DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR OF HAWAI'I





STATE OF HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621 HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96809

Testimony of SUZANNE D. CASE Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on WAYS AND MEANS

Tuesday, April 05, 2022 10:15 AM State Capitol, Conference Room 211, Via Videoconference

In consideration of HOUSE BILL 1872, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1 RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY

House Bill 1872, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to recognize that game mammals and game birds provide a sustainable food source; that proper management of game populations in appropriate areas minimizes their impacts; and that the State's unique relationship with the ocean requires careful consideration and management of land and ocean activities. **The Department supports this measure and offers the following comments and amendment.**

The Department suggests the following revision on page 2, lines 3-5, since the last half of the sentence is not a universal or even widespread benefit except in select areas, and is best not generalized in statute:

(B) Proper management of game populations in appropriate areas minimizes their impacts and provides benefits[, such as the reduction of grass fire fuel and weed control to important watershed areas]; and,

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

ROBERT K. MASUDA

M. KALEO MANUEL DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEY ANCES
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



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

HB1872 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 10:15 a.m. Room 211 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five 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 HB1872 HD1 SD1** to require the department of land and natural resources to recognize that game mammals and game birds provide a food source and that striking an appropriate balance between the management of game mammal and game bird populations and sustainability of their natural habitats to reduce negative impacts to important watershed areas is a priority. Hawaii's ranchers have been addressing the invasive deer issue with the resources they have access to. This includes trapping, harvesting, managing access for hunting, installing deer fences, and working with neighboring ranches to coordinate these efforts. This has been at significant costs to the ranches, and any work done with these landowners should always be done at the discretion and permission of the landowner. We support a statewide initiative to address this issue, as what happens on one piece of property has ramifications on neighboring properties, and we support the state increasing their management of hunting on public lands by balancing management of game and sustainability of natural habitats.

Nicole Galase Hawaii Cattlemen's Council Managing Director









Submitted on: 4/2/2022 11:22:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sydney Ross Singer	Testifying for Good Shepherd Foundation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to again comment on this important Bill.

Since my last comment, there has been some new, and disturbing, information from the DLNR about its current treatment of game animals on the Big Island, which perfectly illustrates the importance of this Bill.

The DLNR has confirmed that sheep, goats, pigs, and other game animals **are deliberately being denied water by the DLNR**, even in drought-stricken Game Management Areas. Watering units once used to support our game animals and other wildlife are now left empty, since game animals are now considered "invasive", according to the DLNR, which is ignoring its mandate to protect these animals as specified in HRS 183D.

In some cases, there are watering units for game birds, but these are fenced to keep out sheep, goats, cattle, pigs, and other non-avian wildlife. Many times, these fences cut across migratory pathways, preventing animals from reaching water that is on the other side of the fence, leaving some to die. Other animals seek water in tree bark, or look for water along roadways. This causes environmental damage and road hazards.

The DLNR is causing these problems, not the animals. Providing water to these animals would keep them in managed areas where they belong. It would also be the humane thing to do.

How can our State wildlife agency be so cruel and harmful to game animals? It's because they are also mandated to protect native ecosystems, and they apparently don't want to do both at the same time.

However, the DLNR can protect both native species, and food resources. Game Management Areas need to be what their name states: areas managed to support these animals. That includes making sure the animals have needed food and water. That's what the DLNR used to do, providing game animal watering units that are now left empty.

That is why this Bill is so important! It emphasizes and clarifies this vital responsibility of the DLNR to protect our game animals, which are recognized by the Hawaii government as an important food resource.

Since low income people are more reliant on hunting than more affluent people, this also becomes a matter of social equity.

In their comments for prior committee hearings for HB1872, the DLNR asked to amend the wording of this Bill to make clear that native ecosystem protections are more important than game animal protections. That amendment was accepted in a prior version of the Bill, but has been removed from the current version. It is important it stay out of this Bill.

The DLNR is in a bind. It has contradictory mandates. It wants to ignore its legal mandate to protect game animals, and instead kill these animals, or watch them die of thirst, since they are not native.

This is wrong on so many levels. The DLNR must do its job, difficult as it is. They need to be reminded by the Bill, written into law, that game animals matter, low income people matter, and doing your job as required by law matters.

Thank you for supporting this Bill as written.

Sincerely,

Sydney Ross Singer

Environmental Anthropologist

Director, Good Shepherd Foundation

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 8:57:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2022 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha committee members

Brian Ley, vice chair, County GMAC

we strongly support HB 1872 as it was originally written. Our state constitution, clearly states, that the state is responsible for the maintaining of our game resources for the people of Hawaii. The eradication and criminal activity to our game animals (denying animals access to food and water, is a criminal offense) by the department that is supposed to protect and enhance, needs to stop. The DLNR has become a agency of pseudo science to fit their ideology, instead of using proven scientific methods, to have a robust population and protection of native forests. Kanalu Sproat west side Hawaii island own Biolagist in his study, clearly states that the biggest threat to our forests is from fires, and the best defense is a well managed wildlife to eat the grasses that are the biggest reason for our wildfires. The DLNR's propaganda against ungulates is out of control, blaming ungulates for the spread of ROD, as a excuse to fence and eradicate. Which leads to wildfires in the fenced areas because of uncontrolled grasses, destroying what they tried to save. Rod is spread by the wind, bore beetles, and other factors besides ungulates. Fences won't stop the spread of ROD. Let's do the right thing and protect our game animals and use proven game management science to protect our animals, forests and our food sustainability. The DLNR did a cattle eradication hunt, that took down 5 animals. 10 people were allowed to go in and pack out as much meat as we could. You can well imagine how much meat we were able to bring home for our family and friends. The Hawaii islands can reach food sustainability with proper management of game. So we would greatly appreciate it if you passed HB 1872 in its original form

mahalo for your time and consideration. Brian Ley, vice chair, County GMAC

Hawaii Sportsmen's Alliance

Supporting HB1872, HD1, SD1

THE 31st LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2022

Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Committee Members

Conservation seeks the sustainable use of all our natural resources so that they can persist for future generations

We ask that you help us by requiring the Department of Land and Natural Resources to recognize that game mammals and game birds provide a sustainable food resource which feeds our families and supports native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.

Supporting HB1872 as it was originally written will ensure that game animals and game birds have value.

We Strongly support HB1872

Wild game resources are gathered and harvested from Mauka to Makai and are an integral part of our island way of life. Many residents and visitors alike enjoy in these activities. It is our way to connect, share and perpetuate our knowledge of the natural environment around use.

The Hawaii County Food Self-Sufficiency Baseline 2012 realized that and included our game as a resource because of the importance it held in food sustainability and security. See link to complete study and reference pages 93-95. Over 400,000 pounds of wild food resources are harvest each year and that is only what is reported, thus the numbers are most likely much higher.

https://kohalacenter.org/wp/wpcontent/uploads/2014/05/BASELINE FOOD SUSTAINABILITY WEB.pdf

Mahalo,

Tony Sylvester, President, Hawaii Sportsmen's Alliance



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759 Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921 e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

April 5, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 1872, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference 10:15 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 the intent of this bill to recognize the importance of game animals as a sustainable food source and respectfully suggests a simple amendment to also recognize the importance of *management of game animals in order to avoid the destruction of farm and pasture lands*, pursuant to the priorities articulated in article XI, section 3, and 10 of the Hawai'i State Constitution:

Section 3. The State shall conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands. The legislature shall provide standards and criteria to accomplish the foregoing.

Section 10. The public lands shall be used for the development of farm and home ownership on as widespread a basis as possible, in accordance with procedures and limitations prescribed by law.

As such, HFB respectfully requests the following on page 1, lines 12 through 16 be reworded as follows:

"(A) Game mammals and game birds provide a sustainable food resource merits high-quality habitats with sufficient food, water, and refuge to support viable populations sufficient for hunting; provided that adverse effects to **agriculture** are sufficiently minimized or offset through native ecosystem protections;"

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



HAWAI'I FOREST INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)

P. O. Box 66 . 'O'ōkala, HI 96774

Phone: 808-933-9411

Email: hfia@hawaiiforest.org Website: www.hawaiiforest.org

Date: 4/4/22

TO: WAM Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, WAM Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith Agaran, WAM Senators Lorraine R. Inyoue, Dru Mamo Kanuha, Michelle N. Kidani, Bennette E. Misalucha, Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Brian T. Taniguchi, Glenn Wakai, Kurt Fevella

FROM: Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA)

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support for HB1872 HD1 Relating to Sustainability

Dear Hawaii Legislators,

On behalf of the Directors of the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA), this testimony is in support of HB1872 HD1.

Hawai'i Forest Industry Association supports HB1872 in its original wording. HFIA has and continues to work towards actualizing Healthy and Productive Forests across the state of Hawaii. This must involve the appreciation for and management of game as a public resource on public lands, which are intended to provide hunting for the broader community. We believe that reemphasizing this reality is important and necessary. We also believe in the appropriate management of the State's land and forest resources as they have been designated.

Additionally, a balanced management of game minimizes their negative impacts on our native birds, forests and landscapes, and resources. Management of game populations will help to ensure the conservation of these resources, including both native such as our forests and forest birds, and non native such as game mammals, for future generations.

We hope you will support this measure.

Mahalo,

Peter Simmons

Peter Simmons, Hawai'i Forest Industry Association

Established in 1989, HFIA's is a nonprofit organization founded by people committed to sustainable forest management. HFIA's mission is to promote healthy and productive forests and a sustainable forest industry through management, education, planning, information exchange, and advocacy. HFIA has over 100 members including woodworkers, landowners, sawyers, foundations, foresters, growers, educators, environmentalists, architects, millers, ranchers, and others interested in HFIA's mission and goals.

HFIA Board of Directors



Senate Committee on Finance HEARING: April 5, 2022 at 10:15am RE: HB1872 Relating to Sustainability

The Hawaii Firearms Coalition SUPPORTS HB1872 SD1

This bill will help to protect hunter's ability to obtain their own food and the management of healthy ecosystems. Hunting is a long-time tradition running alongside the right to keep and bear arms. Hunting provides a way for people to supplement their diets with an affordable source of protein and the donation of meat to the poor. This bill will provide another layer of protection against unnecessary aerial eradication of game mammals such as the goats in Waianae and sheep on Mauna Kea which leaves animal carcasses rotting on the land while the people struggle to survive. Instead, the resources should be better managed, and hunting promoted.

We ask that you to pass the bill as is in SD1 and not include the DLNR amendments which can negate the improvements in this bill. Ensuring the survival of native species and ecosystems are important and there is a balance that needs to be kept. However this bill in its current form and other regulations, along with the good will of the hunting community will ensure this need is met. Otherwise, the DLNR amendments will allow eradication of game mammals to continue which can sometimes hurt the ecosystem and native species as we have witnessed on Mauna Kea with the sheep eradications. It is important that the State supports the people's ability to hunt for sustenance and to properly manage the game animal populations.

Mahalo,

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

<u>HB-1872-SD-1</u> Submitted on: 4/1/2022 6:14:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sustainable food source. Please Support

Submitted on: 4/1/2022 9:42:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2022 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I SUPPORT this bill as a means to both maintain an environmental balance as well as offer a way for people to provide for themselves and their families through hunting in a time of supply chain problems and inflation. I am asking that you pass the bill as is without amendments.

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 9:48:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Don Fujimoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1872 is essential to support the historic sustainable lifestyle on the outer islands, especially in these difficult economic times, balancing game management with habitat protection. It is also a key to helping manage the overpopulation of ungulates by utilizing the more-than-willing population of hunters, who would like to help, but are denied the opportunity. The following Hawaii News Now clip demonstrates the willingness of the hunting community to help in the face of state inaction:

https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2022/03/31/give-us-access-hunters-want-help-with-maui-county-deer-overpopulation/

Pigs, sheep, goats and deer were introduced to the islands (they are not "invasive") more than 200 years ago. The fact that they are currently out-of-control in some areas is due to a lack of effective game management.

Please pass this bill as currently written, preserving a balance between game management and habitat protection.

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 10:23:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lara Harton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill as it is written. It should go without saying that we are on an island. We rely heavily on importing goods. Why would you want to take away a huge resource that can help everyone in hard times. Regulating game should be key, Not eradicating it.

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 10:27:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill as written without amendment. The recognition of our resources and promotion of local sustainability is of critical importance. This is especially true in times of shortage as the past has illustrated. Game resources are a component of diversified food resilience in Hawaii.

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 11:14:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill proposes to move wildlife and natural habitat management in Hawaii backwards and pressure the DLNR to repeat the mistakes of the past century, some of which have had very negative consequences for Hawaii's natural environment. Hawaii's unique ecosystems, which support numerous species found no where else in the world, are natural treasures that should be protected, and not degraded by the introduction of alien species. Management of our aina should be conducted by trained environmental management specialist following scientific principles that will protect and preserve the aina, and not by recreational user groups with self-centered agendas.

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 12:45:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Gagnon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear legislators,

We live on an island in the middle of the ocean. We need wild game resources for a back up plan for our local sustainability. The future is unpredictable. We need to start preparing now for the way we will survive and provide for our family.

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 2:49:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2022 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Legislators!

Please support HB1872, unamended.

In HRS 183D-2 the DLNR "shall" "preserve, protect, and promote public hunting." Proper management of game populations as a perpetual resource "sufficient for hunting" is a natural componant.

If the State promoted public hunting by emphasising game as a valuable local food resource rather than referring to them as "feral invasive ungulates," the public may be more apt to utilize the resource.

Encoraging the demand for wild caught meat has potential to solve the wild game over population. The Government could offer free education on meat harvest, humane hunting skills, butchering, safe meat processing, delicious recipes and preparations, offer youth and adult hunting programs, provide more public access to hunting areas, certify public hunters for private land owners, provide more meat inspection sites, give local bussinesses incentives to utilize wild caught meat, and negotiate USDA flexability.

By establishing the value of game resources for local sustainability, a balance can be acheived in the protection of native eco-systems, and game can provide weed and grass fire fuel control for native species.

As it is included in HB1872, "proper management of game populations in appropriate areas minimizes their impacts and provides benefits to important water shed areas," native ecosystem protections are already an important part of this bill. Please support, and allow this bill to proceed without amendments.

Mahalo,

Nani Pogline, Hawaii County Game Management Advisory Commission, Legislative Committee member.

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 12:02:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2022 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB1872 we need to protect our resources for our sustainability and to make DLNR work with the hunting community for a game management plan for this resources also take out the amendments from DLNR because it's already in HB1872

<u>HB-1872-SD-1</u> Submitted on: 4/3/2022 9:01:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lexi Kestrel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Wild resources must be preserved for humanity. It is the most environmentally friendly way to feed our aina.

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 9:14:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeremiah Kestrel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Game animals are a vital resource in the event of an emergency. And the lively hood of local people in all circumstances should be considered.

Treating these resource animals (that people are currently sustaining themselves on) as a nuisance is not progress. If sustainability and 'low carbon' are on the agenda for the state then protection of habitat and management of these animals needs to be considered.

I agree whole heartedly with the bill to change the wording of such animals to being defined as a resource for our community.

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 9:32:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
austin gapsis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

many states are not just passing bills like this but adding it into their state constitution.

the past two years should really drive this home. Here in Hawaii we are very exposed. We just had bare shelves early in the pandemic. Followed by supply chain issues. Now we have record inflation which many people and their annual income can not afford 8% increase in everything and there is no reason to think this kind of chaos lets up.

please make it very clear you support our rights to provide ourselves. Especially since here on Maui we are over run with deer and the landowners that are getting hurt by it still won't allow general access to hunt.

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 10:12:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lionel Delos Santos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, state legislature, i strongly support this bill for hunters to hunt, for food and, control population, how can people sustain the island like growing food instaid of shipping food over to the island.

thank you

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 7:24:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grayson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HI Chair and Committee Members: My name is Grayson Hashida and I am a GMAC Commissioner for District 6.

I hunt and I grew up on the Big Island. The islands natural resources, including game, helped my family survive. It continues to be extremely important for many families on the Big Island. Please protect this precious gift. Please support this bill.

Thank you.

Aloha

Grayson Hashida

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 8:43:33 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Yamauchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support the local people to be able sustain themselves, their family and community with hunted game animals under a balanced and sustainable game management program. This is much needed and well overdue. Thank you.



Submitted on: 4/5/2022 7:06:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Kaneshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB1872. I've hunted on Lanai, Molokai, the continental U.S., and internationally as well. I eat and enjoy lean, organic venison most days of the week. I support sustainable use of wildlife, game management, and legal, regulated hunting. I do not support wildlife eradication programs. Thank you.



Submitted on: 4/5/2022 8:19:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
steven lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a hunter and support HB 1872.

I am living off my social security income and enjoy hunting and the ability to augment my food supply with game taken in Hawaii.