

JAN 21 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HUNTING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that hunting provides
2 significant ecological benefits for the State. For example,
3 hunting is an important tool to control the population of
4 certain invasive species, such as axis deer and feral goats. If
5 left unchecked by hunters, these species may overgraze
6 grasslands and forests, destroying fragile native plants and
7 habitats. Hunting is critical to preventing this ecological
8 damage, protecting endangered native species, and controlling
9 erosion.

10 The legislature further finds that many local families rely
11 on wild game meat for sustenance, which helps to maintain public
12 health, reduce overreliance on imported food, and further the
13 State's sustainability goals. For many local families, hunting
14 also has deep cultural and social significance, helping to
15 maintain a link to the past while creating recreational
16 opportunities for individuals to maintain social links with
17 family members and friends.



1 Despite these benefits, the legislature finds that there is
2 a shortage of public lands available for hunting, limiting
3 access to this important activity.

4 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
5 department of land and natural resources to amend its
6 administrative rules to increase by twenty per cent on each
7 island the total acreage of public lands designated as public
8 hunting areas for the hunting of game birds and game mammals.

9 SECTION 2. (a) No later than December 31, 2026, the
10 department of land and natural resources shall amend chapters
11 122 and 123 of title 13, Hawaii Administrative Rules, pursuant
12 to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to increase, by twenty
13 per cent on each of the islands of Kauai, Oahu, Molokai, Lanai,
14 and Hawaii, the total acreage of public lands designated as
15 public hunting areas for the hunting of game birds and game
16 mammals.

17 (b) The department of land and natural resources shall
18 submit a report to the legislature no later than twenty days
19 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2027 that
20 includes:



- 1 (1) The department's progress in complying with subsection
2 (a) for each island;
- 3 (2) If the department is not in compliance with the
4 requirements of subsection (a) for a particular
5 island, the reasons for the non-compliance; and
- 6 (3) Any other findings and recommendations, including any
7 proposed legislation.

8 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
9

INTRODUCED BY:

Lyn DeBate



S.B. NO. 2130

Report Title:

DLNR; Public Lands; Hunting Access; Public Hunting Areas; Report

Description:

Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to amend its administrative rules to increase by 20% on each island the total acreage of public lands designated as public hunting areas for the hunting of game birds and game mammals. Requires report to Legislature.

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