

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, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE**

**Monday, February 1, 2016
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2026
RELATING TO HUNTING**

Senate Bill 2026 proposes to establish a Hawaii apprentice hunting license program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department); provides for the issuance of a Hawaii apprentice hunting license to program participants; establishes requirements for program participation; and exempts 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 acknowledges and appreciates the intent of this bill and provides the following comments and concerns.**

First, the Department recommends that apprentice hunting licenses be valid for up to 12 months from July 1 – June 30 rather than 12 months from the date of issuance. This would coincide with the validity of hunting licenses currently issued by the Department. Second, the Department recommends that issuance of apprentice hunting licenses not be eligible for renewal. Third, fees for an apprentice hunting license should coincide with any and all fees applicable to a regular hunting license.

The Department is committed to preserve, protect, and promote public hunting (Section 183D-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes) and is aware that the maintenance and expansion of the state's hunting program hinges on continual recruitment of new hunters. The hunter education program was established to assure that personal and public safety are a priority for all hunters, as well as ensuring that hunters have a basic understanding and respect for game resources, non-game resources, and firearm regulations in Hawaii.

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

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

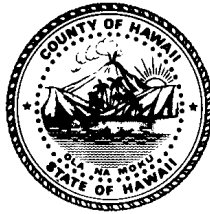
JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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

The Department agrees that a combination of mentorship and formal hunter education are necessary to promote legal, safe, and ethical hunting, and that this bill will provide potential hunters with these sound hunting principles.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Walter K.M. Lau
Managing Director

Randall M. Kurohara
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy., Bldg. C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440


The County of Hawaii Game Management Advisory Commission

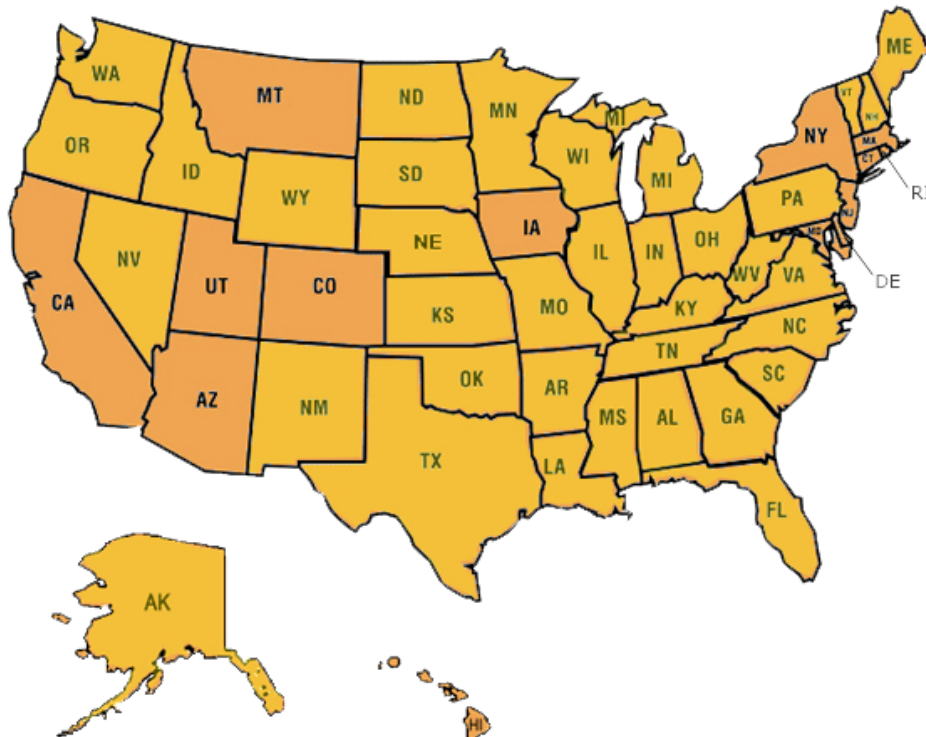
January 30, 2016

Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture; 2:45 PM Conference Room 224;
2/01/2016

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, Honorable Members of the
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture,

Regarding Senate Bill 2026 – STRONGLY SUPPORTS

 = Apprentice Hunting Available



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.

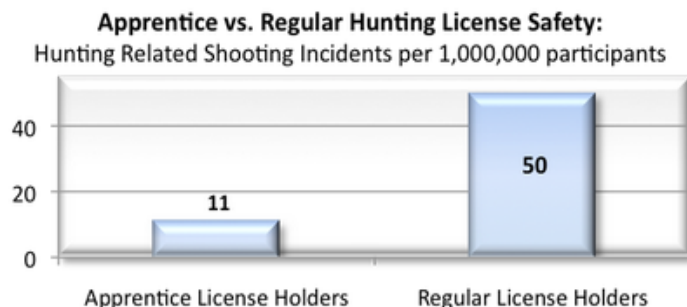
Hunting has been and continues to be an important family recreation. Hawaii is one of 14 states that don't yet recognize the application and benefits of a mentored introduction to hunting at a time when the new hunter, whether child or adult is apt to be most enthused by the experience.

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.

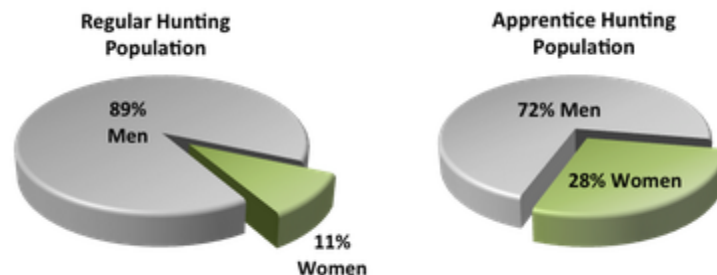


Apprentice Licenses for Everyone

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.

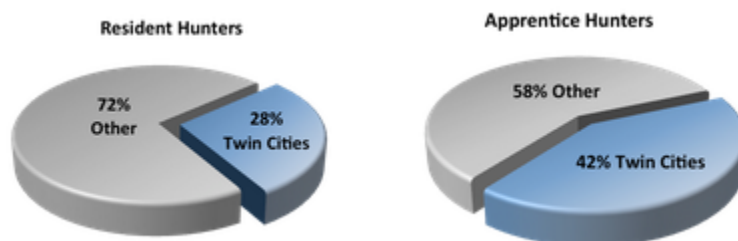
Families Afield is making inroads with this important demographic. Data from Minnesota reveals that nearly 30% of apprentice license buyers were women, a rate roughly 3x greater than women participate in the general hunting population.



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

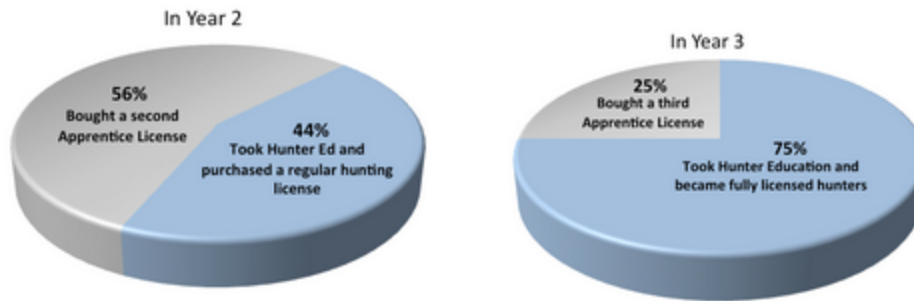
These and other examples like them present opportunities to show others the fun that can be had in the outdoors. That is why the Families Afield partners support apprentice hunting licenses for both adults and young people.

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?



Data Compiled by: Ohio Division of Wildlife

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) -

The Hawaii County Game Management Commission strongly supports SB2026 and asks that you pass this legislation as written. Thank you.

Much Aloha,

Tom Lodge, Chair.

CORRECTED TESTIMONY FOR SB2026



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

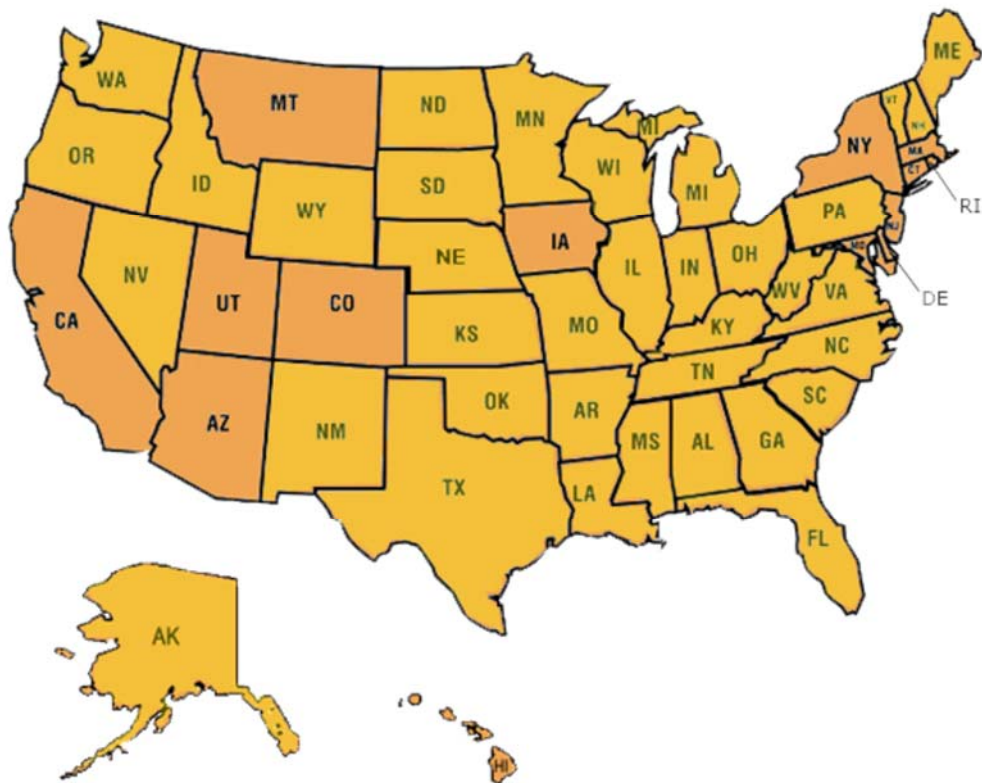
SB2026 – Apprentice Hunting Lic.

Hawaii State Senate
The Twenty Eighth Legislature
Regular Session of 2016;
February 1, 2016; 2:45, RM 224

Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture
Mike Gabbard, Chair
Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Committee Members

Hawaii Hunting Association **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB2026**

 = Apprentice Hunting Available



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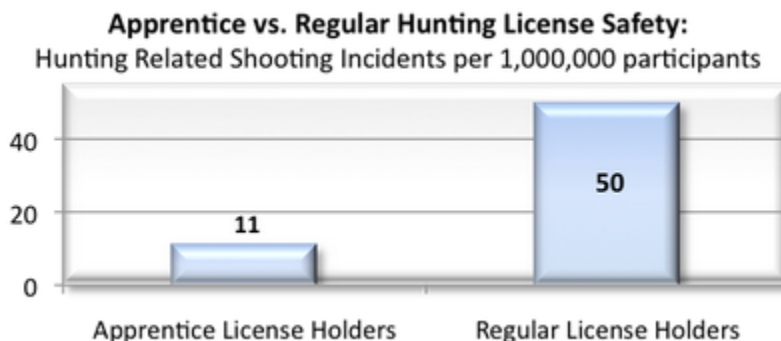
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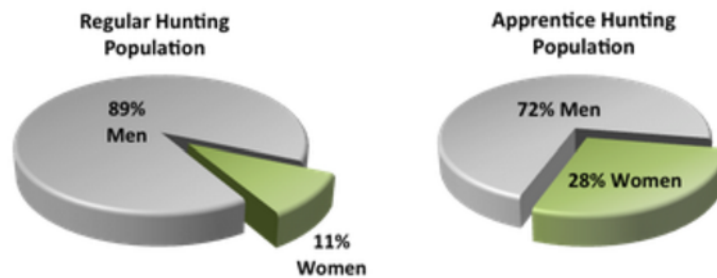
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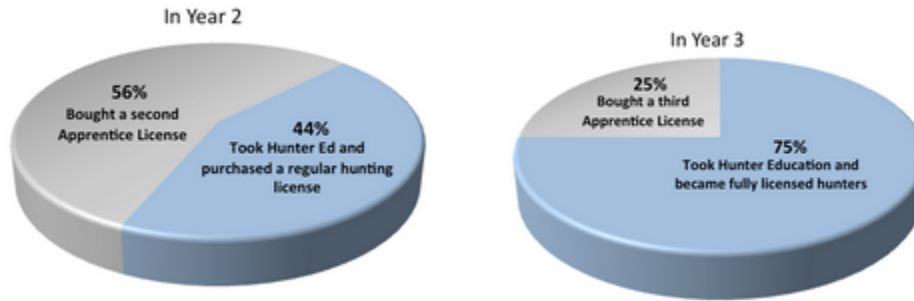
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(www.familiesafield.org) -

The Hawaii Hunting Association strongly supports SB2026 and ask that you pass this legislation as written. Thank you.

Much Aloha,

Tom Lodge

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: shyla.moon@ymail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2026 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Saturday, January 30, 2016 4:31:27 PM

SB2026

Submitted on: 1/30/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shyla Moon	Hunting Farming Fishing Association	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: voggymtn@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2026 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Sunday, January 31, 2016 6:04:29 AM

SB2026

Submitted on: 1/31/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments:

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The Society for Hawaii Heritage Animals

SUPPORTING SB2026

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Committee Members

Monday, February 01, 2016
2:45pm
Conference Room 224

RELATING TO HUNTING

Establishes the Hawaii apprentice hunting license program

Outdoor recreation, including hunting is an integral part of the health and well being of Hawaii's residents. Of further importance and of necessity to many residents in rural communities is the ability to enjoy and share in a sustainable subsistence lifestyle.

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. It's important to note that a component of Families Afield is the requirement that prior to becoming a fully licensed hunter a newcomer must pass hunter education.

Passage of this bill will create greater opportunities for young hunters and their families to enjoy hunting traditions together.

Mahalo,

Tony Sylvester
Executive Director
The Society for Hawaii Heritage Animals

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: ilojerry@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2026 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Saturday, January 30, 2016 7:06:56 PM

SB2026

Submitted on: 1/30/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: I very strongly support this bill!

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: gobowtech2016@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2026 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Sunday, January 31, 2016 9:17:19 AM

SB2026

Submitted on: 1/31/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Barbieto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I see this as great opportunity for people who would like too hunt but not sure of it. I see an great opportunity for Dlnr. this would make more licence hunter from apprentice

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: bethbartell7@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2026 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Sunday, January 31, 2016 9:03:51 AM

SB2026

Submitted on: 1/31/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Bartell	GMAC	Support	No

Comments: An outstanding piece of legislation that allows potential new hunters to gain their initial experience in a safe and monitored manner. Similar programs have been used with great success all across the country. Please support 2026 and keep Hawaii's heritage alive. Thank you for your support.

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Cc: m.andysen@juno.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2026 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Sunday, January 31, 2016 6:47:40 PM

SB2026

Submitted on: 1/31/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark K. Andersen	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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Cc: nanihawaii@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2026 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Saturday, January 30, 2016 2:28:01 PM

SB2026

Submitted on: 1/30/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: The hunter education class required is very difficult. The classes run late into the evening, on school nights. A young person needs to be highly motivated in order to pass this class. If they could experience hunting first, with experienced responsible licensed hunters, they could know what they are working so hard for, and learn from hands on. Youth would have more of a chance of passing the class. Hunting creates skill, and is a healthy outdoor activity. Many in the public would appreciate more government support.

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Cc: rileydemattos@gmx.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2026 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Saturday, January 30, 2016 9:28:46 AM

SB2026

Submitted on: 1/30/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Riley De Mattos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: hicogmac1@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2026 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Saturday, January 30, 2016 1:23:06 PM

SB2026

Submitted on: 1/30/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Lodge, Chair	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Hunting, Fishing, and Farming are important aspects of rural life in Hawaii. SB2026 is a long needed recruitment devise to introduce both the young and the young at heart to the outdoors. Much Aloha,

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