

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 COMMITTEES ON WATER & LAND AND AGRICULTURE  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 3179, S.D. 2

**March 22, 2022**  
**8:30 a.m.**  
**Room 325 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. 2, establishes a pilot program to manage the feral axis 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, including three full-time technician positions, equipment, and motor vehicles.

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 Committees on  
WATER & LAND  
and  
AGRICULTURE

Tuesday, March 22, 2022  
8:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325, Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 3179, SENATE DRAFT 2  
RELATING TO WILDLIFE

Senate Bill 3179, Senate Draft 2 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 appreciates the intent of this measure and offers amendments.**

Bounties have been found to be generally ineffective in animal management and have actually resulted in increases in the target species in many cases (Latham 1960). Problems include fraud (such as bringing in evidence of kills from animals outside the target area), deliberate release of breeding animals, or purposely leaving some animals behind to provide future income (Choquenot et al. 1996). Trespass violations will increase dramatically on private lands where target species congregate. A great deal of literature reports that bounties are ineffective or counterproductive and interfere with other methods (Australasian Wildlife Management Society online; Choquenot et al., 1996). However, a more recently developed program that is now being implemented for the control of nutria (*Myocaster coypus*) by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries appears to be effective, suggesting that implementation of appropriate procedures and oversight may provide for effective programs in some cases (<http://www.wlf.state.la.us/experience/nutriacontrol/nutriacontrolprogram/>).

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 hunting 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. Overall, if aerial control operations are established in order to assist private landowners and there is continued cooperation from the private landowners targets can be met to reduce the numbers of feral axis deer to a reasonable and manageable population.

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. As the bill is written, providing 3.0 new FTE technician positions will assist the Division with management actions to assist with the control of feral animals on these specific islands.

The Department recommends amending page 1, lines 11-16; page 2, lines 1-18; and page 3, lines 1-3, 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~~ a funding mechanism for the department of land and natural resources division of forestry and wildlife to issue moneys to ~~licensed hunters~~ contractors or other agencies and to establish 3.0 FTE technician positions supplied with the necessary equipment in order to assist with ~~for~~ feral axis deer herd population management for the islands of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai.

~~SECTION 2. The department of land and natural resources division of forestry and wildlife shall conduct a pilot program for feral axis deer herd management on the islands of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai pursuant to the following:~~

~~(1) The division of forestry and wildlife shall issue moneys to licensed hunters at a per unit rate to be determined by the division;~~

~~(2) The division of forestry and wildlife shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 regarding:~~

~~———— (A) Lands on which hunters may operate in cooperation with private land owners;~~

~~———— (B) Gender, size, and condition of the axis deer 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 on the development and management of the pilot program.~~

SECTION ~~3~~2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the following:

(1) The division of forestry and wildlife ~~to establish a~~ shall assist with feral axis deer herd population management ~~pilot program~~ on the islands of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai;

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**SB-3179-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 3:54:31 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/22/2022 8:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>   | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Cathy Goeggel       | Animal Rights Hawai'i | Comments                  | Remotely Via<br>Zoom |

Comments:

We ask that humane methods of birth control, such as surgical sterilization be considered instead of lethal control. Please show your aloha for ALL the animals who live here, not just the cattle.

Mahalo

Cathy Goeggel



**Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**

COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND  
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Rep. Patrick Pihana Branco, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair  
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

**SB3179 SD2**

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Tuesday, March 22, 2022, 8:30 AM  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chairs Tarnas and Branco, Vice Chairs Hashem and Perruso, and Members of the Committees,

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 SD2 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 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-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 7:33:43 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/22/2022 8:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Brian Miyamoto      | Hawaii Farm Bureau  | Support                   | In Person      |

Comments:

**SB-3179-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 5:28:13 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/22/2022 8:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>      | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Pamela Tumpap       | Maui Chamber of Commerce | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

**SB-3179-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 2:35:38 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/22/2022 8:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dana Keawe          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Support SB3179 SD2

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](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

March 17, 2022

TO: Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair  
House Committee on Water and Land

Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair

DATE: March 17, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR SB 3179 SD2, 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 measure would appropriate funds to licensed hunters for axis deer herd population management.

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

**SB-3179-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 9:34:20 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/22/2022 8:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michael I Rice      | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I am in SUPPORT of this bill. Bounty systems have proven to be a good way to incentivize hunters to reduce populations of animals that have gotten too high, and in these times of economic uncertainty can help hunters offset the increased cost of ammunition and fuel in addition to providing food for their families. I do wonder if more could potentially be done, such as offering tax breaks to those who donate their catch to food banks or to butchers who will gut and clean the carcasses for said food banks.