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GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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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 590
RELATING TO THE WILDLIFE REVOLVING FUND

House Bill 590 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to use monies received into the wildlife revolving fund for certain purposes and requires that the Department consult with the Game Management Advisory Commission prior to making any wildlife revolving fund expenditures. **The Department opposes this bill.**

Pursuant to Section 183D-10.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), the wildlife revolving fund is established as a repository for moneys collected as fees from hunting licenses, tags, etc. as well as fines or bail forfeitures for violation of Chapter 183D, HRS, or any provision of Chapter 195D, HRS, concerning native, threatened and endangered species protection. Section 183D-10.5, HRS, also limits expenditures to the following:

- Implement or enforce Chapter 183D, HRS;
- Implement or enforce Chapter 195D, HRS;
- The acquisition of the use, development, or maintenance of trails and accessways to lands where hunting or hiking by the public is authorized;
- Research programs and activities concerning wildlife conservation and management; and
- The importation, management, preservation, propagation, and protection of game or wildlife in the State.

This bill proposes to further restrict expenditures from the wildlife revolving fund, requiring all expenditures be used “to preserve, protect, and promote public hunting.” This will potentially

disallow expenditures for endangered species protection. Should fines for violating Chapter 195D, HRS, be deposited in the wildlife revolving fund for killing endangered species, for example, those funds could not be used to mitigate for the violation. This bill would require the fines be diverted to support public hunting, contrary to the intent of Section 183D-10.5, HRS.

Further, Section 183D-4.5, HRS, establishes the Game Management Advisory Commission (GMAC) to serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Land and Natural Resources and defines the roles and responsibilities of the GMAC.

This bill would require that the Department coordinate with the GMAC prior to authorizing any expenditures from the wildlife revolving fund and to use the funds “as directed by the game management advisory commission.” However, Section 183D-4.5, HRS, does not give the GMAC authority over the Department’s fiscal responsibility, nor does it give the GMAC direct oversight of day-to-day management and expenditures of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife. This bill would provide an unprecedented and inconsistent level of power for an advisory commission.

The Department does provide the annual wildlife revolving fund’s legislative report to the GMAC and has discussed the use of the revolving fund for specific hunting-related projects, which the Department will continue to do. The Department greatly appreciates the collaboration and advice the GMAC provides and will continue to consider GMAC’s advice and recommendations; however, the Department feels this bill oversteps the intent of Section 183D-4.5, HRS.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HB-590

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 12:28:37 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Lodge	hawaii hunting association	Support	Yes

Comments:

HB-590

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 10:03:22 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.



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: HB590 Relating to the Wildlife Revolving Fund

Aloha Members of the House Committees,

The Hawaii Firearms Coalition SUPPORTS HB590

Hunting is an important tradition to families in Hawaii for sustenance, recreation, and respect for nature. This tradition needs to be sustained and enhanced through input from the hunters represented by the Game Management Advisory Commission (GMAC). The GMAC plays an important role to connect the hunting community to the DLNR however the GMAC only holds an advisory status. This bill strengthens this connection of coordination and cooperation to improve the hunting programs in Hawaii. Hunters need to have a direct role in managing the monies that they have paid into the wildlife fund, through taxes and fees.

For these reasons the Hawaii Firearms Coalition Supports HB590. Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo

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

HB-590

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 12:14:18 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.

Syreen Hostallero

Hawaii Sportsmen's Alliance

Supporting HB590

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

HB-590

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:28:56 AM

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

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

Comments:

Dear Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs,

I am in support of HB 590. And would like to share a few comments.

I currently serve as East Hawaii Representative on the State Game Management Advisory Commission and organize the facebook group of the Hawaii Sportsmen's Alliance.

In the years of working with the DLNR, there is an issue with hunter generated revenue in the Wildlife Revolving Fund (WRF) and managing game mammal species for long term hunting as perhaps outlined in duties of HRS 183D-2-12. The existing WRF statute is typically accompanied by a Department policy that WRF monies be matched with Pittmann-Robertson Federal monies. This is generally a good thing until funds are sought to manage the long term viability of game mammal species in Hawaii. Generally, when State monies are matched with federal monies, the federal rules apply. One of which is Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act which, in general, states no federal funds can be used toward anything deemed detrimental to the existence of endangered species. This Section 7 review is conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Service Pacific Region and, in general, they have a policy that any game mammal management activities are detrimental to endangered species regardless of site specific circumstances. This DLNR policy and subsequent federal review generally prohibits the State from spending money on game mammals they otherwise would have State prerogative to manage on State land. The hunting public I serve would like to urge the DLNR and the legislature to find a reasonable fix to this issue as it is one obstacle to completing game management plans.

Game Management Plans in State land, deemed suitable for sustained yield use, desperately needs to be completed and approved. If plans are not created, the aforementioned Fish and Wildlife Service policy deeming game mammals detrimental to endangered species regardless of location or site specific circumstances will indirectly promote more game mammal eradications on public land and result in the loss of public game mammal hunting which is contrary to HRS 183D-2-12, "To preserve, protect, and promote public hunting." If we lose the resource because of no planning, we will lose the public hunting. No resource, no hunting.

I support protection of priority environmental issues, to include endangered species. However, the DLNR has made efforts to plan for game mammal management activities given these issues and they continue obstructed. The State Game Management Advisory Commission needs the support of the legislature and DLNR to get these plans done. Unlocking hunter funded resources may be one step in the direction of progress.

Mahalo,

-Ryan Kohatsu

State Game Management Advisory Commission Member (East Hawaii)

Hawaii Sportsmen's Alliance

HB-590

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:32:27 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kymberly child	hawaii hunting association	Support	No

Comments:

HB-590

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:02:42 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pooya Motlagh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha my name is Pooya Motlagh and I'm the president of the Waianae hunting association. I'm writing testimony in support of this bill which is about our wildlife revolving fund. First of all this money is paid almost exclusively by hunters like me and funds have been completely mismanaged by the DLNR. Game mammals have been ignored where it matters the most and that is on state land. The mandate of the wild life revolving fund "shall first use those funds to maximize the states participation to secure federal funds under the Pittman Robertson federal aid in wildlife restoration act" none of which is benefitting our game mammals on state land. We've been slowly watching the loss of our game mammals and habitat. We need these funds to go to work for us to combat this The sportsmen's have been getting robbed by the DLNR and this needs to stop

HB-590

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 10:10:31 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-590

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:59:45 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-590

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:24:15 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-590

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 4:40:34 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-590

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 7:23:08 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:

Long overdue.

HB-590

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 5:24:14 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:

Just writing in support of hb590.

HB-590

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:50:00 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-590

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:00:24 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-590

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 10:38:59 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-590

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:47:53 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 use moneys received into the wildlife revolving fund for certain purposes, as well as requires that the Department consult with the Game Management Advisory Commission prior to making any wildlife revolving fund expenditures.

HB-590

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:26:34 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

HB-590

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 1:51:04 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:

Monies from this fund are almost entirely from hunters. And the money from this fund is spent in opposition to hunting and managing an important natural resource. The money has been spent on actions that do not benefit the resource nor those that pay it. It does seem to pay for their helicopter shooting trips where they shoot hundreds if not thousands of animals left to die in our watershed, that could feed our underprivileged. Was it revolving fund money spent on the recent rodenticide drop in MÄ• kua? Where dying rats in neighboring valleys were being eaten by pueo and also many dead game birds encountered while poisoning our land, watershed and ocean.. Fat in many healthy looking boars dyed blue from this poison for us to eat The fences they put in do nothing but protect the non native grasses and plants and no restoration is ever done on these areas as fuel for large fires are stored in these areas. Look at the recent fires on the west side. We need to take a closer look at the actions of the state, it's agencies such as the dlhr or board of water, the us military, gmo farming and their negative impact of our forests, streams, ocean, resources and sacred cultural sites.

All this violates the Geneva and Hague conventions!

The peoples' right to freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources
Article 1(2) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights:
"All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources [...] In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence"

HB-590

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 6:58:51 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 HB590,

This bill will insure that funds allocated for DLNR will be spent appropriately. It also gives Hawaii hunters a voice.

Mahalo,

Mitch

HB-590

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:01:03 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-590

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:09:15 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-590

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:49:04 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-590

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:05:17 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 support this proposal.

HB-590

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:32:30 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-590

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:58:24 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-590

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 1:02:18 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:

HB590 simply requires what should be, transparency of the DLNR in the spending of funds, and holding them to rightful use. The use of the Wildlife Revolving Fund to benefit game resources and hunting opportunity should be the main intent, as funds are collected from such.

HB-590

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 1:39:11 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-590

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 4:15:14 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-590

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:04:44 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-590

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:40:28 PM

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

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

Comments:

This bill will ensure that the priorities of the hunting community are reflected in the spending of the Wildlife Fund as was intended in its creation. The GMAC will be able to provide accountability oversight to ensure that the funds are spent appropriately and wisely.

HB-590

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:53:16 PM

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

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

Comments:

I am a hunter education instructor and have been volunteering for over 30 years to improve and sustain hunting opportunities in Hawaii. I am in support of HB 590 and feel that it will go a long way in ensuring hunting opportunities for future generations.

Game Management Plans in State land, deemed suitable for sustained yield use, desperately needs to be completed and approved. If plans are not created, the aforementioned Fish and Wildlife Service policy deeming game mammals detrimental to endangered species regardless of location or site specific circumstances will indirectly promote more game mammal eradications on public land and result in the loss of public game mammal hunting which is contrary to HRS 183D-2-12, "To preserve, protect, and promote public hunting." If we lose the resource because of no planning, we will lose the public hunting. No resource, no hunting.

I support protection of priority environmental issues, to include endangered species. However, the DLNR has made efforts to plan for game mammal management activities given these issues and they continue obstructed. The State Game Management Advisory Commission needs the support of the legislature and DLNR to get these plans done. Unlocking hunter funded resources may be one step in the direction of progress.

HB-590

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 11:04:33 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:

Hunters need to have a direct role in managing the monies that they have paid into the wildlife fund, through taxes and fees.

HB-590

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:46:19 PM

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

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

Comments:

The state SHOULD run the use of these funds by the Game Managment Advisory Commision first.

HB-590

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 7:37:29 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-590

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:23:02 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

HB-590

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 7:45:32 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 HB590. It is imperative that when funds from the Wildlife Revolving Funds are involved, that the community is given the opportunity to support community-managed programs for the Hunting and Fishing use to improve our resources. Our communities are our greatest assets.

LATE

HB-590

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:10:40 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:

I support HB590. The public should be allowed to have input in the eradication of invasive species particularly when those species represent a meaningful contribution to individuals way of life (i.e. harvested for food, supplemental income, or cultural practices.)

LATE

HB-590

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:33:33 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 HB590 to coordinate DLNR/GMAC coordination for wildlife revolving fund expenditures.