

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 Committees on
WATER AND LAND
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, February 16, 2022
1:00 PM

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3299
RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY

Senate Bill 3299 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 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 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 does 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
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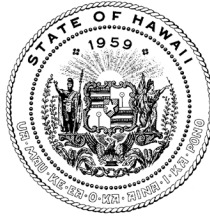
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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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.

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The Department notes that hunting of introduced, non-native game species does 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.

SB-3299

Submitted on: 2/12/2022 1:17:02 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Brian Ley, vice chair county GMAC. We are strongly in favor of SB 3299. Our game animals and birds are very important and need to be protected and managed, according to the Hawaii state constitution. They provide food for our families, are good for the local and state economy. We have hunters flying to different islands and from off island hunters who come and hunt. The DLNR's own west side biologist has done a study saying that our game animals are a first line of defence against wildfires, that have destroyed our native trees, allowing more invasive plants to flourish creating more fire hazard destroying more native trees. It's a destructive cycle. PTA Game manager has done some preliminary studies that show game birds are spreading native plant seeds. managed game animals aren't destroying our native trees, diseases and wildfires are wreaking havoc on our native trees.

mahalo for your time and consideration, Brian Ley vice chair County GMAC

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor



Lee E. Lord
Managing Director

Robert H. Command
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
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(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

February 14, 2022

Chair, Senator Mike Gabbard
Vice Chair, Senator Clarence Nishihara
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawai'i State Legislature
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Chair, Senator Lorraine Inouye
Vice-Chair, Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran
Committee on Water & Land

Subject: S.B. 3299 RELATED TO SUSTAINABILITY AND GAME MANAGEMENT
Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.
Time/Place of Hearing: Via Video Conference
Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Water & Land; Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and the members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

On behalf of the County of Hawai'i, I am expressing my support for SB 3299 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 valuable food source and play a role in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.

SB 3299 supports efforts to achieve the right balance between management of game populations and sustainability of their natural habitats to reduce negative impacts of important watershed areas. It also recognizes that game mammals and game birds require quality habitat to remain a sustainable food resource.

In Hawai'i County, hunting wild game is an accepted generational practice that helps many local families and individuals supplement their food needs 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 perpetual sustainable resources. I respectfully ask for your sincerest consideration of SB 3299.

Mahalo,

MITCHELL D. ROTH
Mayor
County of Hawai'i

SB-3299

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 8:47:45 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Abraham Antonio sr	Testifying for Hawaii county game management advisory commission	Support	Yes

Comments:

Thank you for your time in reading my testimony in support of SB3299.

I am in support of this bill because as you folks know that we live on an island and we need to have a sustainable source of food and our game mammals,birds and fish are that source. By not having proper game management leads to eradication of our game mammals and by not having proper law enforcement and habitat management our game birds have been on a sharp decline that DLNR can't come up with a reason for that decline same thing can be said about our aquatics but they want to impose more rules that they can't already enforce, with this bill being passed hopefully DLNR will do there job and properly manage and and protect our game resources as it states in our State Constitution.

thank you chair and commity members

sinslerly abraham antonio



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 SB3299

THE SENATE, THE 31ST LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2022

Committee on Water and Land/Agriculture and Environment

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye-Chair/ Senator Mike Gabbard-Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran-Vice Chair/ Senator Clarence K. Nishihara-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 SB3299

Mahalo,

Tony Sylvester, President, Hawaii Sportsmen's Alliance

SB-3299

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 1:55:40 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

DLNR should recognize that game animals and birds do provide a valuable food source and is significant in the 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 the game animals and birds provide not only a valuable food source, but also a revenue for DLNR operations and the State.



Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment
Senate Committee on Water & Land
HEARING: February 16, 2022 at 1pm
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.

Mahalo,

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

SB-3299

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 4:03:02 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Soleil Roache	Testifying for 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.



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 16, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 3299
RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Nishihara, and Members of the Committees:

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

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports the intent of this bill to recognize the importance of game animals as a sustainable food source and respectfully suggests a simple amendment to also recognize the importance of *management of game animals in order to avoid the destruction of farm and pasture lands*, pursuant to the priorities articulated in article XI, section 3, and 10 of the Hawaii State Constitution:

Section 3. The State shall conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands. The legislature shall provide standards and criteria to accomplish the foregoing.

Section 10. The public lands shall be used for the development of farm and home ownership on as widespread a basis as possible, in accordance with procedures and limitations prescribed by law.

As such, HFB respectfully requests the following on page 2, lines 7 through 10 be reworded as follows:

"(B) Game mammals and game birds provide a sustainable food resource that require quality habitat with sufficient food, water, and refuge to support viable populations sufficient for hunting, game populations should be managed to reduce impacts to agriculture and to important watershed areas and native habitat, to provide benefits in reducing grass fire fuel and weed control, as well as to provide for native Hawaiian traditional and customary practice and the resources those practices rely upon; and"

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments and thank you for your continued support of Hawai'i's agricultural community.

SB-3299

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:21:02 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I Teresa L. Nakama hereby strongly support the passage of SB3299 which will support the sustainability of our local game and marine species as it has been in the past of Hawaiian Traditional and Customary lifestyles, and I ask that for the passing of this bill with everyone's support to continue the natural food source to sustain our healthy lifestyle.

Sincerely,

Teresa L. Nakama

SB-3299

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 10:05:11 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

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.

SB-3299

Submitted on: 2/12/2022 11:36:24 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support. Food is needed.

SB-3299

Submitted on: 2/12/2022 5:13:39 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB3299 the state government is always talking about sustainability we have all our game animals for this purpose

SB-3299

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 1:57:13 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear honorable Legislators,

Please support Sustainability bill SB3299, establishing in the Hawaii Revised Statutes the value and worthiness of our local wild game resources.

According to the 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 businesses will spring up, utilizing wild caught meat. People will more often turn to local wild food 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 benefit native species by controlling weeds and invasive grass fire fuel, while also maintaining a perpetual resource for local sustainability.

The predominant eradication agenda refers to our wild game 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.

I ask that you help bring balance, and support SB3299.

Mahalo nui,

Nani Pogline

SB-3299

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 7:44:19 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in full support of SB3299, to recognize the importance of game animals as part of a sustainable food and recreation source for the islands' communities. In order to ensure that these natural resources are with us for generations to come, we need to establish a State of Hawaii Game Management Plan. Alone among the fifty United States, Hawaii does not presently have a proper game management plan. There is little of the scientific animal husbandry sciences that such plans are built upon, with recognition of game's value, with care that game stocks are neither too overgrown or precariously diminished. Hawaii can do better - for its people, its animal resources, and for our future. Please support this bill with your affirmative vote, and thank you for your consideration.

SB-3299

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 7:51:26 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

strongly support

SB3299

The history of Game Animas 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.

SB-3299

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 11:10:17 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Grayson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha: I would like to testify in support of SB 3299 as a private citizen.

My name is Grayson Hashida and I live in Kona and was raised in Hilo. The Big Island is my home. I grew up fishing and hunting and the natural resources available to us, was how my family survived and put food on the table.

We need DLNR to recognize the value of our game animals and that eradication or on the other hand, no management doesn't work. What we need is something in the middle and that middle ground is proper Game Management.

Please support this bill.

Thank you.

Grayson Hashida, Big Island District 6 Game Management Advisory Council Commissioner

SB-3299

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 11:52:07 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Although the current law 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.

SB-3299

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 12:00:38 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB3299.

SB-3299

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 12:56:46 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this measure, hunting is a basic human necessity for survival. We lose this skill, our civilization dies.

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
&
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Bronsten Kossow

Date: 14 February 2022

Measure: S. B. 3299

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 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. Requires reports to the Legislature.

Subject: Testimony in Support of S.B. 3299

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Nishihara and Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment, and Committee on Water and 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 S.B. 3299 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 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 S.B. 3299 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 S.B. 3299 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

¹ H.R.S 183D-2 Section 1 (1)

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).

SB-3299

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 10:10:54 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

SB-3299

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 12:01:37 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

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.

SB-3299

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 7:44:52 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Steve Robertson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Feral ungulates in Hawaii present both a big problem and a tremendous opportunity. They destroy native ecosystems but provide a important source of healthy meat for Hawaii residents, and a great sport for hunters. Wildlife belongs to the citizens of Hawaii, not to the landowner. Wildlife can be taken only as permitted by DLNR. Too often in Hawaii, the meat is not fully collected for human consumption. This would be illegal in most states, known as wanton waste. Why is this terrible waste endorsed so often here?

DLNR has multiple important responsibilities, including managing wildlife and recovering native ecosystems. These are both very important but incompatible on the same property. Therefore, an analysis on a property by property basis is needed to determine the highest and best use on a parcel by parcel basis. Some should be dedicated to wildlife and hunting, others to native ecosystem recovery. But not both.

Please support properly managed hunting and full utilization of the excellent quality meat to help feed the populace and reduce dependence on costly imported foods.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-3299

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 2:12:19 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Keith Okamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of the recognition of game mammals and birds as a valued food source and their roles and benefits in the State of Hawaii.

This is a great first step. Next, need to provide DLNR with the resources and means to properly manage and maintain hunting programs.

Mahalo for this bill and the opportunity to testify.

LATE

SB-3299

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 2:51:54 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Joel Nakamoto and **I support SB3299** because I believe game animals and birds are important resources to many in the State of Hawaii. I hope this bill, as well as the companion HB 1872, is a start to help change the long standing narrative that labels game animals as invasive species that must be eradicated, to identifying appropriate areas where populations can exist and be managed for sustainable yield.

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

SB-3299

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 6:39:30 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alan Nakagawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Protecting and valuing our game animals is important to many hunters and gathers. It not only provides our youth with a healthy outdoor activity. I fully support SB3299

LATE

SB-3299

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 8:07:05 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Glennon T. Gingo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha from the Island of Hawaii

I'm writing to express my strong support for this Bill. As a long time hunter and one who hunts to provide 'Organic' sources of protein, this is a good step forward to provide options other than dependency on imported foods.. It is without question that our food supplies and long term food sustainability are susceptible to interruptions as we have seen during Covid. This should be a wake-up call... I'm asking that our leaders and lawmakers stand up for what they have stated before, and that is for Hawaii to be more food independent and energy independent as well.

it starts now! Please, no more delays in supporting these efforts.

Respectfully and with aloha.