

HFC Committee

From: faith@planetserver.com
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 9:23 AM
To: HFC Committee
Subject: Fwd: Testimony HFC-24 Relating to Axis Deer

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Aloha Office of Councilmember Hokama,

Would you be so kind as to please reply that this email was successfully received.

Mahalo, Faith Chase

----- Original Message -----

Subject:Testimony HFC-24 Relating to Axis Deer
Date:2020-03-10 17:34
From:faith@planetserver.com
To:HFC.committee@mauicounty.us
Cc:shane.sinenci@mauicounty.us

Faith Chase
faith@planetserver.com

March 10, 2020

Aloha Chair Hokama and Healthy Families & Communities Committee,

I am testifying on item wherein Axis Deer Management is topic of discussion today under HFC-24, 20-140 (previously identified as PAF 20-064).

I would like to include in my testimony, three testimonies from the Economic, Budget & Finance Committee meeting on January 23rd of this year. I have copies today for the chair and clerk. I will email the link to these pages for the committee of the whole.

[•Additional email insert: Link to testimonies presented: <https://www.mauicounty.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/27081> Please refer to pages 11-21.]

In 2014, I was asked by Kaupo Ranch to work on the Maui County Venison to Market Feasibility Study. I have qualified comments to make today.

Within that study Jake Muise and I were scheduled to co-teach a class on the by-products of axis deer. I, as the Waste Stream Specialist concentrating on compost, and he concentrating on the market aspects of

axis deer by-products. During this time, it was made clear to Jake Muise that Maui County could not operate the way Molokai was with their 30-40 new moon harvests because we do not have a Large Animal Mortality Composting (LAMC) facility.

It is noteworthy to mention that in addition to a respectively incomplete Feasibility study, a \$62k grant and an organized Axis Deer Working Group, that had conflict of personalities served little to solutions due to what is described as, "personnel changes".

I mention this merely to exhibit that this issue has has inadequate attention since 2014.

Several things transpired that have made this axis deer issue difficult to navigate.

Somewhere between the study and Jake Muise fulfilling grant paid helicopter axis deer counts, he backed out of the teaching component for the Venison to Market Feasibility Study. His reasoning was that he had to advantage a money making opportunity on Hawai'i island. My opinion is that he, himself, saw the wide feasibility of profit and took the numbers he was hired to collect and diverted work towards self-profiting mechanisms. Completely contrary to the goals of the community serving grant.

I strongly feel that the approach Jake Muise takes with ungulate management is an ill mannered approach. He didn't approach the community in a thorough or sensitive manner. He didn't respect or listen to the advise of local expertise. His involvement on Maui has absolutely ripped the Kahikinui Community in half, and if anyone needs further info, you can see the Star – Advertiser article that published on Dec. 1, 2019.

[•Additional email insert: Link to article here: <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2019/12/01/hawaii-news/off-the-grid-maui-homestead-marred-by-conflict/>]

In light of the extensive carcass dumping by KIA LLC, a Maui game & land management organization is in the process of formation. Preliminary discussions within this new organization was initiated by the consistent reports of carcass dumpings. Road-side, private ranches, and on hawaiian homesteads. There has been wreckless commercial scale carcass dumping found island-wide that have been confirmed to have been the activity of KIA LLC.

If you need an example of a successful local hunting and management program you must confer with Kahikinui Game & Land Management 'Ohana (KGLMO) as their 25 year non profit is a national model with a perfect safety record.

Might I note here that **no where** in the recent approaches to ungulate management in the southeast region did Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and its subsequent enforcement unit, Division Of Conservation And Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) , Leeward Watershed Partnership OR KIA Hawaii LLC confirm game counts with the long standing organization, Kahikinui Game & Land Management 'Ohana (KGLMO). They have immaculate records of game counts dating back to 1996.

[•Additional email insert: Kahikinui Game & Land Management 'Ohana (KGLMO) Point Of Contact: Kawika Davidson, KGLMO President (808) 269-0699]

I echo the comments of the other testifier and agree that no one group can do it alone, it deserves multiple levels of involvement and other industries are due fair play to axis deer markets, not one entity.

I look forward to a full panel with area and subject experts in this committee as this axis deer management plan develops.

My recommendation is that there should be an absolute halt to any funds going to KIA LLC until a full audit and profit analysis commences. And anything that has to do with axis deer, a subsistence resource, should have full community consensus island wide.

Thank you for listening to my testimony on this important subject matter today.

Sincerely, Faith Chase

cc: Referring Environmental, Agricultural & Cultural Preservation Committee Chair, Shane Sinenci