

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND**

**Wednesday, February 6, 2019
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 324
RELATING TO WILDLIFE RESOURCES**

Senate Bill 324 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources to employ cooperative resource management strategies in the management and administration of the wildlife and wildlife resources of the State. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

The Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) is responsible for managing over 1 million acres statewide, including important watersheds, forests, beaches, marine resources, plants and wildlife that are vital to future water security.

The Department must often make difficult and complex choices, balancing critical resource protection (native species, water, land, etc.) with cultural, historic, economic and public needs. The Department relies on public outreach, cooperation, and active public engagement to help define and address these factors before reaching any decisions.

In order to facilitate this public engagement, there are many established avenues for soliciting, seeking, and collecting public input. This includes the established public decision-making process of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board), which is required to hold public meetings and provide all documentations prior to any decision making. Additionally, numerous commissions and boards have been established by the legislature, many of which requiring members with historic and cultural expertise and that are charged with advising the Board regarding specific and often specialized topics (such as the natural area reserve commission, the endangered species recovery commission, Na Ala Hele advisory board, the game management advisory commission, etc.).

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

Each of these commissions and boards are required to hold public meetings, offering full transparency in their evaluation processes. A lengthy public process is required to change or amend any of the Department's administrative rules, following all sunshine law and procedures. Numerous hours of public outreach and stakeholder consultations are written into standard operating procedures for the development of all departmental management plans. The Department takes great pride and pleasure in engaging with our community members and partners acquiring incredible amounts of valuable insights they provide and which we use on a daily basis for the improved planning and management of Hawaii's natural and cultural resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



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

SB324 – SUPPORT

February 4, 2019

Committees on Water and Land
For Hearing on February 6, 2019
Conference Room 229 1:15 PM
Senate Bill 324

Dear Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran

The Hawaii Hunting Association is in support of this legislation.

Cooperative Resource Management. Over the years, since 1979 in particular, DLNR, their partnerships, US Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS; USFWS), US Department of Agriculture (USDA), and other Agencies have run roughshod over traditional, recreational, and culturally dependent resource users and have enacted forest policy and practice without ever adequately engaging with the typical users of the resources.

This Legislation finally gives voice to the people who are most affected by the decisions that DLNR and their Partnerships make regarding land use and practices, usually made without listening to the public. Public land is just that, and the public has a duty to voice its concerns over practices that modify access, utilization, or management of public resources.

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

Much Aloha,

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

Tom Lodge, Chair

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(808) 982-4747

SB-324

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 1:18:06 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

LATE

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

Comments:

SB-324

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 4:34:54 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-324

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 10:26:15 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mio Chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-324

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:53:19 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

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 employ cooperative resource management strategies in the management and administration of the wildlife and wildlife resources of the State.

Rather than continuing to waste money hiring contractors to conduct eradication operations and wasting resources, DLNR should do more to coordinate with the hunting community, who will gladly aid in these efforts with little to no cost to the state and its tax payers.

SB-324

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 12:14:19 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha my name is Pooya Motlagh. I'm the president of the Waianae hunting association and support sb324

SB-324

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 12:20:25 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hi

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

Thank you,

Syreen

SB-324

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 1:19:33 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

I fully support this bill and hope that the public will be able to be part of the decision making processes in this bill.

SB-324

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 6:42:42 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Ley	Testifying for hawaii sportsman association	Support	No

Comments:

SB-324

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:39:56 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Water and Land Commitee,

I am in support of SB 324 and would like to add a few comments. Please hear this out.

I serve on the State Game Management Advisory Commission as the East Hawaii Representative and also organize the online facebook page of the Hawaii Sportsmen's Alliance. I have worked several years with the DLNR in furthering game management initiatives to benefit the long term viability of public hunting resources on the Big Island.

HRS 183D-2-12 states "To preserve, protect, and promote public hunting."

It is my opinion and perhaps the same for many others in my position that, the DLNR does a decent job at "promoting" public hunting. However, a very poor and mostly absent job at "preserve, protect" public hunting. One may simply ask the current DOFAW Administator tasked with this responsibility whether the Department has a "hunting program" or a "game management program." The answer will be, they uphold a "hunting program," not a "game management program."

The issue is simple, without the resource managed for any long term viability, hunting cannot be protected or preserved. No different than if there are no fish, there are no fishermen; no resource, no hunter. Many members of my constituency understand there are delicate ecological impacts and issues with the existence of certain game species in certain areas. However, where applicable and already identified as suitable for sustained yield use, the Department should create game management plans for game species in furtherance of duties in HRS 183D-2-12. The public faces opposition to creating these plans mostly due to an unreasonable environmental lobby that seeks to control every acre of public open spaces. Hunters, reasonable environmentalists, and Department staff have made efforts to create such plans however are hindered by the aforementioned lobby.

The language of this bill may not directly address this issue but is very related. I will also pose an alternative. Should the committee see fit, please urge or mandate the DLNR to create game management plans in sustained yield areas at the least. They should have

a publicly agreed upon plan for all areas. However, any progress here would be better than none and something the hunting public has waited on for decades.

Mahalo,

Ryan Kohatsu

East Hawaii State Game Management Advisory Commission Member

Hawaii Sportsmen's Alliance

Hawaii Sportsmen's Alliance

Supporting SB324

THE SENATE, THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

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

SB-324

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 2:28:15 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

There is more safety in numbers, when all stake holders can be present at the decision making table. The one sided agenda has gone unchecked for too long. We have lost a tremendous amount of our wildlife resources. Its time for the scales.

SB-324

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 5:03:11 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-324

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 6:53:54 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

It only makes sense that the users of a resource should have input into its management. It is even more important when the people who manage the resource are not even users.

As a hunter on the Big Island I am aware that a number of the people making decisions about my hunting opportunities are not themselves hunters. While I think that they mean well, I believe that the resource can be more effectively managed with a formal system of input from actual users who are experiencing conditions in the field. The same is true for bird watchers, hikers, gatherers, and other resource users.

DLNR has a reputation of being out-of-touch with the user community. This bill will require them to establish lines of communication and feedback and help re-establish a level of trust in their actions.

SB-324

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:07:02 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

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.

SB-324

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:59:58 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

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 591 and feel that it will go a long way in ensuring hunting opportunities for future generations as well as protect the few Game Management Areas that still exist.

SB-324

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 11:07:58 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-324

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:41:57 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

I Teresa L. Nakama hereby strongly support SB324. I will share my values to Malama our Hawaiian Islands, which are very unique in its bio-diversity of our natural resources from mountain to our oceans. We must maka'ala our aina and have management strategies in place thereby stating that it is necessary that DLNR shall implement management skills to ensure that the wildlife and wildlife strategies are in place to protect our resources to ensure future generations to come in the State of Hawaii where they can also Malama the uniqueness of Hawaii Nei.