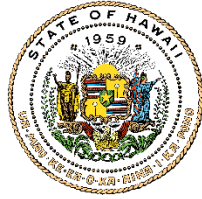
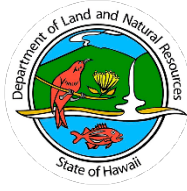


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

LAURA H.E. KAAKUA
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

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND

Tuesday, January 31, 2023
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 430

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 535
RELATING TO HUNTING

House Bill 535 requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to create and periodically update a game management plan. Requires the Board of Land and Natural Resources to establish a certified public hunter program to address the growing problem of wild pig populations in residential areas. **The Department opposes the measure** since our hunting program already works well without it.

The Department's existing game management program established under Hawaii Revised Statutes 183D establishes a comprehensive program for game management and hunter opportunities, consistent with the intent of the proposed legislation. The Department also supports a "certified public hunter program," which includes feral pigs, through its hunting license program.

The Department believes the proposed legislation would be duplicative of our existing program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HB-535

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 7:45:23 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Ley	Hawaii County GMAC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB535. State constitution says the state is supposed to support our game animals. The only thing I would suggest to change is remove pigs and replace with game animals

mahalo for your time and consideration

Brian Ley, vice chairman County GMAC

HB-535

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 9:25:35 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dominic Souza	Grey Boar Wildlife Services LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Dominic Souza owner/ operator of Grey Boar Wildlife Services LLC. I highly support this bill. Having a dedicated game management program for the state of Hawaii is a huge step in the right direction. It is beneficial for the state of Hawaii to have a game management program for many reasons. It will enable the state to better manage its game species. It will also provide more opportunities for our hunting community and our communities at large who deal with damage due to unmanaged game species. This bill is the best thing to be introduced for the hunting community in a long time. Thank you for your time!

Respectfully submitted

Dominic Souza

Owner/Operator

GreyBoar Wildlife Svcs LLC



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

HB535

HUNTING

Tuesday, January 31, 2023, 9:00 AM
Conference Room 430 & Videoconference

Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four 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 HB535** which requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to create and periodically update a game management plan and requires the Board of Land and Natural Resources to establish a certified public hunter program to address the growing problem of wild pig populations in residential areas.

Hawaii's ranchers have been addressing the invasive ungulate issue with the resources they have access to. This includes trapping, harvesting, managing access for hunting, installing fences, and working with neighboring ranches to coordinate these efforts. Pigs are detrimental to the land and agricultural operations across the state. We support a statewide game management plan to address this issue, as what happens on one piece of property has ramifications on neighboring properties.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director





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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

January 31, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

**TESTIMONY ON HB 535
RELATING TO HUNTING**

Conference Room 430 & Videoconference
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

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 offers the following support with comments relating to HB 535, which would require the DLNR to create and update a game management plan and establish, among other things, a certified public hunter program to address the long-standing problems caused by the uncontrolled wild pig population throughout the State, even in residential areas.

HFB supports many of the concepts promoted in this bill. Game management is a crucial responsibility of the State and not an easy task. A comprehensive management plan with periodic updates is the first step in the process of taking control of the current situation. Feral animal management, especially wild pig management, must be addressed to protect agricultural crops, conservation areas, and natural resources such as our watersheds and important plant and animal species, and for many other reasons.

We agree that feral pigs can provide much-needed food for our local communities and that a well-thought-out program of certifying hunters, increasing access to slaughter units and meat inspection sites for wild-caught meat, and helping with the marketing of this product could go far to achieve that goal.

HFB would like to offer the following concerns:

- (1) That hunting on private lands by certified public hunters, or others, should not be mandatory or conducted without the written consent of the private landowner; and

- (2) That the hunting program *must* include adequate training, vetting, and enforcement to ensure the safety of residents, their property and livestock, and the hunters themselves. HFB is concerned about the difficulty in enforcing a hunting program that could result in people or non-target animals inadvertently being killed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

HB-535

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 1:21:56 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nani pogline	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Legislators of the WAL committee,

In the 2022 Legislative session, HB1872 passed into law. It established that "Game mammals and game birds provide a sustainable food source that merits high-quality habitats with sufficient food, water, and refuge to support viable populations sufficient for hunting." It is hoped that HB535 will set HB1872 into motion with a solid and positive game management plan.

Mahalo nui,

Nani

HB-535

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 6:46:39 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael I Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in support of this bill, as it can help with conservation efforts and increase Hawaii's food security while at the same time helping to minimize or eradicate nuisance species.

HB-535

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 10:39:50 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Arakawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Legislation that promotes a sustainable food source that also helps to control environmental damage caused by wild game is a good thing.

HB-535

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 7:31:09 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Parker Powell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 535 in response to the growing number of feral ungulates in residential areas. A game management plan is necessary.

HB-535

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 2:15:44 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Robertson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. In addition, it should cover all islands and potentially all species: pigs, goats, deer. Not just for pigs on BI.

thank you

HB-535

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 3:06:55 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Souza Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill HB535

As a Pupukea landowner with deep personal experience of the feral hog invasion on O'ahu, I was shocked to learn about this utterly superfluous proposed allocation of taxpayer dollars.

The establishment of a "certified public hunter program" is a wasteful re-inventing of the wheel because not only is there already a group of fully-certified and licensed hog hunters, all card-carrying members of The O'ahu Pig Hunters Association who are very very good at controlling the feral hog population-- they provide this service at absolutely no cost.

My shock in regards to this bill is twofold: 1) the Hawaii DLNR knows all about its president Roy Kainoa and his members: anyone who calls the DLNR number is immediately referred to Roy. I know this because this is how I found him myself.

Secondly, I have personally had several lengthy conversations about the feral hog problem with the Hawaii director of this USDA task force, a woman named Susan whose last name I cannot recall-- and with the biologist in charge, Homer Leong, to whom Susan referred me. Neither was aware of the OPHA; both were delighted to learn that such a group existed and assured me that they would happily refer any members of the public who contacted them to Roy and his group.

Knowing that both the head of the task force and the lead biologist now know about this wonderful and very efficacious free public service, I am utterly mystified as to why there would be any perceived need on the part of the USDA/DLNR to establish a new group that would only duplicate a pre-existing solution.

Let me assure you that it would be impossible to find a more dedicated, effective and persistent group than the OPHA. I went from being totally overrun with bands of marauding feral pigs that came close to destroying my 1-acre fruit farm to not having seen a single pig for the last 6 months-- after only 4 visits from the bow-and-arrow hunters of OPHA. They were full of aloha, very justifiably proud of their hunting prowess, completely silent and respectful, and very *pono*.

Their intended targets die instantly without a sound, as I have personally witnessed. They do not shoot until the pigs are completely relaxed and they kill with a single arrow, so there is no trauma-- for the pig or the homeowner. And they eat every single pig they kill, or donate to those who are food insecure in our community. They are Hawaiian men, 3rd and even 4th generation hunters for whom pig hunting is a cultural practice.

They arrive in a timely manner, and they keep on coming until the property owner reports that there are no more pigs. Even 6 months later, they call me periodically to make sure that the pigs have not returned. All of their services are 100% free. I am very sure that this service, at least in its currently existing form, would be impossible to duplicate.

But again, my point in submitting this testimony is that there is NO NEED to re-invent the wheel, nor to waste our taxpayer dollars trying to do so. Let us support wholeheartedly this uniquely Hawaiian highly functional and *pono* resource that we have in the OPHA. This Bill HB535 should NOT be passed.

Mahalo,

Rachel Porter

HB-535

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 6:51:36 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stanley Mendes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB535



House Committee on Water and Land

Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

HEARING: January 31 2023, 9am
RE: HB535 Relating to Hunting

Hawaii Firearms Coalition **SUPPORTS HB535.**

This bill will support expanded hunting opportunities and promote hunting to a new generation of hunters. Hunting is a good form of recreation that helps the environment while providing sustainable sustenance for their families and the community.

The certified hunter program is a cost effective solution to deal with the problem of overpopulation of game mammals while easing liability fears of private land owners. This has been an ongoing problem leading to the axis deer emergency declaration in Maui county.

Hawaii Firearms Coalition supports HB535 as it is a good solution to many problems while supporting the 2nd Amendment.

Mahalo

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