

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  
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Tuesday, March 01, 2016  
1:30 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 2026, SENATE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO HUNTING**

Senate Bill 2026, Senate Draft 1, proposes to establish the Hawaii apprentice hunting license program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources; provides for the issuance of a Hawaii apprentice hunting license to program participants between the ages of ten to seventeen; establishes requirements for program participation; and exempts a holder of an apprentice license from taking the required hunter education class prior to licensure under Section 183D-22, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

The Department is committed to preserve, protect, and promote public hunting (Section 183D-2, HRS) and is aware that the maintenance and expansion of the State's Hunting Program hinges on continual recruitment of new hunters and the promotion of safe outdoor experiences. We believe that a combination of positive mentorship and formal hunter education are complimentary components toward promoting legal, safe, and ethical hunting.

The Department respectfully requests the following amendments to this measure:

- 1) On line 13 of page 1, delete the words "a person" and add the words "any previously unlicensed Hawaii resident" before the words "who is";
- 2) On line 4 of page 2, add the sentence "As used in this subsection, accompanied means being close enough to each other to permit uninterrupted visual contact and unaided verbal communication."; and

**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**KEKOA KALUHIWA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.**  
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

3) On line 10 of page 2, add the word “consecutive” after the word “additional”.

In addition, the Department believes that the establishment of an apprentice hunting license program requires much more discussion and consideration to be successfully implemented. The State Game Management Advisory Commission as proposed in House Bill 1041 House Draft 2 would be an appropriate entity to further review this proposal with the Department to ensure broad input is received from Hawaii’s hunting community. Such considerations that are not addressed in this measure are: 1) whether there are restrictions on game species and game seasons pursued by apprentice licensed hunters; 2) whether a sponsor must be an immediate relative of the apprentice hunter; 3) whether there should be a maximum number of apprentice hunters that a sponsor can supervise while hunting; 4) whether state sponsored lottery hunts held on private property can include apprentice licensed hunters; and (5) whether the sponsor should be unarmed while supervising the apprentice hunter.

Finally, the Hawaii Hunter Education Program course is the Department’s primary mechanism in recruiting new hunters and educating them on game resources, non-game resources, hunter responsibility and hunting regulations in Hawaii. The twelve-hour course is provided throughout the State and is required in order to obtain a hunting license. The Department recognizes that limited Hunter Education course availability is a reason why some states on the continental United States have instituted an apprentice hunter program, so that interested individuals can hunt while waiting to attend a hunter education course. However, the Department does not find that the need to attend the Hawaii Hunter Education Program course poses a significant barrier to the recruitment of new hunters. However, to make the course more easily accessible, the Department will be offering an online Hunter Education course later this year.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.



Hawaii Apprentice Hunting License represents an opportunity for Hawaii to join the many other states who recognize the importance of bringing dedicated new sportsmen and women into the field.

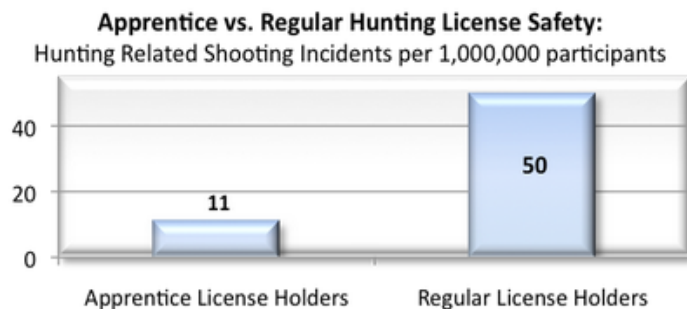
Hunting has been and continues to be an important family recreation. Hawaii is one of 14 states that don't yet recognize the application and benefits of a mentored introduction to hunting at a time when the new hunter, whether child or adult is apt to be most enthused by the experience.

A Hawaii Apprentice License **won't circumvent Hunter Education!** It has been suggested that this is just a tactic to get around the requirement to sit through 14 hours of Hunter Education in order to go hunting. This is a "try before you buy" opportunity to introduce folks to the value and experiences of hunting and only temporarily defers the requirement of attending Hunter Education.

An Apprentice License allows for a prospective hunter, under the direct supervision of a Hawaii Licensed Adult to be able to be mentored in safe field practices from start. If successful in creating in their mentee an ongoing desire to become a hunter, they will then sit for their Hunter Education Certificate with positive outlook and eagerness.

The Statistics that surround Apprentice License programs are all positive. **Safety, Demographics, and an early interest in taking Hunter Education** in order to get permanently licensed are all reasons to support this legislation.

A lot of folks know that the apprentice hunting license is a remarkably effective method to attract new hunters from the young to the young at heart. Many might not be aware, however, **that the apprentice hunter is THE safest hunter** in the woods. In fact, hunting under supervision as an apprentice hunter has been shown to be more than four times safer than the general hunting population.

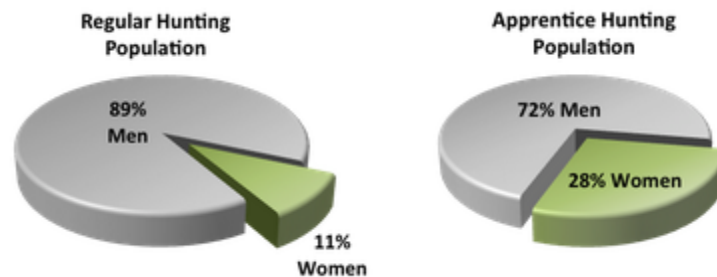


## Apprentice Licenses for Everyone

### Apprentice Licenses Recruit Women to Hunting

Women are the largest group of underserved Americans in the hunting community. While representing more than 50% of the US population, only 11% of hunters are women. They are essential to the future of hunting because women are often the parent that makes decision about which activities are safe and legitimate forms of recreation for their families.

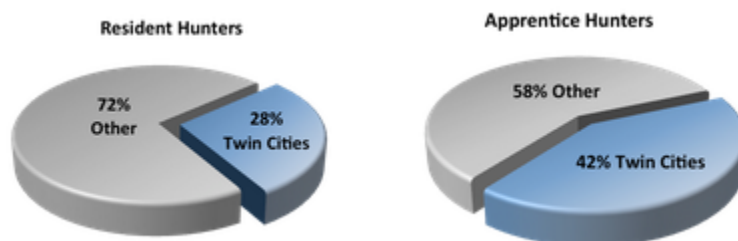
Families Afield is making inroads with this important demographic. Data from Minnesota reveals that nearly 30% of apprentice license buyers were women, a rate roughly 3x greater than women participate in the general hunting population.



### Apprentice Licenses Attract Urban Hunters

The future of hunting in America depends on its ability to attract newcomers from the urban and suburban areas of the country. The growth of metropolitan areas has increased their political clout that it is a growing reality that city dwellers will determine future hunting and firearm laws. Data from Minnesota details the success Families Afield has had in recruiting non-traditional hunters from metropolitan areas.

The research showed that 42% of apprentice license buyers came from urban locations. Metropolitan hunters account for just 28% of the general hunting population in the state.



## **Apprentice Licenses are for People of All Ages**

More than kids benefit from the availability of apprentice licenses because it is safe and an effective method to recruit new hunters thirty-one states offer apprentice hunting to adults as well as kids.

Examples of potential adult apprentices include:

- Retirees, looking for an activity to join
- College students who meet hunters on campus and become interested
- Empty-nesters with time on their hands for the first time in years
- A new work-mate or neighbor who meets a hunter while socializing or working

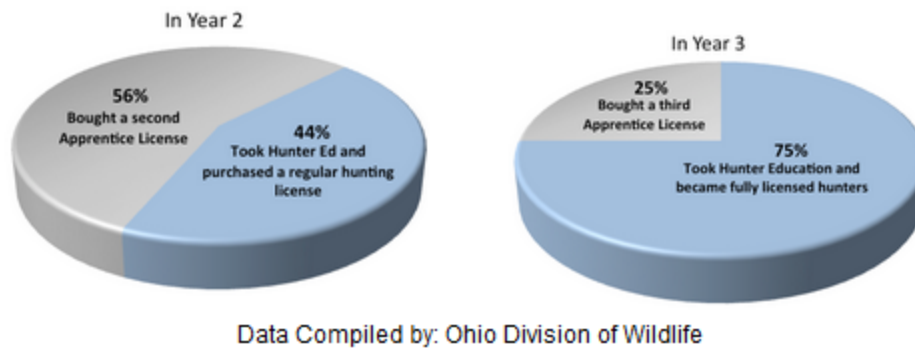
These and other examples like them present opportunities to show others the fun that can be had in the outdoors. That is why the Families Afield partners support apprentice hunting licenses for both adults and young people.

## **Apprentice Hunters Take Hunter Education:**

Apprentice hunting allows new hunters to try hunting before spending countless hours in a hunter education class This “try-before-you-buy” concept allows mentors to instill safety, ethics, and their passion for the sport in new hunters in a safe setting while they get to experience the thrill of the hunt Its important to note that a component of Families Afield is the requirement that prior to becoming a full licensed hunter a newcomer must pass hunter education.

**The program is working!** Research from the Ohio Division of Wildlife shows that once Apprentice hunters are hooked, they voluntarily transition to becoming a fully licensed hunter by taking Hunter Education before it’s required by law.

### What Happens to Apprentice License buyers in Years 2 & 3?



In year two, nearly 1/2 of repeat license buyers (44%) took Hunter Ed when they could have continued to hunt on an apprentice license for two additional years. By year three, it jumps to 75%. This data demonstrates that Apprentice hunters are giving up the remaining years of eligibility for Apprentice licenses and transitioning to Hunter Education and regular hunting licenses.

Lastly, “some have suggested that Families Afield attracts apprentice license buyers who would have become hunters anyways. Research from Minnesota shows that is true for less than 1/4th of apprentice hunters in the state. The data makes it clear that without apprentice hunting to help recruit new hunters, the majority of those individuals would have not hunted, and another 26% report that they are not sure if they would have or not without the new license.”  
([www.familiesafield.org](http://www.familiesafield.org)) -

The Hawaii County Game Management Commission strongly supports SB2026 SD1 and ask that you pass this legislation **with the following changes**.

People of all ages enjoy the sport of Hunting. In particular, women are the largest demographic to be served by this program as seen above in Minnesota, where women are 3X more likely to participate in hunting than through the general population experiences.

Both Nielsen (<http://www.nielsen.com/us/en/insights/news/2011/when-it-comes-to-spending-decisions-women-are-in-control.html>) and Pew Research (<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/03/14/men-women-work-time/1983271/>) confirm that **women** are integral to family decisions on spending and children. It is important to include them in these opportunities for **women** as well where they can be encouraged to participate with family and friends in a wholesome and safe manner. For these reasons we ask that you **amend SB2026 SD1 in the following**

**way.** On line 12, page one (b) A Hawaii apprentice hunting license shall be issued to

13 a person who is:

14 (1) ~~Between~~ **Over** the **age** of ten ~~and seventeen~~; and

15 (2) Sponsored by an adult who is eighteen years of age or

16 older and who holds a valid hunting license under this

17 part.

Thank you and Much Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Lodge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom Lodge, Chair.





***Hawaii Hunting Association  
To Protect & Promote Sustainable  
Public Hunting in Hawaii***

**SB2026 SD1  
Apprentice License**

March 1, 2016

Senate Committee on Ways and Means;  
3/01/2016; Conference Room 211; 1:30 PM

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Honorable Members of the  
Committee on Ways and Means,

**Regarding Senate Bill 2026 SD1 – Hawaii Hunting Association strongly supports  
an apprentice license program for Hawaii with the following amendments...**

On line 12, page one (b) A Hawaii apprentice hunting license shall be  
issued to

13 a person who is:

14 (1) ~~Between~~ **Over** the **age** of ten ~~and seventeen~~; and

15 (2) Sponsored by an adult who is eighteen years of age or  
16 older and who holds a valid hunting license under this  
17 part.

There are several important and crucial demographics that are being denied by this  
legislation for no purpose. Adults in Urban Areas, Women, and those newly retired,  
are key demographics to recruitment for which the Hawaii Hunter Education  
Program has no program to solicit nor encourage anyone in these accessible  
demographics other than sporadic field days usually in conjunction with nationwide  
programs of hunting and fishing days.

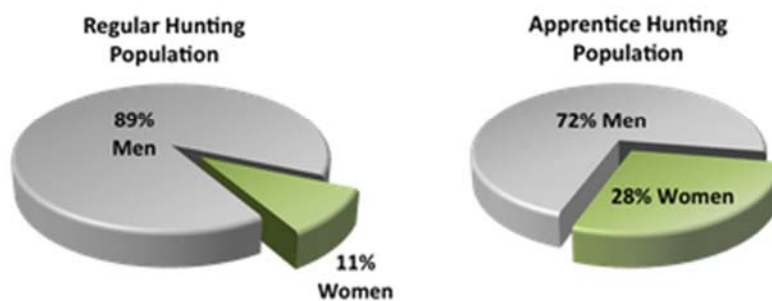
16-1596 Keaau Paho Road; Keaau, HI 96749  
hawaiihuntingassociation@hawaiiantel.net  
(808) 982-4747

## Apprentice Licenses for Everyone

### Apprentice Licenses Recruit Women to Hunting

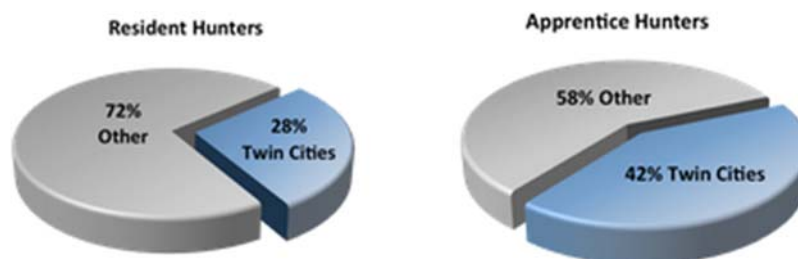
Women are the largest group of underserved Americans in the hunting community. While representing more than 50% of the U.S. population, only 11% of hunters are women. They are essential to the future of hunting because women are often the parent that makes decision about which activities are safe and legitimate forms of recreation for their families.

Families Afield is making inroads with this important demographic. Data from Minnesota reveals that nearly 30% of apprentice license buyers were women, a rate roughly 3x greater than women participate in the general hunting population.



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## Apprentice Licenses are for People of All Ages

More than kids benefit from the availability of apprentice licenses. Because it is safe and an effective method to recruit new hunters thirty-one states offer apprentice hunting to adults as well as kids.

Examples of potential adult apprentices include:

- Retirees, looking for an activity to join.
- College students who meet hunters on campus and become interested.
- Empty-nesters with time on their hands for the first time in years.
- A new work-mate or neighbor who meets a hunter while socializing or working.

These and other examples like them present opportunities to show others the fun that can be had in the outdoors. That is why the Families Afield partners support apprentice hunting licenses for both adults and young people.

Hawaii Hunting Association urges you to support and pass this important legislation in order that we can improve recruitment opportunities for all people of Hawaii. This Mentorship program nationwide has proven to be successful, extremely safe and economically persuasive. Nationwide, Families Afield (apprentice license programs) shows a much higher retention than normal recruiting methods and translates to over \$1 Billion dollars annually and growing, another reason to encourage both young and old into the recruitment.

Please **amend** SB2026 SD1 include anyone over the age of 10 and not be restricted to just youngsters so that we can successfully introduce those many who are essentially abandoned by our traditional programs for a Nationwide success story.

Much Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Lodge". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" written in a larger, more prominent style than the last name "Lodge".

Tom Lodge

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [hicogmac1@gmail.com](mailto:hicogmac1@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2026 on Mar 1, 2016 13:30PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 3:31:14 AM

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**SB2026**

Submitted on: 3/1/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 1, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Lodge, Chair	Individual	Support	No

Comments: IN SUPPORT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES. This legislation was contemplated to include all ages of introduction to the activity of hunting, not just kids. Women especially, are an under-served demographic and their roles in the household regarding recreation make it extremely important to include any and everyone over the age of 18 as well. Much Aloha, Tom Lodge

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.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [williamrandysmith@gmail.com](mailto:williamrandysmith@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2026 on Mar 1, 2016 13:30PM  
**Date:** Monday, February 29, 2016 6:12:10 PM

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**SB2026**

Submitted on: 2/29/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 1, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William R Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB2026 as a safe way to introduce young hunters to their sport and to support the sport of hunting on the Island of Hawaii.

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