

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 House Committee on
JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, February 24, 2021
2:00 PM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 325

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

House Bill 1021 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



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: Feb. 22, 2021

To: Chair Rep. Mark Nakashima
Vice Chair Rep. Scot Matayoshi
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

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

RE: Testimony in support of HB 1021:
Relating to the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact
Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021, 2 p.m., Capitol Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for House Bill 1021, 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 would bring Hawaii in line with 48 other states that have joined together to enforce protections for wild animals.

Please pass HB 1021 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

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 4:01:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natalie Parra	Keiko Conservation	Support	No

Comments:

We strongly support this measure.

HB-1021

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 4:16:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

ARH is in strong support

HB-1021

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 4:27:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To: The House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair

Representative Scot Matayoshi, Vice Chair

From: Friends of Hanauma Bay

Re: HB1021 RELATING TO THE INTERSTATE WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 2 p.m. House Conference Room 325 Via Videoconference

Position: STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB1021

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Committee Members,

Friends of Hanauma Bay strongly supports HB1021 that would enable 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 with 48 other States in our Nation.

The Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact is a multistate agreement that promotes enforcement of hunting, fishing, trapping, and other wildlife related regulation across state lines, whereby persons who have had their licenses revoked in one state are prohibited from engaging in those licensed activities in another state that is part of the compact agreement. Currently, Hawaii is not a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact.

This long-needed measure would enhance Hawaii's ability to protect and manage wildlife resources, including marine resources, for the benefit of all current and future residents and visitors.

We urge you to pass HB1021, and mahalo for the opportunity to testify in its support.

Respectfully.

Lisa Bishop

President

Friends of Hanauma Bay



February 24, 2021, 2pm

TO: Honorable Chair Nakashima & Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee members

SUBMITTED BY: Inga Gibson, Policy Consultant, For the Fishes
ponoadvocacy@gmail.com, 808.922.9910

RE: SUPPORT for HB1021; Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact

For the Fishes respectfully urges your **support of HB1021** which would allow DLNR, who supports this measure, to become a member of the national law enforcement network known as the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact.

47 states are currently members of this Compact. The Compact is an agreement between states to gain further compliance with wildlife related laws, ordinances, and regulations of participating states, while providing for the fair and impartial treatment of wildlife violators.

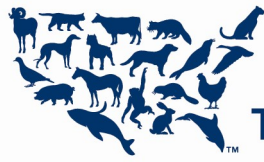
Membership in the Compact is free to member states and, according to existing member states, has little to no fiscal impact (estimated 10 hours per month of existing staff time entering information into the national database).

Wildlife officials estimate that nationally tens of millions of animals are poached each year. Poaching is a serious problem and far more often than not, poaching activity remains undetected and poachers go unpunished for their crimes. In fact, it is estimated that despite the tireless efforts of wildlife protection officers, a mere one to five percent of poachers are ever apprehended by law enforcement.

Crimes that may be recorded and accessed via the IWVC database include but are not limited to the following: Illegal take or possession of big game, Illegal take or possession of threatened or endangered species, Felony wildlife violations, License violations, fraud, false statement, Waste of wildlife, Accumulated wildlife violations, Violations while on revocation, Sale/purchase of prohibited wildlife, Illegal take or possession of small game or migratory birds and Federal Wildlife Violations.

Modeled after the equally successful Driver's License Compact, the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact was first developed back in the early 1990s. If enacted in Hawaii, it would prevent wildlife violators who have lost their wildlife related privileges in member states from coming to Hawaii to circumvent those license revocations. Enacting the compact would also ensure that those who have been punished with license revocations for illegal wildlife acts in Hawaii can't avoid their punishment by engaging in those activities in another member state.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

To: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

In Support Of: HB 1021

Date: February 23, 2021

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

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

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

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:16:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To: Honorable Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair

Honorable Representative Scot Matayoshi, Vice Chair, and Members of the

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

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

Re: Hearing HB1021 RELATING TO THE INTERSTATE WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 2:00 pm, videoconference

Position: STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB1021!

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee members:

The HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION – 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.

This bill would enable Hawaii to join 48 other states by passing legislation authorizing 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 Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact is a multistate agreement that promotes enforcement of hunting, fishing, trapping, and other wildlife related regulation across state lines, whereby persons who have had their licenses revoked in one state are prohibited from engaging in those licensed activities in another state that is part of the compact agreement. Currently, Hawaii is not a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact. This measure would enhance Hawaii's ability to protect and manage wildlife resources, including marine resources, for the benefit of all residents and visitors.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of this bill!

Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

HB-1021

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 6:08:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Please support HB1021. With Hawaii being the "extinction capital of the world" we need all the help we can keep to preserve our diversity and thus our ecosystems, which also bring in millions in tourism dollars.

Sincerely,

Andrea Quinn

HB-1021

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 9:31:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Aloha Chairperson Nakashima and Committee Members.

Please support HB 1021 which authorizes the Department of Land and Natural Resources to enter into the interstate Wildlife Violation Compact or similar agreement. It's my understanding that this Compact or a similar agreement is to ensure humane treatment and protection of wildlife animals across jurisdictions, and that Hawaii is one of only two states which have not joined this Compact. Hawaii, in other areas, has been a leader in animal welfare, but obviously is lagging behind to not have joined this Compact. Again, please support HB 1021.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

HB-1021

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 7:12:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Nakachi	Moana Ohana	Support	No

Comments:

Strong support,