

To Protect & Promote Sustainable Public Hunting in Hawaii

Testimony from The Hawaii Hunting Association

Committee on Water & Land

Wednesday January 29, 2014, 9:30am Supporting H.B. 1905 Relating to Hunting - License

The Hawaii Hunting Association enthusiastically supports H.B. 1905. The one change we would endorse would be to change the License from a Hawaii Hunting Participant Permit to just an **Apprentice License**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Tom Lodge Hawaii Hunting Association NEIL ABERCROMBIE GOVERNOR OF HAWAII





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

> ESTHER KIA'AINA FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM

AQUATIC RESOURCES BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT ENGINEERING FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE HISTORIC PRESERVATION KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION LAND STATE PARKS

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

Wednesday, January 29, 2014 9:45 AM Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 325

In consideration of HOUSE BILL 1905 RELATING TO HUNTING

House Bill 1905 proposes to amend Chapter 183D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to issue Hawaii hunting participant permits to 7-to-10 year-old children, authorizing them to hunt under direct supervision of an 18-year-old or older adult with a hunting license. The Department supports the intent of the bill but offers the following comments.

House Bill 1905 states that any Hawaii Hunting Participant permittee may engage in "hunting activity". Until the definition of "hunting activity" is specifically defined, the Department requests that this be more clearly defined. If the Hunting Participant Permit allows field dressing an animal, and otherwise assisting the hunter, that would seem reasonable, but whether "hunting activity" allows the carrying and firing of a weapon needs to be clarified. The Hunter Education program in the Department is specifically designed to inform hunters about safe weapon use, and until a child has is able to pass the Hunter Education course, which is authorized beginning at age 10, the child should not be allowed to handle or shoot weaponry in the field. The Department would support this measure if it were clearly written to define the role that a 7-to-10 year old can have in a hunting trip, and if it clearly reiterated that the Hunter Education course be taken at age 10 or older in order to safely qualify the youngster for a hunting license and proper use of a weapon. Hunter Education courses are based on national standards that are similar across the country, and are the result of decades of wise conservation and hunting experience.

Testimony of the Game Management Advisory Commission <u>Supporting H.B. 1905</u> Committee on Water & Land Relating to Hunting Wednesday, January 29, 2014, 9:45am room 325

The Hawaii Game Management Advisory Commission (GMAC) was instituted in 2012 to advise County, State, and Federal agencies on matters relating to the preservation of subsistence hunting and fishing, as well as the protection of traditional and cultural gathering rights.

Family Afields has proven to be a successful hunter apprenticeship program in other States. Lets get our youth off the couch, out of the house and in our great outdoors.

Hawaii County Game Management Advisory Commission supports HB1905.

Mahalo,

Tony Sylvester, Chairman Hawaii County Game Management Advisory Commission



Hawaii Rifle Association

State Affiliate of the National Rifle Association Founded in 1857

January 23, 2014

Testimony on HB 19075 Before WAL, Friday, January 24, 2014 IN SUPPORT with suggested AMENDMENTS

Hon. Chair and Members,

HRA strongly supports youth hunting. We firmly believe, however, that any person, regardless of age, should pass a hunter safety course before hunting.

Hunting is not a sport. It is a heritage, and older than our species. We hunted before we used tools, learned agriculture, or built cities. If that heritage is to be preserved, young people need the opportunity to appreciate it. Earlier is better, before electronic devices, television, sports, school, dating, and work capture their time and interest. Most commonly, hunters acquire their interest from family.

I am a Chief Hunter Education Instructor in Washington State where I reside during the summer. Washington has no "mentor" law or rule, because there is no age minimum age for a hunting license. Hunter Ed is a requirement for **all** hunters, however (with the same grandfather clause as Hawaii).

I've had students as young as 6. Usually out of an average class of 20-25 students, 4 are ages 6-10. Washington allows the Instructor the option of requiring a parent or guardian to attend the entire class with any student under 12. I always require that. Having the adult in class provides a refresher for the parent (some are **not** safe role models), it's bonding, and the mentor can reinforce the lessons outside of class. Sometimes the tables are turned, and young hunters remind their elders.

The younger students have a lot of trouble with the "traditional" class which is four three-hour primarily lecture classes over 2 weeks, then a 74 question multiple choice closed book written test over 2 hours which approximately 1 out of 4 fail. Then they must complete a "field" day with practical safe handling of firearms and game recognition activities, plus optional live fire with .22 rifles or 20 gauge shotguns.

Over the last 3 years, Washington State has implemented an online class, involving home study on a computer, with an on-line test which can be finished over an extended period, and then one day for a face-to-face material review, a 20 question written exam, field handling practicals and optional live fire. Young people seem to do best with this latter format. None in my classes have failed the written exam.

About 1 young student in either type class fails the firearm handling practicals by committing "egregious" errors of muzzle control or finger on the trigger. Most of the young students who fail do so because of lack of motivation (attitude). Often the parent has been premature in trying to get his or her child into hunting, and the youngsters are not ready. Failing the class does not usually promote the experience.

Washington **does allow** non-hunters into public hunting areas during hunting seasons. Hawaii does not. A change in Hawaii rules could allow young people to participate with a mentor and enjoy the whole experience, just not carry a loaded firearm or broadhead arrows until they are ready to pass a hunter safety class.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Hawaii Rifle Association.

Dr. Maxwell Cooper, Chief Instructor, North Olympic Hunter Education Group, WDFW HRA Legislative Liaison macooper.1941@gmail.com 225-6944

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Saturday, January 25, 2014 5:56 PM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	chadmata84@yahoo.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB1905 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM*

HB1905

Submitted on: 1/25/2014 Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
chad mata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Sunday, January 26, 2014 2:54 PM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	nanihawaii@aol.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1905 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1905

Submitted on: 1/26/2014 Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
nani pogline	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Committee on Water And Land, 1/29/14 9am hearing, measure HB1905: My husband and I, and all of our children and grandchildren strongly support this measure. Hunting should be an opportunity for family, to teach children valuable skills, and a respect and appreciation for the wild.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, January 27, 2014 12:33 AM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	kohatsu_ryan@hotmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1905 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1905

Submitted on: 1/27/2014 Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Kohatsu	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB 1905. Having the keiki involved at an early stage in hunting promotes responsible subsistence conservation for hunting and provides for a positive family oriented activity in the outdoors.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, January 27, 2014 6:58 AM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	dgh70@yahoo.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB1905 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM*

HB1905

Submitted on: 1/27/2014 Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Hanners	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, January 27, 2014 8:48 AM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	reo9mm@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1905 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1905

Submitted on: 1/27/2014 Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
russell ryan rudel	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Excellent bill! Who doesn't want to take their child hunting? This would be great!!!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2014 STATE OF HAWAII

H.B. NO.1905

To: The Hawaii State Legislature,

I SUPPORT HB1905

Subject: DLNR; Hawaii Hunting Participant Permit; Children

Purpose: Requires the DLNR to issue Hawaii hunting participant permits authorizing children to hunt under direct supervision. Effective 07/01/2014.

Summary: There are a growing number of our keiki with health problems in Hawai'i. Rising youth obesity rates, poor dietary choices and a progressively more sedentary lifestyle, are alarming. This measure will allow our keiki the opportunity to get involved with an outdoors activity that will increase their knowledge of healthy life choices and be more involved with the 'Āina on which we live on.

Hollk -Signature:

Date: 1/27/2014

Address: PO Box 5535 Hilo HI 96720

Email: paul.bueltmann@gmail.com

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, January 27, 2014 2:14 PM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	susan@schouinard.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1905 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1905

Submitted on: 1/27/2014 Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Chouinard	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Safe and ethical hunting practices are taught. Children that are allowed to participate in obtaining a hunting license and associate classes learn much of appreciating the environment and to treat animals fairly and humanely, as well as to respect seasons and areas designated for hunting with associated rules/laws. Our children are already too stuck in front of televisions and computers and video games and phones. We need them to be outdoors and participating in these activities that will provide a lifelong appreciation and respect for the animals and environment rather than waiting until they reach adulthood. Supervised, responsible hunting practices should be perpetuated through the generations here in Hawaii!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, January 27, 2014 6:40 PM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	dc@candshawaii.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB1905 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM*

HB1905

Submitted on: 1/27/2014 Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
D'Armand Cook	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, January 27, 2014 8:04 PM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	voggymtn@yahoo.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1905 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1905

Submitted on: 1/27/2014 Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Willie-Joe Camara	National Wild Turkey Federation	Support	No

Comments: NWTF strongly supports HB 1905 allowing the children of Hawaii to obtain a legal permit to participate in our great hunting heritage.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, January 27, 2014 9:02 PM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	wjc3030@hawaiiantel.net
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1905 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1905

Submitted on: 1/27/2014 Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura A. Camara	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB 1905.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, January 27, 2014 9:45 PM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	stimey14@hotmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1905 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1905

Submitted on: 1/27/2014 Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing	
Philip Heileson	Individual	Support	No	

Comments: SUPPORTING H.B. 1905 RELATING TO; Requires the DLNR to issue Hawaii hunting participant permits authorizing children to hunt under direct supervision. Effective 07/01/2014. HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2014, 9:45AM, ROOM 325 My Name is Philip Heileson of 66-1728 Kawaihae Rd. and I support bill H.B. 1905 Hunting is a big part of the culture here in Hawaii and passsing this on to our keiki is critical in doing this. This is why I support HB1905. This bill makes passing this culture and tradition on to out children much easier. Aloha, Philip Heileson The Hawaii Sportsmen Alliance strives for balanced conservation and wise use of all our natural resources.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, January 27, 2014 10:10 PM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	daltonkaitoku_lucas@yahoo.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1905 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1905

Submitted on: 1/27/2014 Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dalton H.Y. Lucas-Camara	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB 1905. It will allow the children of Hawaii to learn the basics of hunting while accompanied by a licensed adult. What better way to learn how to care for our resources and enjoy the true beauty of our state.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, January 28, 2014 2:29 AM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	bhntr@isp.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1905 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1905

Submitted on: 1/28/2014 Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leo A Millan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support HB 1905

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, January 28, 2014 10:13 AM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	matthoeflinger@yahoo.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1905 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1905

Submitted on: 1/28/2014 Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matt Hoeflinger	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support. our children need all the oppurtunities they can get

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.



January 28, 2014

House Committee on Water and Land Office of the Honorable Cindy Evans Hawaii State Capitol, Room 425 415 South Beretania St. Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Support Hawaii Hunting Participant Permit – House Bill 1905

America's Dear Chair Evans:

> On behalf of the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance and our Families Afield partners, I am writing to express our support of House Bill 1905-the Hawaii Hunting Participant Permit. We believe this legislation will help ensure the future of hunting and wildlife conservation in Hawaii.

House Bill 1905 permits an experienced mentor to take a newcomer between the ages of seven and ten years of age hunting prior to the completion of hunter education. This "Try-Before-You-Buy" concept (also known as Apprentice Hunting) is the cornerstone of the Families Afield program. To date, 35 other states have passed similar measures resulting in more than 1 million new hunters since 2006. More important, the safety rate among Apprentice Hunters is nearly five times safer than it is with regularly licensed hunters!

Families Afield was established by the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, and the National Wild Turkey Federation in 2004. Along with the National Rifle Association and the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, the coalition works to create opportunities for new hunters to take up our hunting heritage.

Research from the program demonstrates that apprentice hunters are more likely to return in subsequent years, and that they guickly transition through hunter education to become regular hunting license buyers. Even better, the research has demonstrated that Apprentice Hunting recruits women at a rate three times higher than occurs in the general hunting population.

We request that the committee consider an amendment to HB 1905 removing the ten year old cap for those eligible to apply for an apprentice license. Because of the amazing safety record, and great recruiting figures, it is only a positive to allow people older than ten years of age to participate. Thirty-three states permit this same approach.

801 Kingsmill Parkway, Columbus, Ohio 43229-1137 * phone 614 888-4868 * fax 614 888-0326 e-mail us at info@ussportsmen.org * visit our website at http://www.ussportsmen.org

Protecting &

Advancing

Heritage of Hunting,

Fishing &

Trapping

In closing, passage of an apprentice hunting law in Hawaii would be a tremendous step forward to protecting the future of both conservation and the hunters who help to fund wildlife resource management. It is our hope that the House Committee on Water and Land will quickly act on HB 1905, and recommend its passage.

Thank you for your consideration of this important measure. Please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at (614) 888-4868 or by email at <u>evanh@ussportsmen.org</u> if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Evan Heusinkveld Vice President of Government Affairs U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, January 28, 2014 1:48 PM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	troy.samura@gmail.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB1905 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM*

HB1905

Submitted on: 1/28/2014 Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
troy samura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, January 28, 2014 2:43 PM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	ilojerry@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1905 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1905

Submitted on: 1/28/2014 Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing	
Jerry Ilo	Babooze Bowstrings	Support	No	

Comments: Aloha, My name is Jerry IIo. I have been a State of Hawaii Hunter Ed. Program Volunteer Instructor for 4 years. I also own an Archery related Business and teach Archery as well. I very strongly support this bill as our youth are the future of Conservation in Hawaii. Mahalo, Jerry IIo

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, January 28, 2014 4:18 PM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	brf@maui.net
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1905 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM

HB1905

Submitted on: 1/28/2014 Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bruce R. Faulkner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I appreciatively support H.B. 1905 and I would like to thank you for your support regarding this very important issue.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, January 28, 2014 10:29 PM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	surferg@aloha.net
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB1905 on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM*

HB1905

Submitted on: 1/28/2014 Testimony for WAL on Jan 29, 2014 09:45AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cleon Bailey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.



Hawaii Rifle Association

State Affiliate of the National Rifle Association Founded in 1857

January 28, 2014

Testimony on HB 1905 Before WAL, Wednesday, January 29, 2014 IN SUPPORT with suggested AMENDMENTS

Hon. Chair and Members,

HRA strongly supports youth hunting. We firmly believe, however, that any person, regardless of age, should pass a hunter safety course before hunting.

Hunting is not a sport. It is a heritage, and older than our species. We hunted before we used tools, learned agriculture, or built cities. If that heritage is to be preserved, young people need the opportunity to appreciate it. Earlier is better, before electronic devices, television, sports, school, dating, and work capture their time and interest. Most commonly, hunters acquire their interest from family.

I am a Chief Hunter Education Instructor in Washington State where I reside during the summer. Washington has no "mentor" law or rule, because there is no age minimum age for a hunting license. Hunter Ed is a requirement for **all** hunters, however (with the same grandfather clause as Hawaii).

I've had students as young as 6. Usually out of an average class of 20-25 students, 4 are ages 6-10. Washington allows the Instructor the option of requiring a parent or guardian to attend the entire class with any student under 12. I always require that. Having the adult in class provides a refresher for the parent (some are **not** safe role models), it's bonding, and the mentor can reinforce the lessons outside of class. Sometimes the tables are turned, and young hunters remind their elders.

The younger students have a lot of trouble with the "traditional" class which is four three-hour primarily lecture classes over 2 weeks, then a 74 question multiple choice closed book written test over 2 hours which approximately 1 out of 4 fail. Then they must complete a "field" day with practical safe handling of firearms and game recognition activities, plus optional live fire with .22 rifles or 20 gauge shotguns.

Over the last 3 years, Washington State has implemented an online class, involving home study on a computer, with an on-line test which can be finished over an extended period, and then one day for a face-to-face material review, a 20 question written exam, field handling practicals and

optional live fire. Young people seem to do best with this latter format. None in my classes have failed the written exam.

About 1 young student in either type class fails the firearm handling practicals by committing "egregious" errors of muzzle control or finger on the trigger. Most of the young students who fail do so because of lack of motivation (attitude). Often the parent has been premature in trying to get his or her child into hunting, and the youngsters are not ready. Failing the class does not usually promote the experience.

Washington **does allow** non-hunters into public hunting areas during hunting seasons. Hawaii does not. A change in Hawaii rules could allow young people to participate with a mentor and enjoy the whole experience, just not carry a loaded firearm or broadhead arrows until they are ready to pass a hunter safety class.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Hawaii Rifle Association.

Dr. Maxwell Cooper, Chief Instructor, North Olympic Hunter Education Group, WDFW HRA Legislative Liaison macooper.1941@gmail.com 225-6944



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION 555 CAPITOL MALL, SUITE 625 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814 (916) 446-2455 voice • (916) 448-7469 fax www.nraila.org

STATE & LOCAL AFFAIRS DIVISION DANIEL REID, HAWAII STATE LIAISON

January 28, 2014

The Honorable Cindy Evans Chair, House Water and Land Committee Sent Via Email

Re: House Bill 1905 - SUPPORT

Dear Representative Evans:

On behalf of the Hawaii members of the National Rifle Association, I support House Bill 1905.

This bill offers a great program to introduce people to hunting by allowing them to participate with a mentor. Similar programs across the country are offered and have had great success.

I encourage the committee to consider eliminating the age cap and opening this program to any person who has not completed hunter education.

Thank you for your attention and I ask that you support this bill.

Cordially,

Daniel S. Reid State Liaison

Cc: Members, House Water and Land Committee