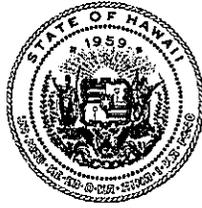


SB2368

Requires the department of land and natural resources to establish a statewide program, in cooperation with licensed hunters, to reduce the population of feral ungulates on public lands; requires reports to the legislature prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2013 and 2014.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING**

**Thursday, February 9, 2012
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2368
RELATING TO HUNTING**

Senate Bill 2368 directs the department to establish a statewide cooperative program between the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) and hunters to reduce the population of feral ungulates on public lands. The Department has no objections to the intent of this bill, but notes that it is not necessary since such a program is already being implemented by the department. The Department provides comments below for clarity.

The Department is committed to enhancing opportunities for public hunting where it is safe, feasible, and effective to do so. The Department encourages public hunting in areas managed for sustainable game hunting as well as areas where control of feral ungulates is the management goal. A discussion of the Department's methods and approaches to the implementation of that program are provided in Technical Report 07-01 (<http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/pubs/Ungulate%20Control%20Methods%20FINAL%20Mar%202007.pdf>).

Public hunting is allowed and encouraged in more than 99% of the nearly one million acres of lands managed by the Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife. Many of the areas where feral ungulates are identified as being in need of greater control are areas where public hunting access is limited or restricted, such as populated areas where the safety of other recreational users may be at risk, or areas surrounded by private lands, through which no public access is available. Enhancing access to public lands for recreational and subsistence hunting is a department priority. To that end, the Department has recently established a new section within our wildlife program dedicated to increasing access to public and private lands for public hunting, and to increasing the inventory of lands available for public hunting through cooperative agreements with landowners, establishment of leases, or purchase of fee title.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
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
STATEPARKS



Hawaii Rifle Association

State Affiliate of the National Rifle Association
Founded in 1857

February 8, 2012

Testimony on SB2368 IN OPPOSITION

Before: WLH, Thurs Feb 9, 1:15pm, Rm 225

Hon. Chair, Co-Chair, Members,

HRA opposes this bill draft. We like the concepts. However, it doesn't specify clearly that the proposed program is for licensed public hunters only. DLNR would be authorized in statute to use contract government hunters. And snaring and aerial shooting, which most hunters adamantly oppose. We could support a bill amended to resolve those two issues.

Dr. Maxwell Cooper

225-6944

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 6:02 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: MolokaiMAN@basicisp.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2368 on 2/9/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/9/2012 1:15:00 PM SB2368

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Comments Only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: George Peabody
Organization: <http://www.MolokaiAdvertiserNews.com>
E-mail: MolokaiMAN@basicisp.net
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Let subsistence hunters do the hunting for food; keep all hunting dogs on leashes at all times as they are vicious packs that too often mistakenly attack people and domestic pets. Its a public safety concern. We have seen people seriously injured here on Molokai, and read accounts of same over there on Oahu. Hunting dogs must be on leash !

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:10 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: jgriffiths62@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2368 on 2/9/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/9/2012 1:15:00 PM SB2368

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: John Griffiths
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jgriffiths62@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

Our legislators of Hawaii need to be actual hunters here in our state of Hawaii to be able to pass bills on hunting. Reason being our hunting areas have very few if any wild game in them and the reason pigs are coming around residential areas is U LET NARS n others STEAL and fence way too much of Hawaii land and charge the tax payers to do it. U are letting them take away ALL of our NATURAL GAME RESOURCES that'd we the people of Hawaii depend upon. Why are we going through a ethnic cleansing of our ways n lifestyle . At night u still need to look at yourself on the mirror and save what little we have left for OUR future generations not the mainland.

February 5, 2012

TESTIMONY TO: Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

FROM: Mary Ikagawa, Kailua, HI

RE: Opposing SB2368, requiring the department of land and natural resources to establish a statewide program, in cooperation with licensed hunters, to reduce the population of feral ungulates on public lands

While I am grateful that the committee members are interested in reducing the population of ungulates on public lands, I have spent decades studying what it take to do this, and must tell you that this bill will not help, but will only take up DLNR's time on something that does not work, particularly since DLNR would still be in the business of setting take restrictions on the same animals their own reports describe as harmful invasive species.

I recently heard a Big Island farmer talking about the problem, saying hunting can get some but you cannot reduce the overall population that way, and this is exactly what other places around the world have discovered. Reducing the number of established, non-native ungulates takes serious planning and coordinated implementation, backed up by comprehensive policy that supports control. Hawai'i does not have that, starting with the status of ungulates as protected game mammals. This more than any other law has made it impossible for the State of Hawai'i to be a good steward of public lands.

What is the reason for take restrictions on the many thousands of large, resource-hungry animals that are destroying our crops and watersheds? The animals that hunters get are a drop in the bucket. These animals reproduce very fast throughout the landscape, including hundreds of thousands of acres that see few if any hunters at all. This is why the islands have more ungulates than ever before, using up our limited resources and driving small farms out of business.

There is a truckload of information about what it takes to reduce ungulate populations online. Just take a look at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Feral Hogs web site. Texas and Hawai'i have similar problems with feral pigs, and Texas just leaves them as "unclassified," meaning hunters can take as many as they want, using any means of take that is legal to possess. On top of that they are working on serious control strategies. Texas still has a growing pig problem, but at least the game laws aren't getting in the way of control plans.

I suggest replacing the content of this bill with the content of SB1367. The introductions of the two bills are very similar in describing the need for ungulate control. SB1367 addresses a key obstacle to control by declassifying Hawai'i's overpopulations of wild ungulates and allowing hunters to take as many as they can get. This very important, because right now, the game mammal rules cause state funds and programs to work against each other, and eliminate any possibility of a clear, consistent message about the need for ungulate control. If a miracle occurred and ungulates actually started to get rare, it would be very easy to increase populations again. But it took about 50 years to accomplish significant reduction in ungulate numbers in Hawai'i in the first half of the 1900s, with an aggressive control program. If we really intend to promote sustainable agriculture, and if the 'iwi is to be saved, we'd better get started.