

**LATE**

**GM-582**

Submitted on: 3/4/2024 9:21:33 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/4/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
SYBIL LOPEZ	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**STRONG OPPOSITION FOR GONZALO GARCIA**

Unfortunately, the DLNR-BLNR hasn't been doing its job utilizing the GMAC in advocacy especially in rules and regulations that affects hunting. A perfect example of how government/state/county operates WITHOUT consultation from the hunters, hunting community, and those that traditionally practice for generations is the axis deer emergency proclamation (EP). This would be the States 13th axis deer EP with no consultation and no meaningful results since the 2022 GMAC meeting in which EP has a short expectancy as an immediate bandaid to a problem, not for the State to be abusing its power in performing 13 EPs for axis deer; something is wrong.

We need to utilize this platform to bring awareness of the mismanagement of DLNR/BLNR to the GMAC! Hunting is a traditional gathering right for subsistence living....Game is our food source! This is our livelihood. This is what feeds our families and put food on our table for generations.

Nominee Garcia does NOT fit the criterias set within the law and therefore, should NOT be recommended to the GMAC.

§183D-4.5 Game management advisory commission: "Provided that each member, other than the chairperson of the board, shall be appointed by the governor in the manner provided in section 26-34, shall be a hunter licensed in the State under this chapter, and shall have leadership experience in working directly with local hunter or shooting organizations; provided further that at least one member shall have knowledge, experience, and expertise in the area of native Hawaiian cultural practices; and provided further that no more than three members shall represent, be employed by, or be under contract to any sector of government."

We want to bring this to the attention of the Senate Water and Land Committee. Chair Inouye and Vice Chair Elefante needs to know what has been going wrong with DLNR-BLNR and the GMAC. We must also express how important hunting and game management is to us on Molokai. We want to point out what has been transpiring since 2017 and the continued negligence of BLNR- GMAC to the hunting community and DLNR's continued disregard for public input and community consultation.

Please consider that the nominees should be well versed with hunting in the State of Hawaii and the description stated in HRS §183D-4.5 and that the Governor should do a better job in finding better nominees. There are many hunters across the state who want to have meaningful input in whatever changes the BLNR might make to license requirements or other restrictions regarding hunting, but the State, DLNR, and BLNR continues to disregard their valuable input that would help solve many of our ongoing issues Statewide!! Hunters need their input to be valued and validated, especially when DLNR is preparing to start the long-overdue process of updating Hawaii's hunting rules, with the state's ballooning invasive species population in mind.

Please take the GMAC seriously!