

SB-2546-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:40:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Moore	Testifying for KEALIA RANCH	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2546.

Kealia Ranch has a Guided Hunt program conducted by a contractor that has a written Right of Entry Agreement for hunts on Ranch lands. This written agreement is signed by both parties and designates the landowner's areas for permitted hunting along with maps.

This should be required for all private guided hunts on private lands and should be part of the annual Hunting Guide report to DLNR

We appreciate your support of this bill to assist DLNR in enforcement actions towards illegal guided hunts on private lands.

Mahalo



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February 28, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

TESTIMONY ON SB 2546, SD1
RELATING TO HUNTING GUIDES

Conference Room 016 & Via Videoconference
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, 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 supports SB 2546, SD1, which requires hunting guides who take their clients to hunt on private lands to first obtain written permission from the owner of the private land, or occupier or holder, where appropriate, and requires hunting guides to provide copies of the written permissions obtained to hunt on private lands as part of their annual reports to the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Unpermitted hunting on private land is extremely dangerous for both the landowner and the hunter. Over the last several years, incidents of livestock slaughtering, theft, vandalism, crop destruction, and poaching have become commonplace on farms and ranches on every island. These illegal activities must be stopped. Criminals have learned that there is no practical enforcement of the laws to prevent armed thieves and vandals from trespassing, stealing, and destroying others' livelihoods. If caught, these miscreants claim to be hunters and state that they had verbal permission to be on the property.

The burden should never be on the rancher or farmer to prove that they did not give permission to a gun-wielding trespasser to access his property. Without knowing the intent of an armed trespasser on his property, a farmer or rancher may reasonably believe that the trespasser is there to steal their equipment, livestock, or crops. They may even think that their home and family are threatened and this could lead them to take steps to protect them. This scenario is just too dangerous for both a legitimate hunter and the farmer, and it can be avoided by the simple act of obtaining prior permission, in writing, so there is no confusion or misunderstanding.

A legitimate, law-abiding hunter would not object to this simple requirement since they are already required by law to have permission from the landowner. For many years,

HFB has worked with police, prosecutors, and the DLNR to find a solution to trespass, theft, and vandalism problems. SB 2546, SD1, will help clarify and help enforcement of the current laws that ALREADY prohibit trespass and prohibit hunting without permission.

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



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

SB2546 SD1
RELATING TO HUNTING GUIDES

Wednesday, February 28, 2023, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB2546 SD1** which requires hunting guides who take their clients to hunt on private lands to first obtain written permission from the owner of the private land, or occupier or holder, where appropriate. It also requires hunting guides to provide copies of the written permissions obtained to hunt on private lands as part of their annual reports to the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Hunting access is important as a food source, recreation, and to remove unmanaged ungulates from the land. However, proper management of hunting is paramount. While this bill requires written permission of the hunting guide, all hunters should also be required to obtain written permission before hunting on lands. It is already a requirement to have permission to hunt on lands, and this is outlined in the DLNR Hunter's Education Course and required by law, but broadening this proposed bill to extend written permission to all hunters is prudent. This requirement will help farmers and ranchers to manage responsible access on the lands that they produce on.

We also urge the legislature to implement a path to prosecuting those who do not follow the rules. While hunting is welcome, poachers are not. We need to be strong in our stance against rule breakers to deter anyone from attempting to trespass. On a daily basis, our ranchers have are faced with trespassers, poachers, and irresponsible behavior on the land that they are raising cattle. This poses a threat to both the cattle and the rancher.

In an incredibly tragic incident on Oahu on February 17th, Cranston Pia lost his life when confronting trespassing poachers. This was a responsible, respected rancher who will be missed in the community. We need to protect our producers so that they can focus on producing food and taking care of the land, rather than living in fear of dangerous situations. Detering poachers and trespassers requires actual prosecution so criminals think twice before breaking the law.



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

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
SB2546 SD1

RELATING TO HUNTING GUIDES
Wednesday, February 28, 2023, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of SB2546 SD1.

Hunting access is important as a food source, recreation, and to remove unmanaged ungulates from the land. However, proper management of hunting is paramount. While this bill requires written permission of the hunting guide, all hunters should also be required to obtain written permission before hunting on lands. It is already a requirement to have permission to hunt on lands, and this is outlined in the DLNR Hunter's Education Course and required by law, but broadening this proposed bill to extend written permission to all hunters is prudent. This requirement will help farmers and ranchers to manage responsible access on the lands that they produce on.

We also urge the legislature to implement a path to prosecuting those who do not follow the rules. While hunting is welcome, poachers are not.

In a devastating incident on Oahu on February 17th, Cranston Pia lost his life when confronting trespassing poachers. This was a responsible, respected rancher who will be missed in the community. We need to protect our producers so that they can focus on producing food and taking care of the land, rather than living in fear of dangerous situations. Deterring poachers and trespassers requires actual prosecution so another senseless tragedy does not occur.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

Lisa B Wood, DVM
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Animal Health and Well-being, Chair

SB-2546-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 7:24:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Woody Child	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2546. As a rancher we deal with trespassers quite often. Cutting fences and leaving gates open are just a few of the chalanges we deal with. Getting permission from the land owner would alleviate some of these problems.

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Submitted on: 2/24/2024 12:10:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support

SB-2546-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 7:02:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2546 SD1.

- I support this bill because permission to hunt on agricultural land is important for the safety of farmers, ranchers their personnel and their livestock
- The resent tragic murder in Makaha exemplifies the need for more meaningful prosecution of trespassers to deter this activity
- As a rancher, I routinely deal with trespassers and worry about the safety of myself and my family

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Submitted on: 2/26/2024 7:56:33 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bailey Bhattacharyya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in surport of this bill.

SB-2546-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:31:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aileen K . F. Yeh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this measure . SB2546 SD1

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Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:32:32 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justina Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

These laws need to protect the privately owned land from trespassors. Hunters who do trespass do not know the livestock that is in there and may cause injury to them or even a human. This law can stop preventable deaths.

SB-2546-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:08:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jill J. Mattos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support SB2546SD1

no one should enter private land with out permission of owner or leasee

SB-2546-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 2:09:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristin Mack Almasin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2546 because we need meaningful changes to the way trespassers and poachers are handled in Hawaii. It seems there is no fear of consequences and many have begun treating private working agricultural lands as their playgrounds where they can hunt, walk dogs, bike, etc., without permission or consideration for their own safety or the safety of others. As the livestock manager at Ulupalakua Ranch on Maui, we deal with trespassers or poachers at least once per week. I have often been working in the fields or in my own house and heard high powered rifle shots very nearby when no hunting was supposed to be occurring. We try to confront trespassers and call law enforcement when possible, but even if we are able to get a case number and file charges, they often don't face prosecution.

Mandating written permission to hunt on private lands is a good step in becoming serious about the safety of farmers, ranchers, and their families.

SB-2546-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 3:14:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DeeDee Bertelmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as a rancher. Safety of my livestock and family members is the most important.

For DLNR lands a list of hunters signed up for the weekend should be made available to leasees of any DLNR leases, grazing permits and or RP's that allow any type of hunting.

It is always a risk and scare when running into hunters unexpectedly regardless if it is permissible or not.

SB-2546-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 10:33:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Jacintho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT this bill and stand on the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council testimony

Thank you,

William G. Jacintho

Rancher and past President of Maui Cattlemen's Association

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

SB2546 SD1
RELATING TO HUNTING GUIDES

Wednesday, February 28, 2023, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Melelani Oshiro, and I am an Assistant Extension Agent for Livestock programs with the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawai'i or CTAHR.

I **support SB2546 SD1**, which requires hunting guides who take their clients to hunt on private lands to first obtain written permission from the owner of the private land, or occupier or holder, where appropriate. It also requires hunting guides to provide copies of the written permissions obtained to hunt on private lands as part of their annual reports to the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Hunting access is crucial for food, recreation, and removing unmanaged ungulates. Proper management is vital. All hunters should have written permission before hunting on lands. This is already required by law and outlined in the DLNR Hunter's Education Course. Extending it to all hunters will enable farmers and ranchers to manage responsible access to their production areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.