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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

**Monday, February 9, 2026
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2130
RELATING TO HUNTING**

Senate Bill 2130 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources to amend its administrative rules to increase the total acreage of public lands designated as public hunting areas for game birds and game mammals by 20 percent on each island. This bill also requires a report to the Legislature. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

The Department currently allows hunting on about 700,000 acres of land managed by the Division of Forestry and Wildlife. Hunting is also permitted on certain unencumbered and State Parks lands. Twenty percent of 700,000 acres amounts to 140,000 acres. An analysis could be carried out to find additional Departmental lands that might be suitable for public hunting.

The Department supports public hunting. Hunters can hunt 365 days a year in Hawaii. The Department is always looking for opportunities to increase public hunting and continues to identify additional areas where lifting restrictions can expand hunting opportunities.

The Department continues to expand its land holdings through programs like the Land Legacy Program, the U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy Program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and other land acquisition efforts. Acquiring land remains a top priority for the Department. Many of the lands purchased are suitable for hunting and have been added to the Public Hunting Area inventory.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



February 8, 2026

To: Chair Chris Lee, Vice Chair Lorraine R. Inouye and the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

Subject: **SB 2130**, Relating to Hunting

Aloha,

Hawai'i Food+ Policy submits testimony in support of SB 2130 with amendments.

SB 2130 will benefit local families who rely on hunting for subsistence and as cultural practice; farming communities impacted by damage from invasive game species; and native ecosystems that can benefit from a responsible population management of non-native species that currently harm crops, watersheds, and native forests. From a food systems perspective, public hunting contributes to local protein sources and reduces reliance on imported meat.

We acknowledge several important considerations for implementation. First, safety must remain paramount. Expanded hunting areas require the appropriate hunting management classification, additional signage, updates to boundary markings on maps, public notice, and coordination to ensure the safety of residents and other land users. While the bill does not include an explicit appropriation, we suggest that modest funding for updating signage and maps, outreach, and enforcement activities may be necessary to support safe implementation.

Second, changes in population dynamics can have unintended ecological effects if not monitored carefully. We suggest amendments clarifying that the expansion of public hunting areas shall be implemented with advice from the Game Management Advisory Commission (GMAC) to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR). This should include monitoring of game populations and the establishment of bag limits that adjust for seasons, which aims to avoid unintended impacts on native species, agricultural lands, or ecosystem balance.

For these reasons, Hawai'i Food+ Policy supports this measure with amendments that ensure attention to safety and ecological balance. When thoughtfully managed, expanded public hunting access can support local food systems, protect agricultural lands, and contribute to responsible stewardship of Hawai'i's public trust resources.

Mahalo,
Brandon Kinard & the Food+ Policy Team
#fixourfoodsystem

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2026, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals working in the food system. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

SB-2130

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 1:15:06 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/13/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Godfrey Akaka	Testifying for The Native Hawaiian Gathering Rights Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The NHGRA is in strong support of this bill. We support increasing hunting access and game management for all islands for the benefit of hunter gatherers and their subsistence for their families. Mahalo.

SB-2130

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 1:20:17 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/13/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We oppose this land grab by DLNR. Sport hunting is a repulsive activity, and should not be supported by the Legislature.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

SB2130
RELATING TO HUNTING

Friday, February 13, 2026, 1:01 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **offers comments on SB2130** which 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.

Hunting is a useful tool for providing food as well as removing invasive species from the land. We urge the state to carefully consider the areas that are designated as public hunting areas to **ensure that public access does not impede farming and ranching operations and food production**. Agricultural production lands continue to decrease and we need to protect those who are still in operation. While hunting is an important activity, permission must be sought from ranches before accessing. When permission is not obtained from the land owner, this causes a safety hazard for the families that manage these areas as well as for the livestock. Additionally, not all ranches are suitable for providing access for hunting. Ranchers manage livestock by rotating animals through smaller paddocks, and public access is often not conducive to low stress animal handling.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Ranchers produce a high-quality protein and are the stewards of almost 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or nearly 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



LATE

SB-2130

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 7:47:01 AM
Testimony for WLA on 2/13/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lani Petrie	Testifying for Kapapala Ranch	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kapapala Ranch is open for public bird hunting for 3 months out of the year. We lose approximately 8.5% of the working days in a year because of it. Any expansion of public hunting within our operation would negatively impact us.

The Act 90 transfer of Kapapala Ranch to DAB negotiated a 7,000 acre withdrawal that would remain with DLNR, DOFAW. I and other hunters testified at a hearing to designate that as a Game Management Area for enhanced public hunting. Unfortunately for the hunting community, the area will be an expansion of the Kapapala Forest Reserve and fencing will be put in to control and remove ungulates.

Lani Petrie

SB-2130

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 6:55:04 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/9/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Robertson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Expanding access to hunting is really needed. On Maui, we have many deer and are even paying wealthy people like Larry Ellison to kill them (\$50 bounty on deer tails). Yet the average person has little opportunity to find a place to hunt and harvest meat for family consumption.

For a short while, there was a great program allowing a few deer hunters to legally hunt DHHL lands in Waiohuli. This was very successful and beneficial, and yet the program went away after inly a year. We need many more opportunities like this.

Instead of paying landowners for deer tails, use the funds to lease land access for legal hunting opportunities.

SB-2130

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 2:03:22 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/9/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Furst	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and WLA Committee Members,

My name is Richard Furst and I am a resident of Oahu and an avid hunter and angler. I have lived in Hawaii for 26 years and have been fortunate enough to have hunted on all the major Hawaiian Islands. I have met some of my closest friends in Hawaii through hunting and have learned via those relationships how much hunting benefits the people and ecology of Hawaii.

I am writing today to express my **strong support for SB2130**. I think this bill does an excellent job of recognizing the inherent value that hunting brings to the people of Hawaii in controlling ungulate populations and in providing an important source of high-quality protein to local families. SB2130 also acknowledges that one of the biggest obstacles for many hunters is the current limited access to good hunting areas. By increasing the amount of public lands open to hunters on each island, this provides a direct, tangible solution to the problem, and more access will mean more opportunities to hunt and more hunters getting afield to reap the benefits for our State.

I would like to request one modification to the current language of the bill. Please clarify that the increase of 20 percent in total acreage of public lands designated as public hunting areas shall be above and beyond those lands already designated as public hunting areas as of the date of the legislation, including those areas added by Adaptive Management Rule Changes or agreements with Natural Area Reserves that may not necessarily be reflected in the current versions of HAR Chapters 122 and 123.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide input on this measure and for considering my testimony. And a warm mahalo nui loa to Senator Lynn DeCoite, Senator Kurt Fevella, and Senator Angus McKelvey for introducing this bill.

Aloha,

Richard Furst

SB-2130

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 4:10:02 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/9/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ernest Bethe IV	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hunting feeds communities, landscapes, and livelihoods. but if we are to create spaces where hunters can thrive, we need to have landscapes where animals can thrive. While I appreciate the messaging behind a 20% increase in land, wildlife requires much more than just acreage; wildlife requires connectivity. Connectivity - or, more specifically, ecological connectivity - refers to the degree to which traversible, unbroken patches of habitat exist in an environment. A larger urban park hemmed in on all sides by unbroken urban sprawl, thereby, might represent a large amount of "protected" land, but, ecologically, is probably devoid of any significant breeding populations of animals. Similarly, two distant patches of habitat, with a protected ecological corridor in between, are likely much more functional as hunting spaces, because animals can travel, reproduce, and occupy different ecological niches. As this bill progresses, I want to advocate for an approach that recognizes what it takes for landscapes to be actually usable by animals (and hunters that rely on them!). One additional benefit when we take this approach is the amount of land needed to connect available habitat patches is probably less than the 20% proposed by this bill. While many scientists have suggested a "rule of thumb" of 2 kilometers for wildlife corridors (Beier, 2018), the total area needed for animals to move between viable habitat, establish breeding populations, and thereby support hunting activities becomes significantly more manageable when we look at connectivity instead of pure acreage. Mahalo for the opportunity to share these comments on the importance of landscape connectivity in land management for hunting practices. I have included some additional resources that might be of interest below. Me ke aloha,
Ernest
<https://www.onearth.org/connectivity-ecological-corridors-are-key-to-protecting-biodiversity/>
<https://conservationcorridor.org/the-science-of-corridors/>
<https://largelandscapes.org/>

SB-2130

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:42:44 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/13/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chase Cavitt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha I am in great support of this measure and ask you all to consider those of us who care for the land and need hunting access for best care for our families. Hunters who follow laws are some of the most helpful, kind and considerate people. We care to follow the standards set for our communities while safely accessing land to properly take an animal to sustenance. I am a dedicated hunter and am always struggling to find land access for specific animals such as deer. They are all over the island but there are many public hunting units that are extremely hard to gain access to and this leads to many to choose to break a law, or risk the safety of others to simply harvest a deer. This state has a need for management of game numbers and hunters need access. I used the Waiohuli hunting area while it was opened to the public and signed up and went for a day to hunt there and got 2 does that brought amazing healthy meat into my home. I was sad to hear when it was closed down after a short 2 year plan. I saw herds of over 2000 deer while hunting that day and I am certain access should still be given. Please help us help our families and communities and provide more land for Hawaii hunters to safely and legally hunt.

Mahalo,

Chase Cavitt

SB-2130

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:55:01 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/13/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerry Ilo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Very Strongly Support this bill! We know the State sits on so much unused land. There is only one REAL area to public hunt birds on Oahu. Its over crowded and becoming dangerous.

SB-2130

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:20:52 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/13/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taysen Wong Chong	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha , My name is Taysen Wong Chong , I am the Hawaii County Game Management advisory commissioner Chair for the Big Island , I am in support of SB2130 for it does widen the range of land for hunter gatherers in the state which would not only be of only benefit to the hunters but benefit of the Aina to bringing more controlled numbers of animals to keep the population under control from being over populated and of damage to the Aina for I believe and know our age animals can co exist in the wild if managed properly. As long as the number is not zero or mentioning eradication. Again I support SB2130 mahalo

SB-2130

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 12:12:58 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/13/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Neill Domingo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill

SB-2130

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 1:12:20 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/13/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong Support

Klayton Kubo

Waimea, Kaua'i