State administration has not managed the game mammal populations effectively, but to try to fix the problem with this new law is wrong. If game mammal populations are increasing to the point where they are causing excessive damage, then the State needs the power to expand hunting seasons and bag limits as they have done in the past.

Other western states where I have resided view game mammals as a resource that, when properly managed, provide a recreational resource and valuable funding for habitat protection and restoration.

Goats and sheep have been in Hawaii for over 200 years since the late 1700's, axis deer for over 150 years since the 1860's, and pigs since the first Hawaiians arrived. They have become an integral part of our ecosystems where, if severely reduced in population, can have unforeseen and negative effects on their habitat.

While an overpopulation of grazers can denude a landscape like the DHHL lands on Mauna Kea where hunting is prohibited, State lands on Mauna Kea where grazers have been virtually eradicated by fencing and aerial hunting have become overgrown with introduced pasture grasses that are over 5 feet tall and thick. The problem is so bad that the State's fall game bird survey could not be completed because volunteers and their dogs could not complete the transects through the thick grass.

If there is a significant reduction in grazing game mammals as a result of this bill, the fire fuel load of grasses will increase significantly. As our climate gets drier and hotter, we can expect more frequent and severe wildfires. The fires on Maui, in Australia and California are proof of the danger of wildfires in grasslands.

The most reasonable approach is more effective management of game mammal populations, rather than virtual eradication that appears to be the intent of this bill. The State should establish the optimal carrying capacity of each area, including the impacts on the habitat, then set the seasons and bag limits to achieve the right populations.

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 4:07:36 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
NOAH DRAZKOWSKI	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There Department of Land and Natural Resources already has very little power over ungulate management. Why would you take away their already limited control? I oppose this HB1862. Ungulate management should be based on science of the animal not what the biologist "thinks" is acceptable.

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 4:47:17 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rex Ito	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

If DLNR has the information to set bag limits. If the bag limits aren't set properly, then there will be a improper balance somewhere. We as hunters have been saying for years that the sheep and goats have been keeping the grass down on Maunakea. Due to the total eradication order, the free landscapers are no longer there. So what happened on the mountain, grass in some areas that were a foot or two ore now over 6 feet tall. That affects the game bird population which was terrible this past season and it's a fire hazard that will destroy the trees and animals that are in the area.

There must have a balance to food to animals (bird or mammal) to area size. If DLNR didn't restrict harvesting Rams about 20 years ago in the Puuanahulu Mauka GMA, I don't think we would have any rams there. That is the reason for the surveys so the DLNR can accurately predict how many animals can be harvested to continue the proper balance of food, game to its area if it's on the mountain or the ocean so traditions can be passed on to future generations.

If I may add DLNR needs more financial resources to make the job they do more efficient to the law enforcement side.

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 5:18:58 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kapono Palama	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1862. The DLNR should have the ability to set bag limits. I know there are a lot of people who believe these animals should be eradicated because they are non-native. The introduction of some of these species can be traced back to the late 1700s. The Hawaiian people have been hunting and using them as primary source of food since then. If the numbers are getting out of control in certain areas maybe they should open up access to those areas for hunters or increase the bag limit but in other areas numbers are down and bag limits need to be lowered to manage the game. That is and should be the decision of DLNR. Do not take away the ability for them to manage game. I and a lot of my family grew up hunting. And I would like to teach my kids to hunt. Don't take that away from them by removing bag limits which will no doubt cause the demise of these species. It may not happen tomorrow but it will happen. With proper management number can be managed and species maintained for generations to come.

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 5:20:43 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jaren Luke	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill and I do NOT support the attempt to eventually eradicate all game mammals and public hunting. I support game management plans.

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 5:20:48 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Nakagawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill, if passed, will undermine the ability of DLNR to properly manage game in Game Management Areas and to provide hunting opportunities for the general public. This is a thoughtless ill-concieved bill that will not achieve its intended outcome. I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 5:45:12 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As a native Hawaiian conservationist, I offer comments to HB1862. I have seen the loss of habitat for many of our native plants and forest birds due to feral animals. These plants provide medicine, fiber, and wood for native Hawaiians and they have not evolved defenses against harmful ungulates like pigs and goats. Measures to protect these native species from ungulates should be maintained.

Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 5:58:58 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana Okazaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to this bill. Elimination of game mammals will continue to affect public hunting areas.

Mauna Kea is becoming over grown with grass and evasive Fire Weeds. The grass is above waist high in most areas, making for a serious fire hazard in the future. The eradication of game mammals from Mauna Kea, which helped to control the grasses, is going to prove what a mistake that was, once a fire wipes out everything they were trying to "protect" (Native plants, Palila birds). Allowing hunters to "eradicate" game mammals is not the answer. Making DLNR do their jobs, of doing actual game management is.

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 6:46:23 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please oppose HB1862. Bag limits are determined by science for the purposes of protecting Hawaii's fragile ecosystem.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn
Kihei

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 7:48:02 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jesse Simonson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1862 as it encourages eradication of sustainable resources by Hawaii's own hunting population. Proper management of these resources should be addressed by the DLNR, in the interest of our local hunters.

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 8:59:29 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kyle Otsuka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a local resident born and raised on the Big Island of Hawaii, Hilo. I am avid outdoorsman (hunting and fishing) that uses the wild game resources we have here on the Big Island for both sporting recreation and especially for meal sustenance. I value the time spent in the game management areas as quality time spent with my family and friends. Over the past 10-15 years there has been an unprecedented decline in game mammals due to aerial eradications, so much so that it is rare for me to even encounter a game mammal on the longest of hikes (approx. 10 miles). I humbly oppose bill HB1862 under the pretense that wild game population counts are already so low that we need to keep regulated bag limits to preserve what precious little game mammal resources we still have in the public hunting areas. We need to work to MANAGE game mammal populations, not ERADICATE them. As a long time community contributor working for the local utility, and also a 16 year veteran with the US Air Force Hawaii Air National Guard, I am opposing the passing of bill HB1862. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Kyle Otsuka

kyle.otsuka@gmail.com

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 9:07:30 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doug Olds	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Bag limits are an essential part of game management, conservation, and sustainability. Bag limits ensure the public hunting activity is done in a responsible and organized way. Bag limits provide opportunities to check the activities on public lands and

deter illegal behavior on public lands.

If the legislature would like to increase the ability of hunters to control non native game animal species, it would be better to spend resources improving access to public hunting areas. This could be done by building more access roads. Lifting the law against camping in state forest reserves would also improve Hunter access. Promoting ethical, safe, and effective uses of public land (like hunting) should be a goal of the legislature and the department of land and natural resources.

This bill does not help to improve the ability of hunters to take animals. Instead, it promotes a more lawless hunting culture.

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 9:11:37 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strongly Oppose:

HRS 183D-2-12: "The department shall preserve, protect, and promote public hunting". If this bill is passed, public hunting will be a thing of the past.

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 9:12:29 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bryan Yoshida	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This would take a huge tool away from DLNR and be detrimental to game management in Hawaii. There is always talk of sustainability but never any time or effort invested in implementing it. Hawaii's game animals are often looked at as a nuisance but they are a tremendous resource in the cultural, recreational, and subsistence aspect if properly managed. Hawaii's game animals even play an important role ecologically. Our wild areas are not pristine ecosystems, much are comprised of, in large part, invasive non native plants. Game animals in properly managed populations can help to control the non native plant species. Culturally, the game mammals that are found in Hawaii with the exception of the pig, were initially introduced as gifts for the Hawaiian monarchy, and later, the people of Hawaii. It's been documented through dna research that the pigs found in our islands are genetically linked to those the first settlers of Hawaii brought with them. They are even prominently featured in ancient Hawaiian folklore and have been an important part of the local diet. Eliminating the ability to implement bag limits would effectively end any sort of management for these animals

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 10:27:43 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taylor Au	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it will have a negative impact on the future of hunting in Hawaii. Hunting has been a major part of life in these islands going back to the first introduction of game animals. Game animals have since become a part of Hawaii's ecosystem, and whether one likes it or not plays a part in the balance of the present ecosystem. A good example of this is Maunakea, where there is no bag limit on ungulates, and eradication efforts, now has native plants and birds being choked out by invasive plants that were once reduced by wild sheep in those areas.

nothing follows

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 7:01:45 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick Conant	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Chairman Nicole Lowen, Chair and Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair and members of the House Committee on Water, Land & Hawaiian Affairs.

From: Patrick Conant, Volcano, Hawaii

Subject: Testimony on HB 1862

I strongly support HB 1862. I believe there is no good reason to set bag limits on the take of any game mammal in Hawaii. Hunters should be allowed to take as many animals as they want, since all of those species damage forests and watersheds and cause erosion, leading to siltation of our reefs. It is foolish to in effect, protect these animals for part of each year. Too much damage has been caused for over 200 years by those animals and it is time to try to at least slow it.

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:53:03 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brandon Damasco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I Brandon Damasco oppose bill HB1862. The implications of this bill will have a lasting affect on hunting in Hawaii. It will reduce the population of game animals to a almost nonexistent number in a few years. For people that use game meat as a source of food this will affect their families.

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 9:11:21 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Kopper	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is David Kopper, I am an attorney and amateur hunter. I strongly oppose HB 1862.

This bill's shotgun approach threatens to hinder the DLNR from implementing informed, logical, reasonable and thoughtful conservation and preservation measures available to it in discharging its statutory obligations to protect our natural resources AND to preserve and protect public hunting. Ultimately, it will have profound and devastating impacts on our local communities. I urge you to not support this bill.

The DLNR is obligated by statute to protect our natural resources by using a scientifically based process. HRS 183D-2 (requiring DLNR to "ascertain, compile, and disseminate, free of charge, information and advice as to the best methods of protecting, propagating, and distributing wildlife in the State and the waters subject to its jurisdiction" and "Gather and compile information concerning wildlife recommended for release in different localities, including the care and propagation of wildlife for protective, productive, and aesthetic purposes and other useful information, which the department deems proper"). This is consistent with the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation which advocates that "science is the proper tool for discharge of wildlife policy."

This bill is not based in science, and as such it threatens DLNR's ability to reasonably and logically manage wildlife resources. It claims that game mammal populations are rising, while not differentiating between the many game mammals located in our state. It cannot be disputed that goat, sheep, and wild cattle populations have been greatly diminished in recent years. And the bill points to no studies or science establishing that these populations have increased. Further, some hunting units may provide sustainable hunting in areas devoid of threatened or endangered species and needs no reduction in game mammal populations (i.e. puuanahulu, puuwaa on Hawaii island), while other more sensitive areas require even more stringent measures.

While some populations may need control or reduction in numbers, the DLNR already has the power and duty to "manage and administer" those populations to the public, and can open hunting to additional days or periods, raise and lower bag limits, institute or remove tags and fees, etc. By removing bag limits in all areas, DLNR has less arrows in its quiver to comply with its mandate to preserve protect and promote public hunting

in areas suitable for such use and requires DLNR to use "no bag limits" as the method to reduce game mammal populations in the areas which need it instead of looking at other methods such as reduced tag fees, open more hunting days, etc.

Equally important, if not moreso, is the impact of this bill on our local communities. Erradicating all game mammals regardless of where they are located threatens those communities which rely on hunting for subsistence. I grew up on Hawaii Island, where hunting is used by many hardworking, lower to middle class families for necessary food. Further, many rural communities rely on hunting as a cottage industry to support their families. This bill does not consider in anyway those impacts on these vulnerable populations. For example, the residents of Lanai rely heavily on hunters to infuse money into the community. Removing bag limits will create a free for all on axis deer and mouflon sheep located there. In addition to creating chaos and unsafe hunting conditions, a dramatic, unsustainable reduction in game mammal population could prove devistating for that community which relies so heavily on hunting.

Wildlife management is important. Reducing overpopulated game mammals is important. Eradication of game mammals in specific sensitive areas to maintain native populations is important. The DLNR has the tools to accomplish this. If more needs to be done, advocates for that kind of management can petition the DLNR to enter into rule making to create regulations based on science, public input, and logical reasoning. Mandating that DLNR lift all bag limits to eradicate all game mammals everywhere regardless of where they are located is a draconian effort that, in the end, hampers DLNR's ability to effectivley manage public hunting and wildlife resources.

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 9:14:01 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Hodges	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 1862 (Bag Limits)

Hunting rule elements such as game species bag limits are rightfully the purview of and developed by the Department of Land and Natural Resources as a component of an overall game management plan. They are enacted through Administrative Rules pursuant to HRS § 183D-3 and developed in accordance with the requirements of HRS § 91-3, which contains provisions for public notification and publicly held hearings, along with opportunities to provide testimony.

The proposed legislation contained in House Bill 1862 subverts that process, focusing on a single element of what should be an overall management strategy. The state needs a comprehensive game management plan which a majority of its citizens can support. Legislatively picking and choosing indiscriminate elements of what should be a coordinated game management strategy is not in the public interest.

The proposed legislation bypasses established procedure for hunting rule adoption and amendment. Establishment of rationally determined limits on take of game animals (bag limits) is an integral element of a scientifically based game management program. The proposed amendment of HRS § 183D as stated in HB 1862 is an arbitrary and adverse intrusion in a sustainable game management process and appears to be in contradiction to an existing section of the same statute, HRS §183D-2, Powers and duties of department (DLNR), which states: The department shall: (12) Preserve, protect, and promote public hunting.

House Bill 1862 should be rejected. The Department should be encouraged to complete the comprehensive game management plan that was initiated in 2007 and submitted for approval in 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Hoeflinger
Keaau

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 4:16:25 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charles Chimera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the Legislature,

I am writing in support of **HB1862**, lifting bag limits on game animals in public hunting areas. As a resident of Honokaa, Hawaii, I have first-hand experience with feral pigs repeatedly rooting and digging in my yard, destroying my lawn and damaging the roots around fruit trees. I have also witnessed the destruction of hapu'u trees ferns and other native plants in Kalopa State Park, which has allowed for the invasion of aggressive weeds in the forest understory. The knocked over and hollowed out tree fern trunks also trap water that creates breeding habitat for the voracious mosquitoes that plague hikers and other users of the park's trails and facilities. Many residents in the area share similar stories of pigs damaging the plants on their property, and all have discussed what they do to deal with this continual problem. From my experience, there is no shortage of pigs for recreational or game hunting, and if anything, there is an overabundance of animals that also plague and damage residential areas. Any increase in hunting pressure would therefore be welcome, and would hopefully begin to reduce this damage on both public, and private lands.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Chuck Chimera

Honokaa, HI

LATE

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 4:22:56 PM
Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Springer Kaye	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a small farm operator, I support this measure. It is clear that populations of game animals continue to grow and spill into agricultural, residential, and high-value conservation lands on every island, at great cost to private and public interests. At the same time, the popularity of hunting has declined. In fact, the lack of interest in hunting among the younger generations is a frequently cited concern by all the major sportsmen's associations. Removing bag limits will allow those who still practice hunting to be efficient in collecting the animals they need, and more effective at controlling the population. There is no shortage of animals to shoot, rather there is a shortage of people willing to shoot them. For these reasons, I support this bill.

Sincerely,

Springer Kaye, Owner, Kaye Family Farms

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 7:30:55 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tyrel Cuyo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:02:10 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Costales	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To "Prohibit" the State from setting bag limits is prohibiting good game management. It is imperative to set bag limits according to the seasonal changes, especially if it is a public hunting area managed by the State.

Christine Costales

LATE

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 7:40:08 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bronsten Kossow	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

As a former Hawai'i County Game Management Advisory Commission Chair, I've heard testimony from a multitude of hunters who were concerned about the game areas. Many reviewed this measure as a "eradication bill", however, given the language provided, I think it's not. I believe we do need to continue to protect our native species and at the same time open access for our hunters in Hawai'i. I believe this is a positive step.

Mahalo,

Bronsten Kossow

LATE

LATE

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 8:12:22 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathan Yuen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Nicole Lowen, Vice-Chair Tina Wilderberger, and the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

I strongly support HB 1862 which prohibits the placement of bag limits on the number animals that can be hunted in public hunting areas. Pigs, goats, and other feral ungulates are taking over many areas of our islands. They rototil the soil looking for worms and dig shallow holes lossing the ground throughout the landscape. When heavy rains come the loose ground washes into out stream. The muddy run-off in the streams smothers and kills coral reefs. We need hunters to reduce the number of feral ungulates and removing the bag limit is a way to decrease their population.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important measure to protect the land. I urge you to pass this bill from your comittee.

LATE

HB-1862

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 9:17:47 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suzanne Kapuamailani Kaulia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Suzanne Kapuamailani Kaulia. I am in support of HB1862 because I feel that the population control of feral pig and goats has not been handled well. I feel that hunters are able to assist with the control of the above mentioned feral animals but at the same time, I feel that the animals which are killed and still good to eat, should be cleaned by those who kill them and if not planned to be consumed by the hunter(s) themselves, the catch should be donated to organizations that help to feed the less fortunate people of Hawai'i. Please pass HB1862 in order to keep the native Hawaiian plants from becoming more endangered or extinct.

Mahalo,

Kapua