
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A FERAL UNGULATE MANAGEMENT
PLAN FOR WEST HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the populations of feral goats and pigs in west
2 Hawaii island have increased to sizes that cannot be sustained
3 by the environment; and

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5 WHEREAS, feral ungulates in Hawaii have no natural
6 predators to limit their population growth and impact on native
7 ecosystems; and

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9 WHEREAS, feral ungulates contribute to the spread of rapid
10 ohia death and can have deleterious effects on pasture forage
11 and native forests; and

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13 WHEREAS, the overpopulation of feral ungulates has a
14 significant detrimental impact on the health of watersheds and
15 coral reefs through increased vegetative disturbance and
16 erosion; and

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18 WHEREAS, grazing, browsing, trampling, and rooting by feral
19 ungulates in West Hawaii have contributed to the destruction of
20 crops, resulting in considerable losses for the agricultural
21 industry; and

22
23 WHEREAS, feral ungulates damage landscape plants and
24 structures within the built environment, causing significant
25 economic damage to businesses, resorts, parks, cultural sites,
26 and residential areas; and

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28 WHEREAS, feral ungulates create major hazards on roadways
29 in West Hawaii, occasionally causing motor vehicle accidents;
30 and



H.C.R. NO. 17

1
2 WHEREAS, considerable private and public resources are
3 being expended to address the overpopulation of feral ungulates,
4 and more humane, effective, and beneficial solutions and best
5 management practices are needed; and

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7 WHEREAS, the hunting of feral game mammals is an important
8 local food source and public recreational and subsistence
9 hunting opportunity; however, the populations of such animals
10 are not sufficiently controlled through hunting alone; and

11
12 WHEREAS, collaborative efforts are needed to identify
13 opportunities for more effective management of feral ungulate
14 populations, such as higher bag limits and increased open
15 seasons for hunters, incentivization of commercially guided
16 hunting operations, increased use of game mammals for meat and
17 food security, targeted culling in overpopulated areas, and
18 other methods; now, therefore,

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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
21 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
22 of 2022, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Land and
23 Natural Resources is requested to convene a task force to
24 develop a feral ungulate management plan for West Hawaii; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consist of the
27 following members:

- 28
29 (1) One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of
30 Representatives;
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32 (2) One member appointed by the President of the Senate;
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34 (3) One member appointed by the Chairperson of the Board
35 of Land and Natural Resources;
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37 (4) One member appointed by the Chairperson of the Board
38 of Agriculture;
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40 (5) One member appointed by the Director of
41 Transportation;
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H.C.R. NO. 17

- 1 (6) One member appointed by the Mayor of the County of
- 2 Hawaii;
- 3
- 4 (7) One member appointed by the Chancellor of the
- 5 University of Hawaii at Hilo;
- 6
- 7 (8) One member appointed by the Co-Chairpersons of the
- 8 Hawaii Invasive Species Council;
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- 10 (9) One member appointed by the Manager of the Big Island
- 11 Invasive Species Committee; and
- 12
- 13 (10) One member appointed by the Chairperson of the Hawaii
- 14 County Game Management Advisory Commission; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at least:

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- 18 (1) One member of the task force must have expertise in
- 19 conducting wildlife population estimates and estimates
- 20 of carrying capacity;
- 21
- 22 (2) One member must have expertise in managing populations
- 23 of feral ungulates;
- 24
- 25 (3) One member must have expertise in managing hazards to
- 26 public roadways; and
- 27
- 28 (4) One member must have expertise in the preservation of
- 29 biodiversity; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
32 select a chair from among its members and allow the chair of the
33 task force to invite other interested parties to join the task
34 force; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that while developing the feral
37 ungulate management plan for West Hawaii, the task force is
38 requested to work in close consultation with wildlife managers,
39 hunters, watershed managers, park and reserve managers, invasive
40 species control experts, and large landowners in West Hawaii;
41 and

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H.C.R. NO. 17

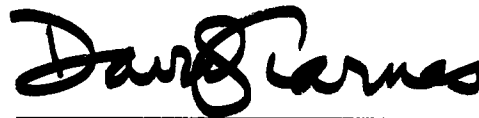
1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force will
2 serve without compensation but will be reimbursed for reasonable
3 expenses necessary for the performance of their duties,
4 including travel expenses; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
7 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
8 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
9 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
10 2024; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force will be
13 dissolved on June 30, 2024; and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
17 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,
18 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Director of
19 Transportation, Mayor of the County of Hawaii, Chancellor of the
20 University of Hawaii at Hilo, Manager of the Big Island Invasive
21 Species Committee, and Chairperson of the Hawaii County Game
22 Management Advisory Commission.

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OFFERED BY:



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