

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
WATER & LAND

Tuesday, February 15, 2022
8:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 430, Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1872
RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY

House Bill 1872 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to recognize that game mammals and game birds provide a food source and play a role in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices and striking the right balance between the management of game mammals and game birds population and sustainability of their natural habitats to reduce negative impacts to important watershed areas is a priority. **The Department supports this measure and offers the following comments.**

The Department strongly agrees with the concept of balance between natural areas and the management of game populations. While introduced mammals such as pigs, goats, deer, and sheep provide a food source, these animals will also, if left unmanaged, 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.

The Department proposes the following amendment in yellow highlight, to page 1, line 13:

(3) Recognize that:

(A) Game mammals and game birds can provide a sustainable food source, provided that negative impacts to the environment are sufficiently minimized or offset through native ecosystem protections, that merit quality

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

habitats with sufficient food, water, and refuge to support viable populations sufficient for hunting;

The Department proposes the following amendments in yellow highlight, to page 2, lines 5-7:

(B) Proper management of game populations in appropriate areas minimizes their impacts and provides benefits, such as the reduction of grass fire fuel and weed control to important watershed areas [~~and contribute to native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices and the resources those practices rely upon~~]; and

The Department notes that hunting of introduced, non-native game species may not fit the definition of traditional and customary practices as outlined in the State Constitution, but does support the maintenance of a hunting program as currently provided in Chapter 183D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor



Lee E. Lord
Managing Director

Robert H. Command
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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February 14, 2022

Chair Representative David Tarnas
Vice-Chair Representative Patrick Pihana Branco
House Committee on Water & Land
Hawai'i State Legislature
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: H.B. 1872 RELATED TO SUSTAINABILITY AND GAME MANAGEMENT
Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.
Time/Place of Hearing: Via Video Conference
Conference Room 430

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, and members of the House Committee on Water & Land;

On behalf of the County of Hawai'i, I am expressing my support for HB 1872 which amends Section 183D-2, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, and requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to recognize that game mammals and game birds provide a food source and play a role in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.

HB 1872 supports the state's efforts to achieve the right balance between the management of game populations and the sustainability of their natural habitats to reduce negative impacts of important watershed areas, while also recognizing Hawai'i's public trust responsibilities to its land and ocean.

In Hawai'i County, wild game is a valuable food source and represents generations of hunting and gathering tradition. Many local families and individuals depend on these resources in a time when the availability of imported food has become uncertain and expensive.

Properly managed game populations of grazers and browsers can benefit native species by controlling weeds and invasive grass fire fuel loads and help maintain a perpetual resource for sustainability. I respectfully ask for your sincerest consideration of HB 1872.

Mahalo,

MITCHELL D. ROTH
Mayor
County of Hawai'i



HAWAI'I FOREST INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)

P. O. Box 66 ❖ 'O'ōkala, HI 96774

Phone: 808-933-9411

Email: hfia@hawaiiforest.org

Website: www.hawaiiforest.org

Date: 2/8/22

FROM: Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA)

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support for HB1872, SB2069, SB3299 and SB2994

Dear Hawai'i Legislators,

On behalf of the Directors of the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA), this testimony is in support of HB1872, SB2069, SB3299 and SB2994.

Hawai'i Forest Industry Association supports HB1872, SB2069 and SB3299. Healthy and Productive Forests includes the appreciation for and management of game as a public resource on public lands, which are intended to provide hunting for the broader community. We believe that reemphasizing this reality is important and necessary. We also believe in the appropriate management of the State's land and forest resources as they have been designated.

DOFAW needs to be empowered to manage their resources as professionals. They need to be funded for the long term. They need to incorporate these proposed bills (with funding) as directives and integrate the bill's intentions into their practices.

In addition, SB2994 is necessary because we need to evaluate the effectiveness of the intent to remove sheep on Mauna Kea to save our Palila.

Mahalo,

Don Bryan

Don Bryan, President
Hawai'i Forest Industry Association

Established in 1989, HFIA's is a nonprofit organization founded by committed to sustainable forest management. HFIA's mission is to promote healthy and productive forests and a sustainable forest industry through management, education, planning, information exchange, and advocacy. HFIA has over 100 members including woodworkers, landowners, sawyers, foundations, foresters, growers, educators, environmentalists, architects, millers, ranchers, and others interested in HFIA's mission and goals.

HFIA Board of Directors

Officers: President Don Bryan, Vice-President Guy Cellier, Secretary Peter D. Simmons, Treasurer Wade Lee
Directors: Thomas Calhoun, Jeremy Campbell, Aaron Hammer, Nickolas Koch, Tai Lake, Gilles Lebbe, Michael Sowards, Irene Sprecher, Michael Tam, Jorma Winkler, Ron Wolfe, Aileen Yeh

Hawaii Sportsmen's Alliance

Supporting HB1872

THE 31ST LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2022

Committee on Water and Land

Rep. David A. Tarnas-Chair

Rep. Patrick Pihana Branco-Vice Chair

Committee Members

Conservation seeks the sustainable use of all our natural resources so that they can persist for future generations

Wild game resources are gathered and harvested from Mauka to Makai and are an integral part of our island way of life. Many residents and visitors alike enjoy in these activities. It is our way to connect, share and perpetuate our knowledge of the natural environment around use.

Hunters, gatherers, fishermen and women thus rely on these resources for food and subsistence. These resources feed our family and friends and the outdoors connects us to nature where its value is priceless.

The Hawaii County Food Self-Sufficiency Baseline 2012 realized that and included our game as a resource because of the importance it held in food sustainability and security. See link to complete study and reference pages 93-95. Over 400,000 pounds of wild food resources are harvest each year and that is only what is reported, thus the numbers are most likely much higher.

https://kohalacenter.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/BASELINE_FOOD_SUSTAINABILITY_WEB.pdf

We ask that you help us by requiring the Department of Land and natural Resources to recognize that game mammals and game birds provide a sustainable food resource which feeds our families and supports native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.

We Strongly support HB1872

Mahalo,

Tony Sylvester, President, Hawaii Sportsmen's Alliance

HB-1872

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 1:09:12 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jon Sabati	National Wild Turkey Federation	Support	No

Comments:

DLNR and DOFAW should recognize that game animals and game birds do provide a valuable food source and is significant in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices. A game management plan would strike the right balance between the management of game populations and sustainability of their natural habitats to reduce negative impacts to our important watershed areas. With the gaining popularity of non-resident hunters (tourists) coming to Hawaii to enjoy hunting opportunities show that game animals and birds are not only a valuable food source, but also a revenue for DLNR operations and the state.

SB3299

The history of Game Animals here in Hawaii started with the discovery of the Hawaiian Islands by early Polynesian Settlers. The purpose then was to provide food resources to an Island Nation. That purpose REMAINS. SB3299 seems to not give credit to the original purposes of these regal animals, and that was for the benefit of the people of Hawaii, isolated from the rest of the world by thousands of miles of water. Along with the original settlers of Hawaii, came the pig, fowl, and likely other introductions including chickens, pigs, dogs for eating, and the staple “canoe plants”: taro, bananas, breadfruit, sugar cane, and coconuts.

Axis Deer in Hawaii: The history of Axis Deer can be traced back to 1867 when King Kamehameha V received ‘eight animals’ as a gift from Hong Kong that were released first on the island of Molokai. Subsequently, Axis deer were also released on Lanai and Maui Islands as food resources.

Please Amend HB1872, section 3 in the following manner to read
(A) Game mammals and game birds provide a sustainable food source that merit quality habitats with sufficient food, water, and refuge to support viable populations sufficient for hunting

(3) Recognize that:

(A) Game mammals and game birds ~~can~~ provide a sustainable food source that merit quality habitats with sufficient food, water, and refuge to support viable populations sufficient for hunting.

(B) Proper management of game populations in appropriate areas minimizes their impacts and provides benefits, such as the reduction of grass fire fuel and weed control to important watershed areas, and

contribute to native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices and the resources those practices rely upon; and

(C) The State's unique relationship with the ocean requires careful consideration and management of land and ocean activities that prioritize the public trust responsibilities of the State, including 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 Hawaii State Constitution.

HB-1872

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 3:56:11 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Soleil Roache	DC Project Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

I was born and raised on the Big Island. A lot of my friends and family there rely on hunting of game animals for food security. It is part of our culture and lifestyle. My own family hunted in order to supplement our home with food when money was really tight. We also were able to give a lot of harvested meat to friends, family and neighbors in need. Please pass this bill to protect Big Island residents' financial security and way of life.

HB-1872

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 2:07:23 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joel Nakamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Joel Nakamoto and **I support HB 1872**. I'm sure that others will provide testimony in support of this bill and why it should be passed. I also expect that any testimony I could provide in this regard would be similar to those of others, so, knowing that your time is valuable, I will not duplicate that effort here.

What I would like to say is that opposition to this bill would most likely repeat the standard general mantra "game animals are bad for native species and their habitat", and will try to assert that your support of this bill will be immediately and directly detrimental to said species. They may also say that there are no "appropriate areas" for game mammals in Hawaii. To that end I would like to point out the following:

1. The language of the revisions does not direct that DLNR shall propogate game species or prioritize game animals above native species or otherwise require anything that would be detrimental to native species. Rather, it is purely advisory in that DLNR "recognize" game as a possible alternative food source and "manage" game animals "in appropriate areas" to achieve the purposes stated. Ultimately, it is up to Department staff to determine where the appropriate areas are and how the game will be managed, so by passing this bill you are not directly dooming native species and their habitat.
2. In my opinion there are "appropriate areas" on the Big Island that have been historically used for cattle or have been otherwise significantly modified from their native state (overwhelmed by invasive plants, experiencing drought conditions, etc) that make them difficult to restore for native species populations. These are areas that should definitely be considered for their appropriateness for a managed population of game animals. One unique example is the Puu Waa Waa Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) which has been in development for many years by the State but to my knowledge has not been approved. The basic premise is the native habitat has been so severely modified that native plants must be protected in fenced exclosures to ensure their long term survival. Game mammals are allowed to exist outside of these fenced units for the dual purpose of providing hunting opportunities and having a grazing impact to the invasive/fireprone fountain grass. If you are interested in a seemingly balanced approach please look into this HCP.

I hope you are able to support this bill and thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-1872

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 5:22:11 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sydney Ross Singer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The DLNR is responsible for managing Hawaii's wildlife, which is codified in the Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 183D. This HB1872 provides an addition to HRS 183D-2, providing a description of the importance of protecting wildlife, which should inform the spirit of HRS 183D.

However, this proposed addition to HRS183D-2 may be better included in an earlier section of the law, at HRS 183D-1, under General Provisions, and entitled "Purpose". This would be after the section on Definitions. This places this important statement of this purpose at the beginning of this section, and not in the middle of the section on Powers and Duties.

Regardless of where it is placed, I support HB1872.

Sydney Ross Singer

HB-1872

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 5:28:25 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Soma Grismaijer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this Bill and Hawaii's wildlife. With all the concern about invasive species, much of Hawaii's wildlife has been demonized as invasive. The DLNR is caught in between, with mandates to protect "game" animals, including sheep, goats and pigs, while at the same time having mandates to eradicate these animals for being an alleged threat to native species. This HB8172 makes clear that the DLNR should be protecting this valuable wildlife resource, and is an important reminder of their duties and the purpose of HRS 183D.

I therefore support this Bill.

Soma Grismaijer

Soma Grismaijer

HB-1872

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 7:59:47 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Teresa L Nakama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Teresa L. Nakama hereby submit my support in favor of HB 1872.

Our game animals are a food source and has been for years feeding our ohana, neighbors and friends. It is vital to sustain our food source and urge the support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Teresa L. Nakama

HB-1872

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 10:03:00 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michael I Rice	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I SUPPORT this bill as a means to both maintain an environmental balance as well as offer a way for people to provide for themselves and their families through hunting.

HB-1872

Submitted on: 2/12/2022 6:55:32 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I'm in support of this bill because Hawaii's game animals are a reliable food source. If continue eradicate how can Hawaii be a self sustaining or sustainable state?

HB-1872

Submitted on: 2/12/2022 12:20:41 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brian Ley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Brian Ley, vice chair County GMAC. We strongly support HB 1872. Our game animals and Birds are a valuable resource that we need to protect and foster. They provide meat for our families, boost our local and state economy,. We have hunters traveling to other islands and off island hunters come here to hunt. Control invasive grasess, being a first line of defence in protecting our native trees form wildfires.DLNR west side biologist, says that we need our game animals to protect our native forests from wildfires. wildfires have destroyed native forests and pose a greater threat to our forest than managed game animals. PTA game Biologist has done peliminary studies showing that the game birds, are native plant seed spreaders. wildfires and disease's our ravaging our native trees, not managed game animals

Mahalo for your time and consideration Brian Ley, vice chair county GMAC

HB-1872

Submitted on: 2/12/2022 2:24:36 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Karl Mikasa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hi,

DOFAW needs to create a Game Management Plan for sustainable game numbers and yield.

Karl Mikasa

HB-1872

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 7:42:48 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Darrell Tanaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I grew up as a hunter, I've always hunted animals for food. With the price of beef skyrocketing, hunting is the only way to get cheap red meat...For decades now the DLNR has been working with NGOs and fencing and eradicating legal hunting areas, soon we won't have anywhere to hunt and get meat. DLNR is supposed to manage areas for hunting, not take money from NGOs and close them off....DLNR is supposed to conserve, but some people get that word mixed up with "preserve"...preserve means you eradicate the hunting lifestyle along with all the animals we eat, and that is what DLNR is doing.

HB-1872

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 1:16:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
nani pogline	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Dear honorable Legislators,

I am in support of Sustainability bill HB1872, establishing in the Hawaii Revised Statutes the value and worthiness of our local wild game resources.

With exception, page 1, line 11-3, I would like to request the word "can," be removed.

According to the Hawaii County Food Self-sufficiency Baseline study, 400,000 pounds of wild game food resources are harvested annually. Local wild game resources have cultural and historical value, many depend on to this day, and hopefully on into the future. These resources are of particular value in a time when imported food has become uncertain and very expensive. With growing inflation and shortage, more local bussinesses will spring up, utilizing wild meat. People will more often turn to local wild food resources for their sustainability in hard times.

The Hawaii DLNR has never had a classic model Game Management Plan in place for the perpetuation of game resources. With properly managed game populations, grazers and browsers can bennifit native species by controling weeds and invasive grass fire fuel, while also maintaining a perpetual resource for local sustainability.

The predominant eradication agenda refers to our wild game resources as "feral," "ungulate," and "invasive species," worth nothing more than rodents. This mind-set has for years put our local game resources at serious risk. For the sake of the people of Hawaii we ask for your support in bringing balance, and support HB1872.

Mahalo nui,

Nani Pogline

HB-1872

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 7:12:03 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
James D. O'Keefe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this bill to create a proper game management plan that recognizes the value of game animals for both recreation and sustenance. Managing game animals is animal husbandry writ large - too many game animals deplete resources and lead to disease and starvation, too few game animals leads to a perhaps irreversible decline in the resource.

There are great game management models from across the nation that could serve as a blueprint for a Hawaii-centric game management plan. What we need to make this happen is legislative direction, followed by a strong administration push.

HB-1872

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 7:51:46 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
steven a kumasaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

strongly support



House Committee on Water & Land
Rep. David A Tarnas, Chair
Rep Patrick Pihana Branco, Vice Chair
HEARING: February 15, 2022 at 8:30am
RE: HB1872 Relating to Sustainability

The Hawaii Firearms Coalition **SUPPORTS HB1872.**

This bill will help to protect hunters ability to obtain their own food and the management of healthy ecosystems. Hunting is a long-time tradition running alongside the right to keep and bear arms. Hunting provides a way for people to supplement their diets with an affordable source of protein and the donation of meat to the poor. This bill will provide another layer of protection against unnecessary aerial eradication of game mammals such as the goats in Waianae and sheep on Mauna Kea which leaves animal carcasses rotting on the land while the people struggle to survive. Instead, the resources should be better managed and hunting promoted.

Mahalo,

Todd Yukutake
(808) 255-3066
todd@hifico.org

HB-1872

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 11:17:28 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Don Fujimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Although the current bill outlines the powers of DLNR relating to the management of wildlife, it does not reference the historical and cultural importance of wildlife as a traditional source of food. The current law only identifies preserving, protecting and promoting public hunting as its objective, ignoring the cultural significance of the resource. Pigs arrived with the early Hawaiians, sheep and goats in the 1700's and deer in the 1800's; and became important traditional food sources since then.

Growing up in Hawaii I learned to fish and hunt, and supplemented my family's food supply with local resources. Sustainable use of natural resources is a traditional and cultural practice that includes all of Hawaii's ethnic groups.

I recognize the environmental problems some species are causing in areas of these islands, exacerbated by drought. I would suggest that the state be creative about addressing these issues while achieving a balance. Other states have modified game laws allowing night hunting and spotlighting (pigs and deer are mostly nocturnal), offered bounties, prioritized hunting access to private lands, and numerous other approaches to deal with problem populations in problem areas. One unique, successful local program is wild cattle hunts using DOFAW guides in sensitive areas.

Although DLNR leadership is currently at odds with many in the hunting community, I believe that workable solutions can be hammered out if there is better communication and understanding with the Game Management Advisory Commission. This bill is the beginning of the process of getting the state to recognize the traditional, historical and cultural importance of game.

HB-1872

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 11:57:35 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mark Woodward	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB1872.

HB-1872

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 12:55:14 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hipolito Olaes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support these measure. Hunting for food is a basic human necessity.

HB-1872

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 2:42:53 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
shelton medeiros	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

hi i am an avid hunter and shooter and im in support of this bill i feel it will help create a safe and enjoyable place for people of all types to enjoy this island needs an offical range were proper safe classes and competitions can be held thank you for your time

To: Representative David Tarnas, Chair
Representative Patrick Branco, Vice-Chair
Committee on Water & Land

From: Bronsten Kossow

Date: 14 February 2022

Measure: H. B. 1872

Hearing: Tuesday, February 15, 2022

Time: 8:30am

Location: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 430
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Bill Description: Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to recognize that game mammals and game birds provide a food source and play a role in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices and that striking the right balance between the management of game mammal and game bird populations and sustainability of their natural habitats to reduce negative impacts to important watershed areas is a priority and that the State's unique relationship with the ocean requires careful consideration and management of land and ocean activities that prioritize the public trust responsibilities of the State. 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 that department, office, or agency employs.

Subject: Testimony in Support of H.B. 1872

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Branco, and members of the Committee on Water & Land,

I would like to thank the introducers for this measure and thank the leadership of this committee to allow this bill to be heard. I **SUPPORT** this measure as it stands and have a few comments.

This legislation will provide clarity for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) role as the government entity in charge of wildlife and wildlife recourses¹. This will amend Section 1 (3) of Hawaii Revised Statutes 183D-2.

According to H.B. 1872 that amends H.R.S 183D-2 Section 1, (3) (A), "*Game mammals and game birds can provide sustainable food source that merit quality habits with sufficient food, water, and refuge to support viable populations sufficient for hunting;*" Recognizing that

¹ H.R.S 183D-2 Section 1 (1)

wildlife shall provide necessary food for hunters across the State of Hawaii. Requiring this level of recognition to the *Duties and Powers* under this section gives the department proper oversight. Since 1979, the federal court mandated the removal of game life from the palila critical habitat located on Maunakea on Hawaii Island and exercised the usage of aerial eradication².

While thousands of game mammals had been eradicated, the department has yet to propose a game management plan that could provide viable access to food sources. Also, while recognizing the minimization of impacts, some areas throughout Hawaii, especially on Maunakea, the reduction of fire weed and weed control is important to codify as it continues to be an unsolved issue³. As H.B. 1872 amends H.R.S 183D-2 Section 1, (3)(B) state “*Proper management of game populations in appropriate areas minimizes their impacts and provides benefits, such as the reduction of grass fire fuel and weed control to important watershed areas, and contribute to native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices and the resources those practices rely upon...*” The department for many years minimizes or distances itself from that of the article XI, section 1⁴, and article XII, section 7⁵, of the Hawaii State Constitution. These constitutional provisions are to protect the traditions and customary practices for our native populations. Indigenous hunters historically and traditionally have been stewards of land and sought to provide protections over wildlife. Further, adding H.B. 1872 Section 1, (3) (C), prioritizes “*careful considerations for land and ocean*”, and “*public trust responsibilities*”. Concluding with the protection of the article XI, section 1, and article XII, section 7, of the Hawaii State Constitution.

Please support and mahalo for the opportunity to provide written testimony,

Bronsten Kossow

² Sheep Eradication from Palila Critical Habitat. A federal judge first ordered DLNR to remove feral sheep and goats from palila critical habitat in 1979. DLNR was ordered by federal judge Samuel King in 1998 to conduct aerial shoots at least two times per year. From 1999-2012, DLNR removed 5,469 hybrid-mouflon sheep and 147 feral goats from palila critical habitat with aerial shooting. (DLNR, Mauna Kea Forest Restoration Project)

³ “Brush fire continues to burn on Maunakea slopes” (West Hawaii Today, Chelsea Jensen, February 6, 2019)

⁴ “For the benefit of present and future generations, the State and its political subdivisions shall conserve and protect Hawaii’s natural beauty and all natural resources, including land, water, air, minerals and energy sources, and shall promote the development and utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation and in furtherance of the self-sufficiency of the State. All public natural resources are held in trust by the State for the benefit of the people.” (H.S.C Article XI, Section 1).

⁵ “The State reaffirms and shall protect all rights, customarily and traditionally exercised for subsistence, cultural and religious purposes and possessed by ahupua’a tenants who are descendants of native Hawaiians who inhabited the Hawaiian Islands prior to 1778, subject to the right of the State to regulate such rights. [Add Const Con 1978 and election Nov 7, 1978]” (H.S.C Article XII, Section 7, Traditional and Customary Practices).

HB-1872

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 6:36:05 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brad Beck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian I strongly support this Bill. It is not up for debate that the State of Hawaii DLNR and the States duty to protect the habitat and practices of harvesting game animals on land and ocean. This includes proper management of land and wildlife.

Mahalo,

Brad Beck

HB-1872

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 7:03:59 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Willie-Joe Camara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. It is a shame that our game animals here are not properly managed .

HB-1872

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 12:00:42 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Fred Delosantos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

please support HB1872. Hunting of game animals for food is a smart thing to do, for wildlife management, and conservation of natural resources.