

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**

**Friday, March 19, 2021
1:00 PM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 229

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1021, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE INTERSTATE WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT**

House Bill 102, House Draft 1, proposes to authorize the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to enter into the interstate wildlife violator compact or similar agreement for mutual assistance in the enforcement of wildlife laws. **The Department strongly supports this Administration measure.**

The protection of the wildlife resources of the state is materially affected by the degree of compliance with state statutes, laws, regulations, ordinances, and administrative rules relating to the management of such resources. Violation of wildlife laws interferes with the management of wildlife resources and may endanger the safety of persons and property.

The Wildlife Violator Compact includes a reciprocal recognition of license privilege suspension by member states, thus any person whose license privileges are suspended in a member state would also be suspended in Hawaii. Wildlife law violators will be held accountable due to the fact their illegal activities in one state can affect their privileges in all participating states. This cooperative interstate effort will enhance the State of Hawaii's ability to protect and manage wildlife resources for the benefit of all residents and visitors.

Implementation of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact in Hawaii would involve the cooperation and coordination of three divisions within the Department: Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement, Division of Aquatic Resources, and Division of Forestry and Wildlife, as well as input from other stakeholders. A nominal fee of \$500.00 annually is necessary to establish and maintain the system. Staff time to input or extract data is dependent on the number of qualifying violations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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

HB-1021-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 11:19:48 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair, the Honorable Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land.

From: HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION – HIROC (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing HB1021 HD1 RELATING TO THE INTERSTATE WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT

Hearing Date: Friday, March 19, 2021, 1:00 pm, videoconference

Position: **STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB1021 HD1!**

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

The HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION – HIROC – **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1021 HD1!** HIROC was formed in 2017 by coral reef scientists, educators, local Hawaii environmental organizations, elected officials, and others to address the crisis facing Hawaii's coral reefs and other marine life. The health of our reefs and oceans is critical for Hawaii's recreation, economy and shoreline protection. Our coral reefs, other aquatic life, and ocean need greater protection!

The purpose of this measure is to authorize the Department of Land and Natural Resources, which supports this measure, to enter into the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact or similar agreement for mutual assistance in the enforcement of wildlife laws.

The Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact is a multistate agreement that promotes enforcement of hunting, fishing, trapping, and other wildlife-related regulations across jurisdictions. Joining the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact enables state and local law enforcement action against nonresident wildlife law violators, including poachers, who can therefore be treated as state residents for enforcement purposes. This process is convenient for citizens of member states and increases the efficiency of conservation officers by allowing more time for enforcement duties rather than violator

processing procedures that are required for arrest, booking and bonding of non-residents. Wildlife law violators are held accountable due to the fact that their illegal activities in one state can affect their privileges in all participating states, including the member home state.

The Wildlife Violator Compact also includes a reciprocal recognition of license privilege suspension by member states, thus any person whose license privileges are suspended in a member state would also be suspended in their home state.

Violation of wildlife laws, including those to protect aquatic resources, interferes with the management of wildlife resources and may endanger the safety of persons and property. The Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact was created to promote compliance with the laws, regulations, ordinances, resolutions, and administrative rules that related to the management of wildlife resources in the respective member states. Existing member states to the interstate wildlife violator compact have reported little to no added costs or administrative burdens associated with participating in the compact. The information system that facilitates participation is available for free to member states.

Forty-eight states have passed legislation needed to join the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact. It is time for Hawaii to join this effort. This measure will enhance Hawaii's ability to protect and manage its wildlife resources, including aquatic resources, and therefore will benefit the reefs and ocean.

Please pass this bill! Mahalo!

Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waiialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
808.356.2200 • HawaiianHumane.org

Date: March 16, 2021

To: Chair Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye
Vice Chair Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
and Members of the Committee on Water and Land

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Public Policy Advocate
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in support of HB 1021, HD1:
Relating to the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact
Friday, March 19, 2021, 1 p.m., Capitol conference room 229

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for House Bill 1021, HD1, which authorizes the Department of Land and Natural Resources to enter into the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact or similar agreement for mutual assistance in the enforcement of wildlife laws.

The Hawaiian Humane Society advocates for the humane treatment of all animals, including wildlife. Hawaii authorities charged with enforcing wildlife-related regulations should have access to information about individuals convicted of violating these rules in other states so they can bar them from similar activities in Hawaii. HB 1021, HD1, would bring Hawaii in line with 48 other states that have joined together to enforce protections for wild animals.

Please pass HB 1021, HD1, to strengthen the enforcement of wildlife regulations across jurisdictions.

Mahalo for your consideration and let me know if I can be of assistance.

HB-1021-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 3:47:05 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

We are in stong support!

HB-1021-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 3:56:25 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Bishop	Testifying for Friends of Hanauma Bay	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and WTL Committee Members,

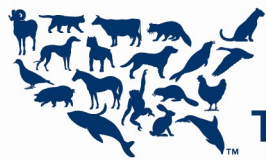
Friends of Hanauma Bay strongly supports this important bill!

Mahalo for allowing us to testify.

Lisa Bishop

President,

Friends of Hanauma Bay



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

To: Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

In Support Of: HB 1021

Date: March 19, 2021

Testimony By: Lindsay Vierheilig, Hawaii State Director, The Humane Society of the United States

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States and our members and supporters across Hawaii, I appreciate the opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of HB 1021, a bill to enter Hawaii into the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, with amendments.

The HSUS works to end the worst abuses facing wildlife, including poaching. Poaching—the illegal harming or killing of wildlife—is a serious problem across the country. Poachers take animals over the allowable limit or out of season and kill animals using prohibited methods. This bill will keep poachers from illegally taking Hawaii’s wildlife and assists with the enforcement of wildlife laws.

The Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact is a nationwide law enforcement network aimed at preventing lawbreakers who have lost their hunting, fishing, and/or trapping privileges in one state, due to committing poaching crimes or violations, from carrying out those activities in other states.

Hawaii is one of only two non-member states of the nationwide law enforcement network, along with Massachusetts. As a non-member, Hawaii does not benefit from the network that has been helping wildlife agencies increase compliance with wildlife laws for 25 years. We must modernize penalties to deter wildlife criminals.

When a violator has their hunting, fishing, and/or trapping privileges legally suspended in a state that is a member of the compact, the suspension may be recognized by all other compact member states. The violation is treated as if it happened in the violator’s home state for purposes of license suspension.

If a violator fails to comply with a ticket issued in a member state, the issuing state can request the violator's home state to immediately suspend the violator's hunting, fishing and trapping privileges in their state until the violator complies with the terms of the ticket.

With that ability, the non-resident violator (if a resident of a Compact state) in many cases can be handled in the same manner as a resident violator and released on his or her own recognizance. This saves law enforcement the often unnecessary step of taking a non-resident violator to jail and allows them to stay in the field and focus on enforcement. It also removes an unnecessary burden on the court system.

A good example of how the compact punishes poachers is the [recent case of an Arizona hunting guide](#) who killed a desert bighorn sheep in Utah with a fraudulently obtained big game permit. The hunter rented a home in UT, claiming in-state residence to obtain the permit. After killing the bighorn sheep, he was charged with fraud, had to pay \$30,000 in restitution, and cannot hunt for 10 years in the 48 states participating in the compact. However, he can still hunt in Hawaii and Massachusetts. It is critical that we protect our wildlife from people who break the law.

Poachers jeopardize the livelihood of outdoor recreation outfitter and ecotourism companies and other businesses.

When poachers illegally take our fish and wildlife, they exploit our natural resources and steal revenue from constituents who make a living by selling goods and services that contribute to wildlife recreation and tourism in Hawaii.

This is a common sense tool to combat poaching which 48 other states participate in and I urge the committee to protect our unique tourism and local businesses here in Hawaii by entering our state into the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact.

We request the following amendments to the bill:

- Create a new Chapter 183E.
- Insert the text of the compact, approximately 13 pages in length.
- Amend language to make it clear that the state is entering into the Compact.
- Add an enforcement provision for reciprocal recognition of license suspensions to make sure there is a penalty for someone who actually engages in hunting, trapping, or fishing in the state, but who has had a license for the same activity revoked in another state, and add details about a hearing regarding said suspension.
- Add a definition at the end of the bill language to clarify that as used in the new chapter, “wildlife” includes aquatic species. Licenses are required for the taking in Hawaii of introduced freshwater species, and fishing in certain areas:

<https://freshwater.ehawaii.gov/freshwater/>
<http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar/licenses-permits/>

Permits are also required to take aquatic life for aquarium purposes, using certain gear:

<http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar/fishing/faqs/>

Sincerely,



Lindsay Vierheilig
Hawaii State Director
lvierheilig@humanesociety.org

HB-1021-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:26:55 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this important bill.

LATE

HB-1021-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 1:05:53 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Inga Gibson	Testifying for For the Fishes	Support	No

Comments:

March 19, 2021 1pm

RE: SUPPORT FOR HB1020 Relating to Adaptive Natural Resource Management

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members,

For the Fishes requests your support of HB1020 to allow the Department and Board of Land and Natural Resources to be more responsive and flexible in addressing emergent natural resources issues, especially in light of climate change impacts and new data and technological advancements that may demonstrate a heightened threat to our natural resources, held in the Public's Trust.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



LATE

**To: The Honorable Chair Senator
Lorraine Inouye, the Honorable Vice
Chair Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran,
and members of the Senate Water
and Land Committee**

Re: Support for HB1021

Date: March 18, 2021

**From: Keely Hopkins, *Pacific States Assistant Manager*
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation**

My name is Keely Hopkins, and I am the Pacific States Assistant Manager for the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF). I am writing today to urge your support of House Bill 1021 (HB1021), which will authorize the Department of Land and Natural Resources to enter the Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact.

Since 1989, CSF has dedicated itself to the mission of working with Congress, governors, and state legislatures to protect and advance hunting, angling, recreational shooting and trapping. The unique and collective force of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus, and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses, working closely with CSF, and with the support of major hunting, recreational fishing and shooting, and trapping organizations, serves as an unprecedented network of pro-sportsmen elected officials that advance the conservation interests of America's hunters and anglers.

The purpose of this letter is to explain the history, importance, and profound impact of the Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact (IWVC), and to urge your committee to support HB1021. HB1021 will allow Hawaii to join 48 other states as a participant in the IWVC to help ensure that wildlife violators are held accountable for their crimes.

Despite the strong traditions of ethics that the vast majority of sportsmen and women abide by, there are those that disregard the laws that regulate hunting and fishing and make the conscious decision to leave the ranks of hunters and anglers and become poachers. With increased sophistication of poachers and other wildlife violators, there is a need for increased levels of coordination between state fish and wildlife agencies. To assist in this coordination and to help stop poachers and other violators from moving their illegal activity from state to state, the IWVC was created to allow state wildlife agencies to share information about fish and wildlife violations with their colleagues across state lines and throughout the nation. The IWVC began in 1985, after Colorado and Nevada drafted an interstate agreement on combatting wildlife violators. The IWVC expanded in 1989, after being passed into law by Colorado, Nevada, and Oregon, which collectively formed the core of the compact. Today, there are 48 states participating in the Compact leaving Hawaii as one of only two states (the

other being Massachusetts) that are presently not members.

The Compact is overseen by a board comprised of representatives from the wildlife law enforcement or licensing authority divisions from participating states. In associated states, the IWVC does the following for the fish and wildlife agencies:

- Allows conservation officers to devote more time to the patrolling, surveillance, and apprehension of wildlife violators.
- Reduces the burden on courts and jail facilities by decreasing caseloads.
- Reduces the number of “Failure to Appear” cases because non-residents cannot ignore a citation from a participating state without facing the suspension of their wildlife license privileges in their home state.
- Serves as a notice to wildlife violators that their activities in one state can affect their privileges, or rights, to recreate in all participating states, possibly including their home state.

Most importantly, however, this bill will protect wildlife from illegal harvest and will strengthen the Compact (through Hawaii’s participation therein) by revoking the hunting and/or fishing privileges of all persons who have committed serious wildlife offenses in other member states. Through HB1021, Hawaii will be sending a message to all poachers and wildlife violators that they will not be able to enjoy sporting privileges in the state of Hawaii.

In closing, I urge you to support the passage of HB1021. HB1021, if enacted, will be a crucial step forward in Hawaii’s participation in the IWVC and will help prevent wildlife violators from escaping accountability for their crimes. Should you require any additional information on this, or any other sportsmen-related topic, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



Keely Hopkins
Pacific States Assistant Manager
Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation
KHopkins@congressionalsportsmen.org
916-633-3664