

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Opposing H.B. 105 Relating to Wildlife Resources  
House Committee on Water & Land  
Friday, January 25, 2013, 8:30AM, Room 325

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*The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of Hawaii's native plants, animals, and ecosystems. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands for native species in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 32,000 acres in 10 nature preserves on Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.*

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The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i opposes H.B. 105. While we agree that both native and introduced wildlife resources need to be wisely managed both for their benefits and, in some cases, for the risks they pose, we don't believe that a statutory directive restricting the Department of Land and Natural Resources to a single type of management strategy is necessary or appropriate. The State constitution and State statutes and administrative rules already provide sufficient directive, authority, and process—including resource user and stakeholder participation—for managing wildlife in Hawai'i.

Certainly, reasoned discussion and planning is important to determine where and how to manage both native and introduced wildlife, including significant areas for both enhanced game animal production for public use and enjoyment, as well as game animal removal for native species, habitat, watershed, public health, private property, and agricultural protection. However, there is no shortage of game animals throughout the islands. Likewise, there is no possibility whatsoever that game animals could ever be eliminated from the islands—nor should they be—and no chance that hunting opportunities will disappear from vast tracts of State and private land.

We think that this bill is unnecessary and should be held, but if the Committee feels differently we strongly urge that any constitutional or statutory change must clearly state both the benefits (food, recreation, etc.) and the risks (native species and habitat loss, watershed damage, public and private property loss, disease) from introduced wildlife, and that some of these benefits and risks need to be weighed differently in different geographies on the islands.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

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January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2013

COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND  
Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> Hearing on

**H.B. 104**

PROPOSING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT RELATING TO THE  
CONSERVATION, CONTROL AND DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES.

**&**

**H.B. 105**

RELATING TO WILDLIFE RESOURCES.

The Maui Conservation Alliance (MCA) opposes H.B. 104 & H.B. 105. Although we recognize the value of well-managed game resources to the people of Maui and Hawaii, the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) currently possesses the authority and programs necessary to address the need to preserve game animals, a stated objective in H.B. 104, and provide stakeholder inclusion, as outlined in H.B. 105.

MCA is also concerned that the language of the bills seem to further the maintenance of game animals without considering the need to manage and protect other valued natural resources in an appropriate balance. Our islands' watersheds, conservation areas and rare and endangered native species are fragile and susceptible to the degradation caused by the browsing, digging and grazing of wild game species. Due to this, Maui's watershed and conservation land managers are working hard to remove wild game species such as pigs, goats, and deer from priority state and private lands. This protection will not only preserve Hawaii's precious natural heritage, but also safeguard our vital water resources for future generations and maintain water resources necessary to perpetuate our islands residential, agricultural and economic needs.

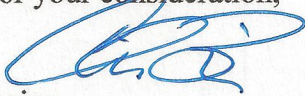
Large game species on Maui are already spreading out of control, are overly abundant, and exceeding the carrying capacity of the land throughout thousands of acres. Axis deer introduced to South Maui in 1959 are now widespread and have found their way to nearly all parts of the island. Their growth and competition for resources, especially in times of drought, have spurred the creation of a County-led island-wide deer plan and control efforts at the request of ranchers, farmers, and conservationists alike. Feral pigs still roam across large tracts public and private wet forest, far out of the reach of hunters and causing unchecked damage. The scars from damage by wild goats are still apparent



in Lahaina after nearly a 50-year absence, and ongoing damage by thousands of goats continue to devastate the remaining forests of Leeward Haleakala despite efforts of the most determined hunters.

Clearly, the need to manage game species is necessary; however, promotion and protection of game species is not needed without considering all resources affected. Beginning in 1879, under the direction of King Kalakaua, Hawaii has been attempting to protect forest resources against the threat of invasive game species. Today, our State continues to struggle with this issue, but is making progress through many DLNR programs including watershed partnerships and invasive species committees programs.

Mahalo for your consideration,



Chris Brosius  
Chairperson  
Maui Conservation Alliance

The MCA is a cooperative partnership of more than twelve government, private, and non-profit organizations who are the key leaders in the management of Maui's native ecosystems. MCA is committed to accelerating conservation management on Maui's highest priority conservation needs. Should you have questions or need further information, please contact Chris Brosius, at 661-6600.



## Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

P O Box 437199 Kamuela HI 96743

Phone (808) 885-5599 • Fax (808) 887-1607

e-mail: [HCattlemens@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:HCattlemens@hawaii.rr.com)

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Friday January 25, 2013 8:30 a.m. Room 325

#### HB 105

#### RELATING TO WILDLIFE RESOURCES.

Instructs the department of land and natural resources to employ cooperative resource management strategies in the management and administration of the wildlife and wildlife resources of the State.

Chair Evans, Vice Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee:

My name is Alan Gottlieb, and I am a rancher and the Government Affairs Chair for the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 130+ 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 approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **has concerns with HB 105**

The Department of Land & Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are removing the public from hunting and even accessing lands under their control that the public used to be able to hunt and have access on. As a result there is a push from hunters and those who want public access to look elsewhere. Elsewhere ends up being other public lands, some of which are leased out to ranchers and farmers. There is no question if access is granted on these leased lands there is impact (trespass, rustling, property damage, bio security concerns, etc.). Many of our ranchers have lived through it.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

## lowen1-Kyli

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 23, 2013 10:27 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** sewsew@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB105 on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM

### **HB105**

Submitted on: 1/23/2013

Testimony for WAL on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Sylvester	University of Hawaii at Hilo	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this Bill. Help give a voice to our local people. Mahalo, Michelle Sylvester

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HB NO. 105

An amendment to the Hawaii Revised Statutes

Section 183D-1

Section 183D-2

Relating to Wildlife Resources and Powers and duties of department

In SUPPORT

I strongly support Bill 105, which will enable all stakeholders to be part of the management of all our public resources including game animals on State managed land for current and future generations.

Cooperative resource management strategies will give a voice and a seat at the table to all the users of our public lands and so enable us to be a part of the decision making process.

Mahalo,

Tony Sylvester  
Hawaii Hunting Association

## lowen1-Kyli

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 24, 2013 1:36 AM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** hawaii hunting association@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB105 on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM

### **HB105**

Submitted on: 1/24/2013

Testimony for WAL on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Lodge	hawaii hunting association	Support	No

Comments: Fully Support the idea to have all stakeholders in our resources working together with a common goal of providing a uniformly beneficial outcome to health and welfare of our resources and to the residents of Hawaii who in many cases use these resources as a necessary means of sustenance. Much Aloha, Tom Lodge

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 23, 2013 5:12 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** inunyabus@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB105 on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM

**HB105**

Submitted on: 1/23/2013

Testimony for WAL on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elaine D.	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: HB105 - RELATING TO WILDLIFE RESOURCES SECTION 1. Section 183D—1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding the definition of “cooperative resource management” to be appropriately inserted and to read as follows: “Cooperative resource management” means a process for the management of public resources that identifies and actively involves all stakeholders.”

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION: 1. Please identify the entity or parties designated as the “Cooperative resource management” by name or who will be partnering with DLNR to access wildlife and resources. 2. Please clearly identify the stakeholders.

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**Sent:** Wednesday, January 23, 2013 7:54 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** Jsi808.300@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB105 on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM\*

### **HB105**

Submitted on: 1/23/2013

Testimony for WAL on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Imamura	Individual	Support	No

### Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 23, 2013 10:21 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** ssylvestre\_2@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB105 on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM\*

### **HB105**

Submitted on: 1/23/2013

Testimony for WAL on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Sylvester	Individual	Support	No

### Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 23, 2013 10:23 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** skittlesrocks1@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB105 on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM\*

### **HB105**

Submitted on: 1/23/2013

Testimony for WAL on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mariko Martin	Individual	Support	No

### Comments:

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**Sent:** Wednesday, January 23, 2013 10:58 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** deltawave.as@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB105 on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM\*

### **HB105**

Submitted on: 1/23/2013

Testimony for WAL on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harold Sylvester	Individual	Support	No

### Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 24, 2013 5:55 AM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** margaretwille@mac.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB105 on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM

### **HB105**

Submitted on: 1/24/2013

Testimony for WAL on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Wille	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of this legislation. Margaret Wille, attorney at law County of Hawaii District 9 Councilperson

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 24, 2013 12:12 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** ndavlantes@aol.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB105 on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM\*

### **HB105**

Submitted on: 1/24/2013

Testimony for WAL on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Oppose	No

### Comments:

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HB105

Paul Bueltmann

1/23/2013

Aloha I am writing this testimony in support of HB105.

To live in Hawaii is the dream of quite a few people and we all know why it is a beautiful bountiful place filled with warm Aloha hearted people.

With this push for being more self-sufficient and all this talk of sustainability being so carelessly flung around; it is time to start walking the talk. If you truly believe in that then I urge you to pass HB105. I am not one to quote many things from PETA but according to them the environmental impact of one pound of beef is equal to leveling 55 square feet of rainforest! I can speculate that the environmental costs of raising animals in Hawaii are higher since everything needs to be shipped here. I have nothing against the farmers or the ranchers but if we can subsidize our need with a properly managed resources that we have here already that we do not need to ship in how much more beneficial will it be for everyone not just in Hawaii.

I urge you to support HB105 if you truly believe in a sustainable future for us and generations to come.

Mahalo



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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 24, 2013 4:10 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** wyanagi@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB105 on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM

### **HB105**

Submitted on: 1/24/2013

Testimony for WAL on Jan 25, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wayne Yanagisawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Very much need cooperative resource management strategies in place.

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**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 House Committee on  
WATER & LAND**

**Friday, January 25, 2013  
8:30 AM  
State Capitol, Room 325**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 105**

House Bill 105 instructs the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to employ cooperative resource management strategies in the management and administration of the wildlife and wildlife resources of the State. The Department appreciates the intent of this bill, but opposes this bill for the following reasons.

Management of the State's wildlife resources must address the need to protect the State's watershed resources, to provide public hunting opportunities for game animals, and to protect endangered species. The State's wildlife resources are protected and managed under several state and federal laws that require processes for extensive public involvement and consultation.

The Department encourages stakeholder participation in the management of wildlife resources and works broadly with our constituents to seek common ground on these often contentious issues and notes that public involvement in these proceedings is typically closely monitored by stakeholders that participate and comment extensively throughout the process.

While the Department has made progress in recent years to improve protection of watersheds and endangered species, the Department also manages a robust and successful program to maintain and enhance opportunities for public hunting across the state.

Currently, the Department manages more than 900,000 acres for public hunting and has recently launched a new program to secure access and acquisition of additional lands for recreational hunting opportunities. These programs have ensured that public hunting remains accessible and affordable to the public. As of Fiscal year 2009-10, over 40,000 hunter days have been offered and 10,200 game animals harvested in public hunting areas statewide.

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

**ESTHER KIA'AINA**  
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  
STATE PARKS

The Department is opposed to this bill and remains committed to numerous already existing opportunities for public involvement in the management of wildlife.