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LAND  
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on  
WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, March 02, 2022  
10:15 AM

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 211

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 3299, SENATE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY

Senate Bill 3299, Senate Draft 1 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to recognize that game mammals and game birds provide sustainable food source, provided that negative impacts to the environment are sufficiently minimized or offset through native ecosystem protections. **The Department offers the following comments.**

The Department strongly agrees with the concept of sustaining natural areas and the appropriate 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. Also, the extent to which these animals provide a “sustainable food source” currently services less than one percent of the state’s population and is not expected to grow much beyond that number given the environmental impacts of such animals, so considering feral animals a “sustainable food source” is relative to a very small percentage of the population and is expected to become less so as the human population increases.

The Department proposes the following amendment in yellow highlight, to page 1, lines 12-16, and page 2, lines 1-2:

(3) Recognize that:

(A) Game mammals and game birds, managed in appropriate areas, can provide a sustainable food source that merit

quality habitats with sufficient food, water, and refuge  
to support viable populations sufficient for hunting,  
provided that negative impacts to the environment are  
sufficiently minimized or offset through native  
ecosystem protections; [ , that merit quality habitats  
with sufficient food, water, and refuge to support  
viable populations sufficient for hunting; ]

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this Bill.

The intent of this proposed addition to HRS183D is to ensure that game animals are humanely treated by the DLNR and be allowed to live in ecosystems with adequate amounts of food and water to support their populations at numbers to ensure sustainable hunting, thereby maintaining an important local food source and cultural practice.

However, an amendment in this HD1 revision undermines the spirit of this bill, subordinating the interests of game animals to the preservation of native ecosystems, and fails to define what constitutes a “native ecosystem”.

The original Bill’s wording for HRS183D(3)A was, “*Game mammals and game birds can provide a sustainable food source that merits high-quality habitats with sufficient food, water, and refuge to support viable populations sufficient for hunting.*” To this was added by amendment, “*provided that adverse effects to the environment are sufficiently minimized or offset through native ecosystem protections*”. The DLNR apparently suggested this qualification to the original wording.

However, the wording of the amendment in SD1 makes no sense in its current state. The added phrase was placed in the middle of the prior phrase, making the sentence confusing. The current SD1 version reads:

(3) Recognize that:

(A) Game mammals and game birds provide a sustainable food source; provided that negative impacts to the environment are sufficiently minimized or offset through native ecosystem protections that merit quality habitats with sufficient food, water, and refuge to support viable populations sufficient for hunting;

This amended section should read:

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; provided that negative impacts to the environment are sufficiently minimized or offset through native ecosystem protections;

However, besides this sentence's structural error, this amendment uses the term "native ecosystem" without defining it.

What exactly is the definition of a "native ecosystem"? It is not included in the definitions at the beginning of HRS183D.

This question of definition is important, since much of Hawaii is composed, to varying degrees, of both native and introduced species. At what point is an ecosystem considered native, versus non-native? Is it when 50% of the species, if they are countable, are native? Is it when any native species are found in an area? Or does Hawaii consist of native ecosystems which are at varying degrees of ecological disruption and need for restoration, which is achievable through eliminating non-native species, such as game animals?

If hunting and game animals, including goats, sheep, pigs, and birds, are to be promoted in Hawaii, as the DLNR is mandated to do, then there needs to be a guaranteed place for these animals to live, where there is plenty of food, water, and shelter. If native species are given preference in these areas, game animals could be excluded from environments that could otherwise sustain their populations, depending on the definition of a "native ecosystem".

The DLNR is in a bind between their mandate to protect game animals, which may live in native ecosystems, while following their mandate for protecting native ecosystems from game animals, which are considered invasive in the context of ecosystem restoration. It is understandable why the DLNR, in the testimony on this Bill, recommended the changes to this section mentioned above.

However, this inclusion of a disclaimer to the protection of game animals, giving primacy to native ecosystem protection, negates the intent of this Bill, which is to protect game animals. Fortunately, this amendment is redundant with other sections of the Hawaii Revised Statutes which address invasive species control.

The protection of native ecosystems and the management of invasive species is described in HRS194. The primacy of invasive species control over other considerations is stated in HRS194(4):

**[§194-4 Relation of chapter to other laws.]** *"Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, and in addition to any other authority provided by law that is not inconsistent with the purposes of this [chapter], a department is authorized to*

*examine, control, and eradicate all instances of invasive species identified by the council for control or eradication and found on any public or private premises or in any aircraft or vessel landed or docked in waters of the State.” (Underline added.)*

It is therefore unnecessary and redundant for HRS183D(3)A to reiterate that game management will be subordinated to native ecosystem protection. HRS194 has already addressed that, along with its creation of the Invasive Species Council.

I, therefore, recommend that this Bill be returned to its original wording for this section, removing the statement, “provided that adverse effects to the environment are sufficiently minimized or offset through native ecosystem protections”.

Efforts to protect native ecosystems must not supersede efforts to protect food resources. The DLNR must protect both, and set aside land for native ecosystems and for game animals.

Unfortunately, game animals have been inhumanely relegated unsuitable, arid, low-quality land, where they suffer and die. We should treat these animals with more respect and appreciation for the food they provide us. That is the purpose of this Bill, to emphasize this vital role of the DLNR.

Human needs and native ecosystem needs are often in conflict. There are many invasive species which are truly a nuisance and problem. But sheep, goats, pigs, birds, and other game animals are not a nuisance, even when they disturb native ecosystems. They are a food resource that is being left poorly managed, and need to be located where they have enough food, water, and shelter to healthfully live, reproduce, and raise their young.

Let’s have some respect and Aloha for the animals who may someday feed us when the cargo ships stop sailing.

Respectfully,

Sydney Ross Singer  
Director, Good Shepherd Foundation  
Pahoa, Hawaii



**SB-3299-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 12:46:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Brian Ley	Testifying for Hawaii county GMAC	Support	No

Comments:

Brian Ley vice chair, County GMAC.

GMAC strongly supports SB 3299, it's sad that the people of Hawaii have to go to our legislative branch to get the DLNR to uphold the state constitution and do their job of protecting and managing our wildlife resources. Especially in these trying times, food security is especially important on a island. Hawaii County food sustainability council, several years ago determined that on the big island alone, 400,000 pounds of wild meat was used to feed our local communities. A lot of our game animals have cultural and historical meaning to the people. We need to start using science and not ideology in managing our resources. The DLNR has a eradication philosophy, even though their own biologists, Kanalu Sproat East side Hawaii island , presentation of have your cake and eat it too. Shows that wildfires are the greatest threat to our native forests. And that managed game herds are the best way to protect our forests. We've seen time and again fencing and eradication only increases fire loads in these areas and makes them more prone to devastating fires Puuwaawaa forest reserve shows that we can have our native forests and managed game herds. We have a commercial cattle ranch, pigs, goats, sheep and game birds all coexisting with our native trees. Please help us have managed game herds that control invasive grasses and protect our forests.

Secondly we strongly wish that this committee change back the wording of this bill back to the original wording, and get rid of the DLNR amendment. The DLNR already has the power to protect sensitive areas. We just want the DLNR to do its job and give the people of Hawaii a game management plan to protect our way of life and food security for future generations

Mahalo for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me anytime to discuss anything in further detail

Brian Ley, vice chair County GMAC

Email [brianLey0522@yahoo.com](mailto:brianLey0522@yahoo.com)

808 345-9049

**SB-3299-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 8:29:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
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 in a time of supply chain problems and inflation.



**SB-3299-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 1:25:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
nani pogline	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

For those and the staff who worked hard to introduce SB3299 and support the original bill, we are saddened and disappointed at the gutting and amending of this bill. The original intent has been diluted with native species prioritization. The motivation of this bill was to save our game resources from the DLNR eradication agenda. Our game resources have been a stick in a wind storm of eradication and fencing, reducing quality habitat and space, blocking migratory patterns, and villianizing. The intent of the bill was to establish the value of game resources for local sustainability, and encorage utilization of their bennifits. Its hard to see that purpose in the bill with the interjections, but its all we have.

**SB-3299-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 12:52:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Maintaining the health of native ecosystems should take priority over production of non-native game animals, and ecosystem management should be performed by biologists, not hunters.

**SB-3299-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 1:24:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Grayson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HI. My name is Grayson Hashida and I am a District 6 Game Management Commissioner on the Big Island.

Please support this bill without the DLNR amendmenets watering it down.

Thank you

Grayson

**SB-3299-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 2:16:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Donna P. Van Osdol	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill! Thank you.

**SB-3299-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 2:23:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Stanley Mendes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB3299 we need to have our game mammals recognized and protected for our sustainability to also give them value. We are seeing right now how our goods is having difficulty getting to our state.

**SB-3299-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 2:29:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support



HAWAII FOREST INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)

P. O. Box 66 ❖ 'O'ōkala, HI 96774

Phone: 808-933-9411

Email: [hfia@hawaiiforest.org](mailto:hfia@hawaiiforest.org)

Website: [www.hawaiiforest.org](http://www.hawaiiforest.org)

Date: 2/28/22

TO: Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Senators, Lorraine R. Inouye, Dru Mamo Kanuha, Michelle N. Kidani, Bennette E. Misalucha, Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Brian T. Taniguchi, Glenn Wakai, Kurt Fevella

FROM: Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA)

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of SB3299 SD1

Dear Hawai'i Legislators,

On behalf of the Directors of the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA), this testimony is in support of SB3299 SD1.

Hawai'i Forest Industry Association supports SB3299SD1. Healthy and Productive Forests includes the appreciation for and management of game mammals and birds as a public resource on public lands which, while simultaneously providing other benefits such as those outlined in the measure, are intended to provide hunting for the broader community. We believe that reemphasizing this reality is important and necessary. We believe in the appropriate management of the State's land and forest resources as they have been designated.

While we support SB3299 as it was written, we do not support the DLNR DOFAW amendments to SB3299 as we feel they dilute the intention of the bill.

However, DOFAW needs to be empowered to manage their resources and they need to be funded for the long term. Bills such as SB3299 need to be incorporated and used as directives, their intentions integrated into practice.

Mahalo,

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



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

**SB3299 SD1**  
RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY

Wednesday, March 2, 2022, 10:15 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 SB3299** to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources to recognize that game mammals and game birds provide a sustainable food source. 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 manage game mammals 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. Recognizing that game mammals and game birds provide a sustainable food source will help with this.

Nicole Galase  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council  
Managing Director







Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
HEARING: March 2, 2022 at 1015am  
RE: SB3299 Relating to Sustainability

The Hawaii Firearms Coalition **SUPPORTS SB3299.**

This bill will help to protect hunter's 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.

Please amend this bill to it's original introduced wording and reject the amendments by the DLNR in the SD1 version of the bill. We believe it will further protect hunter's ability to obtain food from the land.

Mahalo,

Todd Yukutake  
Director  
Hawaii Firearms Coalition  
(808) 255-3066  
todd@hifico.org

**SB-3299-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 8:53:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Marcus Tanaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

**SB-3299-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2022 7:36:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Abraham Antonio sr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony in support of SB2399,

i am in support of this bill because as you know that we live on an island and we need to have a sustainable source of food and our game mammals,bird,and fish are that source. By not having proper game management leads to the eradicationof our game animal sand by no thaving proper law enforcement and habitat management our game birdshave been on a sharp decline that DLNR can't come up with a reasonfor the decline same thing can be said about our aquaticsbut they want to impose more rules that they an't even enforce, with this bill being passed hopefully DLNR will do there job and properly manage and protect our game resources as it states in our State Constitution.

Thank you, Abraham Antonio Sr

**SB-3299-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2022 11:53:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Alvin K Pelayo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.