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SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND  
Monday, February 7, 2022 — 1:00 p.m.

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

Dear Chair Inouye 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**, which codifies certain administrative rules of the Department of Land and Natural Resources regarding permits to destroy or control harmful feral pigs.

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.

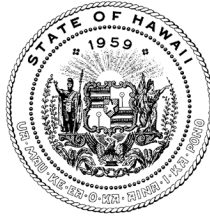
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata  
Director of Government Affairs

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



**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  
WATER AND LAND**

**Monday, February 07, 2022  
1:00 PM**

**State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 3320  
RELATING TO FERAL PIG CONTROL PERMITS**

Senate Bill 3320 proposes to codify certain administrative rules of the Department of Land and Natural Resources regarding permits to destroy or control feral pigs. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this bill but offers important amendments to ensure that the proper authority is provided to the Department to manage wildlife that cause substantial damage to natural resources or pose a threat to human health and safety.**

The draft bill as submitted would remove the authority from the Department to issue nuisance wildlife and feral game control permits. With the bill submitted it will allow permits to be issued for the control of feral pigs only.

The Department currently has rules that provide authority to issue animal damage control permits for game birds, game mammals, introduced wildlife, or introduced wild birds that cause can cause damage to agriculture, aquaculture, indigenous plants and/or wildlife, and/or pose a threat to human health and safety. The list of species includes ut is not limited to feral pigs.

Currently, no permit is required for private landowners to control game mammals that may be a nuisance if operations are conducted in the daylight hours. Permits are only required if the private landowner is conducting control operations at night or with the use of artificial light. The Department may issue permits for night operations after conducting a formal site visit to document the nuisance issue and to ensure public safety.

The Department recommends amending Section 183D-61, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as follows:

**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

**§183D-61 Permits to take wild birds, game birds, and game mammals.** (a) Notwithstanding the provisions contained in this chapter, the department may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91:

- (1) Authorizing the taking and collecting of wild birds, game birds, and game mammals for scientific and educational purposes, or for the purpose of distributing wild birds to different localities in the State pursuant to this title;
- (2) Authorizing the keeping of wild birds in captivity for the protection, treatment for injury or disease, propagation, and other similar purposes consistent with the preservation, protection, and conservation of wild birds;
- (3) Authorizing the taking and destruction of those wild birds, game birds, and game mammals the department may have found after investigation to be destructive to crops or to other game birds and game mammals or otherwise harmful to agriculture or aquaculture, or to constitute a nuisance or a health hazard; or
- (4) Authorizing without requiring permits or reports, the destruction within a district of wild birds, game birds, and game mammals which are generally destructive to crops or otherwise harmful to agriculture or aquaculture, or constitute a nuisance or a health hazard within the district.
- (5) Notwithstanding the provisions in this section, no permit or report shall be required to destroy or control game mammals during daytime hours on privately owned land when the action is otherwise in compliance with department rules adopted pursuant to section 183D-3;

(b) The department may issue permits for the destruction or control of game mammals at night that have caused or are likely to cause ~~substantial~~ damage to privately owned land, agricultural or aquacultural crops, indigenous plants or

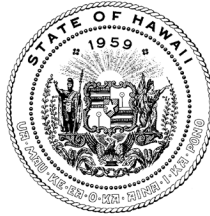
wildlife, or that pose a threat to human health and safety;  
provided that:

- (1) An authorized agent of the department shall investigate a complaint regarding game mammals that have caused or are likely to cause [~~substantial~~] damage to privately owned land and, if the authorized agent is satisfied that [~~substantial~~] damage has occurred or is likely to occur and the control action may be carried out in manner that does not jeopardize public safety, a permit may be granted;
- (2) An authorized agent shall have no more than 180 days to investigate the complaint and issue the permit or notify the applicant why the permit was not issued after the complaint has been made;
- (3) Applicants may appeal the decision of the authorized agent to the department if the permit is not issued within 180 days;
- (4) Permits shall state the species and may specify the number to be destroyed and the method of control to be used; and
- (5) Permits may include other terms and conditions as the department deems to be necessary and appropriate.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (a) (4), the rules shall require the person or persons seeking authority to apply for and obtain a written permit from the department. The permits may prescribe terms and conditions the department deems necessary to prevent abuse of the authority granted thereby, and may be canceled by the department, after notice and hearing, for the violation of any term or condition.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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