

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, April 18, 2022  
1:30 PM**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 225, Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 17  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO  
CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A FERAL UNGULATE MANAGEMENT  
PLAN FOR WEST HAWAII**

House Concurrent Resolution 17 requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to convene a task force to develop a feral ungulate management plan for West Hawaii. **The Department supports this measure.**

One of the Department's top priority issues is feral animal management. The proposed task force could bring additional attention to this important issue which may result in increased capacity to implement animal damage control activities.

The proposed task force would provide a forum to gather feedback on the Department's existing efforts referenced in the resolution and to highlight and help find solutions for other issues related to feral ungulate impacts.

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**  
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

**HCR-17**

Submitted on: 4/16/2022 9:13:19 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/18/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Emma Yuen	Testifying for DLNR	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am available for questions to DLNR. Please allow me Zoom access.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

APRIL 18, 2022  
1:30 P.M.  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.17  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO  
CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A FERAL UNGULATE MANAGEMENT  
PLAN FOR WEST HAWAII

Chairpersons Inouye and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution No. 17 requesting the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to convene a task force to develop a feral ungulate management plan for West Hawaii. The Department defers to DLNR and has the following comments.

There is a viable market for live goats on the island of Oahu evidenced by the transport of over an estimated, 3,000 live goats from the Hawai'i Island to Oahu for consumption during 2021. Identifying that segment of the populace and seeking their representation on the task force may prove useful to provide practical input on expanding the market.

Herding, trapping, and marketing of feral mammals by ranchers, trappers and other livestock producers is an important enterprise and local food source that can be an effective means of controlling large numbers of feral mammals. These



activities need to be supported by landowners and government agencies to be successful and achieve the desired outcome. Additional incentives for organized herding, trapping, and marketing will help to increase the use of game mammals for meat and food security.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this resolution.



HAWAII FOREST INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)

P. O. Box 66 ❖ 'O'ōkala, HI 96774

Phone: 808-933-9411

Email: [hfia@hawaiiiforest.org](mailto:hfia@hawaiiiforest.org)

Website: [www.hawaiiiforest.org](http://www.hawaiiiforest.org)

**Date:** 4/14/22

**TO:** WTL Chair Lorraine R. Inouye, WTL Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, WTL committee members Bennette E. Misalucha, Gil Riviere, Kurt Fevella

**FROM:** Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA)

**SUBJECT:** Testimony in Support of HCR17

Dear Hawaii Legislators,

On behalf of the Directors of the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA), this testimony is in support of HCR17.

HFIA's long term mission has and remains to be to support and maintain Healthy and Productive Forests throughout Hawaii. The current state of the feral ungulate population on Hawai'i island threatens not only the health and productivity of the native forests on this island but also has the negative impacts to natural, human-built and economic environments as described within the resolution. HFIA and our partners are directly impacted by the overpopulation of feral ungulates, especially in west Hawai'i, in that goats are a consistent threat to our dryland forest restoration projects, including Ka'ūpūlehu Dryland Forest Restoration site and the La'i'Ōpua Preserve, both in North Kona. These ungulates damage our projects, costing us time and money, all while threatening the health of these dryland forest habitats and all that comes with that, including the native bird, plant and insect populations as well as watershed health.

HFIA believes that HCR17 seeks to not simply address the known threat that is the fast-increasing feral ungulate population in West Hawai'i, but seeks to do so in an inclusive manner, inviting and requiring many seats at the discussion table. We hope and value the potential this has to facilitate broad, deep and effective conversations about this issue.

We hope that you will support this resolution.

Mahalo,

Don Bryan, President  
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

Officers: President Don Bryan, Vice-President Guy Cellier, Secretary Peter D. Simmons, Treasurer Wade Lee  
Directors: Thomas Calhoun, Jeremy Campbell, Aaron Hammer, Nickolas Koch, Tai Lake, Gilles Lebbe, Michael Sowards, Irene Sprecher, Michael Tam, Jorma Winkler, Ron Wolfe, Aileen Yeh

**HCR-17**

Submitted on: 4/17/2022 11:00:34 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/18/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Metcalf	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Your Honorable Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Water and Land Committee:

The West Hawaii community is very appreciative of your time today to consider HCR17.

Though you may not receive as much supportive testimony for this resolution today as in the prior committee hearings, please realize this is due to short notice coupled with the holiday weekend. Previous testimony submitted indicates the urgent need for and the strong community support for forming a feral ungulate task force in West Hawaii.

The need for the HCR17 task force is even greater today given the current drought conditions in West Hawaii, with major areas suffering from Severe and Extreme Drought. These drought conditions at this time of the year are very worrisome. The uncontrolled growth of feral ungulates compound the damage being done to the land and waters of West Hawaii. Vegetation throughout the region is tinder dry, and whatever remains is being browsed and grazed to the nub by feral ungulates, who are ranging higher and higher into forested watershed areas. Dust storms in the Waikoloa and Waimea regions are becoming more common. The Waimea aquifer is the most threatened on the Island of Hawaii and closest to reaching its sustainable yield.

Controlling the unfettered growth of feral ungulates in West Hawaii will help tremendously in minimizing the extensive damage they are causing. There is no one silver bullet to solve this problem, rather it will require multiple solutions across multiple agencies, organizations and the community. This is why the HCR17 proposed task force is West Hawaii's best chance to initiate and coordinate effective and lasting action to address this problem, plus identify any proposed future legislation that may be required.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration in support of HCR17 to malama the land and water of West Hawaii.

Mary Metcalf - Resident of Kailua Kona, President of Ka 'Ahahui 'o Ka Nahelehele dry forest nonprofit and member of the DLNR Pu'uwa'awa'a Forest Reserve Advisory Council