

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

MARCH 2, 2022
1:00 P.M.
VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1721 HD1
RELATING TO FERAL ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1721, HD1 regarding feral animal management. This measure requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and Department of Agriculture (DOA) to collaborate on feral animal management. The DOA appreciates the intent of the measure to manage feral animals and offers the following comments.

The DOA is able to provide agriculture related data and information consultation to DLNR but is challenged with its limited resources. In addition, authority for ante and postmortem inspection involves several agencies.

DOA would like to note that the Hawaii Department of Agriculture relinquished its state meat inspection program in the mid-1990s and the USDA-Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) was required to take it over. Today USDA-FSIS provides meat inspection service statewide in Hawaii. Exotic meat such as venison, is not under routine meat inspection like beef, but is under voluntary meat inspection through FSIS that requires different scheduling with FSIS for ante and postmortem inspections.



Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1721, H.D. 1

March 2, 2022
1:00 p.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO FERAL ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1721, H.D. 1, requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and the Department of Agriculture to collaborate on feral animal management projects to manage feral animal populations and mitigate their impact on native habitats, indigenous species, agriculture, and communities; and appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 23 to be expended by DLNR to establish one full-time Natural Resources Management Specialist position related to feral animal management.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

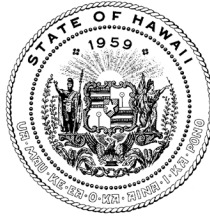
Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

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
FINANCE

Wednesday, March 2, 2022
1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308, Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1721, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO FERAL ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

House Bill 1721, House Draft 1 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) and Department of Agriculture to collaborate on feral animal management. **The Department supports this measure.**

One of the Department's top priority issues is reducing feral animal impacts in natural areas and finding ways to expand opportunities to harvest these animals. Various management strategies are apparent from the findings of population studies of Hawaii's feral mammals. The most important is that fencing has proven successful and is currently the most cost-effective long-term option for protecting landscapes from feral animals. Hawaii Volcanoes National Park removed goats (at a rate of up to 5,000/year) for a half-century without any effect whatsoever upon the remaining goat population. After building fences, the park eliminated its goat population within a decade.¹

Another strategy is to increase hunting and harvest opportunities, as hunters are valuable conservation partners. While the Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) manages approximately a quarter of Hawaii's land area (over 900,000 acres) as public hunting lands, access to these lands can be a limitation. Oftentimes, these public hunting lands are located *mauka* of privately-owned residential areas. DOFAW needs additional capacity to counter the statewide trend of lands being sold and public access blocked off. The Game Management Advisory Commission (GMAC) recommends priority areas to establish or restore access to land-

¹ Hawaii Conservation Alliance. 2005. Controlling Ungulate Populations in Native Ecosystems in Hawaii. <https://www.hawaiiconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/ungulates-1.pdf>. Adapted from Reeser, Donald W., 1993. Establishment of the resources management division, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Pages 431-436, Proceedings of Seventh Conference on Research and Resource Management in Parks and on Public Lands, George Wright Society

locked areas, and there are tools available to implement these goals. DOFAW has negotiated with private landowners to provide public access through private lands, established Cooperative Game Management Areas to create public hunting on private lands, and purchased lands outright to provide hunting areas for the public.

In the past fifteen years, more than 17,000 acres of new hunting land have been added to DOFAW's managed lands and an additional 28,000 acres are in the process of being added to serve the approximately 11,500 licensed hunters in Hawaii. However, DOFAW is severely limited in the capacity to pursue these opportunities or maintain the roads and trails and legal agreements. For example, the recurring general funds provided to LNR 804 (Forest and Outdoor Recreation) do not fully cover payroll costs and provide only meager operational funds for the program.

The Department recommends that funding be provided for the implementation of existing management plans that target feral animal management. This includes the following requests in the Executive budget:

- Operating: Add funds for LNR 804 personnel budget shortfall (\$300,000, A), LNR 804 operating funds (\$400,000, A, and other requests of LNR 804) which will assist with hunter access projects such as road and trail maintenance.
- Restore the requested positions in LNR 172, 407, 402, and 804. Many of these positions directly plan and implement hoofed animal control and management, improve hunter access, and provide the administrative support for these efforts.
- CIP: LNR 407: Add \$4,000,000 for Watershed Protection and Initiatives, Statewide to build long-term fences that protect forests from hoofed animals.

The position proposed could pursue opportunities for additional hunting access. This staff would assist the process authorized by Act 49, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, for adaptive natural resource management to allow more flexible changes to hunting rules and pursue grant opportunities for land and easement acquisitions. The staff would also help implement the existing plans for improved feral animal management and consult with the GMAC and other hunters to prioritize projects. The Department notes that these projects are ongoing, and a commitment of recurring funding is necessary to achieve these goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HB-1721-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2022 8:32:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Emma Yuen	DLNR	Support	Yes

Comments:

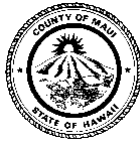
I am available for questions to DLNR. Please allow me Zoom access.

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Gabe Johnson
Kelly Takaya King
Michael J. Molina
Tamara Paltin
Shane M. Sinenci
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura




Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

March 2, 2022

TO: Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: 
Yuki Lei Sugimura
Councilmember

DATE: March 2, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR HB 1721, RELATING TO FERAL ANIMAL
MANAGEMENT**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture to collaborate on feral animal management.

I SUPPORT this measure as feral species are creating havoc across the state to the environment and significantly reducing our efforts to achieve greater levels of self-sufficiency. Axis deer in Maui County have resulted in disastrous impacts causing total destruction of some crops. The deer consume forage for livestock, necessitating ranchers to seek other food sources to feed their animals. These impacts have been exacerbated by droughts that appear to occur with increasing frequency, said to be inevitable due to climate change impacts.

Maui's police department reports significantly higher number of accidents due to deer over the last several years. To date we have been fortunate not to have a fatality, but without management, such a day is not unreasonable. We need a comprehensive plan to manage feral animal populations to better address this situation and to prepare our communities for further impacts in the future. Evidence of feral animals in leafy green fields are cause for crop destruction, resulting in total loss to the farmer. This can be a food safety issue. Our Keokea homesteaders report wild pigs in their backyards. Such animals deprive the ability of our kupuna and keiki from enjoying the outdoors. Pigs, goats and deer dig into the ground, foraging for food resulting in erosion during storm events with increased sedimentation of our reefs. The ecological, agricultural and community impacts are serious.

March 2, 2022

Page 2

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture has provided some funding to assist farmers with fencing and the County has provided hunting assistance for farmers in the County Ag Park. Each of these are spot assistance that help reduce the problems for individual farmers. Fencing and hunting help individual farmers or ranchers but in reality, move the problem to their neighbors including homeowners. A comprehensive plan to address the problem regionally is needed. These problems need long term community-based solutions. Dependence on government funding alone is not sustainable as resources are challenged with a myriad of problems ranging from homelessness to sea level rise.

Your support in passage of this measure for further discussion is appreciated. I understand that there has been federal funding provided to DLNR for management of feral animals. Understanding the scope of the program and a measure to complement it with focus on proactive measures, addressing regulatory shortfalls and enabling entrepreneurial solutions is needed.

I respectfully request your support in moving this bill forward, with discussions and encouragement emphasizing the need for a comprehensive plan for the benefit of Hawaii. Thank you for this opportunity to provide my testimony on this important matter.

For the foregoing reasons, I SUPPORT this measure.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, March 2, 2022 — 1:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports the intent of HB 1721 HD 1, Relating to Feral Animal Management.

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food; renewable energy and clean transportation; and better management of freshwater and waste.

Ulupono supports the intent of HB 1721 HD 1, which requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Department of Agriculture to collaborate on feral animal management.

Ulupono supports increased control of feral animals for agriculturalists across the State. Feral ungulates, such as pigs and axis deer, pose one of the biggest, unchecked threats to local agriculture. While there may be solutions such as fencing, feral animals have the ability to infiltrate or traverse fence lines, trample healthy soils, and demolish fresh crops. Ulupono believes that a strategic plan and a report to the legislature is important in order for the State to show its support to addressing feral animal management, particularly as it affects local agricultural production. The projects mentioned in the House Draft 1 should be included within a strategic direction from both departments to address a problem that extends to both natural resources and agriculture. Therefore, Ulupono supports the original draft to require a plan and a report to the 2023 State Legislature and asks this committee to consider these amendments.

At the end of 2021, Ulupono reached out to various partners including federal and state agencies, agricultural organizations, and active local producers to determine which Federal programs are beneficial to local producers and how we can capitalize advocacy for the 2023 Farm Bill. In these conversations, we learned about several producer needs that are not being addressed, mostly due to lack of funding or burdensome eligibility requirements. One of the most mentioned concerns from producers was the ability to obtain resources to effectively control feral ungulates. This bill, specifically the portions of the measure that identify the need to protect agricultural viability, provides help to local farmers and ranchers by establishing a management plan to determine solutions for much needed feral animal control.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

HB-1721-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 9:42:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Abraham Antonio sr	CHAIR OF HAWAII COUNTY GAME MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISION	Oppose	No

Comments:

Thank you chair and vice chair for this time

I strongly oppose this bill for the fact that our game animals has gotten so out of hand do to the fact that the state (DLNR) has never had a game management plan that has lead our game animals to be over populated which has made them in to invasive feral animals if the state had a plan this would probably not be in the state that there in.

So with that being said i understand that not all of the feral animals are game animals that are creating havoc on or farming industry that need to be controlled so i would like to make an amendment that our game resource be control to manageable numbers not eradicated but be used as a resource and control other feral animlas in a humane way.

Sincerely. Chair Abraham Antonio Sr.



MAUI COUNTY FARM BUREAU

PO Box 148, Kula, HI 96790
mauicountyfarmbureau.org

March 2, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
TESTIMONY ON HB 1721 HD1
RELATING TO FERAL ANIMAL MANAGEMENT
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Warren Watanabe, Executive Director of the Maui County Farm Bureau. MCFB strongly supports HB1721 seeking to develop long term solutions to achieve a balanced population of Hawaii's feral animal populations.

Farmers have lost crops and livestock forage due to axis deer. Droughts have exacerbated the problem as overpopulated deer search for food and water and find farms and pastures as their only option. Fencing and hunting, necessary short term solutions, move the problem to neighbors. There is an urgent need for regional solutions. We respect the cultural concerns of the Hawaiian community and desire for feral animals as a source of food for subsistence purposes. We also recognize the desire for hunting as many of our members are also hunters.

We believe the desires of everyone and protection of our environment and agriculture can be achieved with dialogue resulting in a comprehensive plan. We need to identify resources for sustainable management.

We respectfully request passage of HB1721 and continued dialogue to facilitate the development of a sustainable long term solution. Housing, education, infrastructure, and sea level rise are only a few of the demands of State and county resources. We need to develop a community based solution that addresses the issue without annual requests to the legislature. Such actions tend to be reactive and we need proactive solutions to prevent the damage.

We humbly request your support in passage of HB1721 with amendments to restore the original intent for a comprehensive action plan. Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 2, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1721, HD1
RELATING TO FERAL ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 1721, HD1, which requires the DLNR and HDOA to collaborate on feral animal management.

Across the State, various invasive species are creating havoc in agriculture as well as the ecosystems in which they exist. Maui County's axis deer population is a good example of nature getting out of control with populations exploding due to abundant forage following rainfall events. They continue to destroy crops and pasture lands by devouring any living vegetation as they continue to spread. Feral pigs damage crops by consuming them or by their rooting and trampling of crops. They will eat almost any crop. Feral pigs damage pasture grasses, killing desired plant species and often encouraging the growth of undesired weed species. They can also devastate orchards by consuming fruit, citrus, and nuts and their rooting can severely damage, or even kill saplings, shrubs, and vines directly or by facilitating the spread of soil-based fungal diseases. Feral pigs can also break irrigation lines, rip or tear nets, drying racks, and other agricultural structures and equipment.

These and other feral populations can pose a danger, especially as populations grow and their health is put into jeopardy due to inadequate food. Diseases that they normally tolerate will become serious debilitating illnesses that could put our domestic livestock industry in jeopardy. Such fears are not unreasonable, as incidences such as the bovine tuberculosis spread from feral pigs have been documented in Molokai.

Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers are working to provide Hawai'i with an increased level of self-sufficiency, but will not be able to do so if their products are consumed or damaged by feral animals. Axis Deer, feral pigs, rose-ringed parakeets, and other invasive species can cause major damage to property, agriculture (crops and livestock), Hawai'i's native species and ecosystems, and Hawai'i's cultural and historic resources. They can also threaten the health of people, wildlife, pets, and other domestic animals. As Hawai'i's feral animal populations continue to expand, these damages, costs, and risks will only keep rising

Each of Hawai'i's four Counties is being impacted by feral animal damage whether it be, deer in Maui County, pigs on every major island, and various bird species on Oahu and Kauai. Reactive actions by the Counties and the State focus on short-term solutions such as fencing, livestock feed replacement, and other programs. The State needs to develop a long-term management plan, that includes input from stakeholders, to address this ever-growing problem.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

HB1721 HD1
Relating to Feral Animal Management

Wednesday, March 2, 2022, 1:00 PM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB1721 HD1** to require the department of land and natural resources and department of agriculture to collaborate on the development of a feral animal management plan. Collaboration is needed between departments, and a plan is necessary to ensure a path forward is set to achieve the goals stated. We respectfully ask that the formulation of a plan is still included in further drafts.

Unmanaged ungulates are detrimental to the goals of conservation and agriculture alike. A concerted effort is needed for the State to assess the issue and take action. While ranchers have been addressing unmanaged ungulates using traps, managed hunting, and fences, a statewide plan is needed to coordinate the removal of feral animals. Feral animals denude the land, cause economic hardship for agricultural entities, and disrupt sound grazing plans which are meant to improve soil health.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director





MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 308
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022 AT 1:00 P.M.**

To The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

SUPPORT HB1721 HD1 RELATING TO FERAL ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

We support and believe that a comprehensive feral animal management plan with proactive long-term and short-term measures is needed to fully address the issues and that they should begin the plan implementation measures to manage the feral animal populations. Therefore, we ask that this section be added back into the bill, as it was in the original text. In addition to supporting DLNR in the creation of this plan, we believe they should work with the Department of Agriculture and with the counties to engage with the community and create partnerships.

In the past, there has been a major focus on fencing as a way to mitigate the issue but fencing only moves herds to new locations and does not actually solve the problem. We believe this needs to be addressed holistically and that Axis Deer, in addition to being a pest, can also be a significant resource for food (with meat sold and donated to feed those in need), along with other products for a variety of markets. Therefore, we would like to see DBEDT included in this effort and the plan to include funds for economic development initiatives to help regional manufacturers utilize this resource and create new and expanded products.

We ask that you pass this bill with our suggested amendments.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

HB-1721-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 1:04:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

This bill addresses a critical need: that of managing feral animal populations in Hawaii, yet it is critically flawed by including a requirement that carcasses be repurposed as food. This ignores the health inspection and handling requirements that are very difficult to impossible to meet, at least on Hawaii Island where I live, and the expense and difficulty of removing carcasses from remote areas. Natural area managers have commented to me that it would be much more cost effective to leave the carcasses in place and buy steak dinner coupons for the homeless and hungry.

HB-1721-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 1:45:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

More Wast!!

HB-1721-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 4:02:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
nani pogline	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Legislators of the FIN Committee,

HRS 183D states that the DLNR is to "Preserve, protect, and promote public hunting." The funds should not be given for the DLNR and the DOA to hunt, but to the public hunter. The DLNR says hunters are not enough to manage wild game, but these are people who have day jobs. They are expected to bear all the cost of hunting from their own dime, and pay fees on top of it. Hunting equipment, hunting vehicles, gas, meat processing and storage are expenses.

Funds should be given to promote hunting :

1. Provide free youth and adult education on hunting skills, humane treatment of animals, slaughtering, safe meat processing and storage, meat preparation and local recipes.
2. Make meat inspection sites more available for hunters.
3. Train and certify public hunters for private land owner wild game problems.
4. Provide subsidies to help hunters with the cost of hunting.
5. Create a possitive public image of our valuable game resources for local sustainability.
6. Give incentives for local bussiness to market local wild caught meat.

Hunters value game resources, and would like to see good management and the perpetuation of the species for future generations. They should be the ones to control the populations.

HB-1721-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 4:53:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Stanley Mendes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1721 take monies that would go too the DLNR and have the farmers and whoever is effected build fences for their crops. These animals probably were there before they owned the land. These animals are our resources that's all we need to have DLNR killing them. If they DLNR would trap and relocate them I would agree but not go in and eradicate. SUSTAINABILITY please.

HB-1721-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2022 7:42:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

Dear Chair and members of the committee,

I'm Zhizi Xiong and I'm an animal rescue service provider. I'm starting an organization called, ROAR, Rescue Of Animal Rights, located in Kalihi. I support the intent of the bill to create, establish and develop a feral animal management plan. And yet, I'd like to bring to the attention of the legislature several key points. When it comes to best management practices, exploiting and eradicating feral animals shouldn't be a viable option. Instead, the legislature can implement initiatives and efforts to preserve and protect feral animals, wildlife and all species, because every life matters.

According to the Hawaii Revised Statutes 13-126-3 written for the DLNR, in the chapter about Designation of Wildlife Sanctuaries, the board may declare and establish wildlife sanctuaries for the conservation, management, and protection of indigenous wildlife and their habitats. When we view the purpose of this chapter, it is to conserve, manage and protect indigenous wildlife and their habitats in sanctuaries. This HRS protects indigeous species but does not protect all wildlife and every species.

The significance and impact of feral animals and wildlife will only increase as these species continue to populate in Hawaii. It may be ideal to consider designating land to build animal sanctuaries, not just for indigeous species, but for the feral animals as well.

It is necessary to develop research studies for each animal instead of just focusing on the overall goal of managing these species. Each animal species contribute uniquely to the environment, in positive and negative ways.

In DOA's testimony, they write, "DOA is able to provide agriculture related data, information consultation to DLNR but is challenged with its limited resources for other activities needed to accomplish the goals set forth in this measure." They go on to say, the activities contemplated in the measure require participation by other agencies, at the federal and county level and it also requires working with private entities. It can be concluded that the responsibilities highlighted in the measure are vast and will require a collaborative effort. It may be in the fiscal interest of the legislature to consider creating an executive-level department dedicated to the mission of animal management and implementing the wildlife policy goals enacted by the legislature. Instead of these functions being dispersed among different departments having differing missions, it may be more efficient and effective to create an executive-level department to integrate all the work under one administrative umbrella. Then the duties and responsibilities can be allocated amongst the principal departments (i.e. DOA, DLNR, Hawaiian Humane Society, Hawaii Invasive Species Council, US Fish & Wildlife Services, USDA, etc)

There currently are not many animal welfare legislations at the state level compared to that at the federal congressional level. As progress begins to be made at the State Capitol in regards to animal management and as scientific research and data about each unique species develop, it will be inevitable to see more policies being written about wildlife management, animal rights and animal welfare. I look forward to the strides the legislature will take. Thank you.

HB-1721-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2022 1:11:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kyle Caires	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an independent rancher, I support passage of HB1721 with amendments to restore the original intent for a comprehensive action plan for feral animal management across the state. We need to develop a comprehensive management plan to develop solutions to addresses the devastating impact of feral animals on agriculture, public health and our natural resources without annual requests to the legislature.