

IT Committee

From: Fretz, Scott <scott.fretz@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 21, 2022 10:46 AM
To: IT Committee
Cc: DeSilva, Lance K; Medeiros, John S; Bagshaw, Jeff W
Subject: Re: Feral Animal Management on Maui (IT-52)
Attachments: HB1721_HD1_TESTIMONY_AEN-WTL_03-16-22_.PDF

You don't often get email from scott.fretz@hawaii.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Chair Sugimura:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the department's position on HB 1721 HD1 and request for comments on development of an axis deer management plan. I've attached the department's testimony in support of the bill, which did not pass in the last session. However, the Division of Forestry and Wildlife's Maui Branch is working with your Maui Axis Deer Task Force and other partners to implement the intent of the bill and we report the following progress:

- The Division with agency and landowner partners (including the county) continues to maintain deer control in more than 110,000 acres of critical watershed lands using ungulate-proof fencing and control.
- The central Maui deer surveys commissioned by the County have yielded very useful information to support planning for control efforts.
- With \$2.8M in funds received from the legislature in the 2021 session, the Division is assisting in the construction of deer-proof fencing for the Kula Ag Park and adjacent lands.
- The Division has executed a contract with Teya Penniman to develop a spatially explicit, population-based action plan for deer management consistent with the intent of HB 1721 HD1.
- The Division received \$1.2M in additional funding and support from the legislature in the last session to assist to implement the action plan, improve our capacity to assist partners, and assist the task force with the deer control efforts on Maui.
- We are testing new trap designs that are expected to be effective in increasing the numbers of deer that can be controlled on private lands.
- We are working on establishing agreements with landowners to open new areas for managed public hunting.

Our recommendation is that the state and county continue their support for the actions above as well those recommended by the task force. Finally, we would like to note that while effective control of axis deer at the landscape-scale on Maui will be extremely challenging due to the large population, high rate of reproduction, and large number of different private lands affected, we are cautiously optimistic that the combination of new tools and methods, state, county, and stakeholder support, and a viable spatial planning framework will be effective in reducing the deer population over the next 1-2 years.

Thank you for your inquiry. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional information.

Scott

J. Scott Fretz, PhD
Maui Branch Manager
Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
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email: Scott.Fretz@hawaii.gov

From: IT Committee <IT.Committee@mauicounty.us>
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2022 1:13 PM
To: Fretz, Scott <scott.fretz@hawaii.gov>
Cc: IT Committee <IT.Committee@mauicounty.us>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feral Animal Management on Maui (IT-52)

Aloha Dr. Fretz,

Please see attached correspondence from Infrastructure and Transportation (IT) Committee Chair Sugimura, dated 07/01/2022, relating to the above subject.

Mahalo,
IT Committee Staff

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND
AND
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**MARCH 16, 2022
1:00 P.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1721 HD1
RELATING TO FERAL ANIMAL MANAGEMENT**

Chairpersons Gabbard, Inouye and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1721, HD1 regarding feral animal management. This measure requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and Department of Agriculture (DOA) to collaborate on feral animal management. The DOA appreciates the intent of the measure to manage feral animals and offers the following comments.

The DOA is able to provide agriculture related data and information consultation to DLNR but is challenged with its limited resources. In addition, authority for ante and postmortem inspection involves several agencies.

DOA would like to note that the Hawaii Department of Agriculture relinquished its state meat inspection program in the mid-1990s and the USDA-Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) was required to take it over. Today USDA-FSIS provides meat inspection service statewide in Hawaii. Exotic meat such as venison, is not under routine meat inspection like beef, but is under voluntary meat inspection



through FSIS that requires different scheduling with FSIS for ante and postmortem inspections.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Hawaii State Aha Moku
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of
Hawaii State Aha Moku

Before the Senate Committees on
Water and Land
Agriculture and Environment

Wednesday, March 16, 2022
1:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

**In SUPPORT of
House Bill 1721 HD 1
Relating to Feral Animal Management**

House Bill 1721 HD 1 requires the department of land and natural resources and department of agriculture to collaborate on feral animal management. It appropriates funds.

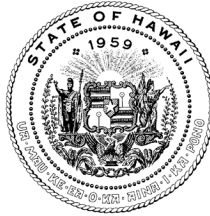
It is an ever-increasing problem of feral animals to the ecosystems and environments of the main Hawaiian Islands. All these feral animals were introduced to Hawaii and none of them have natural predators to keep the balance in nature. Of all the feral animals that need to be managed, the wild pigs on Hawaii Island are also a strong source of food for native Hawaiians, and a reverence towards them as told in legends, mo'olelo, family histories and religious practices. On Moku O Keawe, it is practical and important that any process of feral animal management that is focused on the wild pig, or *pua'a* is also brought to the Hawaiian communities for discussion and cooperation. Many are hunters and have opinions on how the *pua'a* could be managed better.

House Bill 1721 HD1 provides the means for DLNR-DOFAW to continue to address this expanding problem and hopefully with the cooperation of the native Hawaiian, and other cultural groups who also hunt the feral pig for subsistence..

We **SUPPORT** the passage of House Bill 1721 HD1 and ask that this measure be adopted, hopefully with a way that communities who hunt the pig on Moku O Keawe can be consulted. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Leimana DaMate, Luna Alaka'i/Executive Director
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on
WATER AND LAND
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, March 16, 2022
1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229, Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1721, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO FERAL ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

House Bill 1721, House Draft 1 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) and Department of Agriculture to collaborate on feral animal management. **The Department supports this measure.**

One of the Department's top priority issues is reducing feral animal impacts in natural areas and finding ways to expand opportunities to harvest these animals. Various management strategies are apparent from the findings of population studies of Hawaii's feral mammals. The most important is that fencing has proven successful and is currently the most cost-effective long-term option for protecting landscapes from feral animals. Hawaii Volcanoes National Park removed goats (at a rate of up to 5,000/year) for a half-century without any reduction in the overall goat population. After building fences, the park eliminated its goat population within a decade.¹

Another strategy is to increase hunting and harvest opportunities, as hunters are valuable conservation partners. While the Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) manages approximately a quarter of Hawaii's land area (over 900,000 acres) as public hunting lands, access to these lands can be a limitation. Oftentimes, these public hunting lands are located *mauka* of privately-owned residential areas. DOFAW needs additional capacity to counter the

¹ Hawaii Conservation Alliance. 2005. Controlling Ungulate Populations in Native Ecosystems in Hawaii. <https://www.hawaiiconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/ungulates-1.pdf>. Adapted from Reeser, Donald W., 1993. Establishment of the resources management division, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Pages 431-436, Proceedings of Seventh Conference on Research and Resource Management in Parks and on Public Lands, George Wright Society

statewide trend of lands being sold and public access blocked off. The Game Management Advisory Commission (GMAC) recommends priority areas to establish or restore access to land-locked areas, and there are tools available to implement these goals. DOFAW has negotiated with private landowners to provide public access through private lands, established Cooperative Game Management Areas to create public hunting on private lands, and purchased lands outright to provide hunting areas for the public.

In the past fifteen years, more than 17,000 acres of new hunting land have been added to DOFAW's managed lands and an additional 28,000 acres are in the process of being added to serve the approximately 11,500 licensed hunters in Hawaii. However, DOFAW is severely limited in the capacity to pursue these opportunities or maintain the roads and trails and legal agreements. For example, the recurring general funds provided to LNR 804 (Forest and Outdoor Recreation) do not fully cover payroll costs and provide only meager operational funds for the program.

The Department recommends that funding be provided for the implementation of existing management plans that target feral animal management. This includes the following requests in the Executive budget:

- Operating: Add funds for LNR 804 personnel budget shortfall (\$300,000, A), LNR 804 operating funds (\$400,000, A, and other requests of LNR 804) which will assist with hunter access projects such as road and trail maintenance.
- Restore the requested positions in LNR 172, 407, 402, and 804. Many of these positions directly plan and implement hoofed animal control and management, improve hunter access, and provide the administrative support for these efforts.
- CIP: LNR 407: Add \$4,000,000 for Watershed Protection and Initiatives, Statewide to build long-term fences that protect forests from hoofed animals.

The position proposed could pursue opportunities for additional hunting access. This staff would assist the process authorized by Act 49, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, for adaptive natural resource management to allow more flexible changes to hunting rules and pursue grant opportunities for land and easement acquisitions. The staff would also help implement the existing plans for improved feral animal management and consult with the GMAC and other hunters to prioritize projects. The Department notes that these projects are ongoing, and a commitment of recurring funding is necessary to achieve these goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HB-1721-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 10:20:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Yuen	Testifying for DLNR	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am available for questions to DLNR. Please allow me Zoom access.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT AND WATER & LAND
Wednesday, March 16, 2022 — 1:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports the intent of HB 1721 HD 1, Relating to Feral Animal Management.

Dear Chair Gabbard, Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food; renewable energy and clean transportation; and better management of freshwater and waste.

Ulupono supports the intent of HB 1721 HD 1, which requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Department of Agriculture to collaborate on feral animal management.

Ulupono supports increased control of feral animals for agriculturalists across the State. Feral ungulates, such as pigs and axis deer, pose one of the biggest, unchecked threats to local agriculture. While there may be solutions such as fencing, feral animals have the ability to infiltrate or traverse fence lines, trample healthy soils, and demolish fresh crops. Ulupono believes that a strategic plan and a report to the legislature is important in order for the State to show its support to addressing feral animal management, particularly as it affects local agricultural production. The projects mentioned in the House Draft 1 should be included within a strategic direction from both departments to address a problem that extends to both natural resources and agriculture. Therefore, Ulupono supports the original draft to require a plan and a report to the 2023 State Legislature and asks this committee to consider these amendments.

At the end of 2021, Ulupono reached out to various partners including federal and state agencies, agricultural organizations, and active local producers to determine which Federal programs are beneficial to local producers and how we can capitalize advocacy for the 2023 Farm Bill. In these conversations, we learned about several producer needs that are not being addressed, mostly due to lack of funding or burdensome eligibility requirements. One of the most mentioned concerns from producers was the ability to obtain resources to effectively control feral ungulates. This bill, specifically the portions of the measure that identify the need to protect agricultural viability, provides help to local farmers and ranchers by establishing a management plan to determine solutions for much needed feral animal control.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 16, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON HB 1721, HD1
RELATING TO FERAL ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice-Chairs Nishihara and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 1721, HD1, which requires the DLNR and HDOA to collaborate on feral animal management.

Across the State, various invasive species are creating havoc in agriculture as well as the ecosystems in which they exist. Maui County's axis deer population is a good example of nature getting out of control with populations exploding due to abundant forage following rainfall events. They continue to destroy crops and pasture lands by devouring any living vegetation as they continue to spread. Feral pigs damage crops by consuming them or by their rooting and trampling of crops. They will eat almost any crop. Feral pigs damage pasture grasses, killing desired plant species and often encouraging the growth of undesired weed species. They can also devastate orchards by consuming fruit, citrus, and nuts and their rooting can severely damage, or even kill saplings, shrubs, and vines directly or by facilitating the spread of soil-based fungal diseases. Feral pigs can also break irrigation lines, rip or tear nets, drying racks, and other agricultural structures and equipment.

These and other feral populations can pose a danger, especially as populations grow and their health is put into jeopardy due to inadequate food. Diseases that they normally tolerate will become serious debilitating illnesses that could put our domestic livestock

industry in jeopardy. Such fears are not unreasonable, as incidences such as the bovine tuberculosis spread from feral pigs have been documented in Molokai.

Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers are working to provide Hawai'i with an increased level of self-sufficiency, but will not be able to do so if their products are consumed or damaged by feral animals. Axis Deer, feral pigs, rose-ringed parakeets, and other invasive species can cause major damage to property, agriculture (crops and livestock), Hawai'i's native species and ecosystems, and Hawai'i's cultural and historic resources. They can also threaten the health of people, wildlife, pets, and other domestic animals. As Hawai'i's feral animal populations continue to expand, these damages, costs, and risks will only keep rising

Each of Hawai'i's four Counties is being impacted by feral animal damage whether it be, deer in Maui County, pigs on every major island, and various bird species on Oahu and Kauai. Reactive actions by the Counties and the State focus on short-term solutions such as fencing, livestock feed replacement, and other programs. The State needs to develop a long-term management plan, that includes input from stakeholders, to address this ever-growing problem.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.

Dear Chair and members of the committee,

I'm Zhizi Xiong and I'm an animal rescue service provider with my organization, ROAR, Rescue Of Animal Rights located in Kalihi. I support the intent of the bill to create, establish and develop a feral animal management plan. And yet, I'd like to highlight several key points. When it comes to best management practices, exploiting and eradicating feral animals shouldn't be a viable option. Instead, the legislature can implement initiatives and efforts to protect and preserve feral animals and all species of wildlife, because every life matters.

According to the Hawaii Revised Statutes 13-126-3 written for the DLNR, in the chapter about the Designation of Wildlife Sanctuaries, the board may declare and establish wildlife sanctuaries for the conservation, management, and protection of indigenous wildlife and their habitats. The purpose of this chapter is to conserve, manage and protect only the indigenous species. The significance and impact of feral animals and wildlife will only increase as these species continue to populate Hawaii and as research data evidence further develops. It may be ideal to consider designating land to manage all wildlife species in animal sanctuaries. It is necessary to conduct research studies for each animal species instead of just focusing on the overall goal of management. Each animal species contribute uniquely to the environment, in positive and negative ways.

Besides the homeless carcass idea, another idea or strategy can be advised to the legislature in regards to homeless and animal management. Animal sanctuaries can simultaneously be utilized for a dual purpose of being a farm for the homeless. The homeless will have a place to live and they can learn to grow food. Instead of giving them handouts to perpetuate their lifestyle, give them vocational opportunities so that they can elevate their life. Farming does not require a high school degree or much experience. Also, there is a way to create agricultural sustainability and symbiotic agroecological practices with different crops and the feral animals the legislature seeks to manage. There is a way to plant specific crops to work in harmony with wildlife (i.e. The aquaponics system - a sustainable food production system that highlights the natural interaction of bacteria, fish and plants to create sustainability.)

In DOA's testimony, they write, "DOA is able to provide agriculture related data, information consultation to DLNR but is challenged with its limited resources for other activities needed to accomplish the goals set forth in this measure." They go on to say, the activities contemplated in the measure require participation by other agencies, at the federal and county level and it also requires working with private entities. It can be concluded that the responsibilities proposed in the measure are vast and will require a collaborative effort. It may be in the fiscal interest of the legislature to consider creating an executive-level department dedicated to the mission of animal management and implementing the wildlife policy goals enacted by the legislature. Instead of these functions being dispersed among different departments having differing missions, it may be more efficient and effective to create an executive-level department to integrate all the work under one administrative umbrella. Then the duties and responsibilities can be allocated amongst the principal departments (i.e. DOA, DLNR, the Hawaiian Humane Society, Hawaii Invasive Species Council, US Fish & Wildlife Services, USDA, etc).

There currently are not many animal welfare legislations at the state level compared to that at the federal congressional level. As advancement is made at the State Capitol in regards to animal management and as scientific research and data about each unique species develop, it will be inevitable to see more policies pertaining to wildlife management, animal rights, animal cruelty and animal welfare. I look forward to the progress the legislature will make. Thank you.

Sincerely, ROAR | Rescue Of Animal Rights

HB-1721-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2022 7:45:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support

HB-1721-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 11:01:36 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1721 as a minimum measure to address control of feral animals which are having a devastating impact on our native wildlife and natural habitats. However, I would encourage that section (b)(1)D be stricken. While utilizing carcasses to feed the hungry is a noble goal, it is not economically or practically feasible given the restrictions imposed by Hawaii's health laws. This section cripples the intent of HB1721 and ignores the simple reality that nutrients extracted from a landscape by feral animals can only be returned to that landscape by leaving their carcasses in place to participate in the natural cycling of nitrogen and other nutrients essential for plant growth.



COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

HB1721 HD1
Relating to Feral Animal Management

Wednesday, March 16, 2022, 1:00 PM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Nishihara, and Members of the Committees,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB1721 HD1 with comments** to require the department of land and natural resources and department of agriculture to collaborate on the development of a feral animal management plan. Collaboration is needed between departments, and a plan is necessary to ensure a path forward is set to achieve the goals stated. We respectfully ask that the formulation of a plan is still included in further drafts.

Unmanaged ungulates are detrimental to the goals of conservation and agriculture alike. A concerted effort is needed for the State to assess the issue and take action. While ranchers have been addressing unmanaged ungulates using traps, managed hunting, and fences, a statewide plan is needed to coordinate the removal of feral animals. Feral animals denude the land, cause economic hardship for agricultural entities, and disrupt sound grazing plans which are meant to improve soil health, maintain watershed function and protect ecosystem function.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director





MAUI COUNTY FARM BUREAU

PO Box 148, Kula, HI 96790
mauicountyfarmbureau.org

March 16, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND AND THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 1721 HD1 RELATING TO FERAL ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Room 229 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Nishihara, and Members of the Committees:

I am Warren Watanabe, Executive Director of the Maui County Farm Bureau. MCFB strongly supports HB1721 seeking to develop long term solutions to achieve a balanced population of Hawaii's feral animal populations.

Farmers have lost crops and livestock forage due to axis deer. Droughts have exacerbated the problem as overpopulated deer search for food and water and find farms and pastures as their only option. Fencing and hunting, necessary short term solutions, move the problem to neighbors. There is an urgent need for regional solutions. We respect the cultural concerns of the Hawaiian community and desire for feral animals as a source of food for subsistence purposes. We also recognize the desire for hunting as many of our members are also hunters.

We believe the desires of everyone and protection of our environment and agriculture can be achieved with dialogue resulting in a comprehensive plan. We need to identify resources for sustainable management.

We respectfully request passage of HB1721 and continued dialogue to facilitate the development of a sustainable long term solution. Housing, education, infrastructure, and sea level rise are only a few of the demands of State and county resources. We need to develop a community based solution that addresses the issue without annual requests to the legislature. Such actions tend to be reactive and we need proactive solutions to prevent the damage.

We humbly request your support in passage of HB1721 with amendments to restore the original intent for a comprehensive action plan. Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.



HAWAI'I FOREST INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)

P. O. Box 66 ❖ 'O'ōkala,

HI 96774 Phone:

808-933-9411

Email:

hfia@hawaiiiforest.org

Website:

www.hawaiiiforest.org

Date: 3/14/22

To: WTL Chair Lorraine R. Inouye, WTL Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, AEN Chair Mike Gabbard, AEN Vice Chair Clarence K. Nishihara, WTL committee members Bennette E. Misalucha, Gil Riviere, Kurt Fevella, and AEN Committee members Laura Acasio, Karl Rhoads and Kurt Fevella

From: Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA)

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB1721 HD1

Dear Hawaii Legislators,

On behalf of the Directors of the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA), this testimony is in support of HB1721 HD1.

HFIA is a statewide non profit organization with a longstanding mission of Healthy and Productive Forests. Ever increasingly we are seeing threats to the health of our native forests due to overpopulation of feral animals. Especially problematic for HFIA are feral ungulates, which have negative impacts on our native dryland forest restoration sites on the West side of Hawai'i Island, including La'i'Ōpua Dryland Preserve and Ka'ūpūlehu Dryland Forest. We believe it is necessary and beneficial for the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture to collaborate on addressing feral animal management and to appoint an expert in feral animal management, specific to Hawaii, to direct future feral animal management programs.

While addressing this issue we must be sure to incorporate hunting opportunities for Hawaii residents. Many of these feral animals are on Conservation R lands, which are to provide resources for the people of Hawaii. We must make these animal resources accessible to the public and encourage residents to partake in caring for their lands and resources via hunting.

Finally, feral animal management will not be an easy or financially cheap feat. DLNR and DOA must be adequately funded for the long term in order to address the issue at hand.

We hope that you will support HB1721 HD1.

Mahalo,

Peter Simmons
Peter Simmons

Hawai'i Forest Industry Association

Established in 1989, HFIA's is a nonprofit organization founded by people committed to sustainable forest management. HFIA's mission is to promote healthy and productive forests and a sustainable forest industry through management, education, planning, information exchange, and advocacy. HFIA has over 100 members including woodworkers, landowners, sawyers, foundations, foresters, growers, educators, environmentalists, architects, millers, ranchers, and others interested in HFIA's mission and goals.

HFIA Board of Directors

Officers: President Don Bryan, Vice-President Guy Cellier, Secretary Peter D. Simmons, Treasurer Wade Lee
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HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND AND
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1721, H.D. 1

March 16, 2022
1:00 p.m.
Room 229 and Videoconference

RELATING TO FERAL ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1721, H.D. 1, requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and the Department of Agriculture to collaborate on feral animal management projects to manage feral animal populations and mitigate their impact on native habitats, indigenous species, agriculture, and communities; and appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 23 to be expended by DLNR to establish one full-time Natural Resources Management Specialist position related to feral animal management.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall

spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

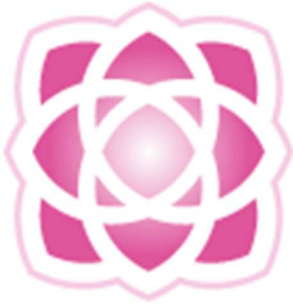
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
WATER AND LAND and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 229
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022 AT 1:00 P.M.

To The Honorable Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
The Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Water and Land
To The Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

SUPPORT HB1721 HD1 RELATING TO FERAL ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

We support and believe that a comprehensive feral animal management plan with proactive long-term and short-term measures is needed to fully address the issues and that they should begin the plan implementation measures to manage the feral animal populations. Therefore, we ask that this section be added back into the bill, as it was in the original text. In addition to supporting DLNR in the creation of this plan, we believe they should work with the Department of Agriculture and with the counties to engage with the community and create partnerships.

In the past, there has been a major focus on fencing as a way to mitigate the issue but fencing only moves herds to new locations and does not actually solve the problem. We believe this needs to be addressed holistically and that Axis Deer, in addition to being a pest, can also be a significant resource for food (with meat sold and donated to feed those in need), along with other products for a variety of markets. Therefore, ***we would like to see DBEDT included in this effort and the plan to include funds for economic development initiatives to help regional manufacturers utilize this resource and create new and expanded products.***

We ask that you pass this bill with our **suggested amendments.**

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

HB-1721-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 3:09:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HB1721.

To protect our environment is to protect our tourism dollars and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, Maui