

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
JUDICIARY

Thursday, March 03, 2022

9:30 AM

Via Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3320, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO FERAL PIG CONTROL PERMITS

Senate Bill 3320, Senate Draft 1 proposes to codify certain administrative rules of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) regarding permits to destroy or control feral pigs. **The Department supports this bill as written, and offers the following comments.**

The bill revision as written does not add any authority to Section 183D-61, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), but clarifies that no permits are needed for feral mammal control on private land during daylight hours when the action is otherwise in compliance with Section 183D-61, HRS, a point that current language in the statute is not clear to many laymen. The proposed revision also codifies the process for obtaining a control permit. The Department suggests that the time period for issuing a permit should perhaps be reduced from 180 days to 90 days.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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LAND
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SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Thursday, March 3, 2022 — 9:30 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 3320 SD 1, Relating to Feral Pig Control Permits.

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food; renewable energy and clean transportation; and better management of freshwater and waste.

Ulupono supports SB 3320 SD 1, which codifies certain administrative rules of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) regarding permits to destroy or control harmful feral pigs; requires the authorized agent of the DLNR to issue or deny permits for complaint-based destruction or control of game mammals within one hundred eighty days; and, allows applicants to appeal permit decisions if a permit is not issued within one hundred eighty days.

Ulupono supports the streamlined control of feral pigs for agriculturalists across the State. Feral ungulates, such as pigs, pose one of the biggest, unchecked threats to local agriculture. While there may be solutions such as fencing, feral pigs have the ability to infiltrate fence lines, trample healthy soils, and demolish fresh crops.

At the end of 2021, Ulupono reached out to various partners including federal and state agencies, agricultural organizations, and active local producers to determine which Federal programs are beneficial to local producers and how we can capitalize advocacy for the 2023 Farm Bill. In these conversations, we learned about several producer needs that are not being addressed, mostly due to lack of funding or burdensome eligibility requirements. One of the most mentioned concerns from producers was the ability to obtain resources to effectively control feral ungulates. This bill provides help to local farmers and ranchers by streamlining some of the solutions for much needed control. We appreciate this committee's efforts to support the agricultural industry with more tools to address this devastating issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i