

GAME MANAGEMNET ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: June 19, 2017
TIME: 9:00 a.m
PLACE: DLNR Board Room 132, Kalanimoku Building, 1151 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu.
PURPOSE: First Game Management Advisory Commission organizational meeting

MINUTES

ITEM 1. Call to order, introductions of members, staff, and visitors; request for move-ups on the agenda.

James Cogswell (Wildlife Program Manager, DOFAW), briefly went through the agenda and summarized what today's meeting would look like (See Agenda). He then called the first GMAC meeting to order and asked if there were any requests of move-ups on the agenda. One person (James Manaku) from the public requested items 7, 8 and 9 to be moved up and switched with 4, 5 and 6. However, Cogswell suggested that it will be important for the commission to select their Chair and hence moving items 7, 8 and 9 to after item 4.

Kekoa Kaluhiwa (Deputy Director DLNR) asked if it would be possible for the Chair of DLNR Ms. Susanne Case to say a few words before starting the meeting. Chair Case thanked the commissioners for being there and for their commitment and service. She announced that her designee for this board is Mr. Kekoa Kaluhiwa (Ex-officio voting member), Ms. Case added that Mr. Kekoa Kaluhiwa has been very passionate about hunting issues and he has been working very hard to preserve hunting opportunities in areas that are at risk, he has been passionate about looking for shooting range opportunities particular in Hawaii Island and Kauai and he has been very involved in the establishment of this commission and he will be a great representative for the department and we are looking forward to working with all of you on hunting matters and thank you for being here and for passion.

The meeting moved on to ITEM 1 with the introductions. The first person to speak was commissioner **Jon Sabati (West- Hawaii district representative)**. Sabati has a background in working on conservation projects through NWTF and in partnership with DOFAW. Sabati discussed what he hopes to accomplish during his term of service on the commission and what issues he believe that the commission should address. Below are some of the points brought up by Sabati:

- Communicating and networking with hunters and community and bridging communicative exchange with DOFAW is one of Sabati's priorities.
- Getting hunters involved and investing in the public interest is critical.
- One of the goals that he has as a commissioner is to work on the game management plan for the big island, that was created many years ago, with DOFAW. Sabati points out that Hawaii is probably the only state that does not have a game management plan and he believes that it is important to address that.
- Sabati mentioned the importance of having a fire management prevention plan in place.

- Sabati also mentioned the importance of working with hunters and having them being involved for instance through a volunteer program where their time may be used as match for federal grants and in return the volunteers get mileage credit for their taxes.
- Since many hunters from other islands also use the hunting unites in West Hawaii these areas should be a state wide concern.

Cogswell reminded everyone that we are on ITEM 1 and that we should keep the introductions short and that when on ITEM 3 the commissioners will have a chance to discuss what they hope to accomplish during their term of service on the commission and what issues they believe that the commission should address.

Josiah Jury, representing the Island of Oahu. He is also assists with the pig hunter association of Oahu and works with watershed partnership. Stan Ruidas (representing the Island of Lanai), Robert Cremer Jr representing the Island of Kauai part of the Hawaii rifle association, Nancy Timko (representing the Island of Oahu) also Safari international Hawaii Chapter president and works with DLNR hunter education program at the youth camp on the big Island, Lori Buchanan (representing the Island of Molokai), Ryan Kohatsu (representing East Hawaii hunting community), Keokoa Kaluhiwa (DLNR representative), Susanne Case (DLNR Chair). Everyone present in the room introduced themselves. There were representatives from DLNR- DOFAW - NARS, Hunter Education, e-Hawaii.gov, pig hunter association and the general public.

ITEM 2. Review background information on the responsibilities of commissioners.

Cogswell points out that this information is available in HB 1041 (Please see for more information Section 183D-4.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes). A copy of the bill was provided to the commissioners and a copy was made available to other attendance. Cogswell, read sections of the Bill that talked about the commissioner’s responsibilities directly from the Bill:

- There is established within the department a game management advisory commission, which shall serve in an advisory capacity to the board.
- The game management advisory commission shall consist of nine members to be appointed by the governor in the manner provided in section 26-34
- The game management advisory commission shall select its own chairperson from among its members. The members shall receive no compensation for their services on the game management advisory commission but shall be entitled to reimbursement
- The game management advisory commission may recommend policies and criteria regarding the management, protection, and promotion of public hunting in Hawaii and may recommend amendments to existing department policies and procedures relating to hunting, particularly regarding this chapter and chapters 122, 123, and 124 of title 13, Hawaii Administrative Rules.

The game management advisory commission shall:

- 1) Consult and advise the board on any matter affecting hunting, including proposed rules and regulations;
- 2) Assist in the evaluation and development of game management plans as appropriate or required and any changes to those plans as necessary;
- 3) Assist in establishing criteria to be used in determining whether an area is suitable for hunting;
- 4) Advise on studies of areas for sustainable yield game production or enhancement;
- 5) Recommend to the board the areas that are suitable for game production or enhancement;
- 6) Recommend policies and criteria regarding the management, protection, and permitted uses of areas that are used for hunting;
- 7) Assist the department in developing ways and means to extend and strengthen game management areas, other designated hunting areas, and mixed-use areas within the State;
- 8) In carrying out its duties, consult the most comprehensive up-to-date compilation of scientific data;
- 9) Make recommendations relating to the process of hunting rules modification;
- 10) Collaborate with agencies and other persons who gather information and implement hunting programs and data;
- 11) Take testimony and acquire information as it desires and communicate its findings and recommendations to the board; and
- 12) Assist the department on policies, plans, and procedures related to the control of game mammals, including aerial shooting activities by the department and its contractors.

Lori Buchanan asked the following question:

Under 12 (e) Any action taken by the game management advisory commission shall be validated by a simple majority of its members. Five members shall constitute a quorum. Can you explain that? James Cogswell replied, "There are 9 members on the commission, therefore the majority would be 5 members".

A member from the public (James Manaku) made the comment that 5 members might not accurately represent the whole community.

ITEM 3. Each commissioner will have the time (2 - 3 min) to discuss what they hope to accomplish during their term of service on the commission and what issues they believe that the commission should address.

Jon Sabati (West- Hawaii district representative) statement see above under ITEM 1.

Josiah Jury (Oahu representative):

- Accomplish open line of communication between the hunting community and the conservation community.
- The biggest issue on the Island of Oahu is land access. The Island of Oahu has the lowest public hunting area (5% acreage) at the same time 21% of state's licenses came from the island of Oahu last year. In addition, there are lands that are being removed, fenced or are adjacent to fencing. Providing more opportunities for large scale hunting for hunters is also an issue.

- Finding a balance between development on Oahu, private land owners, public hunting areas and ecosystem protection, and the critical habitat is key.
- Hunters can benefit a lot and can help collaborate and work with the state in terms of keeping the number of pigs and goats down on outside of the fenced areas.

Stan Ruidas (Lanai Representative):

- Hunting is important to the state's economy and everyone benefits from it. Ruidas hopes to work on all hunting related issues that come up.

Robert Cremer Jr. (Kauai Representative):

- Hopes to create an open line of communication between the department and the hunting community.
- We need to have a balance and plans to have a sustainable hunting program so we can feed our families. There should be a balance between hunting and conservation.
- We need a game management program.
- We need to work all together collaboratively and there should be a connection between all islands since the hunters hunt not only on the island that they live on.

Nancy Timko (Oahu representative):

- Open line of communication between the department and the hunting community and organizations.
- Engaging the hunters in the departments projects as volunteers.
- Access to public hunting areas is an issue. There are more and more paid private hunts and one of the concerns is that these hunts may overtake access and lands that are available as public hunting area.

Lori Buchanan (Molokai Representative):

- She would like to protect Molokai and their second economy (subsistence economy). People of Molokai use a minimum of 40% of total proteins from wild food sources.
- Food safety is extremely important and maintaining these wild food sources while also maintaining the environment it needs to sustain itself they live in is extremely important.
- She supports other commissioner's goals and objectives and as a commissioner she looks forward to help and support the department, the board, DLNR, the wildlife program in working towards these goals.
- Prioritization of projects is very important. The commissioners need to know what the department is doing and what their goals are and the community needs to convey what is important to them so that they can meet in the middle.
- Recreational hunting and also as a practitioner is critical.

Ryan Kohatsu (East-Hawaii Representative):

- Address hunters concerns and work toward meaningful solutions.
- The main concerns of hunters is the future eradications and fencing of public lands. Simply put, there will be no public hunting if there are no game to hunt on public land. However, he believes that we should not strive to eradicate all game species nor do we

allow game species to perfoliate into the vegetation striping numbers. It's about finding a balance.

- There are many public hunting areas that face the struggle of keeping game species and in these areas, there has not been any progress on how to keep them. He believes that resolving this challenge is his primary action here.
- As commissioner, we are here to assist the Department with moving public hunting program forward. It is DLNR's responsibility to manage public hunting program and it is his responsibility to help DLNR in this mission by managing the community he represents.

Kekoa Kaluhiwa (Ex-officio voting member):

- Hunting has helped him to find the values that he has today. He believes that having an open line of communication is critical between all parties involved.
- He is very process oriented. Our laws do not determine the outcome but they do define the process in any endeavor you go to. This commission will be very helpful in the efforts of DLNR going forward, in supporting public hunting opportunities throughout the state.

David D. Attorney General assigned to the meeting introduces himself (He joined the meeting at 9:20 am)

ITEM 4. Selection of a commission Chair and Vice Chair from the appointed members.

Cogswell asked for nomination of a Chair for the commission, then handed out a secret ballot where each commissioner could write the name of the person that they chose as a Chair and the secret ballots were tallied up by Shaya Honarvar (Game Program Coordinator – DOFAW). A nominee has to get at least 5 votes to be chosen as the Chair. This process was then repeated for selecting a Vice Chair.

Chair position nominees: Jon Sabati (nominated by Lori Buchanan) and Ryan Kohatsu
Chair position: Jon Sabati with 6 votes.

Lori Buchanan made a motion to accept the nomination of Jon Sabati as the Chair of the GMAC and Robert Cremer second that motion. This was followed by a vote and all commissioners voted in favor.

Vice Chair nominees: Lori Buchanan (Nominated by Ryan Kohatsu) and Josiah Jury (Nominated by Nancy Timko)
Vice Chair position: Lori Buchanan with 5 votes.

Robert Cremer made a motion to accept the nomination of Lori Buchanan as the Vice Chair of the GMAC and Josiah Jury second that motion. This was followed by a vote and all commissioners that voted in favor.

→Vice Chair Lori Buchanan suggested that Item 7 and 9 come before 8, 5 and 6.

ITEM 7. Brief introduction of various Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) programs (Wildlife, Forestry, Native Ecosystem Protection and Management, Na Ala Hele).

James Cogswell talks about the mission of Division of Forestry and Wildlife in general, Which to manage and protect watersheds, native ecosystems and cultural resources and provide outdoor recreation that includes hunting and sustainable forest product opportunities while still facilitating partnerships community involvement and education.

Within DOFAW there are four programs: Wildlife, Forestry, Native Ecosystem Protection and Management, Na Ala Hele trails and access.

Jan Pali (Forestry Watershed Planner) presented about the Forestry Program, some of the highlights of the talk are as follow:

- Developing Management plans for the forest reserve system is a long process. The Management plan for all the forest reserves on Kauai is now completed and they are working on the plan for Maui that would be available for public viewing. Pali asks the commissioners to please encourage their constituents to partake in this process. In the management plans the 8 categories that they focus on are: watershed value, resource protection, native ecosystem, invasive species control, species management, game animal management, access, trails and other recreational uses and also commercial activities.
- They are actively working to gain access to forest reserves that are land locked. This will also increase access for public hunting areas that are within the forest reserves.
- 60% of the forested lands are privately owned. The forestry program provides technical support for private land owners (information/assistance to help them effectively and responsibly manage the forest reserve on their property). They have worked with land owners in the past on allowing hunting on their lands but ultimately, it's the landowners decision.
- State Protection Forester -also under the Forestry Program- manages watershed protection and management section, which includes the fire management program and the Forest Health Program. DOFAW is the primary responder for fires on DOFAW managed lands, which includes game management areas. For the Forster Health Program Ms. Pali talked about Rapid Ohia death.
- Chair Jon Sabati asked Ms. Jan Pali if the commissioners may have a copy of the map used in her presentation showing all DOFAW managed lands. This map has now been distributed to the commissioners. Chair Sabati also asked whether fireweed is a concern, where Ms. Pali responded that it is a known weed and it is managed in many parts of the State. This issue will fall under the Forest Health Program as well.
- Mr. Robert Cremer asked about the accessibility of the Koloa Forest reserve; there is a land division parcel where the agreements for managing the land has recently expired and DOFAW is working on agreements. Ms. Pali suggested that further questions about accessibility of this specific area are best answered by the district biologists.
- Mr. Kekoa Kaluhiwa asked "if there are people who want to pick mangos or bamboo in the forest reserve how do they go about doing that? Do they need a permit or an

application?” Yes, they can get a permit from the district offices. Chair Sabati asked if there were any fees associated with these permits? Personal use permits are for free. However, there are established number of permits that are given out for free depending on the forest product item that you are requesting.

Emma Yuen (Program Manager Native Ecosystem Protection and Management Program) presented about the Native Ecosystem Protection and Management Program, some of the highlights of the talk are as follow:

- The goal is to preserve our native plants and animals, preserve the ecosystem and these incredible places that make Hawaii, Hawaii. Are important for our cultural identity, for our national heritage and for our supply of fresh water.
- National Area Partnership Program: protects resources and areas important to our watersheds on private lands.
- Youth Conservation Program: employs youth interns with paid internships across the state.
- Rare plant Program: protecting rare plants from extinction.
- Hawaii invertebrate program: Protecting rare invertebrates (insects and snails etc...) from extinction.
- Legacy Land Program: This program uses tax revenue from real state to purchase land that may be used for agriculture, conservation, open space for cultural reasons but also for hunting.
- Fencing as management action: Fencing is the only long term and very effective way that we can protect some of these extremely native and intact areas from the damaged caused by hooved animals which are not native to Hawaii. There is a Technical Report available that explains all the different methodologies of controlling hooved animals in sensitive native areas. This technical report was prepared by conservationists, people in welfare groups and hunters during a workshop. One of the recommendations in the technical report is to utilize public hunting as a control method when it is safe and effective to reduce the hooved animal numbers before moving to other lethal methods.
- DOFAW manages about 1,000,000 acres of land of which most of it is open to public hunting (Roughly 1/4 of the State of Hawaii is open to hunting). About 3% of DOFAW’s land is fenced plus 9% fenced Mauna Kea area so 12% of land is fenced. We are proposing another 8% of land to be fenced. These additional 8% is also in remote and hard to access areas.

Questions and comments:

- Josiah Jury asked who the Access and Acquisition coordinator is right now and James Cogswell answered that this position is currently vacant.
- A concern from the public (James Manaku): there are a lot of fences being build but they are not protecting what needs to be protected. Until you remove all the animals in the fence you are not protecting the land within the fenced area. For instance, how are you addressing these other issues such as the rats and the mongoose problems that are causing more harm than the ungulates? Emma Yuen responded that we do a lot of rat control and in general small mammal control in the forest reserves that due to the shortage of time she did not mention it in her presentation. Mr. James Manaku responded in return that he

is worried that there won't be any more ungulates left for the future generation to harvest and utilize as a food source. Chair Sabati thanked Mr. Manaku for his input and suggested that Mr. James Manaku contacts the Oahu commissioner with his concerns so that it can be recorded. Ms. Buchanan gave Mr. Manaku her card and told him that he can contact her as well. Mr. Kaluhiwa made the comment about how Mr. Manaku has been a very active member of his community and thanked him for his presence at the meeting.

Aaron Lowe, Na Ala Hele Trails and Access Program, (Acting Program Manager for the state-wide program) some of the highlights of the talk are as follow:

- “Na Ala Hele” is the State of Hawai‘i Trail and Access Program. It was established in 1988 in response to public concern about the loss of public access to certain trails and the threat to historic trails from development pressure. It was created under HRS Chapter 198D and the administrative rules and laws Title 13, Chapter 130.
- The program’s vision is to develop trails, access networks and management systems that provide a broad range of recreational, cultural, religious and subsistence opportunities for all of Hawaii’s people.
- When anything happens on any trail anywhere in the state of Hawaii, regardless of jurisdiction, we are the called open to respond.
- There are over 2000 miles of trails in Hawaii which might be an underestimation since a lot of trail systems are undocumented. We manage about 126 different trails and roads state wide for public use (about 733 miles), which almost all of it includes use for hunting purposes.
- On every Island, there is a trail Advisory Council. Island Trail and Access Advisory Councils, comprised of trail user groups and constituents, provide a venue for public input on implementing the program. It is important to have a representative from the hunting community present at the Council.
- The program also seeks to create more hunting opportunities especially in areas that there is normally no hunting is allowed. For instance, hunters come in and get an annual permit to access Poamoho and every week if they are planning to go up there they can text us and get the combination of the gate and enter. The other hunt that we have is the Tantalus control hunt, because Tantalus is such a populated and heavily recreational area (the biggest in the state) where we allow hunters to go up there twice a week to hunt ungulates (annual permit is needed).
- Our program also supports the access and acquisition of new areas. However, this position is currently vacant and needs to be filled.
- Looking at new forms of technology to provide more information to hunters. For instance, the use of iSportsman that is currently being used by the army in the PTA.
- Mr. Lowe also handed out a brochure “Hiking Safely with your dog in Hawaii” which contains information and tips to enhance trail enjoyment and safety for you and your pet.

Questions and comments:

- Lori Buchanan points out the importance of access and acquisition to hunting and hopes that the Department can prioritize filling the access and acquisition position and have this person work closely with this commission and other departments.

- Robert Cremer comments that the biggest problem in today's society because of development is accessibility whether it is for fishing, hunting any other types of gathering. We really need to get the Access and Acquisition position filled.
- A concern from the public (James Manaku): If there are ungulates shoot as control measure we would like to have the opportunity to go and pick them up.

James Cogswell (Wildlife Program Manager), Division of Forestry and Wildlife. Some of the highlights of the talk are as follow:

- We have several authorizations authorizing the wildlife program to manage the wildlife. Constitutionally we have Articles 11 and 12 dealing with conservation public land trust statues Chapters 171, 183D, 194, 195D and 197. The wildlife program has two mandates: 1) Conserve Hawaii's native wildlife and 2) preserve, protect and promote public hunting.
- There are different sections under the wildlife: waterbird and seabird section, forest bird section, game section, access and acquisition section, Incidental Take License/Habitat Conservation Plans section and Hawaii Invasive Species Council. On the district level each have their own biologists. At the district level, there are game and non- game projects. Finally, there are many specialized project per district such as the Alala Recovery Project, Keauhou Breeding Project, Mauna Kea Forest Project, Napuu Conservation Project, Maui Seabird Project, Maui Forest bird Project, Maui Kanaio, Olinda Breeding Project, Kawainui/Hamaku, Kure Restoration Project, Kauai Sea bird Project, Kauai Nene HCP, Kauai Forest Bird Project.
- Wildlife program protects game mammals, game birds, hunting rights. In addition to 78 native birds of greatest conservation need (43 are endemic, 37 are federally endangered) and 1 federally listed mammal.
- Game management and hunting Program:
 - Issuing hunting permits, stamps and tags to over 11,000 hunters
 - Establishing hunting rules and regulation
 - Managing Game through:
 - Maintain sustainable hunting program
 - Manage Game Management Areas for sustainability and high-quality hunting
 - Research
 - Ungulate control
 - Maintaining access to and expanding current hunting areas (937k acres)
 - Minimizing and mitigating conflicts between game species and native species
- Conflicting mandate: Legal ramifications related to Game Management. We do have Federal Designated Critical Habitat, presence of Threatened & Endangered Species. We are mandated to Protect native species and there are several Land use designations established by state law that we need to be aware of.
- Federal Endangered Species Act prohibits federal action or use of federal funds for actions that adversely modify Critical Habitat and it requires Section 7 consultation to review actions. Legal avenues that enforce DOFAWs obligations are by keeping critical habitat out of GMAs, do the Section 7 consultation for use federal funds when needed and avoid legal action (law suits filed by NGOs). The potential consequences of non-compliance are loss of federal funds (loss of federal funds to operate the Lana'i GMA),

requirement for HCP (Puu waa waa and Puu Anahulu GMAs) and Court ruling (Palila vs State of Hawaii: court-ordered eradication).

- Funding for game section are primarily federal funds (\$2,758,310 this year) and State funds (\$919,437). The Wildlife Revolving Fund (WRF) where all the fees for licenses and tag fees go to. FY 17 Revenue was \$564,040 and as of 6/18/2017 we have a balance of \$446,172. This fund also pays for 4 personnel.
- Currently the hunting license sales show an increasing trend. The non-resident hunting license sales are increasing over the years as well.

A question from one of the commissioners: Do you think it is feasible to have a long-term hunting license? James Cogswell answered, “We can certainly look into that”.

- The following is WRF allowable expenditures:
 - Development, improvement and management of existing and new public hunting and game management facilities
 - Wildlife habitat improvements
 - Personnel hires for wildlife management and hunter education
 - Wildlife management equipment
 - Development and operation of public shooting ranges in conjunction with the Hunter Education Program.
 - Research, surveys, and inventories
 - Public education on wildlife management
 - Rental of land for public hunting and wildlife management.
 - Law enforcement.
- Non-game program: pre-contact at least 113 endemic species where since human arrival 71 species have been lost of 43 extant endemic taxa, 37 are listed under the ESA. The threats are non-Native (predators, weeds, diseases, insects and ungulates), habitat modifications and climate change. We need sufficient native habitat to maintain these species. We do fencing, ungulate eradication, restoration, weed control. To ensure sufficient populations we have captive breeding programs, we do translocation and site attraction. There is a need for threat reduction where we use predator proof fences, trapping methods and poison application. We also need to think forward in the face of climate change, we do Captive propagation, assisted colonization, Plant high elevation forests, Select for disease resistance, Decouple temperature & disease.
- Habitat Conservation Plans and Safe Harbor Agreements Section: Assisting the BLNR in issuing Incidental Take Licenses, Drafting and reviewing compliance and regulator documents, Drafting, reviewing and monitoring Habitat Conservation Plans and Safe Harbor Agreements. Currently there are 11 Active HCPs and 18 being drafted. We also have 6 Active Safe Harbor agreements (SHAs). They deal a lot with Hawaii Endangered Species law. Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) 195D
“Take” means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect endangered or threatened species of aquatic life or wildlife, or to cut, collect, uproot, destroy, injure, or possess endangered or threatened species of aquatic life or land plants, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. §195D-2
*After consultation with the Endangered Species Recovery Committee, the Board may issue a temporary license as a part of a habitat conservation plan to **allow a take if the***

take is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity... §195D-4(g)

All habitat conservation plans, safe harbor agreements, incidental take licenses, and subsequent actions authorized under those plans, agreements, and licenses shall be designed to result in an overall net gain in the recovery of Hawaii's threatened and endangered species. §195D-30

Habitat Conservation Plan is to avoid take, minimize impact that you cannot avoid, mitigate and monitor. It has to provide a net benefit to the species in order to be considered.

- Other wildlife Program Responsibilities are issuing permits (rehabilitation, research, collection, control, banding, etc.) and advising federal, state, private and public on wildlife issues
- Hawaii Invasive Species Council: Administrative and statutory initiative for prevention and control of invasive species funded at \$2-4M/yr since 2003. This program is inter-departmental (Dept of Land and Natural Resources, Dept of Agriculture, Dept of Transportation, Dept of Health, University of Hawaii, Dept of Economic Development). Examples of FY17 funded projects are Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle response, Outreach regarding rat lungworm disease, Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD) aerial surveys, Hawaii-Pacific Weed Risk Assessment (HPWRA), Support for UH Invasive Species Committees (on-the-ground response teams), New online pest reporting system (643pest.org), Biocontrol research and Research on new tools and techniques that decrease control costs and minimize use of herbicides where possible.

Questions and comments:

- Lori Buchanan asked “How are all these different programs within wildlife funded? It would be certainly useful to see a spreadsheet with the programs and source of funding and the amounts. It looks like more funds are probably being used for conservation and not so much for hunting. Also, where are the federal funds coming from and where does it end up being used for and who determines how to use these funds?” The information on the PR grant and WRF budgets and how we use them are available online on DOFAW website. A lot of our programs seem to have overlapping functions where it separates out is the areas under which the programs occur. For instance, wildlife program focuses more on hunting areas, Game Management Areas as well as sanctuaries. Lori Buchanan points out how complicated all this information is to find and to understand. Which Robert Cremer agrees with and adds that many people do not have access to computers and cannot look up the information and it is even more important for the commissioners to know this information so that they can communicate it with the hunting community effectively.
- Josiah added that there is a rise of number of licenses being sold over the years, but there is also a proposed rise of fencing in the next years which will result in less lands available for hunting. These are the type of trends that are happening and we need to go back to the hunting community and explain this. There is also a rise of tourism and eradication of

game as we see on the agenda today. How can we offset and prevent the loss of hunting areas? James Cogswell answers that he hopes that they can add new lands to the public hunting areas and work better with the NEPM program and see how the hunters can benefit more when there are control activities taking place.

- Chair Jon Sabati, asked when the Wildlife Revolving Fund (WRF) Reports are available to the public which James Cogswell answered usually in January of each year. One of the concerns is how the funds are being spent in the WRF. A lot of the funds are now being spent on trucks and other equipment not so much on projects such as sustainable yield or habitat enhancement. With this commission, we would like to weigh in how these funds should be designated. For instance, the funds that come in from the sale of tags or licenses should not be used for the nene geese. The money received from the turkey tag sale should be spent on turkeys etc...By doing so we are adding more value to our game species and the hunters can see that we are investing in our game species. James Cogswell answered that the majority of the funds go to game. However, there are instances that for example a person pays a fine for killing a nene goose on the big island this money is then put into the WRF and is used for nene. We do keep track of these funds and we can give you a better idea where these funds are spent on and where.
- Ryan Kohatsu asks limiting critical habitat in GMA's, is there an example where state has done that? James Cogswell, gives Napuu conservation area as an example, we do discuss a lot with the federal agency on where and when they designate critical habitat. Does Section 7 apply to areas outside of the critical habitat? Section 7 applies to all federal funds and there is still consultation needed and we need to make sure that we are in compliance and we need to evaluate the effects on critical habitat and the endangered species. Kohatsu adds, has any critical habitat area that the feds have designated have been withdrawn per actions with the negotiations with the state? James Cogswell replies "No, not to this point" it would be much easier if the status of these critically designated areas could be moved around and the Department would be willing to look into that. Chair Sabati gives as an example a critical habitat area within Puu Anahulu used to have endangered plants and because of wild fires there are no more endangered plants in that area but still is considered as a critical habitat.
- Lori Buchanan asks: How does the wildlife program work with the extinction program on the ex-situ type determination? James Cogswell replies "It is done at the division level" and Emma Yuen adds that there are formal ways of talking about what we propose to do in a specific area such as Environmental Assessments where we ask the public to provide us with comments. The purpose of this game commission is I think to network and create more informal way to feel comfortable to communicate with the Department and find out information about specific areas and learn what we have done and what we propose to do. Lori Buchanan also adds that she hopes that their feedback can help the department to plan for the future. Chair Sabati adds there are 11 HCP and 18 more in the works. We would like to learn more about this additional HCPs (Where? How? And why?). Robert Cremer adds that a lot of time we do not know what the feds and the state are planning to do it is important to have an open line of communication.

- Kekoa Kaluhiwa asked: Where are we with the Hawaii Island Game Management Plan? James Cogswell replies: It will be handed over to the Hawaii County GMAC on June 27th. It has been revised and it is more workable document and will be sent back to the working group. It has taken 10 years to revise this document and Chair Sabati asks why that is the case. James Cogswell answers that although a draft was not returned to the working group most of the concepts of the management plan have been taking place. For instance, one of the goals was to create a State Game Management advisory commission which we have done. Lori Buchanan asked: Does it need Board approval and public input? And how serious is DOFAW going to take the document if it is not presented to the Board? James Cogswell thinks that that this is more of internal document and does not need Board approval but this can be determined at the later stage. Robert Cremer adds that it will be hard to have one Game Management Plan and that every Island and every area will have to be treated differently. James Cogswell agrees and adds that in the revised plan we have looked at that and have tried to create different sections where we can talk about Island and location specific plans. Lori Buchanan adds that Molokai provided feedback for the State Action Plan however none of their feedback and suggestions were incorporated in the Action Plan. She said it is hard when the Department does not take their feedback seriously and does not incorporate them in the plan. Kekoa Kaluhiwa adds although it is not clear that this needs to go to the Board but he recommends it. Once the Hawaii Game Management Plan is completed it would be good to at least give an informational briefing of the plan to the Board, incorporating comments from this commission specifically the two commissioners from the Hawaii Island.

ITEM 9. Briefing by DOFAW on aerial shooting policy and the Wai‘anae mountains aerial shoot plan for the control of feral goats.

Lori Buchanan asks why is this item been brought to this board today? Is there an action item? Or is it just a briefing? It is answered that there are no actions required and it is informational. Kekoa Kaluhiwa adds that when the statue was created last year the commitment was that DLNR would ask for this commissions feedback on aerial shooting activities. The staff are doing outreach on this plan and the point today is to go over what they are looking to do, what outreach they have done and what other stakeholders you recommend that DLNR staff should reach out to in this outreach effort.

Ryan Peralta presents on Ungulate Control Project: Oahu. Some of the highlights of the talk are as follow:

- April 25, 1903, Act 44 was approved by the Territorial Legislature and created Hawai‘i’s Forest Reserve System for the purpose of watershed protection and enhancement. “Forestry is practiced in the Territory of Hawaii primarily, not for timber production, but for the conservation of water” C.S. Judd Superintendent of Forestry, October 1924.
- History: Ungulate Control
 - A primary goal was the exclusion of wild livestock and other feral animals
 - Hunting licenses were issued and over 257,000 animals were removed from 1921 to 1946

- Over 500 miles of fence were built, replaced or repaired.
- Pre-1900, approximately 400,00 trees per year were planted.
- From 1935 – 1941, approximately 2,000,000 trees were planted annually in Forest Reserves thanks to the Civilian Conservation Corps and government nurseries
- Wildfire was recognized as a serious threat to Hawaii’s watershed
- 1910: 3,000,000 acres burned in the states of Washington, Idaho and Montana
- Current threats to watersheds are ungulates, wildfire, invasive Species, urban encroachment, insects (i.e. Erythrina gall wasp, Naio thrip), diseases (Koa wilt, Ohia rust, Rapid Ohia Death), and erosion.
- Before the implementation of aerial shooting the following activities have been taking place: 1) ungulate control through ground hunts by staff; 2) Public hunting, Waianae Kai PHA Unit D; 3) Cattle removal from Waianae Kai FR (all cattle removed was salvaged by the public).
- We have fuel Breaks in Waianae Kai, Kuaokala and to get a better idea what the fuel will do in case of a fire we have Remote Automated Weather Stations in Waianae Kai FR, Kuaokala FR and Palehua.
- **Hawaii Revised Statutes §263-10** Hunting from aircraft; penalty.
 - (a) Any aeronaut or passenger who, while in flight in, across, or above the State, intentionally kills or attempts to kill any birds or animals shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000, or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.
 - (b) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, state employees and independent contractors retained by the State may, while in flight in, across, or above the State, intentionally kill or attempt to kill any wildlife in furtherance of official state duties.
- The aerial shooting is planned to take place in Mokule‘ia, Mt. Ka‘ala NAR, Wai‘anae Kai FR, Lualualei FR, Honouliuli FR (with a small goat population >12), Nanakuli FR and we are only targeting Goats in high elevation areas (with cliffs) where it is not accessible to the public. Further shoot area in Kaluanui (NAR area on the east side of Oahu). They were discussion of possibly to do aerial shooting in the Kualoa Ranch (a private land owner) but this has been taken out of the plan.
- Video was shown. This video has been put together to educate the public on why aerial shooting is needed. The video shown was the raw footage and not the intended video that was supposed to be shown. It still shows the terrain and how dangerous it is to salvage the animals after shooting.
- Steep & Highly Erodible Topography that is Difficult and Dangerous to Access. A lot of native plants and wildlife present, and important watershed. All of the areas outlined for aerial shooting are extremely steep and inaccessible. The forestry manager has personally tried to access the top ridge of the Waianae Kai Forest Reserve and found the access extremely hazardous.
- Additionally, a review of the Waianae Kai FR hunter check-in sheets for the past three-year period showed that only a few goats were taken in the entire Forest Reserve during this period. The upper reaches of the Mokuleia FR (eastern portion) are extremely steep and dangerous.
- Several areas are land locked and not accessible such as Lualualei due to the US Navy Magazine Storage Facility.

- Providing hunters with GPS locations of animals is not practical as the area has limited public access. It is also located in a very remote section of the forest reserve and access to the area requires long strenuous hikes through very steep and hazardous conditions of at least 3 to 4 hours one-way, therefore making retrieval of animal's undesirable and ineffective.
- Other land owners are not interested in allowing the public to access their areas.
- The multi-leveled canopy structure and sheer cliff topographical conditions would make it very difficult to safely land helicopters for meat retrieval operations throughout the aerial shoot locations. Sling loads used in this environment to transport animals would also increase the hazardous operational conditions. This does not make this a safe and effective option for animal control and removal.
- Herding the animals in an unfenced area would only move the problem to neighboring land parcels and does not solve this issue. Thus, was not selected as an option for animal control and removal.
- Due to the extreme topography, the herding of animals into constructed capture pens is not feasible. The terrain does not lend itself to flat ground for the placement of capture pens. Neither does the terrain have natural choke points, open vegetation or flat ground that would make driving the animals by foot or by helicopter possible. Animals will "hole up" in the caves or the dense vegetation that is scattered about on the cliffs.
- Aerial Shooting only, with DOFAW Staff (Preferred Alternative). This provides the most efficient and cost effective option for animal control in this area. Exposure time to these conditions is kept to a minimum due to efficient helicopter operations. All DOFAW shooters and helicopter pilots are trained and certified for ACETA (Aerial Capture Eradication & Tagging of Animals) missions.
- Outreach done and or planned:
 - House of Representatives: Rep Evans, Rep Lee, Rep Matsumoto, Rep Tupola, Rep Quinlan, Rep Gates, Rep Oshiro, Rep Yamane
 - Senate: Senator Riviere and Senator Onishi
 - Ahu Moku: Thomas Shirai (Waialua), Shad Kane (Kapolei) and Hanalei Hopfe (Waianae)
 - Community Outreach: Eric Enos, Kaala Farms, Nanakuli NB, Waianae NB, North Shore NB and Adjacent Landowners

Lance DeSilva (Forestry Program Manager, Maui Branch) presented about aerial shoot protocols. Some of the highlights of the talk are as follow:

- An aerial shooting plan has to be written and approved by the administrator. We rather use public hunters if it is safe, efficient and effective for the hunt to take place. If this is not the case aerial shooting is the next tool we have available to us. The following are the aerial shoot plan protocol steps:
 - 1) Mission Memo is the next step. Description of mission, geographic area, flight dates (with alternate dates due to possible cancellation), schedule of the mission, and a list of participants (with alternates) as well as include a copy of the purchase order for the helicopter rental, and firearm and special accessories (accessories must be approved under DLNR Firearms Policy).

- 2) Place a legal notice: Publish the dates shooting will take place (as well as alternate dates) and a description of the area it will occur in. in local newspapers by Branch manager at least 15 calendar days prior to the aerial shooting.
 - 3) Cooperator notification: Dated letter to cooperating and adjacent landowners at least one week in advance of the mission.
 - 4) Flight plan: Needs to be submitted to Branch manager prior to mission.
 - 5) Closure of DOFAW lands: for public safety and public notification post signs prior to aerial shoot to close areas. Staff to be stationed at same areas day of shoot to keep people out of areas.
 - 6) Trip report: Needs to be sent to DOCARE and Administrator within 48 hours of the mission completion (mission debriefing).
- One of the questions that we always get from the public is that how do we know that the areas that we are shooting are the designated areas and not for instance in the buffer zone or another forest reserve. We have GIS maps of the whole area and the areas where the shooting is planned are uploaded into tablets that we take with us on the helicopter. This way we can track where we are in real-time and make sure when we are for instance near a buffer zone (no shooting zone) we turn around and continue as planned. As far as what is going on in the air it is as documented and tracked as possible.
 - Once we are ready to do the aerial shoot first we do a fly over the area to ensure that there is nobody in the area.

Lori Buchanan asked if the GIS maps of the area that they use in the aerial shoot available for public viewing? Lance DeSilva answered: Yes, they are available within 40 hours. The information and the maps have to be turned in to the administrator and DOCARE. Anyone that like to have access to it can than call our office and ask for the information.

- Here are some examples of frequently asked questions presented by Lance DeSilva:
 - 1) When you dispatch animals do you do it humanly? Yes, we make sure that we use the correct firearm for the animal that we target. Also, we make sure that the animal is out quickly and to our knowledge not suffering.
 - 2) Why can't we retrieve every animal that we shoot? Most places that the aerial shoot takes place are too dangerous or not accessible for us to enter and retrieve the animals. In the past two helicopter crashes have occurred due to trying to retrieve animals.
 - 3) How do you ensure that you get all the animals out of the area where you plan your aerial shoot? We have infrared units that we use and that makes it easier to find and dispatch the animals. In some cases, we also have animals that have been radio collard and we can track these animals to find the others. This method is usually used when we do not have that many animals in an area and it is harder to find them by fly overs.
 - 4) What happens when you remove all these animals and the fuel builds up? When we remove animals from an area is always in conjunction with fire mitigation, where we build fire breaks or reduce fuel (in places that are possible).

Questions and Comments:

- Josiah Jury asks if the areas that are being selected are being controlled or eradicated? Ryan Peralta answers “We are going for zero animals”. Lance DeSilva added that we are always looking to create more hunting opportunities for the public to offset for the areas that are being eradicated. Josiah Jury asked if they have been successful on doing that for instance on Maui where Lance DeSilva works where DeSilva answered that they are working on it and they are getting close to complete such project. For instance, they are acquiring a 1000 acres of land in Molokai that hopefully will go through sometime this year. Jan Pali added that they are working on the acquisition of the Helemano wilderness area on Oahu, which will add a large area to the public hunting area. We are aggressively trying to get the funding and building support through public agencies.
- A concern from the public (James Manaku): How are you going to shoot the animals effectively? The moment you shoot all the animals are going to scatter because of the noise. What if you shoot and it bounces off the rock towards people? I am just concerned about this once we had 3000 people and now we have 8000 people in the area.
- Michael Sturm (avid goat hunter) suggests that the Department should put a notice at the hunting box for the Makua Kea where all the goat hunters are and let them know that there is priority to clear off this Wai‘anae Kai. It bothers me that you are going for zero animals on the Makaha ridge, that is a ridge that a lot of people want to hunt and it has a lot of game on it and it is never open (people hunt there illegally a lot). If you would open that area up and get more hunters there (and it is an accessible ridge with a lot of goats) it would make a lot of people happy and will make your work easier. Lori Buchanan asked Michael Sturm whether hunters are signing in at the check in station. Part of the validation for the aerial shoot is that DOFAW uses that information in this case the low count of hunters to say that there are not enough hunters, hunting in a certain area. So for the record are you testifying that you do not think that people actually sign up at the check stations? Michael Sturm replies: “Correct”. Ryan Peralta adds that the areas that they are planning the aerial shoot (for goats) are usually used by pig hunters and the areas that the goat hunters usually use are excluded from the plan. In addition, some of the areas that we are planning to do the aerial shoot are bordered by the lands from Board of water supply and they are hesitant to let us open the area to the public, if it was state lands it would be much easier to deal with. Robert Cremer asks what the reason is that the Board of Water Supply doesn’t want to have people on their lands? And Peralta replies that it is probably a liability issue. Robert Cremer asked the Deputy if there was any way that we could work out something with the Board of Water Supply where we go ahead and occupy a portion of the legality? The Deputy responded that the commission can certainly approve its own letter to Board of Water Supply.
- Lori Buchanan asks what the goal of the aerial shoot is which Peralta responds, “We are looking at eradication (zero tolerance) all goats except for Makua Kea”. Is the whole area fenced in? No, the area is not fenced. Fencing is too expensive. Lori Buchanan adds; however, the goats might be moving to a different area during the aerial shoot and move back in the area again at a later time. Also, you are planning to go for zero tolerance has there been any studies that shows the number of goats and what percentage of that

number has to be removed but to still have it be sustainable? From a tax payers point of view these are the type of questions that she thinks needs to be looked at. Lance DeSilva added that there are certain areas that the removal method works without fencing. For instance, they removed 1600 goats in the past in an area that was very remote and now years later there are still no goats in that area. Marigold Zoll (Oahu branch Manager) adds that the Makua valley is currently fenced and the ridge that separates the North Shore from the West side is fenced too. They will be doing the aerial shoot starting from the southern side of Waianae and work their way up trying to keep the animals in the Makua Kea area. We then will assess if fencing is needed. It really depends how successful we are in the aerial shooting plan and how well the animals stay in the area that we want them to stay and if we can do some strategic fencing as we move forward with the project.

- A concern from the public (James Manaku): How are you going to replace the meat that we put on our table if you are going to go with zero tolerance? I am concern about the future generation. Chair Sabati said that this a valid concern and that is why it is important to have a game management plan. Currently there is no game management plan in the state of Hawaii and that is what we need to work towards too.

ITEM 8. Brief introduction of Hunter Education Program by Andrew Choy (Hunter Education Program Manager). The highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- Hunter Education Program: The International Hunter Education Association conference was held in Oregon in May. Nationally, the hunter population is going down while there is a huge increase in target shooting and target archery. Unfortunately, the same correlation is not seen for hunting. So, this is the real interest of the hunter education program which is engaged in the recruitment and retention of new hunters.
- Program information: The Hunter Education Program is under DOCARE. Funding is through the wildlife sport and fish restoration which is also one of our primary sources of authority. We get our standards from the IHUSA. We maintain 61 volunteers statewide and our certification data in 2016 include 2,200 students and over 66 classes. Since, 1979 there were 70,000.
- In 2015, we overhauled all the curriculum. Got attorney general and the board to review and approve it and that was across the board with a new manual, new videos, and an in-house instructor guide which is a standalone teaching resource for our instructors. Prior to that, the curriculum hadn't been updated for over 15 years.
- Courses include the traditional hunter education class with 12 hours of lecture and video. This is by far generates the most demand. More recently we have been able to offer a hybrid class with an online portion, plus a mandatory in-person conclusion course which is about 4 hours. We started this in October 2016 and since then we have conducted 8 classes and generated about 250 certifications through this option in FY16. This is only a small portion of our certification which is only offered on Big Island and O'ahu at the moment.
- The number of course completions provided by the online vendor only shows the number of students who complete up to the online course, but not the mentor conclusion course, although we would assume it's about a 100%. More importantly, what this doesn't show

is the number of students who begin the online course but don't complete it, which nationally is about 30%.

- Bow hunter education is offered in two formats: 1) a traditional 8-hour class with lecture, video, and a field day, and 2) an online class, which started in July 2016. Although Hawai'i doesn't have a bow hunter education requirement to bow hunt, other states are increasingly making that into law. Capacity wise, we are only able to offer one traditional bow hunter class a year because of the large footprint that it requires and we rotate between islands. This is an immediate solution to those who want to bow hunt on other states. In terms of certification data, there was a big spike at first, then it petered off to maybe one or two a month, but it still shows that it is serving its purpose. I do not know how many people go bow hunt every month in another state, but anecdotally we see that people who are getting the certifications are getting it. And just for comparison, in any given traditional bow hunter class, we are certifying about 20 students so already this has, in a years' time, certified more students than what we can do with the traditional class.
- Admin & public update: in 2014, we started working with eHawaii to overhaul our student database, but prior to that we were managing 70,000+ records in Microsoft access over a shared network. We were losing a lot of data, so we started working with eHawaii to centralize a database, get everything into an application where we can manage our classes, certify students and the subsequent phase of that, which is the phase that we are in right now, is being able to move to a public interface to offer online registration, document requests online, hunting information, and profile management. We want this to be user centered (i.e. the hunters and the potential hunters). On one side, the pool of hunters is arguably shrinking because there is a loss of hunter opportunity and access to areas. From the hunter education side, the hunter pool is shrinking also because of the hunter demographics are changing. What is the stereotypical hunter nationwide? That is changing dramatically and that has contributed to a loss of hunter retention across the nation. For our public interface, we want to make this information accessible to the public.
- Our courses are all organized with course ID numbers and include the course information and status; this is what our staff works off of. Our shooting records include, 58,000 certified, 6,000 non-certified, and 12,000 exempt. We can manage our individual records and have access to document requests, class history, general notes for all of our 65,000+ records in the database. We can also manage our work flow and replacement requests. Thus, moving onto the public side, we went live with this in March 2017 and what this really intends to be is a one stop shop; it is the official resource for hunters where they can get all the information to answer their questions about how to go hunting in Hawai'i. In our new course catalog, all the dates and times and addresses are included. Also, your document requests are all upfront, so there is no need to drill down to a number of pages to get information on permits, replacements, lottery hunts, announcements, etc. It is meant to capture everything very accessibly for people because it is very hard for a new hunter or someone who has no experience hunting in Hawai'i to get from hunter ed to the check-in station, and then to the hunting area. In partnership with DOFAW, this is really meant to help facilitate that process.
- Another feature of this is that you can log in if you are certified. You can manage your classes and profile, and buy your license. You can already do that, obviously, but this channels it into one repository. The analytics are important. What we see in the timeline

from March to June of this year includes 18,000 sessions, 38,000 page views, and 6,000 users. Are we seeing that many people in our hunter ed classes? No, so what is happening to all these people? I do not know, but it is important to start tracking it so we can figure out what is happening.

- Another interesting point is that we see new visitors at 33% and the returning visitors at 66%. Age is primarily millennials followed by generation z, 18-24, but the gender split is pretty good. It is engaging males and females. We also see that the site gets the most hits during the work week, during work hours on a desktop computer. So, what does that tell you? People are probably looking at hunter ed classes and hunting information at work. Furthermore, the retention is 100% in the first month, but up to the second month, we start losing people and that is due to a number of reasons. If someone can go to one place to get all the access and information they need to hunt in Hawai‘i, then shouldn’t that retention rate be higher? Shouldn’t people be continually being interacting with the DOFAW site, hunter ed site, or DLNR site over the first and second month? It is good for us to plan, but looking at these figures. The page views to the “Welcome” page is 21,000 and 6,000 for the classes, so I hope people are getting all the information that they need to go straight into the class schedule without having to go through all these different pages.
- As a part of this collaborative effort, we worked with DOFAW. We are fortunate to have a good, strong relationship with Shaya Honarvar (Game Program Coordinator) in putting out hunter access and outreach information. For example, the newsletter “Go Hunt Hawai‘i,” which includes hunter trips, animals and birds bagged, announcements, and help connect hunters and resource managers. We are circulating a sign-up sheet at every one of our hunter education courses as part of a continuity effort to plug students in to the information that they need.
- Conclusion: one of the future states of our hunter Ed is having online registration for classes to manage your whole profile. It is in the works and expected to go live in August 2017. Additionally, if we could really integrate with DOFAW, the funding, and the support, then you can have a completely accessible page where you can download the applications, apply online, see what hunts are coming up, bag limits, and dates; without having to drill down to a whole number of pages. This is a future state that is perhaps in the works, but not yet, whereas the online registration is. Our plans is to increase partnership, expand the hybrid courses statewide, complete our transition into our new curriculum, “Go Hunt Hawai‘i” build out, shooting range development, enhancement opportunities, and explore additional opportunities for hands-on training.

Questions and Comments:

- Robert Cremer asked if the great majority of the hunter education course are adults because of the gun law. Andrew Choy replied, “Yes, but it depends. What we project is about 30% of the students are taking it for the hand gun certification, which is different by community. We would see a lower percentage in Hilo or Molokai or Lanai, whereas on Oahu that percentage is close to 30 because more people are coming in for the hang gun certification.” Robert Cremer also asked Andrew Choy for his opinion on if the apprenticeship program would help the hunter education program. To which Andrew Choy answered, “An apprenticeship program is tricky. The people coming into our program now do not have connections with hunting. So, yes, it seems like an

apprenticeship program could work, but the fact of the matter is, are these people ever going to have access to an apprenticeship... So, let me back up, in some states, apprenticeship is offered by law enforcement officials or department staff so if that was a part of the bill. Where you have staff or personnel who are specifically tasked with apprenticeship, then yes, it is something that could work. Let's say, uncle can take his nephew out, well that kid is going to go out anyway, but does someone, who is off the street and kind of heard about hunting and is interested on the news, going to have an opportunity to connect to an apprenticeship? I don't know. So, the analytics helps us understand who coming through with horses, where there are needs the most and we haven't started tracking this till most recently. On the national scale, this is one thing that the international hunter education association is putting a lot of pressure onto the programs to start tracking their students because they fall off. If we certify 2,000 students a year, it would be reasonable to think that that year we would have 2,000 more license purchases. If year one there's 10,000 purchases, then in year two hunter Ed certifies 2,000 more, shouldn't it be at least 11,000 perhaps? It's not. It's plateauing, and it's plateaued for quite a while." Robert Cremer asked if a mentor list could be a part of the apprenticeship program. Andrew Choy stated that it is a good option and it is reasonable, but there is a process to it. Robert Cremer stated, it was something like a boy scouts program, he would be willing to be a part of that.

- Chair Sabati added, "Wisconsin has a learn to hunt mentorship program, so that's something we can look into down the line. I can access that information. The question that I had is the basic hunter Ed course, you have a hybrid. Now, the bow hunter one, is that classroom only?" Andrew Choy explained, "We have the 12-hour traditional bow hunter course that everyone is familiar with and then we have the online only bow hunter course, which is offered through the national bow hunter education association. So, that certification is completely online and what I can say is that it's a pretty rigorous course. It takes someone at least 6-8 hours reasonably to go through that online bow hunter class. The pages are timed, so you're required to stay on each page. There are chapter quizzes, if you don't pass them you have to go back and take the whole chapter again. I don't know the figure, but other states do offer this option as well. For the people that we deal with, generally it's the people who want the hands-on training, people who want to sit in on the hunter Ed class. For the online bow hunter class, they are going to take it because they want to go bow hunt in a state that requires it, like Alaska. So, it's a solution to that issue that we have."

ITEM 10. Training offered by Hawaii State Ethics Commission (Daniel Gluck, Executive Director and General Counsel, Hawaii State Ethics Commission).

For more information please visit:

<http://ethics.hawaii.gov/>

and

https://ethics.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/quickguide_newempboard.pdf

Since there was time between the two trainings it was decided to discuss ITEM 5 now.

ITEM 5. Budget Review and Discussion. HB 1041, Section 3 states that there is appropriated out of general revenues of the state of Hawai'i the sum of \$40,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the establishment of a game advisory commission pursuant to this act. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of land and natural resources for the purposes of this act.

Appropriated amount is \$40,000, The estimated cost to hold the GMAC meeting (Airfare, per diem, hotel and rental car when needed) is about \$2300, to transcribe the meeting \$1650/meeting, two recorders about \$350, There is a 5% restriction (\$2000) taken by the governor and 6% indirect cost (\$2280) for Admin overhead. The restriction, indirect cost and the recorders are onetime costs. These funds cannot be carried over to the next fiscal year and should be encumbered.

The commissioners suggested that they could use the funds to hold GMAC meetings, offsite visits for commissioners and bring district biologists to the GMAC meeting. Next year the funding for the commission will have to come from the Wildlife Revolving Fund, PR and or G funds. It is not clear if we can move some of this fund and pay for an intern to take the minutes for the commission.

Chair Sabati asked the commissioners if they are all in favor of using these funds for travel and transcription, Robert Cremer made a motion and Nancy Timko second the motion.

ITEM 11. Training offered by Office of Information Practices (Sunshine Law). By Carlotta Amerino (Staff Attorney at the Office of Information Practices).

For more information please visit:

<http://oip.hawaii.gov/laws-rules-opinions/sunshine-law/>

James Cogswell asked the chair if he could make an additional comment about ITEM 5 and the chair accepted. Cogswell suggested that if it would be possible to earmark \$2000 for a Kupu intern to assist with the minutes. All commissioners were in favor of this suggestion. Robert Cremer made a motion to appropriate the \$2000 for a Kupu intern and Nancy Timko second the motion.

ITEM 6. Set future meeting schedule.

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled on August 17, 2017 (1:00 PM)

Lori Buchanan asked the two commissioners from the Island of Hawaii what the role of the County GMAC is now that there is a State GMAC? Chair Sabati replied and said that he has met with the Chair of the County GMAC (Tom Lodge) and has explained the need of working together. Chair Sabati explained to Lodge that the State GMAC and the County GMAC cannot be separate entities and that they needed to go hand in hand. The issues that Chair Sabati has with the County GMAC has to do with sunshine law. For instance, the County GMAC are

having meetings but the public doesn't get the Agenda. Chair Sabati said that he explained to Mr. Lodge that when he has district meetings he will be asking the County GMAC representatives to join him on the meetings. To minimize confusion and work more efficiently the County GMAC and State GMAC should keep an open line of communication and work together towards the same goals. James Cogswell adds that we respect and work a lot with the County GMAC on the big Island. Mr. Cogswell sees the County GMAC (and any other hunting organization) as a part of the State GMAC's network of local organization that the State GMAC coordinates with and brings their concerns to the Department.

ITEM 12. Announcements.
No announcements

ITEM 13. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Chair Sabati and second by commissioner Robert Cremer.