

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 3179, S.D. 1

February 18, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Room 211 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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

Senate Bill No. 3179, S.D. 1, establishes a pilot program to manage the feral deer herd population on the islands of Maui, Moloka'i, and Lāna'i and appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 23 to be expended by the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the pilot program.

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 Senate Committee on
WAYS & MEANS

Friday, February 18, 2022
10:00 AM

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3179, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO WILDLIFE

Senate Bill 3179, Senate Draft 1 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to establish a pilot program which will issue funds to licensed hunters for feral herd population management for the islands of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. Furthermore, the bill is directing the Department to establish rules regarding what lands hunters can operate on, gender, size and species that can be targeted, bag limits, and time periods. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports this measure and offers amendments.**

Hunting in Hawaii and specifically Maui Nui has been very productive over the last 5-10 years with hunters harvesting large numbers of animals on public and private lands. One strategy currently in place to address the large number of feral animals is to increase hunting and harvest opportunities. This includes removing certain hunting restrictions, which the Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) will be proposing now that the authority for adaptive management was provided by the Legislature via Act 49, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021. DOFAW's newly released hunter mobile application will provide real-time monitoring of success rates and help inform future hunting regulations. DOFAW is already loosening certain restrictions across the State via issuing permits for feral wildlife control, for example adding hunting days on Kauai for additional food access. Other recent examples include a collaboration with the National Park Service to salvage goats in Pu'u Honua O Hōnaunau which removed almost 500 animals, special cattle hunts in the Hilo Forest Reserve, animal control hunts in Puuwaawaa Forest Reserve, and a grant DOFAW was awarded from the United States Department of Agriculture to connect farmers needing pig control with local hunters and to develop improved pig trapping methods.

While DOFAW manages approximately a quarter of Hawaii's land area (over 900,000 acres) as public hunting lands, access to these lands is a major limitation. Oftentimes, these public hunting areas are landlocked by privately-owned property. DOFAW needs additional capacity to counter the statewide trend of lands being sold and public access blocked off. The Game Management Advisory Commission recommends priority areas to establish or restore access to land-locked areas, and there are tools available to implement these goals. For example, the Division 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 lands available for hunting have been added to DOFAW's managed lands inventory and an additional 28,000 acres are in the process of being added to serve the 11,500 licensed hunters in Hawaii. DOFAW is familiar with the opportunities and multiple funding sources available to purchase and manage land and access. However, DOFAW is severely limited in capacity to pursue new opportunities, maintain roads and trails, and negotiate access agreements. For example, the recurring general funds provided to LNR 804 (Forest and Outdoor Recreation) do not fully cover the baseline (personnel) costs of the program. Limited operating funds for the program are absorbed by the personnel shortfall, leaving no state capital for the forest and outdoor recreation program, which includes public hunting, leaving restricted federal funds for operating.

Instead of funding for a pilot program for feral herd management, the Department recommends that funding be provided to fully fund LNR 804 for the implementation of existing management plans, program budget shortfalls, and restoration of frozen and deleted positions. This includes the following request in the Executive budget:

- Operating: Add funds for LNR 804 personnel and operating budget shortfall (\$300,000 personnel; \$400,000 operating, A); restore LNR 804 positions defunded or eliminated the past session, per the Governor's budget request, which will assist with hunter access projects.

Additionally, a position could be established to pursue opportunities for additional hunting access, provided it does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request. This new position would assist the process authorized by Act 49, SLH 2021 for adaptive natural resource management to allow more flexible changes to hunting rules and pursue grant opportunities for land and easement acquisitions. The position would also help implement the existing plans for improved feral animal management and consult with the Game Management Advisory Council and other hunters to prioritize projects. The Department notes that these projects are ongoing, benefitting the Forest and Outdoor Recreation Program generally, and a commitment of recurring funding is necessary to achieve these goals.

The Department recommends amending page 1, lines 11-16; page 2, lines 1-20; and page 3, lines 1-2, as follows:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the overpopulation of axis deer poses a significant threat to the ecological

security and the health of local communities on several islands, especially in Maui County. Axis deer overpopulation and drought conditions on Maui, Molokai, and Lanai have led to widespread numbers of axis deer, which in turn has created a nuisance and threat to the local community.

The legislature further finds that better integration of state management efforts and local hunting practices would allow for a more effective response to axis deer overpopulation.

The purpose of this Act is to establish ~~[a pilot program]~~ one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) natural resource management specialist position for the department of land and natural resources division of forestry and wildlife ~~[to issue funds to licensed hunters for feral herd population management]~~ to assist with projects related to feral herd management and public access projects and to support the forest and outdoor recreation program in order to cover it's goals and objectives including feral animal herd population management.

SECTION 2. The department of land and natural resources division of forestry and wildlife shall ~~[conduct a pilot program]~~ develop planning efforts for feral herd management state-wide. ~~[on the islands of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai pursuant to the following:]~~

- ~~[(1) The division of forestry and wildlife shall issue funds to licensed hunters at a per unit rate to be determined by the division;~~
- ~~(2) The division of forestry and wildlife shall establish rules regarding:~~
 - ~~(A) Lands on which hunters may operate in cooperation with private land-owners.~~

~~(B) Gender, size, condition, and species that may be targeted.~~

~~(C) Bag limits for hunters to claim per unit rates;~~

~~(D) Time periods in which hunters may operate; and~~

~~(E) Any other parameters as necessary; and~~

~~(3) The division of forestry and wildlife shall consult with the department of agriculture.]~~

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ 500,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the division of forestry and wildlife to establish a ~~[feral herd population management pilot program pilot program on the islands of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai.]~~position dedicated to LNR 804 public access and feral herd population management Statewide, to cover LNR 804 personnel budget shortfalls, to increase LNR 804 recurring funds, and to restore LNR 804 positions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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.

Deputy Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

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

February 17, 2022

TO: Honorable Donna Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

DATE: February 17, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR SB 3179 SD1, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to establish a feral herd management program under the Division of Forestry and Wildlife to manage axis deer populations in Maui County.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **SUPPORT** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Axis deer overpopulation poses a significant threat to the ecological security and health of local communities in Maui County.
2. Axis deer overpopulation and drought conditions in Maui County have had a detrimental impact on pasture management for cattle ranchers and crop management for farmers.
3. This bill would appropriate funds to licensed hunters for axis deer herd population management.

For the foregoing reasons, I **SUPPORT** this measure.

ocs:proj:legis:22legis:testimony:sb3179_sd1_paf22-018(46)a_lma



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

FEBRUARY 18, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 3179, SD1
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

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

The Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports SB 3179, SD1, which directs the Department of Land and Natural Resources to establish a feral herd management program under the Division of Forestry and Wildlife to manage axis deer populations in Maui County.

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. The loss of forage for livestock and the production of crops is a likely outcome. While fences help, pressure is increased on other areas, and in extreme cases, fences do not stop starving deer.

Population reduction of the Axis Deer is needed and this measure provides an important tool that is part of a larger comprehensive management plan. Hunting is one solution. There are areas where hunting is not possible and solutions for those remote areas are also needed.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau respectfully requests your support of this measure as part of a comprehensive management plan to address the protection of agriculture, natural resources, and our communities

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



MAUI COUNTY FARM BUREAU

PO Box 148, Kula, HI 96790
mauicountyfarmbureau.org

February 18, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 3179 SD1
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

Room 211
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

I am Warren Watanabe, Executive Director of the Maui County Farm Bureau. Maui County Farm Bureau supports SB 3179 SD1 to encourage hunting of feral axis deer herds as a population management tool.

Out of control populations of axis deer on Maui County are causing damage to our agriculture and ecosystems. Climate change impacts are exacerbating the impacts and recent storms followed by lush vegetative growths foretell further increases in herd sizes creating stress on feedstocks as inevitable droughts return in the summer. Loss of forage for livestock and production of crops is highly probable. While fences help, pressure is increased on other agricultural production areas.

Population reduction is needed and this measure provides a tool important as part of a larger comprehensive management plan. Hunting is one solution. There are areas in which hunting is not possible and solutions for those areas are needed.

However, MCFB has several areas of concern. Private landowner liability should be clearly addressed in the rules. Is this a bounty system and is this a plan for depopulation?

We respectfully request your support of this measure and consideration of our comments as part of a comprehensive management plan to address the protection of agriculture, natural resources and communities.

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Supporting SB 3179 SD1, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL
RESOURCES.**

**Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, February 18, 2022, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 211 via Videoconference**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supports SB 3179 SD1, Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), which would direct DLNR to establish a feral herd management pilot program under the Division of Forestry and Wildlife to manage axis deer populations in Maui County.

TNC manages seven preserves and other sites throughout Maui County, including over 20,000 acres of land. We work to safeguard native forests that are home to native forest birds, preserve local culture and resources, and provide the freshwater that we all drink. The Conservancy also collaborates with government and private partners as members of the East Maui, Mauna Kāhālawai, and East Moloka'i Watershed Partnerships.

Axis deer have overrun Lāna'i, Moloka'i, and both the East and West Maui Watersheds, where impacts have resulted in habitat loss and include direct damage to native plants from browsing, debarking from antler rubbing, increased erosion, and trampling of native ground-nesting seabird burrows.

TNC supports this bill to establish a feral herd management pilot program for axis deer in Maui County. Alone, private landowners generally lack the capacity and resources to address this growing problem and a means to increase collaboration between hunters, landowners, and government is welcome. A bounty system will likely help track the number of deer that local licensed hunters are able to cull and indicate what additional steps may be necessary. We also support funding for ongoing DLNR efforts to manage axis deer, such as fencing.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 3179 SD1.

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i and Palmyra is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and work in over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties, and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and for the many benefits they provide to people.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Dave Eadie Matt Emerson Hon. Judith Epstein Dr. Alan M. Friedlander Benjy Garfinkle Sean A. Hehir Brett MacNaughton
Kathy M. Matsui Janet Montag Alicia Moy Bradley E. Smith Julie Smolinski Peter K. Tomozawa Richard N. Zwern

LATE

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR SB 3179 WITH CONDITIONS BASED ON SB 3299
To recognize that game mammals provide a sustainable food source and play a role in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices

Aloha;

On behalf of Kalama'ula Mauka Homestead Association, this is a letter of **SUPPORT** for SB 3179, *“The legislature finds that the overpopulation of axis deer poses a significant threat to the ecological security and the health of local communities on several islands, especially in Maui County,”* And also include SB 3299 *Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to recognize that game mammals and game birds provide a sustainable food source and play a role in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, merit quality habitat, and should be managed to reduce impacts and provide benefits in reducing grass fire fuel and weed control to important watershed areas and native habitat; sustainability of natural habitats reduces negative impacts to important watershed areas; 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.*

Kalama'ula Mauka Homestead Association's (KMHA) is a Hawaiian Homestead Beneficiary Association (HBA) as identified under 201.6 of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920 and federally defined Homestead Associations under 43 Code of Federal Regulations. KMHA is located in the central district on the island of Molokai, to serve, protect, and preserve the interest of the Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Home Lands trust as per the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA), 1920, as amended. . KMHA's mission statement is to restore and rehabilitate native Hawaiian beneficiaries (indigenous descendants) to their land as bona fide indicated by Prince Jonah Kuhio, Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA), 1920. KMHA is located in the central district on the island of Molokai, to serve, protect, and preserve the interest of the Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Home Lands trust as per the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended.

The HHCA was enacted by the U.S. Congress to place 200,000 acres of land into trust, for the use of the indigenous people of Hawaii defined in the Act. The Congress intended that this would enable my people to return to our land, to improve and perpetuate our self-sufficiency and our cultural values. As the 2nd largest landowner on Molokai, we have been impacted with the overpopulation of deer; our farmers, our homesteaders, our ranchers, etc.

Here are our recommendations:

1. THIS SHOULD BE A PILOT PROGRAM AND A REPORT SHOULD BE GENERATED BY DLNR FOR REVIEW TO SEE THE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAM.
2. DLNR MUST COME UP WITH A GAME MANAGEMENT PLAN and INCLUDE ALL HBA's IN THESE AFFECTED AREAS IN ORDER FOR THE HEALTH OF OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES.
3. TO INCLUDE OUR HBA's IN THE PROCESS. Beneficiaries are offered and provided to DLNR Traditional and Customary Practices on Subsistence and Sustainability (hunting, fishing, and farming) in place based areas. These are opportunities for beneficiaries to be well sustained, equipped, and prepared for future endeavors.

Mahalo for this opportunity for your SUPPORT to restore and protect native Hawaiian beneficiaries food source and sustainability.

Mahalo,

Phil Stephens

Phil Stephens

Kalama'ula Mauka Homestead Association



The Molokai Farm Bureau serves as Molokai's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community. We are also an arm of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, organized in 1948 and comprised of 1800 farm families statewide.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
February 18, 2022 @ 10:00am
Via Videoconference

TESTIMONY ON SB 3179 S.D.1 – RELATING TO DEPT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCE

Directs DLNR to establish a feral herd management program under the Division of Forestry and Wildlife to manage axis deer populations in Maui County.

In SUPPORT with comments

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Respected Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

We recognize SB 3179's value to Maui County agriculture, and how it can help farmers support the state's goal towards food security and sustainability.

It is well known that Molokai has surpassed its optimal carrying capacity for axis deer. As farmers many of us have experienced substantially increasing crop destruction and loss of forage for livestock from axis deer for years – but during 2020 to 2021 the devastation hit an unprecedented peak. Many of us dealt with crop and forage destruction beyond anything ever we've seen.

Articles highlighting our experiences:

- <https://themolokaidispatch.com/overpopulated-deer-dropping-dead/>
- <https://www.hawaiiinewsnow.com/2020/12/31/drought-is-causing-molokai-deer-starve-carcasses-are-piling-up/>
- <https://www.civilbeat.org/2021/01/molokais-fabled-axis-deer-are-starving-to-death-in-droves/>

As farmers we have taken proactive steps to try and manage the onslaught of deer via all night scouting, repelling, fencing, channeling, trapping, hunting, working with our neighbors, etc..., and with this winter's consistent rain budding new vegetation, herds are on the increase again. When summer droughts return, we are anticipating intensified impacts to our farms and ranches.

We have also experienced setbacks with our community outreach work. While helping a local school re-establish their farm after students were absent for months due to COVID restrictions – deer pressure continued to push back progress that was made.

With no natural predators and more annual births than kills, over-population has heavily contributed to the increasing degradation of our forests and watersheds, resulting in severe erosion onto our land and into our waters.



A healthy eco-system can only support a finite amount of life within its system to remain sustainable, let alone thrive. We know that chronic over-population beyond a habitat's carrying capacity, layered with severe drought scenarios like we've experienced on Molokai for years, will eventually create an optimal environment for bacterial or viral outbreak, famine and death.

These are also the collective concerns of our greater community, and something we all have in common – no one wants to see those types of outcomes that could put our subsistence lifestyle, our livestock, or our community's safety at risk. And with the detection of Bovine Tuberculosis *currently on the move on Molokai* (after 20+ years), and summer droughts on the horizon, any unhealthy or compromised axis deer will be at greater risk of developing the disease and spreading it – risking subsistence hunting and human health.

A managed wildlife population is a better solution and a means towards responsible and compassionate stewardship. It can help us sustain a healthy, high-quality game population for our future generations to safely access and enjoy.

At the same time, many of us are generational families who are of this community, a community that per capita – leads in subsistence living and lifestyle – and we mutually value our community's desire to continue our long-standing subsistence practices.

We applaud that this pilot program is a voluntary trial program and are pleased to see the community's ability to continue to subsistence hunt in conjunction with this temporary pilot program – which could bring some relief to the entire community's current deer problems.

For these reasons we **SUPPORT SB 3179 S.D.1**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Molokai Farm Bureau,

Dawn Bicoy

Dawn Bicoy
Secretary, Molokai Farm Bureau

LATE



MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 211
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2022 AT 10:00 A.M.**

To The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the committee on Ways and Means

**SUPPORT SB3179 SD1 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL
RESOURCES**

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **Supports SB3179 SD1** which appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to establish a feral herd management program under the Division of Forestry and Wildlife to manage axis deer populations in Maui County.

Axis deer populations on Maui County out of control and are causing damage to our agriculture and ecosystems. Population reduction is needed and this measure provides a tool important as part of a larger comprehensive management plan. Hunting is one solution. There are areas in which hunting is not possible and solutions for those areas are needed.

The Chamber would like to note that private landowner liability should be clearly addressed in the rules promulgated by DLNR.

For these reasons, we support SB3179 SD1.

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.

SB-3179-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:11:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Glenn Park	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support SB 3139. Creating a consolidated State Law Enforcement agency will better support the communities of Hawaii. There will be better communication between islands and sections so that all areas may focus on defeating crime and protecting the public.

Filling the vacancies in all sections and will lead to a better protected community. The state will be able to focus on main missions at all levels of Law Enforcement.

Better opportunities for cross training in all areas of fighting crime and working together with Federal agencies and military will enhance all areas of Law Enforcement.

Training all of Law Enforcement to the same level in all areas will create competent, professional, and confident officers to better serve all of Hawaii. Increasing professional teams across the state will also help with educating the public and communities to trust and work together with Law Enforcement.

Right now most communities do not feel they are safe and that there are not enough Law Enforcement to keep the peace. Perfect example is the show of illegal fireworks every single year. Everyone knows nothing can be done because there are not enough Law Enforcement to do anything. The same goes for drugs and dealing with homeless and mentally ill people. Look at the COVID screening for Hawaii. It's a joke. Everyone knows it around the world. People come to Hawaii and don't care if they are positive or if they spread it to us.

it's time to do the right things and protect our islands, people and home.

SB-3179-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 10:15:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2022 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I SUPPORT this bill as something crucial. It's somewhat ridiculous that we face a problem of food scarcity in the islands, while at the same time we have an overpopulation of wildlife to the point where they are dying due to lack of food or water caused by drought, and becoming nuisances to property owners and communities. I do not think that simple eradication hunts are wise to solve this problem, and encourage both the State and DLNR to come up with solutions that involve hunters. Such methods if done properly could even potentially add to tourism in the islands as well as help add stock to food banks.



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

SB3179
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Friday, February 18, 2022, 10:00 AM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 SB3179 with comments** to direct the Department of Land and Natural Resources to establish a feral herd management program under the Division of Forestry and Wildlife to manage axis deer populations in Maui County. Hawaii's ranchers have been addressing the invasive deer issue with the resources they have access to. This includes trapping, harvesting, managing access for hunting, installing deer fences, and working with neighboring ranches to coordinate these efforts. This has been at significant costs to the ranches, and any work done with these landowners should always be done at the discretion and permission of the landowner. We support a statewide initiative to address this issue, as what happens on one piece of property has ramifications on neighboring properties, and we support DLNR increasing their management of hunting on public lands. There must be a coordinated effort to remove deer on State managed land (DLNR & DHHL), and the Department of Land and Natural Resources should manage public hunting efforts to address the issue on these state lands. While hunting is a tool for removing animals from the land, a larger scale culling effort is necessary to make a meaningful impact and remove enough deer to let the land heal. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



SB-3179-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2022 8:34:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jill Coombs	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. The over-population of deer on Molokai is detrimental to our ecosystem.