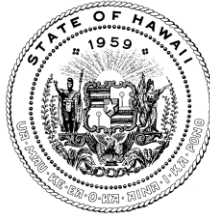


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

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

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
and
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

**Tuesday, February 11, 2020
3:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2417
RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY**

Senate Bill 2417 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to recognize that game mammals and game birds are a sustainable food source and that the State's unique relationship with the ocean provides the opportunity to integrate the local fish and game industry into the State's food security profile and to establish and maintain fish propagation facilities. **The Department appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.**

Free-ranging introduced mammals such as pigs, goats, deer and sheep provide recreational hunting opportunities and meat for some of Hawaii's residents. These animals will also, if left to their own devices, create significant environmental degradation to both farmland and the natural environment. When considering whether these animals are "sustainable", the costs and threats to farming, forest, wildlife and near-shore fishery habitats should be considered.

Conflating introduced game mammals and native fisheries is problematic, especially as the former has a negative impact on the later.

With regard to proposed SECTION 4 of this measure, please note that the addition of "fish propagation facilities" appears to be unnecessary. Section 187-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes,

requires that the Department establish and maintain aquatic life propagation stations, a function that is already provided by the Department's Division of Aquatic Resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



SB2417
RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY
Ke Kōmike Wai a me ka 'Āina
Ke Kōmike Hana Aupuni

Pepeluali 11, 2020

3:30 p.m.

Lumi 225

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **OPPOSES** SB2417, which would require all state agencies to promote the hunting and fishing industry, including through mandatory rule amendments that could significantly impact natural and cultural resources of critical importance to Native Hawaiian traditional and customary and subsistence practices, and that may inadvertently undermine the state's overall sustainability and self-sufficiency goals.

As a preliminary matter, OHA recognizes that hunting and fishing may provide a critical source of subsistence for many of its beneficiaries, and may be particularly relied upon by Native Hawaiian rural communities, such as those found on the island of Moloka'i. Certain hunting and fishing activities may also constitute Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices recognized and protected by the state constitution. Accordingly, OHA appreciates the intent of this measure insofar as it may seek to recognize the role that hunting and fishing may play in meeting the subsistence and other needs of local residents, including OHA beneficiaries.

However, OHA also understands that the maintenance of game mammals in potentially sensitive watershed areas to promote the "local game industry" may have significant and severe impacts on native species and habitats that themselves serve as the foundation of Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices; may impair the water security and climate change resilience functions of native watersheds; and may exacerbate runoff events that can further impact nearshore reefs and coastal ecosystems relied upon by Native Hawaiians for their subsistence needs. Moreover, the promotion of commercial fishing in nearshore waters may also substantially conflict with or otherwise impair Native Hawaiian traditional and customary and subsistence practices informed by an intimate and daily relationship with the nearshore environment, and that rely on the health and abundance of coastal fisheries that can be easily overexploited by commercial harvesting.

Accordingly, OHA must oppose this measure, insofar as it would require, through rulemaking and otherwise, the unqualified promotion of game mammals and commercial fishing that can substantially impair Native Hawaiians' ability to engage in traditional and customary and subsistence practices, and that may in fact undermine the sustainability and self-sufficiency of our islands. Again, while OHA appreciates the apparent intent of this measure, and strongly believes that hunting and fishing

opportunities should be maintained and managed in appropriate areas and circumstances, OHA cannot support and must oppose the unqualified and mandatory elevation of the hunting and fishing industries by all state agencies via rulemaking and other means.

Should the Committees choose to move this measure forward, OHA respectfully recommends adopting the following amendments, to address the above concerns.

First, OHA recommends deleting sections 2 and 3 of this measure, concerning mandatory rulemaking to “integrate the local hunting and fishing industries” in their food security and sustainability strategies. Such a deletion would ensure that agencies are able to maintain their ability to determine if and when hunting and commercial fishing may be appropriately accommodated.

Second, OHA recommends amending the language found on page 1, lines 11 thru 15, to read as follows:

“(3) Recognize that game mammals and game birds can provide a sustainable food source when properly managed in appropriate areas that minimize their impacts to important watershed areas and functions as well as to Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices and the resources those practices rely upon, and that the State’s unique relationship with the ocean requires a careful consideration and management of land and ocean activities that prioritize the public trust responsibilities of the State, including but not limited to the conservation of natural resources for future generations and the protection of Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices pursuant to article XI, section 1 and article XII, section 7 of the Hawai‘i state constitution;”

Therefore, OHA respectfully urges the Committees to **HOLD** SB2417, or to adopt the amendments recommended above. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Committee on Water and Land: Chair Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice-Chair Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and committee members.

Committee on Government Operations: Chair Senator Laura Thielen, Vice-Chair Senator Lorraine Inouye, and committee members.

Hearing: Tuesday, February 11, 3:30

Re: SB 2417: Relating to Gaming and Fishing resources; Conservation; Sustainability; Food Security

Hawaii County Game Management Advisory Commission: Supports

Aloha members of the senate committees,

In the 2018 Legislative session, HCR 22 was won with strong support from legislators. SB 2417 is a bill derived from HCR 22, hopefully a Bill with teeth, as the resolution has had little effect.

The Hawaii County GMAC supports this bill, as we represent the hunting and fishing communities of Hawaii Island. Our game resources are an important part of culture, history, recreation, and local sustainability.

Game are an important local food resource. Hunters and fishermen supplement their tight food budget, in these times of inflated food cost. Local fish and game also provide an emergency food resource. Imported food can be interrupted for many reasons. Canned goods will last so long, but wild game resources are renewable. Properly managed game can insure a good back up plan in the event of food shortage, as was their original purpose.

Properly managed game can also benefit native species and eco-systems, as game mammals provide an effective and cost efficient control of invasive weeds

and grass fire fuel. Goats and sheep have been successfully used in land management for centuries all over the world, and are still today, mitigating the danger of wild fire.

Classic game management includes establishing a game population count for each game species, that can be sustained in each particular public hunting area, and kept in balance with the eco-system. Game management plans include consideration of water, food, refuge and habitat for healthy herds and their propagation. Game seasons and bag limits are important tools for proper game management.

The DLNR has been intrusted with our game resources, to preserve, protect and promote. As the DLNR has never had a game management plan, game has at times become over populated and a threat to endangered species. On the other hand, now our game are subject of heavy eradication, and are in many locations becoming non-existent. With proper management this valuable resource can be a benefit to all, and provide food security and sustainability. Please support this bill.

Mahalo nui for your consideration,

Nani Pogline

Chair-Hawaii County Game Management Advisory Commission

SB-2417

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 8:14:06 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/11/2020 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Fernley	Testifying for Coral Fish Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:



February 7, 2020

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Laura H. Thielen, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, February 11, 2020
TIME: 3:30PM
PLACE: Conference Room 225
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

HFACT STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB 2417 RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY WITH AMENDMENT

HFACT is a not-for-profit, IRS 501c(5) organization, that advocates for small boat commercial, non-commercial, and recreational fishermen throughout Hawaii. HFACT board members sit on a number of federal fisheries management and endangered species advisory committees as well as state marine and coastal zone advisory committees; and, HFACT is thoroughly familiar with and participates in ocean and marine resource management in Hawaii and the central Pacific.

Honorable Chairs Kahele, Keith-Agaran, Vice Chairs Thielen and Inouye and Members of the Senate Committees on Water and Land and Government Operations:

HFACT STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB 2417 as we have long advocated the inclusion of game mammals, game birds and wild caught fish as sustainable food sources in our State' Food Security Initiatives especially critical should we experience a devastating natural disaster. We are particularly pleased that this measure requires each department, office or agency of the state to update its rules and policies to integrate the local hunting and fishing industries into any food security or sustainability strategies the department, office or agency employs and requires a report to the legislature.



We are informed that our indigenous community effectively supported a population estimated at one million individuals through local farming, domesticated mammals and birds, supplemented with the sustainable management of game mammals, birds and aquatic resources, absent imported resources.

HFACT offers an amendment to include "and fishing" on Page 3 line 16. To read:
(13) Preserve, protect, and promote public hunting and fishing."

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support and consideration of the amendment offered.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy Morioka", is positioned below the word "Respectfully,".

Roy Morioka

for Phil Fernandez - President

SB-2417

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 9:58:02 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/11/2020 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Puanani Rogers	Testifying for Hui Aloha Aina o na Wahine o Wai`ale`ale -Women's Patriotic League	Support	No

Comments:



**Conservation Council
for Hawai'i**

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i / leo no nā holoholona lōhiu



**Submitted to the Senate Committee on Water and Land
Submitted to the Senate Committee on Government Operations
Hearing: February 11, 2020 at 3:30pm
Conference Room 225
SB2417: Relating to Sustainability**

Conservation Council for Hawaii (CCH) opposes Senate Bill 2417, which would allow for the importing of game mammals, birds and ocean wildlife to grow our states food source. CCH supports food security and believes that we should be doing more to decrease the amount of food imported into the state. CCH does however acknowledge that there has already been extreme desecration to Native Forests and Watersheds due to unmanaged ungulate populations. Food Security and Sustainability strategies should encompass vision of entire ecosystems and what impact introducing and increasing "game" for consumption would have on our islands. We have fought hard to not allow commercial fishing operations close to our shores and CCH will continue to support this as our reef fish populations have increased due to better management practices through the addition of Marine Life Conservation Districts and the implementation of laws keeping commercial fishing away from nearshore waters. Pertaining to cultural traditions and practices, Native Hawaiians practiced under a kapu system which ensured vitality for our ocean resources as well as hunting seasons that kept our land mammals and birds bountiful. We firmly believe that there are other strategies that could bolster our food source that would not negatively impact our islands land and ocean resources and encourage the committees to consider the importance of preserving our natural resources for future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition of SB 2417.

**Telephone/Fax: 808.593.0255 | email: info@conservehi.org | web:
conservationcouncilhawaii.org**

P.O. Box 2923 | Honolulu, HI 96802 | Office: 250 Ward Ave. Suite 215 | Honolulu, HI 96814

President Rachel Sprague | Vice President: Lisa Hinano Rey | Secretary: Julie Leialoha

Treasurer: Sunshine Woodford | Directors: Robin Kaye, Steven Lee Montgomery

National Wildlife Representatives: Les Welsh, Rachel Sprague

Executive Director: Moana Bjur | Operations and Events Director: Jonnetta Peters



Public Testimony SB2417 by Craig Severance

I am strongly in favor! Wild caught fish and game contribute immensely to food security and to health, especially for low income folks. Unlike Oahu, The Big Island has many families who depend on fish and game for their livelihoods, and it goes far beyond "recreation", although that is a component of fishing and hunting for some. In Keaukaha, in Puna, and even in Hamakua folks have long depended on these sustainable resources. It is time fish and game are recognized for their contribution to the community. Much of this food "flows" into the community with extended social, cultural and economic value that can be measured and given fair consideration by the relevant state agencies. "The Ocean, and the mountain are both our "Icebox"!

SB-2417

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 5:17:09 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/11/2020 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kurt Kawamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2417

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 2:05:19 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/11/2020 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a retiree, hunting and fishing are very important to me and my family both for food and for recreation. They are also a very important part of our local culture and lifestyle, especially on the outer islands.

Like many in the community I feel that the state administration is becoming increasingly hostile to hunting, promoting the eradication of game animals like sheep and goats that have been here over 200 years (introduced in the late 1700's), axis deer that have been here for 150 years (introduced in the 1860's), and pigs that arrived with the first Polynesians. The harvest of these animals for food is, and has been for centuries, an integral part of the island culture.

Meanwhile, ocean warming is having an increasingly negative effect on fishing and other marine resources.

Other states actively manage their fish and game resources, using seasons and bag limits to balance them to their environments. When necessary, they invest in propagation. This bill will hopefully motivate DLNR to properly manage these critical resources so that our children can enjoy them into the future.

SB-2417

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 7:12:54 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/11/2020 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a registered voter I am in support of SB2417.

SB-2417

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 8:55:11 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/11/2020 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William K. Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Senate Bill 2417.

Thank you for allowing my testimony.

William Chang

SB-2417

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 7:19:49 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/11/2020 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Grayson	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I support this and all bills that promote proper game management. For too long we have either taken the approach of letting game animals go unchecked in our environment and devastate the ecosystem. Our response to this has been to then eradicate or fence off game animals, and this in turn has also led to overgrowth, fire hazards, and the limiting of our hunting tradition. We need a new approach, proper game management. Something closer to the middle.

Please support this bill.

SB-2417

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 10:22:46 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/11/2020 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Kacatin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT. Maintaining the freedom of individual sustainability which includes procuring your own sustenance is key for property rights and individual rights.

Absolutely support this measure.

SB-2417

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 11:41:35 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/11/2020 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB2417.

It is important to ensure the management of game animals and birds continue so they are available for hunters in the future. People hunt and fish to obtain a good source of protein to supplement their diet, especially for those struggling with Hawaii's high cost of living. Hunting and fishing also teaches responsibility, environmentalism, and physical fitness.

Please continue hunting and fishing traditions by supporting this bill.

Mahalo

Todd Yukutake
(808) 255-3066
toddykutake@gmail.com

SB-2417

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 7:26:58 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/11/2020 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ron Dellinger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I hereby state my stong support for SB 2417

SB-2417

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 8:12:45 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/11/2020 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joni Kamiya	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2417

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 8:22:43 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/11/2020 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Yes hunting and fishing are important ways of life here in Hawaii.

SB-2417

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 2:59:54 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/11/2020 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ROBERT DUERR	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

For sustainability to work Hawaii fish and wildlife must be managed and supported by DLNR. DLNR's Division of Forestry and Wildlife refuses to adopt a game animal management plan. Last year DLNR's Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation eliminated supporting fishing in it mandate.

Please support and pass SB 12417.

Robert Duerr. Hilo. Outdoor journalist. Memeber Outdoor Writers of America Association.

SB-2417

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 11:38:25 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/11/2020 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB2417. This is part of our sustainability plan of the governor's for us. We need this also for the protection of our game. Some people just kill our animals and leave it there or take the trophy head only. SB2417 would have a stronger consequences if people leave any animals to waste. You have to have game mammals in the sustainability plan,if our game mammals our not recognized DLNR will continue there jihad and kill all of our game and not only mammals they will come for our game birds next.

SB-2417

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 12:25:26 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/11/2020 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian F. Funai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of SB 2417. I feel that game mammals, birds and our ocean resources are being overlooked in the State's priorities in regards to food sustainability for Hawaii's people.

Thank you,

Brian F. Funai

Keaau, Hawaii 96749

SB-2417

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 3:30:31 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/11/2020 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald Tam	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I fully support the intent of the proposed legislation. The need and appropriateness of recognizing seafood (fish) as a food source and the implementation of management practices and policies that ensure the sustainability thereof, are long, long over due. However, increased tasking on the Department absent the provision of resources to accomplish the additional responsibilities is simply mere "piling-on", to result in ineffective and meaningless management execution that could harm those who depend on fish and game as a source of protein.

SB-2417

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 8:23:12 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/11/2020 3:30:00 PM

LATE

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

Comments: