

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA
P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY
CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
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

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

**Before the Senate Committees on
WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Wednesday, February 11, 2026
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3043
RELATING TO HUNTING**

Senate Bill 3043 requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to adopt rules regarding safe and humane hunting practices of feral pigs and hunting dog welfare standards, including establishing requirements for the hunter education program instruction and the use of dogs to torture wildlife or game mammals as torture in the second degree. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

The Department recognizes the purpose of this measure and notes that its goals align with the existing regulatory framework outlined in Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) Chapter 13-122, Rules Regulating Game Bird Hunting, Field Trials, and Commercial Shooting Preserves, and Chapter 13-123, Rules Regulating Game Mammal Hunting. These rules set enforceable standards for seasons, bag limits, approved methods of take, and prohibited acts, primarily focused on public safety, conservation, and lawful behavior in public hunting areas.

The Department notes that while we can regulate hunting activities through statutes and administrative rules on lands it manages, we cannot regulate or enforce an individual hunter's ethics or moral decisions in the field or at their home. Ethical conduct, humane decision-making, and respect for wildlife are responsibilities that ultimately fall on individual hunters and the hunting community. These values are demonstrated through personal actions, peer accountability, and adherence to best practices.

While the Department can set rules for lawful take and ban clearly defined acts of cruelty, we must avoid making rules that attempt to impose subjective ethical judgments that cannot be easily enforced in real-world conditions.

Regarding hunter education, the Department emphasizes the importance of safety, lawful conduct, and humane-harvest principles in the program. However, the Department notes that hunter education is intended to provide basic knowledge and legal requirements; it cannot replace hunters' personal responsibility to act ethically in the field and to set a good example for their peers.

The Department is prepared to work with the Legislature, hunters, and stakeholders to promote safe, humane, and responsible hunting.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 3:12:22 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

We the Native Hawaiian Gathering Rights Association oppose SB 3043. This proposed bill is a clear over reach of government authority infringing on hunter gatherers. There are already clear animal care laws for dog care and including a hunter education program. This bill is being pushed by animal rights activists who do not understand and are uneducated in our culture and hunting practices. They have also failed to engage the hunting community with concerns possibly because their intent clearly does not support native Hawaiian pig hunting cultural and customary practices. Mahalo.

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:17:44 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marian Hussenbux	Testifying for Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB3043 Relating to Hunting is described by Hawaiian Humane as long overdue.

We are informed that both animals and people have been attacked, badly wounded and even killed by hunting dogs trained to tear apart prey, such as wild pigs, who can be very dangerous, so the dogs are also at risk of injury, death, and being left to die of their wounds.

May we point out that such attacks happen here: we have for many years opposed fox hunting and apart from the inherent cruelty to foxes and other wild animals, hounds have attacked and killed family cats.

Which means that we strongly support this Bill. Hunters should be brought to book.



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

Date: Feb. 9, 2026

To: Chairs Sens. Chris Lee and Mike Gabbard
Vice Chair Sens. Lorraine Inouye and Tim Richards
and Members of the Committees on Water, Land,
Culture & the Arts and Agriculture & Environment

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Vice President of Community Engagement
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in support of SB 3043: Relating to Hunting
Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2025, 1:00 p.m., Room 224 & Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for Senate Bill 3043, which requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to adopt rules regarding safe and humane hunting practices of feral pigs and hunting dog welfare standards; establishes requirements for the hunter education program instruction; includes the use of dogs to torture wildlife or game mammals as torture in the second degree.

Hawaiian Humane does not oppose hunting for food, nor do we oppose the use of dogs to spot, track or flush prey. But training dogs to attack animals is inhumane and dangerous.

The risks associated with training packs of dogs to take down prey have been demonstrated by serious and sometimes deadly attacks both on private property and our hiking trails. This cruel and dangerous training poses a danger to human bystanders, subjects bait animals to fatal abuse and puts hunting dogs themselves at serious risk of injury and death. This measure prohibits that practice while also requiring that dogs used for hunting receive nutritious food, clean water, safe shelter, proper identification and necessary veterinary care. We would recommend adding a requirement that the dogs are provided sufficient socialization with people to allow for safe handling and a humane quality of life. Dogs who are kept isolated from their human caregivers are more prone to pose a danger to their families and the broader community.

This measure offers powerful protections for dogs and people and we urge you to support SB3043. Mahalo for your consideration



February 9, 2026

To The Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to extend our support of bill SB3043 that aims to reduce the number of dogs that are lost, abandoned, or injured. Since our organization began in 2015, a majority of the animals we have helped have been hunting dogs who have come to us sick, injured, and/or traumatized. Some have come from such inhumane backgrounds, that even with significant rehabilitation, they are not candidates for adoption, and become permanent residents of our sanctuary. With the implementation of bill SB3043, we hope to see fewer dogs experiencing lives of mistreatment and neglect.

Kaua'i Animal Welfare Society (KAWS) is a 501(c)(3) organization on Kaua'i. We provide a safe haven for our animals while they wait to find their forever homes. Whether an animal is with us for 2 weeks, 2 months, or 2 years, they can always call the sanctuary their home.

Sincerely,

Dinah Chao
KAWS ED

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 7:42:20 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Collins	Testifying for Bird and Bee Hawaii Animal Sanctuary	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This measure:

- Ensures that dogs used for hunting are provided with adequate housing, nutrition and veterinary care
- Requires the establishment of rules for the humane dispatch of feral pigs that prohibit torment and torture
- Creates a second-degree animal cruelty offense for persons using dogs to torture torment or knowing cause prolonged suffering to wildlife or game mammals

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:31:27 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Serena Stefanic-Phillip	Testifying for Hawaiian Humane Society	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Bill SB3043.

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:50:32 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dan Paul	Testifying for Humane World for Animals	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On behalf of Humane World for Animals and our members and supporters in Hawai‘i, I thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 3043 establishing humane standards for the dispatch of wild pigs and for the welfare of dogs used in wild pig hunting.

As a humane organization, we generally oppose the use of dogs to hunt wild pigs and other wildlife—but this bill is an important step forward in addressing some of the worst abuse. It acknowledges the realities of pig hunting in Hawai‘i, its role in land management and food practices, and—most importantly—affirms that humane treatment of animals must remain a core value.

Currently, there are no uniform standards defining what constitutes humane dispatch in the field. By requiring the state to identify acceptable methods and to prohibit practices that cause torture, torment, mutilation, prolonged suffering, or unnecessary delay, the bill sets a clear ethical baseline. The bill’s prohibition on catch-and-release hunting is particularly important. Allowing animals to be restrained, injured, or repeatedly pursued without timely dispatch raises serious animal welfare concerns. Ending this practice aligns Hawai‘i with widely accepted humane hunting principles and modern wildlife management standards.

Equally important are the provisions addressing the role of dogs in dispatch. By defining “limited contact” and requiring that any restraint be brief and solely for the purpose of swift, humane dispatch, the bill draws an essential boundary: dogs should not be used in ways that escalate violence between animals. Importantly, this bill does not ban the use of dogs in hunting. Instead, it sets critical guardrails to ensure they are not subjected to unnecessary harm in the name of sport.

Our support for this bill is grounded not only in animal welfare expertise, but in years of collaboration with law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and wildlife officials across the

country. We regularly work alongside officers to address animal cruelty and develop practical, enforceable standards that protect both animals and people. Our work with law enforcement also informs our perspective on the use of dogs in hunting. Officers routinely encounter dogs that are severely injured, inadequately cared for, or placed in high-risk situations. Establishing minimum welfare standards is not about criminalizing ethical hunters, it is about preventing avoidable harm.

SB 3043 recognizes that respecting animals and responsible hunting are not mutually exclusive. This bill is a much-needed first step towards protecting animals, supporting ethical hunters, reducing enforcement ambiguity, and reflecting Hawai'i's commitment to humane values.

For these reasons, Humane World for Animals respectfully request you to vote yes on SB 3043.



525 East Cotati Avenue
Cotati, California 94931

T 707.795.2533
F 707.795.7280

info@aldf.org
aldf.org

February 11th, 2026

Re: Memorandum of Support for HB 3043
Relating to Hunting

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee on Water, Land, Culture, and the Arts; and Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

On behalf of the Animal Legal Defense Fund, the nation's preeminent legal advocacy organization for animals, and our supporters in Hawai'i, I appreciate the opportunity to submit this memorandum in strong support of HB 3043, a bill to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources to adopt rules regarding safe and humane hunting practices of feral pigs and hunting dog welfare standards; establish requirements for the hunter education program instruction; and include the use of dogs to torture wildlife or game mammals as torture in the second degree. This important legislation will protect dogs, game animals, and people alike from the dangers of unregulated hunting with dogs and ensure that game animals, such as feral pigs, are protected from the most inhumane, unsportsmanlike practices.

Establishing safe and humane hunting regulations, hunting dog welfare standards, and a hunter education program, will protect people and animals from harm.

To many folks across the isles, dogs are like ohana and are treated as such. Dogs are also used by many to aid in hunting, helping to provide food for people's families and communities. Unfortunately, in the latter scenarios, hunting dogs are not always treated with the respect one might give to a family pet. Many hunting dogs are trained to pursue and take down prey, with little attention given to their well-being.

Neglect of hunting dogs is not uncommon. Hunting dogs often lack adequate housing, and are left tethered outside during all manner of weather. They often do not receive proper nutrition, and may be starved for days before a hunt to make them more ruthless during hunts. Many dogs lack proper, if any, veterinary care. When a dog is injured during a hunt, instead of receiving necessary care, the dog may be left behind to starve. They may also be left to fend for themselves when they get lost because of improper training and lack of ways to track the dog, or they are simply no longer useful in hunts. Shelters across all of the islands report having to take in abandoned hunting dogs, further burdening overcrowded shelters that are having to euthanize more and more animals every year.

Well-taken care of and well-trained hunting dogs make for safer communities. It is not uncommon to find packs of abandoned hunting dogs roaming near communities, posing a significant threat to

nearby families as the animals become more desperate for food. Many people, myself included, have come across abandoned hunting dogs while hiking through the islands' forests. Stronger and clearer measures are needed to ensure dogs are receiving adequate care and to ensure dogs and communities are protected.

Stronger measures are needed to prevent the torture of wild animals, particularly feral pigs, using hunting dogs.

ALDF has received numerous emails containing disturbing videos involving "practices" with feral pigs that go far beyond standard or traditional hunting practices. Gruesome videos of live pigs being restrained and repeatedly attacked and tortured by hunting dogs are circulating across the internet. In some videos, these egregious acts are occurring in front of children, normalizing cruelty over sportsmanship in the state's keiki.

Based on Hawai'i's existing statutes, the acts being showcased in these videos clearly fall under animal cruelty. Yet the laws are not being enforced as the actions are being conflated with regular hunting training practices and many do not view feral pigs as worthy of protection. It is crucial that these undoubtedly cruel and unsportsmanlike acts against feral pigs be spelled out in statute to ensure that abusers are being prosecuted when there is evidence of it occurring. Though there may be conflicting feelings about feral pigs as an invasive species, cruelty to animals should never be normalized in any accepted practice or in society as a whole.

Game animals, including feral pigs, should be "dispatched" as humanely and quickly as possible, and contact between dogs and pigs should be limited to protect both animals. There is no benefit in making an animal suffer during or after a hunt. We recognize that hunting is an important part of life for many individuals across Hawai'i, and that is exactly why these measures are critical to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of this important and long overdue legislation.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Vierheilig
Legislative Affairs Manager
Animal Legal Defense Fund

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 8:18:23 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rex Ito	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Rex Ito. I'm opposing SB 3043. Although I personally don't use dogs to hunt pigs, this method is important to keep the population of pigs in check. With the terrain that our mountains have, it's very difficult to find and slow pigs down in order to catch them. I foresee the banning of this will soon be used for dogs that are used to hunt birds. I would really like to know why the legislature tries to regulate stricter hunting instead of appropriating funding for better management and conservation? Water troughs broken or empty, roads and trails needing maintenance, fire breaks improved and added. Instead of banning this add funding so we can have fishing and hunting like states of Alaska, Montana, Colorado, Wyoming, Texas, etc. We need more game wardens and actual punishment that will follow through with violations.

Sincerely,

Rex Ito

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 10:27:13 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clayton Glass	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 3:35:27 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makaha Valley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE, NO, AOLE, making more dumb laws and waste people's time. 4 generations of hunter gatherers. Use dog and knife and I will always gather for my family using dog and knife.

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 5:29:04 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Furst	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, WLA Committee Members; Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and AEN Committee Members,

My name is Richard Furst and I am a resident of Oahu and an avid hunter and angler. While I am personally a bowhunter and rifle hunter, I respect and value all legal hunting means of take for hunters in Hawaii, including hunting with dogs. I am also a dog owner and care very much for the welfare of animals in general.

I am writing today to express my **opposition to SB3043 in its current form**. While I agree with the intent of this bill to protect the welfare of hunting dogs and wild animals in general, I believe that the current version of this bill is too broad and will create more problems than it solves. Pig hunting with dogs is one of the most widely used means of take in Hawaii, especially here on Oahu. Like any hunting method, there are many aspects of the practice that are not apparent to the uninformed observer. For example, hunting dogs may often corner or grab a pig in a very remote area or one that is thick with vegetation. It takes time for hunters to safely access these areas, since dogs are much faster and agile than humans in general and the hunters cannot navigate thick vegetation as quickly as their dogs, so the dogs will be in direct contact with the pigs for extended periods until the hunters can arrive. Similarly, hunters will often bring younger dogs along on a hunt with more experienced dogs to train the pups in how to properly catch and hold pigs. This results in larger packs at times. There are just a couple of examples of aspects of this hunting practice that are not obvious to an uninformed person.

Accordingly, there are aspects of SB3043 that require much more nuance to be effective and reasonable. For example, the requirements for defining “limited contact” between dogs and pigs and standards on the permissible involvement of dogs in dispatch both will be very challenging to define in a way that does not make all hunting of pigs with dogs illegal. Similarly, the requirement for mandatory use of tracking collars for all dogs may be economically unviable for many hunters (since tracking collars can cost over \$250 each just for the collar)—a requirement that, if enforced, will criminalize many hunters simply for not having thousands of dollars to outfit their entire dog pack.

I will add that there are some limited parts of the current bill that I support. Specifically, I agree with the idea of adding information to the Hunter Education curriculum that addresses quick, ethical dispatch of wild pigs and proper treatment of hunting dogs. I also agree with a prohibition

on abandonment of hunting dogs and on establishing basic nutrition and clean drinking water requirements for dogs.

In summary, while I appreciate the intent of this bill and acknowledge a need to address issues with hunting dog welfare and quick, ethical dispatch of game mammals, I do not think that SB3043 in its current form will forward those aims without being unenforceable or making all hunting of pigs with dogs practically illegal.

Mahalo for your consideration of these views.

Aloha,

Richard Furst

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:42:46 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- Ensures that dogs used for hunting are provided with adequate housing, nutrition and veterinary care.
- Requires the establishment of rules for the humane dispatch of feral pigs that prohibit torment and torture
- Creates a second-degree animal cruelty offense for persons using dogs to torture torment or knowing cause prolonged suffering to wildlife or game mammals

I have seen the way SOME pig hunters treat their dogs. They are a means to an end - hunting pigs. I walk hiking trails and regularly see them - some owners are just as feral as the pigs, and of course some are responsible. Pigs are smart animals who feel pain, and so it disturbs me when they are tortured. I understand we have too many and they must be culled, but for God's sake have some compassion. This bill addresses the issues I think need to be addressed regarding pig hunting and dogs.

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:20:33 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lee Cuccia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a long overdue measure. Please support and pass! Mahalo!

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:09:20 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This measure:

- Ensures that dogs used for hunting are provided with adequate housing, nutrition and veterinary care
- Requires the establishment of rules for the humane dispatch of feral pigs that prohibit torment and torture
- Creates a second-degree animal cruelty offense for persons using dogs to torture torment or knowing cause prolonged suffering to wildlife or game mammals

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:12:37 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
carole richelieu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This measure is long overdue

Hawaii Kai voter

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:38:25 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jane Arnold and I live in Kaimuki. I am testifying in favor of SB3043, which would require DLNR to adopt rules for humane hunting of feral pigs and hunting dog welfare. This bill would ensure that hunting dogs receive housing, nutrition, and veterinary care. It would also prohibit torture of feral pigs and other wildlife by hunting dogs.

Thank you for supporting SB3043.

Jane Arnold

1763 Iwi Way

Honolulu, HI. 96816

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:39:16 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please accept this as testimony in strong support of SB3043. For many of us, dogs are members of the family. Whether they be hunting dogs or pets, they must have adequate housing, nutrition, and veterinary care. That is provided for in this bill.

The bill also requires the establishment of rules for the humane dispatch of feral pigs that prohibit torment and torture. That too is needed. No animal should be subject to torture.

It also creates a second degree animal cruelty offense for persons using dogs to torture, torment, or knowingly cause prolonged suffering to wildlife or game mammals. This too is important. It is a well known fact that animal cruelty leads to cruelty to humans.

Please move this bill forward.

Lynne Matusow

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:00:25 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Kart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hunting dogs are starved so they are more aggressive due to hunger by hunters.

Dogs are also trained to tear apart prey .

I used to live at top of Waialae 5 where there is a hunting trail, and often injured dogs are left up there to die a slow death.

Further, where is the ALOHA for the pigs that are torn and shredded for fun ?

Many of them are not used for food, but left to rot up in the mountains.

Any being if a nuisance to humans, or for fun, can be killed by any means .

Hawaii is consistently ranked in the bottom for animal welfare.

Lets do better

Thank you

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:21:12 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Poki'i Magallanes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Knife and dog hunting is more effective to control feral hog population.

Testimony in support of SB3043

This measure:

- Ensures that dogs used for hunting are provided with adequate housing, nutrition and veterinary care
- Requires the establishment of rules for the humane dispatch of feral pigs that prohibit torment and torture
- Creates a second-degree animal cruelty offense for persons using dogs to torture torment or knowing cause prolonged suffering to wildlife or game mammals

Judith Aikawa, MD

37 Apali Way

Kula, HI 96790

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:48:34 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Graham-Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB3043. My name is Natalie Graham-Wood and I reside at Sunset Beach, Oahu.

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 12:15:01 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I don not support this bill

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 2:45:58 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie McLaughlin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill that will make Hawaii a safer place for animals.

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:53:45 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Saul	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

and

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE & THE ARTS

and

Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB3043 RELATING TO HUNTING

Dear Senators Chris Lee and Mike Gabbard, Chairs:

Hard to believe we haven't already enacted the elements of this bill prior to now. Requiring safe and humane practices from hunters and their hunting dogs without torture seems so elemental for the civilized society I believe we are. Please proceed apace on this one.

Thank you.

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 6:11:30 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lei-Anne Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- We support this bill because...
- Ensures that dogs used for hunting are provided with adequate housing, nutrition and veterinary care
- Requires the establishment of rules for the humane dispatch of feral pigs that prohibit torment and torture
- Creates a second-degree animal cruelty offense for persons using dogs to torture torment or knowing cause prolonged suffering to wildlife or game mammals

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:31:39 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra Bringman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill. I had a neighbor that had hunting dogs. They were not well-kept at all (could see their bones). One day, he adopts a baby pig he caught while hunting. He would walk it around the neighborhood without a leash. I thought cool; he adopted it. When the pig got older, he let the pig go down his backyard, with the hunting dogs chasing after it. The neighbors were tramitized by the noise of the pig squealing trying to get away from the attacking dogs. Once the pig was caught, he strung it up by its feet and slit its chest open in his garage. It was the most inhumane thing I have ever seen.

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:37:21 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a property owner of agricultural land on the north shore that deals with unprofessional pig hunters trespassing and leaving injured pig dogs in our area and damaged feral pigs . I am in SUPPORT of this bill to hopefully improve the training and enforcement of this activity. I am in SUPPORT of 2nd degree animal cruelty offense for people using dogs to torture or cause prolonged suffering of wildlife. I am in SUPPORT of DLNR establishing training /education program which educates hunters on humane hunting practices & humane care for hunting dogs . I am in SUPPORT that hunting dogs are provided adequate care, housing, food and vet care. I am in SUPPORT of DLNR rincreased esources and enforcement as it relates to Hunting wildlife.

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:39:57 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Rose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

My name is Jessica, and I live next to the Moalepe trail on Kaua'i. I can't even begin to tell you how many hunting dogs I've encountered near my home. Most of the time they are skeletal, scared, and clearly abandoned. When I try to help, they head straight back into the woods. This is not rare.

I have also fostered dogs and volunteered at the Kaua'i Humane Society for years. Almost all of the dogs that come in, or that animal control picks up, are hunting dogs. They are skittish, scared, and traumatized. Anyone can go to the Kaua'i Humane Society website and see this for themselves.

It is ridiculous that our community is forced to carry the burden of irresponsible dog owners. Our shelters are overflowing. Dogs are shipped to the mainland because there is nowhere for them to go here. While not all hunters behave this way, too many treat dogs as weapons and disposable tools. That reality is undeniable, and it is unacceptable.

How many more dogs have to be abandoned, starved, or injured before someone takes responsibility? How long are we going to pretend this is not happening?

Finally, there is a bill that acknowledges what our communities have been dealing with for years. SB3043 is a necessary step to protect these dogs and to stop rewarding neglect with silence. PLEASE PASS THIS BILL. DO IT FOR THE DOGS.

And let me be absolutely clear: NO ANIMAL, invasive or not, deserves to suffer the way pigs do while people stand by filming as they are ripped apart. THAT IS NOT HUNTING. That is cruelty, and it has no place here.

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 5:32:20 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rhythm Hurlbut	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha ,

As a hunter involved in communities across the island chain I come to you and respectfully ask you may consider my testimony opposing SB3043. The use of dogs in hunting has been around for years , dogs hunt in packs , it's in their nature. Minimizing packs and limiting contact between dogs and pigs to be hunted would strongly impact many hunters. As a hunter I have put a lot of time and money into my dogs. I would do anything for them , and they would do anything for me. It takes countless hours of training and bonding to create a well rounded hunting dog. This bill would essentially impact most of my hunting dog pack. Hunters cannot pick and choose whether their dog decides to bite the pigs or not. Pigs are feral and invasive species , which can harm people at any given moment if caught in the wrong place , including your own backyard. You are considering giving these feral and invasive animals rights as if they were human. Experienced hunters care for their own dogs who require medical attention , including me. Many people live from "check to check" and requiring vet care for dogs is not possible for some who have a lower source of income. If this bill passes , many dogs will need to be given up and brought to shelters because either the dog is "rough" with pigs or simply because the owner may not be able to afford the required vet care. This is the exact situation we are trying to avoid , crowded shelters and overpopulation of dogs. It takes multiple dogs to stop a pig and the use of less dogs increases the chance that one of the dogs get hurt by a pig. The more dogs the better chance everyone goes home safely. Please seek more testimonies from HUNTERS and not ordinary people or animal rights activists who have never hunted a day in their life , nor considered who they are impacting.

Mahalo for reading ,

Rhythm

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:48:08 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Oppose

Klayton Kubo

Waimea, Kaua'i

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:22:20 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abraham Antonio sr	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I Abraham Antonio in opposition of this bill for the reason that this is to much of an over reach. The problem should be investigated and discussed with all parties involved not just create laws with no discussion or just with one sided views.

I've been dealing with dogs and hogs for over 30 years please contact me

abrahamantoniosr@yahoo.com

This bill should be deferred

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:13:28 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Lee, Vice Chair Senator Inouye and Members of the Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts, and Chair Senator Gabbard, Vice Chair Senator Richards and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

Please support SB 3043 which, to my understanding: ensures dogs used for hunting are provided with adequate shelter, nutrition and veterinary care; requires establishing rules for humane treatment of feral pigs; and creates an animal cruelty offense for people using dogs to torture wildlife or game mammals.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 6:43:15 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Saron	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB3043

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:12:58 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Chase	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

My name is Brandon Chase, and I am in strong support of SB3043. I come from a family with generations of hunting experience, and I began hunting myself at the age of twelve, alongside my grandfather. I want to be very clear: this bill is not intended to take away hunting, prohibit hunting with dogs, and is not a gateway to further restrictions on lawful hunting practices.

I'm reaching out because Hawai'i needs clear, enforceable standards for wild pig hunting.

The debate surrounding wild pig management in Hawai'i is contentious, with wild pigs seen as both an invasive species causing significant environmental damage and a part of Hawai'i's cultural fabric. However, the overpopulation of feral pigs has led to unacceptable hunting practices that are either condoned or ignored, ultimately worsening the problem they seek to solve. In practice, enforcement encounters conduct that clearly crosses the line into abuse, yet existing law does not define standards specific to dog-assisted pig hunting or provide authority to act consistently. This lack of definition leaves the most extreme behavior unchecked.

The use of dogs in wild pig hunting has led to overcrowding in local animal shelters and widespread abuse of animals. An employee at KHS has stated that the Kaua'i Humane Society has recently reverted to being a kill shelter due to the influx of hunting dogs. Torturing wild pigs and conditioning dogs to attack them, under the guise of hunting, has become a major problem in Hawai'i. There are hundreds of videos of these "hunters" engaging in this illegal and disturbing behavior on social media. A typical video shows a wild pig that has been taken captive being restrained by a human—usually by tying its back legs—while dogs take turns mutilating it.

There are other common practices that have been observed, including the capture of male pigs solely to castrate them and then release them while still bleeding—often leading to infection, excruciating pain, suffering, and a slow death. The dogs are often deprived of much-needed veterinary care, starved for days before a hunt, and abandoned in the backcountry when they are weak, seriously injured, or lacking in hunting ability.

While I am a strong advocate for responsible hunting and understand the necessity of controlling feral pig populations and maintaining local traditions, the methods employed today are often illegal and unethical. These include documented incidents of dogs torturing pigs for extended periods while individuals stand by, cheering, and failing to intervene to stop the suffering. It is essential to implement standards for wild pig management to mitigate animal cruelty. This proposal seeks to address these concerns and is informed by research and discussions with

members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), veterinarians, local animal shelters, sanctuary founders, and hunters themselves. This bill reflects several years of careful work and an in-depth understanding of the issue

Many will try to justify this behavior by claiming it is simply hunting—something beyond our control. However, hunting must adhere to strict ethical standards. It is never acceptable to inflict unnecessary suffering on animals, and any act of cruelty, no matter the label, is unacceptable. Legislation must clearly define what is permissible in hunting and ensure that all practices are humane, responsible, and respectful of animal welfare.

SB3043 focuses on basic, common-sense measures that close known gaps without creating new programs, new enforcement bodies, or new funding requirements. These include the use of tracking collars to prevent dogs from being lost or abandoned, reasonable minimum and maximum pack sizes to reduce chaos and injury, and clarification of humane dispatch standards that should already be expected in the field.

The bill also addresses a clear and documented education gap. Hawai'i's hunter education course currently contains zero on dog-assisted pig hunting, humane dispatch, applicable animal cruelty laws, or the responsibilities specific to managing hunting dogs. Updating existing course content is not an expansion of government — it is the correction of a complete omission.

I also suggest posting basic signage at commonly used hunting access points provides notice to individuals who may be hunting without having completed a hunter education course or who are otherwise unaware of their legal and ethical obligations. This ensures that no one can reasonably claim ignorance regarding the treatment of hunting dogs or pigs.

Importantly, SB3043 does not assume bad faith. For example, if a hunter lacks a GPS tracking collar due to cost, an education-first approach — such as a warning for an initial violation — may be appropriate, with enforcement escalating only if noncompliance continues. The intent is prevention and accountability, not punishment.

Finally, the bill recognizes a growing reality: extreme conduct is increasingly documented and shared publicly. When social media posts depict clear acts of animal cruelty, enforcement agencies must have unambiguous authority to act. SB3043 ensures that such documented conduct is not dismissed due to gaps or ambiguity in existing law.

Taken together, these provisions represent basic necessities — not new mandates. They rely on existing infrastructure, existing enforcement authority, and standards that responsible hunters already follow. SB3043 simply makes those expectations clear, consistent, and enforceable statewide.

When discussing SB3043 with local pig hunters, I have consistently heard two things at once: strong support for the bill as it is written, and concern about what it could become if substantially amended later in the process. Several hunters have explicitly said they support and appreciate this bill in its current form. Their hesitation to publicly support it is driven not by disagreement with these standards, but by fear that future changes could be used to restrict or eliminate lawful

hunting altogether. Even so, these same hunters acknowledge that the problems addressed by SB3043 are real, ongoing, and damaging, and that the bill, as written, is necessary.

Mahalo for your time

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:03:53 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicolai Barca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a hunter, and someone who grew up dog-and-knife hunting in Hawaii, I am not opposed to SB3043, per se, but I would hope that this be more hunter-driven. Certain language used in the bill was a little off-putting to myself and I'm sure many other hunters as well.

As a hunter, I don't like the language that our dogs are "...abandoned in remote areas when injured or deemed no longer useful for hunting." This reeks of stereotypical views on hunters and I personally found it very off-putting, even in the context that was given ("Reports..."). It's wording like that which will cause many hunters to walk away from the table, and why I checked the "oppose" box. I recognize that abandoning of dogs is a major and serious issue, but I personally would like to see language which gets at the true reasons and motivations for dogs being lost or left or abandoned. My recommendation: change "*abandoned in remote areas when injured or deemed no longer useful to hunting*" to simply "*abandoned when deemed not useful for hunting*". I think that more accurately reflects the true reality of why dogs are abandoned and it is definitely NOT in remote areas. I think we can all agree that abandonment of dogs is bad and we can then address the true motivations for dog abandonment. But we are NOT purposefully abandoning injured dogs or in remote areas! Non-hunters regularly confuse *lost* hunting dogs with *abandoned* dogs.

Regarding catch and release: this would make illegal the practice of "lauhole" (catch and release after castration). This is a HI hunting tradition used to fatten pigs so they can be better eating when caught again later. It is mostly done on private lands and I suspect DLNR will not legally allow catch and release anyway. This more often occurs on private land where they don't have jurisdiction, rather than in the commons hunting area where someone else may catch your lauhole pig.

Some of the language almost sounds as though they are trying to ban running packs of grabber dogs and want there instead to be "bay" dogs and perhaps a single "catch dog", such as you see popular in parts of the US. However, one must understand the impracticality of this in most of Hawaii's dense forests where pigs will simply keep running, rather than stop and "bay up", especially where hunting pressure is higher. Pigs will not readily bay up in these forests where hunting pressure is high, such as here on windward Kauai. Instead, they learn that the way to survive is to just run and run and get away. Grabbers are needed to slow them down enough to allow the rest of the pack to arrive and hold them for a hunter. Remember, visibility is often measure in several feet. These can be extremely dense forests.

I myself hunt with a single bay dog and avoid hunting in these dense wet forests after several very unsafe encounters where it is difficult to see the pig, even 10 ft away, but the pig can see you!!! Packs of grabber dogs are the most practical way to hunt many of these areas while being both safe to hunters and dogs and while being effective. And the effectiveness is needed or else pig numbers will tick upwards (as we see in many areas where dog hunter access has already been curbed).

GPS tracking collars are great, but mandating every dog has one, including those which stay at your feet, could seem ridiculous and may pose a barrier-to-entry for young hunters who are just getting into pig hunting. A GPS cost \$500 and each collar \$250 and they last only about 4 years before you have to buy more. This isn't a lot of money for some people, but let's be honest here (and fair); pig hunting is disproportionately done by those who face a lower economic standing. That can be a lot of money. Any rules regarding tracking collars should be made by that hunting community.

Any limit on pack size would merely be a compromise with the animal welfare advocates. But non-hunters should know: we like to say that 5 grabber dogs is the bare minimum to safely hold a big boar. Serious boar hunters may want 8 dogs to safely hold boars if they are encountering them on a more regular basis. Otherwise, they may have more dog injuries. You may see hunters running more dogs from time to time, especially if bringing young pups being trained, but in my experience, more dogs doesn't work as well anyway. There is a naturally ideal pack size.

I support language and rules regarding ethical dispatch. We all know there is wayyy too much videos of hunters standing around filming their dogs maul a pig without intervening. This has become a social media phenomenon and even most hunters disapprove and recognize that it looks bad. Such rules have been a long time coming.

I recognize that there are an unusually high number of bad apples within the Hawaii pig hunting community, and perhaps a bill such as this has been a long time coming. But again, I would hope that this sort of thing be hunter-driven so that rules realistically reflect what is beneficial to the pig hunting community as well as the greater society at large.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Nicolai Barca

Kapa'a, Kauai

Kauai Representative on the State's Game Management Advisory Commission (GMAC)

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:16:24 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lura Danease Beck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members,

To begin, I would like to say Mahalo--and express my deepest gratitude for holding this hearing on SB3043 and for giving thorough attention to this bill.

I am writing today to express my full and unequivocal support.

The challenges associated with hunting dogs in Hawai‘i are well known, and currently, there are no established standards for hunting pigs with dogs. It is unfortunate the dogs cannot advocate for themselves, and it is OUR responsibility to be their voice.

I strongly recommend that requirements for cut collars and swift, humane dispatch be clearly defined and mandated. It's surprising that, given the prevalence of dog hunting, Hunter Education does not include guidance on proper dog care nor pig dispatch.

At a minimum, if any part of this bill is enacted, it is imperative to implement proper Hunter Education which would address most of these issues.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Lura Danease Beck

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:01:37 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taurie Kinoshita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB3043.

Animals and people have been attacked, badly wounded and even killed by hunting dogs trained to tear apart prey. Hunting dogs trained to attack wild animals such as pigs are also at risk of injury, death, and being left to die of their wounds. The Department of Land and Natural Resources must adopt rules regarding safe and humane hunting practices of feral pigs and hunting dog welfare standards, and establish requirements for the hunter education program instruction. Animals must not be allowed to torture other animals.

Please pass this important bill!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:13:38 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As stated in the bill, "...cruel or inhumane practices are neither culturally justified nor environmentally necessary." This is so true. Please pass this bill to reduce the suffering of both feral pigs and hunting dogs.

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:28:44 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilani Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and members,

I am writing in support of SB3043. Standards on pig hunting with dogs are lacking. I believe gps collars and dog maximums per hunt are no brainers. Hunting with excessive amounts of dogs is inefficient as the dogs tend to lose pack mentality and easily become stray. It also becomes unfair to game - 15 dogs on a single pig is inherently cruel and even makes it more difficult for the hunter to reach the pig for a clean, effective dispatch.

I recommend passing this bill without amendments.

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 1:28:41 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christian Huihui	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

We as traditional hunters of Hawaii oppose S.B 3043, for the Bill is factually incorrect. Don't restrict the traditional hunters that dog hunt subsistence lifestyles respectfully and safely. Non-hunters that approve this bill only understand what they've seen on social media, painting a false narrative on real hunters that respect all life. S.B 3043 should be opposed, for our right, and freedom as a country.

Sincerely,

THE REAL HUNTERS OF HAWAII.

LATE

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:46:26 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ginny tiu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm in strong support of SB3043. It is so not pono to allow any living creature who feels pain the way we do, to be subjected to such cruel and inhumane acts of torture. If we don't think it's right to torture even known criminals, how can we justify torturing innocent animals who are alive only because they were created? Just because we can do something doesn't mean we may or we should. PLEASE, let's use the heart and conscience God gave us, to do the right and humane thing.

Mahalo nui loa,

Ginny Tiu

LATE

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:52:16 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kinsley McEachern	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Committee,

I am writing in support of **SB3043** which requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to adopt rules regarding safe and humane hunting practices of feral pigs and hunting dog welfare standards; establishes requirements for the hunter education program instruction; includes the use of dogs to torture wildlife or game mammals as torture in the second degree.

This measure is long overdue and has my strong support. Animals and people have been attacked, badly wounded and even killed by hunting dogs trained to tear apart prey. Hunting dogs trained to attack wild animals such as pigs are also at risk of injury, death, and being left to die of their wounds. Living on Hawai'i island for over two years I witnessed the toll of dangerous dog attacks on the community and the impacts of hunting dogs abandoned, dumped, or forgotten, left to die or bleed out from their hunting injuries or starve to death in the forest. I followed many groups of people who tried to help rescue abandoned, hurt, or lost hunting dogs and even helped myself. Hawai'i is behind many states in animal protection laws and defense of animals against cruelty and neglect and I urge the committee to take responsibility in the necessary advocacy, and push forward this long over due bill to help enhance protections for dogs throughout the state of Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kinsley McEachern

LATE

SB-3043

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 9:01:08 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suyin Freiberg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This measure is long overdue and has my strong support. Animals and people have been attacked, badly wounded and even killed by hunting dogs trained to tear apart prey. Hunting dogs trained to attack wild animals such as pigs are also at risk of injury, death, and being left to die of their wounds.