

GAME MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: May 31, 2018
TIME: 10:00 AM
PLACE: Room 209 A, B, & C, State Building, 3060 Eiwa Street, Lihue, HI 96766
PURPOSE: Game Management Advisory Commission Meeting (#6)

MINUTES

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Lori Buchanan—Molokai (Vice Chair)
Robert Cremer—Kauai
Josiah Jury—Oahu
Stanley Ruidas—Lanai
David Smith—DLNR-DOFAW
Nancy Timko—Oahu

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Jefferey DeRego—Maui
Ryan Kohatsu—East Hawaii
Jon Sabati—West Hawaii (Chair)

STAFF:

Andrew Choy (Hunter Education Program)
Darren Ogura (Hunter Education Program)
Jim Cogswell (DOFAW)
Dr. Shaya Honarvar (DOFAW)
Thomas Kaiakapu (DOFAW)
Sheri Mann (DOFAW)
Joey Mello (DOFAW)
Jason Misaki (DOFAW)
Dietra Myers-Tremblay (DOFAW)
Kanalū Sproat (DOFAW)
Sarah Way (DOFAW)

VISITORS:

Councilman Derek Kawakami
Senator Ron Kouchi
Representative James Tokioka
Nikolai Barca (The Nature Conservancy)
Lucas Behnke (TNC)
Melissa Fisher (TNC)
Chlorie Igne (Kauai Hunting Association)
Eric Lazar

Commissioner Buchanan asks if there are any move-up requests. There are none.

ITEM 2. Action Required: Approval of minutes from March 15, 2018 GMAC meeting.

Commissioner Cremer moves to approve the minutes. Commissioner Timko seconds. There are no objections. Motion carries.

ITEM 3. Update on the letter that was submitted to the Board of Land and Natural Resources regarding the Commission's advice on the Wai'anae mountains aerial shooting for the control of feral goats.

Comm. Buchanan: So, staff: do you have any updates on that?

Comm. Smith: I'll give you an update. So, I just sent it to the Chair two or three days ago. Tuesday. I haven't seen it come out signed, so we'll just have to defer it. We've got to deliver it to the Commission.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay. Since we're in a public meeting on ITEM 3: Vice Chair—myself—sent by email to the Department a while ago asking for our letter to be heard in consideration to the Board, to review the policy of aerial shooting in Wai'anae. So, since we haven't gotten back a date for the BLNR meeting: is the Department currently aerial shooting goats in Wai'anae?

Comm. Smith: No.

Comm. Buchanan: No? Will the Department hold off on aerial shooting in Wai'anae until this issue between the Commission and the Board is resolved?

Comm. Smith: We've got a pause on it right now, we're going back and reviewing it.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay. Commission members, you guys have any feedback or questions? Josiah is the Oahu commissioner.

Comm. Jury: My only question is, what was the reasoning that it took this long for it to get to the BLNR from the March meeting? I mean, the email was sent a few days ago, and it's been about two months. There's been a few Board meetings from then to now, so.

Comm. Smith: I'm not sure the exact timeline. I'll take responsibility for why it took a long time. It took a while, we had a number of people comment on it, and then it had to get past my desk and quite frankly

it got hung up on my desk for a while. I'm not going to pass it around until I'm comfortable with it, that it represents something that the Chair could sign, and so it just got past my desk a couple days ago.

Comm. Buchanan: So, I guess my question then is: in your experience, how much lead time should this Commission have—when we have an action item or some consideration or advice to the Board, acting in our capacity—about how much lead time can we expect to have in getting a response back?

Comm. Smith: It's going to vary on the issue. I can't really give you a time. It varies. Different amounts of consideration to deal with different topics. And it depends too on what you're recommending.

Comm. Buchanan: So, in the letter to Chair Case, it was noted there was also an accompanying exhibit letter that stated that a practitioner in Wai'anae felt that his ability to practice had been compromised by the tools used by DLNR. The Commission felt that was important, and so it's been—I don't know how many meetings we're into now—that Mr. Manuka has shown up at our meetings and asked us repeatedly to help him address his concerns. So, the email by this Commission and the request by this Commission was forwarded to DLNR several months ago now. We're into several months. And so, I guess I'm wondering: how can we convey better to yourself and the rest of the Department, when we feel that something is really important and needs to be dealt with in a timely manner?

Shaya Honarvar (DOFAW): May I just add, I believe it [the letter that Commissioner Buchanan has sent to BLNR] was about six weeks ago.

Comm. Buchanan: That was just the formal letter to the Chair. But before that, we sent to the Department, and then we were told that wasn't the correct process, that we have to go back and actually send that through the channels: through the Department, to the Chair, and from the Chair to the Board.

Comm. Smith: The clock doesn't start until it's been properly—so, the original letter was sent as an action item that was not mentioned on the agenda, and you just can't do that. On this Commission, you've got to follow certain rules. When we actually got the letter—apparently it was about six weeks—

Shaya Honarvar (DOFAW): March 23rd. [*corrected: the letter was sent on April 25, 2018*]

Comm. Smith: Which is not unusual. If we want to get an action item on the board, we'll set a timeline of like three months.

Comm. Buchanan: Three months. Okay.

Comm. Smith: But you know, you requesting that they put it on doesn't guarantee... not everything goes on the Board agenda that you request to be on the Board agenda. It's a discussion to have with the Chair.

Comm. Jury: Commissioner Buchanan, may I add something? She's right: six weeks. But within that six-week span, there were also four BLNR meetings that were public meetings where the letter wasn't on there, and I understand that according to the BLNR and the DLNR website, it has to be submitted by the Department. We—as a commission—through ins and outs, through little stumbles here and there, finally got it in the protocol that we felt necessary, and we're just asking at this point of the timeline: when can we see it, read there at the Board? And we want to be part of it, to help explain what we feel and what the hunting community might feel about that particular item.

Comm. Buchanan: So, Administrator Smith, is it safe to say that maybe we would probably see a response in about three months?

Comm. Smith: The Chair likes the letter. She's just got to sign it at some point.

Comm. Buchanan: So, is there a process within the Department—a communication process—between this advisory commission and the Board? Is that something written in some kind of chapter?

Comm. Smith: You know, I've run a commission before, and this is a new commission and you're going to need a new process for how you get to the Board. But you're advisory to the Board.

Comm. Buchanan: Well, we try to advise. But we're not getting much chance to advise.

Comm. Smith: You are advising, it's just—

Comm. Buchanan: Okay, so.

Comm. Smith: And I don't know the timeline on this. There was some back and forth, it wasn't just a straight line. We're going back and forth on this right now.

Comm. Buchanan: Well, in December of 2017 this Commission wrote a reply to the Legislature—this is it—and in there we recapped the meetings. So, tomorrow is June 1st. Basically a year ago—19 days on June 19th—this Commission was convened. It's been a year. So, if this Commission needs some type of training from the Department on how we would advise the Department—other than what we were instructed to do, which was write a letter, put it in writing, do this and that, send it to the Chair—I think it would help these commission members to know: once it goes to the Chair, where does it go? Like ping pong? Where are we going? How long will it take? Because on every other board and commission that I sit on, there's at least a timeframe where when you have an action that requires a response, there's a process. And I know that we voted on the members to sit on rule making for the process of this Commission. So, I'm just trying to help the community because it's frustrating. They're frustrated. It's been a year. They asked these people to sit on this Commission. We have practitioners coming in at meetings, pouring their heart out to these board members. The Oahu Commissioner takes time off—he actually works for the watershed. He meets with his community and his representatives, and then this Board carries action through, they vote to take action, and then you get nowhere. So, it's frustrating, and I don't know what to do. We did our due diligence. I don't know what else to tell the poor commission member on Oahu, or all the people that come up from the Wai'anae Hunting Club. We're just talking about tools in DLNR's toolbox to manage land, public trust. Commissioner Jury, how do you want to move forward on this?

Comm. Jury: Well, I just would like to see the letter reach the BLNR agenda and have a chance to be heard by them. That was always the goal, and that's what we want to continue to push for. The only question I would ask is—there is a stand down right now. Maybe you could clarify the reasoning for the stand down, and will it continue or will it not continue depending on if the letter gets to the Board or not?

Comm. Buchanan: I know we asked to cease using aerial shooting as a tool at Wai'anae until we figure this out. I understand now that "maybe, maybe not, depends." I don't know how to insert ourselves within that process, because it seems like it's an internal process. Other than actually showing up at the Board meeting and testifying, I don't know what else to do.

Comm. Jury: For me, I'd just like to continue to be more informed. I think the community and the island, they look at this Commission, and look at what has happened on the leeward coast as a control measure, and they've taken the proper protocol and steps and coming out and working with the neighborhood board meetings and working with the association and working with us as a commission. And at this point, the paperwork—just having it up-to-date on where things are at would allow me to give transparency to the community about what's happening. Currently, between that meeting in March

and now, in terms of the letter, I have no information to give back to the community on where we stand, other than what's happening today.

Comm. Buchanan: All right. Thank you very much. We're not going to spend any more time on this, because I guess we cannot. But I did want to get on the record: Commissioner Jury, can you please state on the record that between the time and in the past six months that other actions have occurred between the Department and the community that have made things very contentious. Would you say that's a true statement?

Comm. Jury: That is a true statement.

Comm. Buchanan: So, there's an urgency, okay? There's an urgency to address this matter, and I think that's what we want to get out. So, thank you very much. I'm going to open this up to the public to testify on ITEM 3. Okay, I have one member. State your name for the record.

Rep. Jimmy Tokioka: Jimmy Tokioka, State Representative District 15 Kauai. Commissioner Buchanan, Commissioners—thank you for coming to Kauai. Commissioner Cremer, thank you for inviting everyone here. I think it's appropriate that the three of us are sitting here for this meeting, because as some of you know, through Rep. Kawakami's effort at the time, who was new to the state legislature—we were trying to figure out how hunters and the community could get [unintelligible] the information at the Board—pushed to establish this Commission in the first hand. But then it came to me and others and then I went to Senator Kouchi at the time, who's now Senate President. So, we did push hard for this Commission, because we wanted to make sure that the hunters and people who had concerns had a body that they could go to specifically for these issues that you're talking about right now. So, having said that: we've been involved in a lot of boards and commissions at the county level and the state level, and one of the things that happened before the meetings that we've been a part of, is the discussion between the Board and the Administration—or whoever is the liaison between the Board and the DLNR Chair, Suzanne Case. So, I'm not sure how much of that is happening, but one of the questions that you had is, "How do we get on the Land Board meeting?" and the Senate President whispered over to me "well, asking one of your legislators for their assistance in putting that item on the agenda." That's one of the ways. Another way is working with the staff to help promote—and Mr. Smith, I understand what you're saying, you have to do it the right way—but I think we all know that this is a new commission, some of these commissioners have never served on a commission before, and the best way to help them is by educating—maybe that happened, I'm not sure—but I can sense the frustration and that wasn't something that we planned when we were talking about this new commission. All we wanted to see was the community to have a voice, and if we put people on the Board and they don't have a voice, they're not going to want to participate. So, thank you folks for participating, because we know it takes a lot of your time, you all probably had to take off work today to be here. If there is any way that we can help facilitate that, and I'm speaking for myself—and I'm sure Councilmember Kawakami, Senate President Kouchi feel the same way—we want to make sure that this Board is successful, and the only way that it can be successful is if there's collaboration from the Board and with the Administration to make the things that you need to happen, happen. I'm not saying that everything you want is going to happen, because I wish everything that we wanted happened the way we wanted it to happen, but it doesn't. There's compromise that's involved. So, I would just say that if we can take that direction moving forward, it's going to be a lot less headache and hard work for everyone in this room and all the

people on the Commission, and the Administration. Thank you for the opportunity. Mahalo, Commissioner Buchanan, for sharing that information with me.

Comm. Buchanan: Thank you, Representative Tokioka, Derek Kawakami, and Senate President for being here. When I saw you guys, I was like, "Wow." So, nice to see you folks here.

Councilman Derek Kawakami: I would add something too. Really it came from Robert. Robert is a personal friend, and we've been hunting together, and it became very apparent that there was a rift between the users of these very precious public lands and the administration that manages them. So, Robert really pushed for all the different islands to establish this, so we want to be there to support and listen to some very important updates, especially on the shooting range.

Comm. Buchanan: Thank you very much.

Senator Ron Kouchi: Those were the polite ones. So, I would just say that if the job is to help educate the Commission: at least this morning, I've heard nothing from the Department to help educate them about how to do it better. I hear according to the March date and testifying, why everything you have done to this point is correct on your part, and everything that they have done is incorrect, then the failure is on their part. So, I've heard nothing to be collaborative. Let me say it a very direct way: Chair Case and then-Deputy Kekoa were here for a meeting with the hunting community with then-Representative Kawakami, Tokioka, and myself, who formed the genesis of this Commission. This is the high priority for myself personally, and my office, and if this isn't working, then we need to introduce legislation to clarify how this will work better for the commissioners. And trust me, the legislation will be introduced next session. We tried to leave it broader so that we were working collaboratively with the Department and this Commission, because that's what I was assured by Chair Case was going to happen, and I'm not seeing it happening right now, and we will fix it one way or another. Either January will come around and you're going to tell us, "Boy, we've got it all straightened out, it's great and it's working well," or we're going to talk about how to fix it to make it work, but this is going to work. And what bothers me, why I'm here, is I grew up in Waimea, in west Kauai. My dad went into Waimea Valley to hunt, and we didn't have a youth hunt, and it was tough to make ends meet. So, I'm aware that these hunters are for subsistence and putting food on the table to feed their families, and by doing what they're doing, they're able to save their money, so that they can become homeowners and send their kids to school, and all of these other things. This is not putting trophies on the wall and protecting people who are out there for sport. For the kind of economic situation of my constituents in West Kauai, this is vital to their ability to take care of their families, and that's why I'm here, to advocate so strongly for them, when I'm sure they're not here. And when I leave here and I go to the governor's luncheon in the chamber, I'm going to tell him about what happened here and hope that things better shape up and start moving in the right direction, even if I have to stand up in the Q&A part. I don't know if I'll be sitting on the table with him, but I sure hope that this is going to work, and that's why I'm here.

Comm. Jury: Thank you.

Comm. Smith: May I make a comment on that? It's just a learning process on both our parts, so us learning how to work with the Commission, the Commission learning how to work between the Department. I think there's a little bit of both sides we're all trying to learn together how to make this thing work.

Senator Ron Kouchi: But right now, I'm not polite, so I'm not really working together. It would be a lot better for me to come in and say, "Boy, let's go collaborate, I'm hearing what your concerns are, I think

we can find a middle ground.” That would have been a lot nicer for me to put in, like Jimmy and Derek. But I’m not hearing you guys put it nicely to them of getting to that collaborative middle ground. How I’m talking to you, is how I hear you talking to them. You want to change their dialogue, I would love to, because I don’t want to introduce bills, I don’t want to have to chase this thing through—and then sometimes when you put too much in the damn bill then it creates a new problem. I want to give you the latitude, so you guys can do what’s right, and when individual instances come up, you’ve got freedom to move to solve problems. So, I’m really hoping you are getting there, and I can talk nicely too, I can be collaborative, I can tell you I’d love to work with you, and I hope that’s where we’re going. Thomas is my good friend right there, he works for DLNR on Kauai... He’s a west side boy and knows what I’m talking about, that [unintelligible]. And I was just saying, I never even knew until I read Robert’s posting two years ago on Facebook that the lease was even in jeopardy and we weren’t even going for renewal, that DHHL was doing what they’re doing. So, I’m here to tell you guys, as the legislator from the district, that’s an important thing. If you are interested in pursuing that lease and there are obstacles with DHHL, please reach out. I would love to help work with you, but that is in the heart of our family, that is where my father used to go hunting with his friends. I understand the importance of that area. You know, the shooting range, where is a safe place, not just for the hunters? Are we going to have enough places for law enforcement outside of the County of Kauai to get certified? These are all important issues on our radar screen and we’re engaged with the community.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay. Thank you, Senate President. We thoroughly appreciate all our representatives being here. I’d like to thank Commissioner Cremer setting up this Board. I think we all sit here because it’s all important to us, and while many might be new, Commissioner Ruidas and myself go way back in experience with important commissions, and I depend on him a lot, too. We actually try to help this commission to do due diligence, but we know how it works, so. I appreciate the suggestion to try and work with the Chair outside of the meetings to move items up to the Board, and thank you very, very much for your input. I really appreciate our meeting. Commissioners—

Comm. Cremer: I’d like to add something. I just really appreciate my representatives. I don’t think we’ve had a better set of representatives on this island besides these guys right here. They might not always tell me what I want to hear, but they always respond, and we always get an open line of communication. They’re a big part of this Commission, and I really know—and the rest of the people that went to the state capitol and lobbied for this thing, they know—that you guys are a big part of this. We appreciate that, and I appreciate all you guys do for the community. Thank you.

Comm. Buchanan: Thank you very much. Okay. If anybody has anything else to add to ITEM 3? If not, we’re going to move straight to ITEM 4.

ITEM 4. Update on the Kauai Shooting Range Project.

Andrew Choy (Hunter Education): Good morning. I know that time is pretty sensitive. I will just cut to the meat, and then I’ll circle back around. I know everyone’s here for the updates. It’s been a process. Once again, the legislature, then-Representative Kawakami was very instrumental in getting our initial funding source. Hunter education opened a grant in 2011. It was a shooting range grant, always two parts: one was for Big Island, one was for Kauai. It’s for pre-construction, so it’s not construction grants, but compliance stuff. The Big Island project took precedence for a number of years. In the meantime,

we were able to work with representatives to really get some good funding for the project. In 2015, the Legislature approved \$424,000 in CIP for a shooting range project on Kauai. That money was specific to Hanahanapuni. In the 2016 legislative session, we had the verbiage amended to broaden the scope of it. And then in 2017, through Sheri, we were able to put in another CIP request for pre-construction activities at \$350,000. So, there's been a number of steps forward, steps back, but the great thing is that we have the money in hand: federal monies, state monies, cash. And then in 2018, we all circled up internally and we were able to put a formal release through engineering to the governor to release the funds and appropriate it, and we just got notice on May 7th that all of the funds—that's the \$424,000, the \$350,000, and then the federal monies which we already had in hand—all of it has already been appropriated, we have it in our account. We've taken a number of that for planning and design, so we just ask that everything be released all at once, so we can just move forward. So that's great news. That's really just kind of the way the process goes, it's really great to have that money up front. In the meantime, to get the project moving forward, myself, Sheri Mann, and Shaya Honarvar—who's been the DOFAW liaison, myself being with Hunter Education—we've met with engineering every week for almost the past month to move the consulting selection process forward. What we were looking at is a consultant that would be able to do community engagement, scoping work, site study, short-list, compliance for EA/EIS, and then design work. Just kind of the whole gamut in one consultant, since we have the money in hand to go do that. I'm also happy to note that as of yesterday, we had a meeting with engineering, and we were notified that the consultant has already been selected. Now that triggers a number of processes that need to move forward internally through the Chair to actually authorize that we move forward with the contract, to start working with this consultant. It's been happening at a weekly pace, and while we obviously can't guarantee that that is the speed that we're going to keep up, I'm really hopeful that we can maintain that kind of progress selecting the consultant's starting award. So, what does that look like? Moving forward, it will be very important that Commissioner Cremer as the Kauai commissioner can come in and identify stakeholders' point of contacts in the shooting and hunting community, and we can plug our consultant in and start the stakeholder engagement—whether it's landowner, government sector, shooting clubs—and then at the same time, start scoping sites. Just to reiterate—and there are individuals in this room that can speak to this better than I can—we are starting at exploring new sites, that's kind of where we're at right now. We want to explore all options on the table, and we want to start with where the leads are. That may be anything—anything and everything is on the table. We want to engage the community in this process. Here and now, we're not moving forward with a site already in mind, and then we're going to pull in some alternatives. We're kind of stepping back and we're looking at all options now, on the table. And once again, the other thing I will reiterate is that we fortunately have a lot of money appropriated for planning and design, but we don't have any money appropriated for construction. I know that's not necessarily unusual in the way that monies are appropriated and made available to the legislature or through the Feds, but that will be a very important piece—maybe not so much now, but definitely within the next two to three years—to start pursuing construction monies, to start pursuing county engagement, looking at any management, whatever that may be. I think we'll need to start pursuing that. So, I would encourage the Commission to pursue those kind of avenues, especially towards construction. I think we're good. I think we need to definitely identify those stakeholders, start the engagement, connect our consultant with those people at that time, short-term. And then long-term: so immediately, six months' time, stakeholder

engagement; one or two years out, we've got to start looking for CIP money, whether it's at the county level or the state level. We have federal funds available, so we can make those available as well for construction as a match, but we need the cash that we have on hand. We have a whole bunch of other technical details as far as the federal funds, the recent project history—I know Thomas can speak to thirty years back where the project was—but that's the meat of it, and I'm here to answer any other questions you guys might have.

Comm. Buchanan: Thank you for your update. Commissioners, are there questions for staff?

Comm. Cremer: I just appreciate the update, something that we've trying to get done for thirty years: pick the site, try to do it, too swampy. I'm not a gun enthusiast—I do hunt with a gun once in a while, I don't go to the range—but there's lots of people that own guns that need a range on this island. That way it'll be safer for everybody else in the public area. When guys are shooting while you're in a hunting area, you're just shooting off rounds for the sake of sighting in your rifle because there's no place else to go. A lot of guys get a hunting license so they can go in a hunting area to just shoot their gun—they don't hunt. So, that's a very important thing. I'm glad it's moving forward. Thank you.

Comm. Buchanan: Any more questions for staff? I have a question. So, how much federal monies are you getting, and where they coming from?

Andrew Choy (Hunter Education): That's the other part of my presentation, is federal funding. It's through the Pittman-Robertson Act for Wildlife Restoration. It's a federal excise tax that's placed on the sale of firearms ammunition. So, what I can say is we have received notice from our regional office—Fish and Wildlife Service—that the apportionments have been lowered, about 30% lower this year, because firearms sales have tapered off. So, back in 2011, the federal fund—\$1.2 million—was made available in a grant for shooting ranges on Big Island and Kauai. That was the product of three years of federal funding that was kind of compounded. So, I don't want to obviously get into any specific numbers. I think we can obligate federal funds every year to put forward a project, but the challenge is the scope of a project, and so—

Comm. Buchanan: Who's we? You said, "we can obligate the funds." So, you already get the \$1.2 million from Pittman-Robertson, through Fish and Wildlife Service, and then—

Andrew Choy (Hunter Education): The Hunter Education Program can obligate federal funds. That's the Hunter Education Program involvement in this. It's not like a power grab—it's not because we want to do it—because frankly there's a lot of other programs in the Department that have more capacity than us. But statutorily, through 183(b)28 and through the Fish and Wildlife Service section 4(c) and section 10 funds, those funds and the statutory authority come through the Hunter Education Program for shooting range development. That's just the nexus. It's not saying necessarily that this is something we're going to hope for, but that's the avenue that we're in. And obviously DOFAW is a huge partner in this, it's a collaborative Department thing. But the obligation, the actual grant agreement would be through the Hunter Education Program.

Comm. Buchanan: Right. So, you get \$425,000, you have \$350,000. \$775,000 already that—

Andrew Choy (Hunter Education): CIP. And then another \$562,000 in federal funds.

Comm. Buchanan: So, capital improvement funds. How are you going use that?

Andrew Choy (Hunter Education): Planning and design.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay, that's a lot of money.

Andrew Choy (Hunter Education): It is.

Comm. Buchanan: Because you guys are doing the environmental assessment?

Andrew Choy (Hunter Education): That would depend on the site that we pursue. We have to start with scoping, because the project might only require an EA, in which case the cost would be a lot lower than a site that would require not only a lot of infrastructure upgrades, but also perhaps an EIS, which could almost double the cost.

Comm. Buchanan: I was just looking at site and saying, “\$700,000 not counting the federal funding,” but you can obligate some of that \$1.2 million under the Hunter Education Program. Okay. You selected the consultant, who is the consultant?

Andrew Choy (Hunter Education): I know that the ranking has been finalized, and the memo is going to the Chair. I wasn’t told who that consultant is at this point.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay. You know why? Because, you know for Makaainana, for us, we’d just like a place for a shooting range. I think it’s hard for the community to understand that, “Okay, this going to take four years, maybe five. It costs \$3.5 million, and all I wanted was to have a safe place to shoot my gun. It’s the same thing with fishermen who’d like a harbor to launch their little boat in Honolulu. The project starts up with this scoping, and they’ve been waiting thirty years. Like I said: Cremer is here already, and then his baby will be able to use the shooting range. Maybe if you can provide a working timeline on how you guys are moving along with this project—it seems like Hunter Education is taking the lead on this Hawaii project, until you turn it over to the consultant. I’m just trying to figure out how we can drive and how we can apply for shortening this timeline. Having a million dollars just for planning and design is like, “Whoa.”

Andrew Choy (Hunter Education): Sure. So, what I can say in response to that is, for example, on the Big Island, at 16-Mile Marker, the Board approved a hunting area—the Board basically carved out an overlay of that area, a 3 acre overlay as a target shooting area. It’s another case of growing pains: there’s a lot of planning, there’s a lot of groundwork, there’s a lot of factors that went into play with that. I don’t know if that’s a solution for Kauai, and that would have to be worked out with the community, with the Department, specifically with Forestry & Wildlife, but that is a precedent and it’s an avenue where an existing area target shooting is already happening in this area. The Department as much as possible at the time will do due diligence, to do the homework, scope it out, and basically designate a portion of the hunting area as a legal area to discharge firearms while permanent projects are being pursued. I’m not saying that’s a solution for Kauai—that’s a discussion that Commissioner Cremer and the Department will need to have, and the hunting community—but I understand the need and I understand the frustration of the timeline. We have lapse dates on our federal funding as well, and so we’re under an obligation to deliver, so I understand that.

Comm. Buchanan: Who runs the shooting range on Oahu and Hawaii?

Andrew Choy (Hunter Education): City and County.

Comm. Buchanan: Oh boy. Well, you better go talk to the City. Okay. All right.

Comm. Smith: Can I make some comments? I think that’s a really good model, where the state can come in with CIP money, do all the compliance and planning, deliver the project turnkey, and then the County runs it.

Councilman Derek Kawakami: And then you would just enter into a stewardship agreement with an organization that can help manage the land—a public-private partnership. I’ve got to say that Andrew and Sheri and staff have been absolute advocates for the shooting range. They’ve gone above and

beyond. A lot of the stumping blocks where mistakes were made as far as little things like the title of the appropriation, but they've done everything they can to move this as quickly as possible, so we're very appreciative.

Andrew Choy (Hunter Education): And just add to that, as Dave was saying, and Councilman Kawakami: that if you look at every public range in the State of Hawaii, there is some partnership with the City and County, whether it's direct management like Koko Head, or it's a concessionaire like Valley Isle Shooters on Maui, or the Hilo Trap & Skeet Range, which is directly run by the City and County. Koko Head is a combination. The county is involved, the City and County is a critical player in the overall management, whether that's direct or through the concessionaires.

Comm. Buchanan: Well, thank you. In the end, it's all about liability and who going to write the check to the insurance guys. So, okay.

Comm. Smith: Well, there's also a lot of environmental compliance—you're pumping a whole lot of lead out into the environment, and down the line when you have to start cleaning that stuff up, it's a huge deal. We're dealing with a piece of property right now that had an informal shooting range on Oahu, and the lead levels are through the roof, and it's a huge issue on the land acquisition that we're trying to push, and so the environmental piece is something that we've really got to do properly, and the communities have worries about that, so we need to make sure we properly address them. And I know it sounds like a lot of money, but we're used to it by now. We're kind of just used to the planning and the compliance—which is the EA/EIS process—it's costly, it takes a long time. That's why we have to hire planners to do that work, but don't think that that sounds like a whole lot of money, because it's not outside the realm, the normal amount of money that we have, especially with a project of this sort.

Comm. Buchanan: Yeah. I understand.

Comm. Smith: I know it sounds like a lot of money—it is a lot of money!

Comm. Buchanan: Just training about spent shells. And cleaning up stuff.

Comm. Smith: And we are trying to do it on the cheap where we can. So, with Mile Marker 16 on the Big Island, we found a way to do that basically just in-house resources—bring in an existing area, use an existing road, and you can do it really quickly. And you still are playing catch-up on the compliance and some of the contamination issues, and we've got to get ahead of that eventually, but in order to deliver something on the ground for the hunters—and our primary concern is to provide a facility that hunters using legal hunting firearms can utilize, to alleviate the type of problem that Robert's talking about, and not making it everything for everybody—just trying to make it for hunters. Don't have the .50 caliber range, and just make it as simple as possible so we can actually get something on the ground.

Andrew Choy (Hunter Education): Like I said, I know—and Joey and Kanalu know—that 16-Mile Marker project has gone through its growing pains, but really that was a success where we were able to put something on the ground very quickly. We were able to sanction something very quickly through Board action and with very little expense. Like I said, that's a conversation the community's going to have with the Department, but that may be an option.

Comm. Buchanan: Thank you very much. Joey knows, yeah? Been shooting for fifty years. I got my NRA training at Mile Marker 16. Any more questions, commissioners? No? If not, I'm going to open this item up for public testimony, if anybody wanted to give input on ITEM 4.

Rep. Jimmy Tokioka: Once again, thank you all for coming, and I would be remiss if I didn't follow up to what House Member Kawakami said, because Sheri and Andrew have been in contact, and Sheri

through Anastasia, and she has been in contact with my office. Thank you, former Representative Kawakami, for dropping this on my lap, that's a good thing that you dropped on my lap. I know that we're going to be meeting with the community, I think that wasn't brought up in the discussion to meet with the hunters—and Commissioner Cremer, you're going to be very involved in that, to select the potential site—and I think that's a good thing, because when the shooting range on Hawaii Island fell through, at the time Representative Kawakami was right in there saying, "Okay, that money's not going to last, we've got to take it for Kauai," so he was the push to do that. We got the money, the governor put it in his governor's message I think a year and a half ago. And Commissioner Buchanan, we get as frustrated as you do, but some of the things that we see when we don't take our time to do things is the lawsuits that happen, and I understand the frustration that comes with that. Hopefully, now we can make sure that everybody is moving in the same direction with this, because when Kauai's finished, as a legislature we're going to go to the next island and make sure that every island has that, because the three of us were at a Kauai Hunting Association meeting three years ago, and the hunters from different areas were coming—there were like 70, 60 people at this meeting—and some of the local hunters were like, "Hey, brah! I know some of you guys were shooting target practice, but we were hunting!" So, we don't want those kinds of things happening to anybody, and that's why we heard that the push was to make this thing happen. So, thank you Andrew, staff, and Sheri, and thank Anastasia from us that hopefully we can make this thing happen soon. Thank you.

Comm. Buchanan: Thank you very much. Anyone else in the public wishing to testify on ITEM 4? Seeing none, then we will close public testimony. At this time does anybody need a five-minute break? If not, we're going to just power on.

ITEM 5. Discuss the current efforts made to renew Unit A Lease on Kauai Island.

Comm. Buchanan: DLNR staff?

Comm. Cremer: Before you start, Thomas—Chair, could I go ahead and show, unless the commissioners can see on their handout, if anyone in the public need one, I can give you guys. We're talking about 4,000 to 5,000 acres of DHHL land that is crucial. So, all that Unit A up there is what we're talking about.

Thomas Kaiakapu (DOFAW): There's a correction, for the Kekaha Game Management Area, it's 13,000 acres now.

Comm. Cremer: So, it's 13,000, okay. Thanks for the clarification.

Thomas Kaiakapu (DOFAW): In February 2018, we met with DHHL on Kauai to go over the Kekaha Game Management Area. They are encouraged to allow us another 20-year lease. This meeting covered the details of this new including maintenance, fences. Another issue brought up was beneficiary hunting rights. So, that was one of the issues that they wanted to try to see if they could work with DLNR to see if beneficiaries could hunt first, so there's some issues about that, with the AG, but the suggestion that we gave to them was to allow beneficiaries to hunt in the safety zones of the former Kupai sugarcane area—which is that section right there—we suggested that area because that area's currently closed to hunting. It's a safety zone, it was formerly sugarcane land under Kekaha Sugar Company back in 2001. And because the area's closed, there's no hunting there, there's a buildup of animals in that area now. So, we recommended that the beneficiaries hunt that area, and they can determine how they want to manage game in that area as far as hunting days, hunting methods, and so forth. They did agree to that

idea, and so now they're going to go back to discuss this suggestion to the commission. We are anticipating another meeting coming up shortly—they have not stated when that meeting will be—our extension ends September 30th of this year, so we have four months to talk about this new deal with Hawaiian Homes. Other things worth mentioning: that we would continue to use all of the hunting areas including the Kupai area—right now there's been no talk about changes in boundaries of the hunting areas, and they have talked about a water/energy storage project on the Kupai area that would take water from an existing Kokee ditch to develop this new water management project for the area. They have not come back with us on that, they're currently trying to do a complete assessment of that irrigation ditch and consequential project. I think everything is tied in with this new license agreement, and it's one of the reasons why we've have to extend the limit year-to-year right now. So, there are hopes now that our next meeting with DHHL will hammer out a deal for 20 years.

Comm. Buchanan: Thank you. Commissioners, any questions on the update?

Comm. Cremer: I have a question, but I've got some statements from this. I think this is a little bit too long we're waiting, and there's so many things in the air flying around about DHHL not wanting and want it and Bill Aila doesn't want, he wants this just to be for beneficiaries. This is a real crucial area for the youth and the senior citizens—this is where most of them will be able to hunt, learning how to use a firearm and safety. Their first introduction to hunting, majority of kids, is in this area right here, whether it be bird hunting, deer hunting, or goat hunting, whether it be archery, muzzle-loader, or rifle. I think this is something that we need to push harder, real hard, to get this lease going, because it's really important. I don't hunt always in that area, but I know a lot of people wait every season and look forward every single season to go in that area to hunt. You know, you and your son hunted, Thomas. My son-in-law is starting to go, hopefully my grandson will be able to go, able to shoot a pheasant or a deer or goat, able to learn about the outdoors. I can teach them the side about hunting with dogs and doing whatever else, but I think children need to learn a lot about firearms in today's society, so they know what a firearm is about. I think practically, kids that do a lot of hunting don't get into trouble in school with guns, because they know what the reason for a rifle and gun is, and I think that is very important to us, very, very important. Out of all the issues on this island, that bothers me the most. I'm not going to hunt there this season, but it still bothers me, because the community uses that a lot. Thank you.

Thomas Kaiakapu (DOFAW): For your information, the Kekaha Game Management Area was established during statehood. At the time Kekaha Sugar had leased the entire area with Hawaiian Homes and through a co-op agreement we were able to establish the Kekaha Game Management Area in partnership with Kekaha Sugar and Hawaiian Homes. Over the years, Kekaha Game Management Area has become the most important public hunting area on Kauai. More hunter trips are made there than any other unit on Kauai, more game is harvested from that area than any other unit on Kauai, both game birds and game mammals, and we do a variety of hunts, including youth hunts, elderly hunts, and so forth. There's potential for more hunts—for example, hunts for women only, we're all about that. So that's how important that area is. It's sustained yield hunting, there's no endangered species within the GMA section of Unit A, there's no interest with T&E species there, which is always an issue when you talk about game management, hunting, and endangered species critical habitat.

Sheri Mann (DOFAW): Could I make a comment? My name is Sheri Mann, I'm the district manager for DOFAW here on Kauai. I just wanted to make one comment, over the years in the discussions with DHHL, it has been brought up that perhaps land swaps might be something to consider, not just for

Kauai, but different sort of changes in designations across the state, where the parcel may be more conducive to DOFAW management goals and some parcels we have might be strategically important for DHHL. That hasn't really gone anywhere, but I think in terms of a long-term strategy, it's something to be considered. With DHHL, it's very difficult for them to bring lands in or out of their holdings, it has to go all the way to Washington, D.C. through a very formal process. So, it's a very rigorous thing to consider, but it is possible, and I just wanted to bring that up.

Comm. Cremer: I think that is a great idea. I don't know if I told you, Thomas, about land exchange, about Hanapepe Heights, there's a parcel of DLNR land or whatever land there is above Hawaiian Homes, that would be an excellent trade with them, something that they could develop for housing. The area that we're talking about—Unit A—the only water is from a ditch, or dug wells. To put in infrastructure for Hawaiian Homes going to cost them billions of dollars, you guys know that. The one above Hanapepe Heights, the lease that you guys get—the guy's going to be pissed off by saying this—but when it's leasing, that that would be a prime example to trade with them, I wouldn't see why they wouldn't want to jump on that and make a trade. Because to maintain that, they have a hard time maintain behind Anahola Beach—the place is a mess—once they turn them over to themselves, who's going to secure the area to make sure everything is—well, anyway.

Comm. Smith: So, this has been on the top of Thomas' list, it's the most important issue for Kauai, I think, and I know Thomas has lost a lot of sleep on this one, and is a very passionate advocate for this. We've met with DHHL leadership repeatedly many times. They're kind of in a hard place, and it might help if we had some conversation later, but the beneficiaries are telling them, "No, we want these lands back," and then the leadership's trying to work with that. And this is not just a quiet thing, we lost some really important hunting lands on Molokai years ago through DHHL leasebacks. Oahu and Big Island just lost some land, so it's sort of a trend right now in DHHL with the beneficiaries wanting to get control of lands that had been leased. And I understand where they're coming from as well. We're working with leadership, and we're trying to work something out, and I think leadership in DHHL is really trying—they're in a difficult position because of who they represent and what they're trying to accomplish. So, it's a tricky thing, but they've been working on it really hard, and it has been moving forward, and we've gotten some baby steps—like. "Okay, we've got this one year, we've got that one year"—and we're trying to move into a longer-term disposition.

Comm. Cremer: I know it's all out of your guys hands—it's all in DHHL—but when they're talking about beneficiaries, are they talking about the entire island, or are they talking about a few people that want to be involved? I'm pretty sure that when they talk about beneficiaries that don't hunt—because I talk to a lot of beneficiaries that do hunt, they say, "Oh, we need that lease"—but some don't want, you know what I mean? So, as a whole, are they holding a meeting island-wide with all the beneficiaries saying, "We're going to have a meeting to discuss about us leasing Unit A back to the state for long-term lease, this is what our plans are, this is the long-term plans for the land—for Kanaka—this is the long-term plan which DLNR and Forestry and Wildlife can offer for us," as far as maintaining and making sure they get their water for their hydro, or whatever it is? But, I know for sure that the vast majority of the beneficiaries don't know what's going on, they stay in the dark. There's a few that can benefit that are involved. I know that for sure. That's all I've got to say.

Comm. Buchanan: That was a lot.

Comm. Smith: There's been a fairly strong wave from the beneficiaries. I can't remember which vote it was, but there was a vote on one of these things where there was 168 people at the meeting and they voted unanimously. So, that's what the leadership at DHHL is dealing with when they're trying to negotiate a lease.

Comm. Cremer: 168 people that were rallied to come, or 168 people that came—

Comm. Smith: I'm just saying.

Comm. Cremer: No, no, I'm just saying, too.

Comm. Smith: And I don't want to disparage beneficiaries: the land is for the benefit of the Hawaiian people, and the people who are legally the beneficiaries for the land, and so we respect that. And we just want to try to work with them. Like you say, maybe it's not the best land, maybe we can find something better for their uses. So, can we work out a compromise that would be mutually beneficial, is really what we're working toward.

Comm. Buchanan: So, Commissioner Cremer, I'm a beneficiary.

Comm. Cremer: I know that.

Comm. Buchanan: So, if you give me prime land in Lihue with pigs that is generating maybe \$100 million a year for trade because, as a beneficiary, this is my land we're talking about today.

Comm. Cremer: Oh, I know that.

Comm. Buchanan: Even though I live on Molokai—I'm probably never going to hunt here—as a beneficiary, under an act of Congress, it belongs to me. So, with that perspective, would I be open as a beneficiary to having that discussion? My answer is yes. That is a hard discussion to have, but I was thinking if there was a working group of the beneficiaries, even if it's 168 people who are going to show up, to start at least talking about it, or for them to hold this land in perpetuity for the purpose of subsistence, because as beneficiaries they should be using this for subsistence practices, too. I have a question about the pump storage: is it located within the Game Management Area?

Thomas Kaiakapu (DOFAW): No, the proposed location would be Hawaiian Homelands, water, irrigation systems from DLNR lands, it would pass through—

Comm. Buchanan: Thank you Councilmember, Representatives for coming, I appreciate it. Thank you for coming to the meeting. Sorry, Thomas.

Thomas Kaiakapu (DOFAW): Irrigation water would pass through the DLNR lands, go down to the Hawaiian Homes section, which is this area right over here. So, part of that irrigation system would be on forestry land, and a section would go on to Hawaiian Homelands, and would run down toward the Puu Opaie former sugarcane lands, which is now pasture lands, and water would be stored over at the Puu Opaie reservoir, the old reservoir that they deactivated after sugarcane was—

Comm. Buchanan: But that's outside the GMA, yeah?

Thomas Kaiakapu (DOFAW): Yeah, that's within the safety zone of the 13,000-acre area. Then the pump storage is closest to where the water would run downhill to another reservoir, at a lower elevation, and would turn the turbines to generate electricity. So, that reservoir would be on KAA state land, ADC land. This would be a partnership project with DLNR, DHHL, and ADC, Hawaiian Department of Agriculture.

Comm. Buchanan: But it's a DHHL project, right? The pump storage is for them to use the storage for electricity purposes for whatever DHHL will need electricity?

Sheri Mann (DOFAW): No, it's a KIUC partnership with DHHL.

Thomas Kaiakapu (DOFAW): And the energy is sold to KIUC, part of that energy would be to pump the water back up to the reservoir, and the revenues from DHHL would provide for the beneficiaries.

Comm. Buchanan: For when they cross the land with the pipe, okay. The reason why I ask, Sheri, is because on Molokai, they have money from USDA—federal funds—to build a huge solar farm, in order to generate electricity to run their pump storage, and to run their transmission systems, which is costing big money. As a beneficiary, because of the federal funding—and we’re using a big chunk of prime hunting lands to construct this 27, or 31-acre solar farm—my question to them was, “If it’s federally funded by USDA, is it protected under Homeland Security?” So, if my subsistence practitioner got caught hunting within the buffer zone of the area of a Homeland Security-protected facility, would they go to federal jail, or would they go to county jail? Nobody can answer this question. So, that’s why I ask where the storage was, and who it belonged to, it’s the private KIUC—follow the money—it’s because I’ve got to be on the lookout for my practitioners, and how they will be impacted. So, that’s why I ask. So, thank you for that explanation, now I get it. Thank you very much. Anyone in the public wishing to public wishing to testify on ITEM 5? Any other staff? Sheri, you got anything else to share on this?

Sheri Mann (DOFAW): No, nothing. Thomas did a good job covering it.

Comm. Buchanan: He did. Awesome. Yeah, thank you for the work you guys are doing. I would say keep on bugging your island representative. Who is your island representative, by the way? DHHL?

Thomas Kaiakapu (DOFAW): Taiko.

Comm. Buchanan: Thank you very much. Okay, Commissioners. It’s 11:20 AM, does anyone need a break? Commissioner Ruidas, you guys—

Comm. Ruidas: Yeah, break.

Comm. Buchanan: Break. Okay, we’re going to take a little break, maybe ten minutes, and thank you.

BREAK

ITEM 6: Updates on Hawaii Island Game Management Plan and discuss prohibiting the wanton waste of game species taken off state land through rule making or legislation.

Comm. Buchanan: I’m going to call this meeting back to order. And we’re going to move right into agenda item number 6: the update on the Hawaii Island game management plan and discussion on prohibiting wanton waste of game species, which was discussed at the last meeting also, in Hilo. Staff, update?

James Cogswell (DOFAW): Jim Cogswell, Wildlife Program Manager, DOFAW. We met with the working group for the Big Island plan, and we decided together to go ahead and hire a consultant to start on a game bird management plan for each of their units, a specific plan. And we’re going to continue with game mammal monitoring and research. And then we’ll be able to start with that as soon as funding is available. We decided to use Pittman Robertson funds FY19, so it may become available and we can start on this, again.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay. Commissioners, any questions for staff on the Hawaii Island game management plan?

Comm. Ruidas: When’s your next meeting with them?

James Cogswell (DOFAW): We'll probably have another meeting whenever we get a consultant hired so that we can orient them and make sure that they're on the right track.

Comm. Ruidas: But you've still got to look for funding to hire the consultant.

James Cogswell (DOFAW): We were going to use PR funds from FY19, and those should become available, with any luck, at the end of September, October.

Comm. Ruidas: Okay, so within the next six months then.

James Cogswell (DOFAW): Yeah.

Comm. Buchanan: Did you get any feedback from... who's on your committee?

James Cogswell (DOFAW): We met with Dick Hoefflinger and Tom Lodge.

Comm. Buchanan: Did Ryan or John have a chance to sit in?

James Cogswell (DOFAW): No.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay, thank you Jim. Part two, the wanton waste?

Shaya Honarvar (DOFAW): Shaya Honarvar, Game Program Coordinator. For the wanton waste, we talked about it during the last meeting and the commission asked us to look into it. We are still looking into it. I'm doing a little bit of the background research, to see how many states in the US have this type of rule and how it looks. I've found that there are thirteen states that have some kind of wanton waste rule. We have put together a memo to our AG and sent it to them, and now we have an AG assigned to us to look more closely into this and see what we can do, whether this needs to happen through rule making or legislation. So we're moving forward with it, it's just we're going through the process of gathering information.

Comm. Buchanan: Good job! Commissioners, any questions for staff on the wanton waste?

Comm. Cremer: Maybe you could email me or the rest of the commission once you know as far as the thirteen states, I'd like to know how many of the thirteen states are game manageable, are they a subsidizing state for game mammals, or they're just a hunting state, because there's a difference.

Shaya Honarvar (DOFAW): And that thirteen states, it was from a couple of different sources, don't quote me on it, I know it's on record, but. It might be more than thirteen, I need to do more research.

Comm. Cremer: I know Alaska is one of them.

Shaya Honarvar (DOFAW): Yes, Alaska was on the list.

Comm. Cremer: Montana. Wyoming, Idaho.

Shaya Honarvar (DOFAW): I'm actually surprised that it's only thirteen, I would've thought it was more. So that's initiated the thought that I need to look, do a more thorough search.

Comm. Buchanan: Great. Anymore questions for staff?

Sheri Mann (DOFAW): I have a question. How would that relate to the state doing ungulate control?

Shaya Honarvar (DOFAW): I don't know, and that's why I need to look closely into it and see how that would affect...

Comm. Buchanan: Great question. Thank you, Shaya. Anyone in the public wishing to testify on this agenda item? Okay, seeing none, we'll close public testimony on agenda item six. Moving into Item 7.

ITEM 7: A short report by each commissioner summarizing their meetings with DOFAW staff on the island that they represent.

Comm. Ruidas: I talked to Shane De Mattos the other day, I'm from Lanai. Tomorrow is the mouflon lottery draw in Maui, and we have I think 1400 total hunters that applied, which is two hundred less than last year. 400 archers applied, and I think it was only 48 youth hunters from the state, and only 16 youth hunters on Lanai. The lease, we had the three year lease, so right now, I guess Jim knows more, but they're doing their plans and surveys to do the management plan, and hopefully it's on schedule and we can get it done in three years, or two and a half years now. And that will solidify another ten year lease if that happens, according to the landowner. The other thing is the mouflon count was 600 something multiplied by some factor which gave a total count of 1600. From what I've seen, and talked to the deer hunters, there isn't that many mouflon out there, so I don't know how this next mouflon season is going to pan out for Lanai. Hopefully we still have some survivors. And I think that's it for my report.

Comm. Buchanan: Thank you, Commissioner from Lanai. Any questions for the commissioner from Lanai?

Comm. Cremer: Who does the count for that, Stan?

Comm. Ruidas: DOFAW does the aerial count for that, they fly through grids and count, and multiply that by some kind of factor. Daytime factor.

Comm. Cremer: So upshot is the populations is below what you guys are saying, and we overhunt the area this year, next year it's going to get again lower and lower, so we're looking at...

Comm. Ruidas: It may go lower. The hunters don't agree with the counts, put it that way. Because they're seeing herds of less than 20 mouflon out there, whereas in prior years you would see forty, fifty in a herd, running around.

Comm. Cremer: You know, for me, I'm not only looking at the hunting situation, I'm looking at the long-term financial situation for the island, how you guys depend on the hunters to come there and give economy to you guys. So if you kill off all the mouflon and guys start not coming...

Comm. Ruidas: There is already a decline in the mouflon participation. In deer season, we had lots of people, but the problem was they couldn't find housing. Actually hunters bring into Lanai about 3 million dollars a year as far as Lanai's economy, and that's not based on any tourism factor. So as far as culture and economy-wise for the whole state, it benefits everyone from the whole state. So that's why we need to keep the hunting going.

Comm. Cremer: That's what I was thinking. Thank you.

Comm. Ruidas: We're talking to Shane with the hunting community on how to figure out this mouflon situation.

Comm. Buchanan: Commissioner, do you know if DOFAW ever contracted somebody to do population counts except internally, the way they do them now?

Comm. Ruidas: Just internally.

Comm. Buchanan: And that's okay, because not only Lanai has no more houses, we all need more houses. But that's an industry, we might want to build houses.

Comm. Jury: I have a question. So I may repeat a bit what the commissioner is saying, maybe someone knows a bit more from staff. So the aerial data that's collected, I'm guessing prior to every season, is this something that we can see? That we're aware of? Obviously, the hunters don't agree with what may be seen from the air, so that's a way to bring transparency and clarity to it. Of course people are concerned because they feel with their own vision that there's not enough game to sustain, and if that trend is true

or not, maybe the data can help bring clarity to that. Of course if it's scarce it's going to be "what about next year," you know. I know it's a game management area and we want to make sure there's that yield every year. Did anybody see that data?

Shaya Honarvar (DOFAW): I have seen some of the data, but there's no one here from Maui, unfortunately. We can definitely get in touch with Shane about this.

Comm. Ruidas: Or Melanie. There's the harvest counts, so if you take the harvest counts and look at it for the last, call it seven years, look at that, look at the hunter participation for those last seven years and look at the surveys, what animals were counted and when, I think that can give you an idea of how the herd is doing right now. And how many hunters come to Lana'i.

Shaya Honarvar (DOFAW): And I do believe that Shane, John, from the Maui branch, they are definitely looking through all of that.

Comm. Jury: One more question, sorry. So the data that we're looking at and the concern that it has over this management area in Lana'i, if the data, after they look at it, is it too late to do any type of rule change to ensure that there is enough game for the next year, if we have to change the bag count. Looking at the management area as a whole, when we look at the data and the trends of it like how we did a wonderful presentation on the Big Island with the birds and stuff like that, just looking at that. It's such a big economy for them, 3 million dollars, and a lot of practitioners, hunters, gatherers, they go to the island and grab stuff. That's all, I think it would to ask the Maui guys, I just want to ask if the decision can still be made. When is it, coming up soon, yeah?

Comm. Ruidas: The pulling for the lottery tomorrow, so this season is already in play, but for the next season, next year? Yeah, we can take a look at the numbers. I think they're doing another count, a fly-by, in September. That's another survey, I think it's done twice a year.

Comm. Buchanan: Thank you commissioner Jury. I believe that Dave had conveyed to his staff in earlier meetings that they were happy to share that information with commissioners, all the data that they collect, is that correct? DLNR's Shane, besides doing those animal counts, is also doing Rapid Ohia Death, aerial surveys, kind of doing everything, so they've already said that they're willing to share that information once they process all that information. It's all part of game management. You want to continue with your report?

Comm. Jury: For the island of Oahu it's me and Nancy, we've just been ongoing working with the wildlife manager, forestry manager, we're in the final stages of putting in a new check-in station in the Waianae hunting area, and this ongoing working with the public, and Nick kind of jumping in and helping spearhead some things, we're looking to be finished with that project soon in that particular check in station. Just kind of meeting and going forward, again following up with the letter that was mentioned earlier. That's what we've got going on Oahu.

Comm. Buchanan: Josiah, how is the Waianae Hunting Association, they've been having meetings or no?

Comm. Jury: For those who don't know, the Waianae Hunting Association are the ones working directly with the Department on Oahu with the goat project down in Waianae with the aerial shooting. It's been going on for a while and I think their patience is definitely wearing thin. They're upset about certain things and the duration things are taking and making sure that they understand the process. Of course, communication is key, so having more communication with them is vital, but their association, as I stated before, along with many other practitioners and Mr. Manaku, they understand the protocol of

going to all the neighborhood board meetings and all that so everybody's just waiting on the letter, everybody understands that the Board is really the one that can help make that decision, and they're doing their best to abide by the protocol and right now they're just waiting, as patiently as they can.

Comm. Buchanan: Thank you commissioner. Commissioner Timko?

Comm. Timko: We're tag-teaming on this. Nothing to report.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay, Commissioner Cremer.

Comm. Cremer: I know last meeting I mentioned stuff about the archery that staff is trying to introduce with Nounou Mountain, introducing more archery on a trial basis and pilot projects so the archery community can shoot more, especially on the East side of the island. On May 21st, opening of Nounou Mountain, 39 permits are handed out. From what I've been told, six animals have been taken since that time. Future permits will be issued soon as long as the pilot program continues, that's about all for Nounou Mountain. Pheasants have been ordered for our upcoming season, 600 Ring-necks, 150 Blues. Their arrival should be the week of June 18th. Six volunteers will be taking care of the birds until the time of release. The only thing I worry about it that our lease is until September with DHHL, and those birds are supposed to be released there. That's a big concern, where are those birds going to be released if they say they're not going to re-lease it. That's why I say that is a crunch project for us. No repairs have been done on Camp Ten road, the road going into Sugi Grove.

Comm. Smith: They had a little problem, all our equipment went to the North Shore and it's stuck there now.

Comm. Cremer: Plum season is coming up, and I'm just worried that people who are not used to driving off road might have a problem. Maybe you in your plum release, you guys notify people that if you're not off road drivers then don't go in that area.

Comm. Smith: We were ready to jump on it, Sheri had it all staged up, and then the flood happened and that was the end of that. We'll get back to it as soon as we can, but we were working on it.

Comm. Cremer: Then I recently learned that we have a fungus problem, ROD, in the Ohia Lehua in the Moloa'a area. I also noticed that within the last 6-8 months that the Java Plum is being attacked by a fungus. Whether the Java Plum has been a new host for the fungus that has been on the Rose Apple and killing the rose apple on the island, or any other type of fungus that was released or brought, how, when, I'm not sure, but I would like for staff to look into whether this is the same fungus that destroyed our rose apple, because it sure as hell looks the same. The plum tree and the rose apple tree are similar in variation as far as structure and leaves, so I'm thinking that the fungus is finding a new host to survive. Sheri can probably share about the fungus, I'll turn it over to her as far as the fungus on the Ohia Lehua.

Sheri Mann (DOFAW): Sheri Mann, district manager for DOFAW for Kauai island. So about a month ago, our botanist, Adam Williams, was in the Moloa'a area doing surveys, and he had been there in the past and seen what looked to be an unusual amount of dead ohia, so he went back there and took some samples after getting trained on how to do it, and sent those to the Big Island to the pathologist and they came back positive for *Ceratocystis huliohia*, which there are two species of *Ceratocystis* fungus, the *huliohia* or the *lukuohia*. *Lukuohia* species is much worse, it presents itself in that it affects the entire vascular system of the tree, so all the water movement in the tree is impacted, so it dies much faster and if you cut the tree you could see it's all around it. So the *huliohia* is really just like a spot somewhere on the trunk or on the tree. So often times you'll see a branch, but the rest of the tree looks okay. So if you take a sample of the *huliohia* on the wrong side of the tree, it won't necessarily show up, so it's a

little more tricky, it moves a lot slower, we don't have *lukuohia* as far as we know, so as a result of this find we're ramping up and doing a lot more aerial digital sketch mapping, which we've been doing for several years and it's been happening across the state. And that's one of the best coarse ways that we can fly over and sort of see telltale signs of the canopy die back. It's got a special look that's kind of opaque and gaunt, sort of ghostly, and there's oftentimes this sort of red. But there's lots of things that kill ohia, and dead ohia is teasing through that. It's difficult to identify. In addition to a lot more of that, we're going to be flying drones over the areas where it looks suspicious from the digital sketch mapping. The drones can get in closer and really help us identify if we need to go out and take a sample, because it's very costly to get people out to very remote places, and so we want to use their time the best we can. That's why we're doing the sketch mapping and the drone flying before we send people in. So we feel that it's most important to start sampling the entire island, because while we know it's in Moloa'a Forest Reserve, we don't know if it's elsewhere. And if it is across the entire island or in more places than Moloa'a, then that's going to impact the outreach and the strategy that we put into place. So that's what we're doing first, we're also contacting helicopter pilots, all of our staff that work in the field on a regular basis, be it forest birds, sea birds, conservation groups, The Nature Conservancy, KISC, all of them are getting a lot of training on how to identify it and how to take samples. And we're working closely with the Department of Agriculture, various administrative staff at DOFAW Admin, and USDA pathology in Hilo, who does all of the sample testing. That's kind of where we're at right now, it's really gearing up for a lot of looking and sampling. But we don't have the worst one here, so it could be worse.

Comm. Cremer: Can I ask if you guys could have the botanist check on what's going on with the Java Plum?

Sheri Mann (DOFAW): Yeah, I will find out exactly what that is for you, both the Rose Apple and the Java Plum.

Nicolai Barka (TNC): I think I might know. Nicolai Barka with the Nature Conservancy. I think it was Kathryn Fiedler, she was working with CTAHR, she was a plant pathologist. She also noticed this, I can't remember if she wrote a report on it or not, but a fungus, the one that was on the Rose Apple, is called *Puccinia psidii* I think they changed the name or something, that was the same one they called Ohia Rust when they first noticed it. So that fungus apparently has many varieties where it's from which can attack many different plants. It was her impression that it was the same fungus that got here before and that climatic conditions had changed to where it started to affect the Java Plum more than it was in the past. It was kind of affecting it before, but it wasn't really hurting it like that. My observation was that it started in one area in Wailua Homesteads like five years ago, and it seemed like from there it spread around the whole island, so I thought maybe it was a different variety...

Comm. Cremer: My observation is, every area where the rose apple got wiped out is where it started from, so Wailua Homesteads Kipapa Road, Puuopae Road, Kainahola Road, Kahuna Road, [Upper Waipaiaae, Anahola Road 26:50 unintelligible on the recording], all had rose apple that got depleted because of the fungus, all the java plum is getting wiped out the fastest.

Nicolai Barka (TNC): Interesting. I heard it was on Molokai too. You guys having problems with it on Molokai? Is it affecting the trees worse over there?

Comm. Buchanan: We have problems with everything on Molokai. Actually, I told State Parks and a bunch of other people and I emailed Shane, that our forest is dying, we took samples for [unintelligible]... and didn't find it on the Ohia, but something's killing all of the paperbark and

eucalyptus trees... I know this is Rose apple, yeah? From the invasive species point of view, it's nice to see that invasive stuff is actually dead and dying along with great stuff that shouldn't be dying. So the response is they're just going to come down. So the state is not going to waste a whole lot of money and time. I called Rob Hauff and [Jimmy Friday and Flynn Hughes 28:00 unintelligible on the recording], everybody, and then I don't see rust too much on the ohia, but it's not coming back. Our ohia is heavily affected on Molokai from central Molokai to east Molokai. DOFAW's been flying and doing imaging, but the samples that they've taken have not come back as *Ceratocystis*, more just some type of *Puccinia* rust, like you said, it's huge. So I don't know what we're going to do.

Nicolai Barka (TNC): Is that the same impacts you've seen on the ohia on Molokai?

Comm. Buchanan: Yeah. The new growth is being impacted on the ohia sprouts, so they just end up dying. But I haven't seen active, but then again it was in the rain. Every time we go out we can't find active rust for rain, so I guess we're not looking hard enough. I think the tree growers or the guys who cut trees are the ones who are spreading them, because they're making money cutting trees. Just joking. Yeah, because otherwise we don't know what we're doing. We don't know how to respond. Anybody have questions for Sheri or Nicolai?

Comm. Ruidas: I want to ask Cremer something. So the rose apple, is the tree dying itself or just the fruit?

Comm. Cremer: The whole tree is dying completely. The only living tree I know of that is healthy is in Nanakoa, and that was ten years ago, but everything was wiped out or nearly wiped out, they act like they're going to regrow and then just getting worse and worse and worse until it's completely dead.

Comm. Buchanan: On Molokai after five years we're starting to see comeback of the rose apple. I haven't seen fruit yet, but I see new growth coming. Where old and dead trees were was all gray and silver in aerial surveys, and then now it's gotta be maybe year six and seven, we're finding resprouts in Pelekunu and all of those other native areas.

Comm. Cremer: I was told that sections of [Grove Farms 30:44 unintelligible on the recording] started to grow back a little bit too, but I haven't seen it with my own eyes.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay, me. I think we still don't have a representative from Maui. I talked to Shane the DOFAW staff on Maui, he said he spoke to our Maui rep. He said he was still interested but he kind of was maybe living on the big island but not, so I don't know but I think we have got to know pretty soon. I'll follow up again.

Shaya Honarvar (DOFAW): I was told that he would be here. He said he was planning to come to this meeting, but...

Comm. Buchanan: Did he ever get sworn in?

Shaya Honarvar (DOFAW): Yes.

Comm. Buchanan: That's why we need rules.

Shaya Honarvar (DOFAW): And he has one more year in his term.

Comm. Buchanan: No, but Shane has been nothing but helpful whenever we're discussing it. We were just talking about that kind of stuff like I just said, like dying trees, and not so much about hunting because the only recent issue we had is with poaching. The ranch and poaching, and people mad that they're actually getting caught through their own posting on IG and Facebook and evidence of their own doing gets them caught, and then they get mad. So that's our only issue that we're having right now with the hunting. But we are trying to organize a group to just focus on hunting on Molokai. And that's

more driven by the farmers, who are affected by large herds coming through at night and eating all the crops, so that's where the push is coming from, for animal control for crops and farming, it's not the hunter guys not having hunting areas. Okay, Dave, you want to say anything at this time?

Comm. Smith: Joey has something, and then I'll go.

Joey Mello (DOFAW): Joey Mello, East Hawaii wildlife manager. I'll speak for both, unless Kanalu tells me to shut up. We haven't talked with Ryan or John for some time, they're both really busy, and I imagine Ryan's busyness just increased exponentially working for HELCO with the eruption, but one of the things that we'd talked about I think at this commission at one time and many times in the Big Island commission was getting together legitimate surveys. We've been doing our surveys by more anecdotal stuff for a long time. So Shaya and her interns helped us put together a survey, we're starting with game bird surveys in Kapapala in I believe March. I was off island then, but they and our east Hawaii staff did two days of transects in kapapala, covered 26 kilometers both days, one day with dogs, one day without dogs. Both days got about 50 something birds, so it was very equivalent with or without dogs. Surveys were from 0600 to 1200. Most birds were found in the first two hours, and fifty percent or more were detected audibly, but also detected by flush or sight. The plan is to try to get more in depth survey going on in August, so we'll be doing it a month and a half before bird season to get some kind of idea what bird season is going to be like. I think that was all with that. West Hawaii has a Puu Waawaa hunt coming up in August, and the other thing happening as you guys probably know – Kauai had floods, Big Island had to do one better I guess – we have an eruption going on and a bunch of our staff are working on the eruption. Malama Ki Forest Reserve, Nanawale Forest Reserve, Keauohana Watershed and Forest Reserve. Small units, but they're very important for hunting. Native forests in the area are all impacted, Malama Ki Forest Reserve might be split down the middle by now. Looking at the map Keauohana is inaccessible, Nanawale is probably accessible but I wouldn't go in there, it's within a couple of miles of the hottest SO₂ and stuff. It's impacting hunting and subsistence, it's impacting a couple of probably the last best populations of lowland Apapane and Amakihi in the Malama Ki Forest Reserve, and of course numerous native plants in the forest. Oh, and Kapapala Forest Reserve and Kau Forest Reserve and Kapapala ranch where we just did the survey are suffering from the explosions from Kilauea as well. I was up there last Saturday, and the SO₂, that rotten egg smell was really bad. I did not have a respirator and I got a scolding from Steve, but it wasn't at the danger level in Kapapala. But it could be, so those areas could be off limits for hunting at some point. Depending on how long this goes on Kapapala bird season might be closed.

Comm. Buchanan: Commissioners, any questions for staff? I'm so happy you came and said this. First of all, how many acres is 26 kilometers?

Joey Mello (DOFAW): Javier (UH Post doc), who works with Shaya, can get back to you... I can elaborate a little bit. Initially he wanted to make basic, even line surveys, but Kapapala isn't conducive for doing that. So we used the existing roads and whatever open trails could be walked, and he's trying to design it that way. I'm sure he can come up with something that will tell you how many acres we covered for the survey.

Comm. Buchanan: I was thinking about this while the lava was going on, so maybe DLNR needs to start thinking about what happens when lava engulfs game management areas and the people who use those areas for hunting don't have the ability to do that anymore. Can DOFAW start looking at other places where their practice can continue, if they cannot continue to practice there anymore? I know some

people are going to go someplace, anyway, but it would be nice if they could go legally instead of just going and then trying to fight later on about where they're hunting. But you said right now it's a small impact, yeah? I think that's a good question, though. And then you guys release birds?

Joey Mello (DOFAW): No.

Comm. Buchanan: Kauai is so different Sheri, you guys release birds here. So you're enhancing game.

Comm. Cremer: Depends on the pens and survival because it starts at 600 ring neck and then 150 blues, depends on the survival rate in the brooders. Thomas maybe could answer the question on the total that survived as far as release.

Thomas Kaiakapu (DOFAW): After the season?

Comm. Cremer: No, survived after brooding, how many we released total.

Thomas Kaiakapu (DOFAW): Oh yeah. From the time from brooding to release, we average between 10-50% so 700 birds, you can do the math on that. Each year is different.

Comm. Buchanan: How much do you guys spend on the birds, on the project, if you don't mind me asking? Anybody know? How much does it cost annually to release birds?

Thomas Kaiakapu (DOFAW): If you take into account the water and the time spent, we can estimate anywhere between \$6000-7000 dollars for the project, which includes the purchase of the birds, feed, and a lot of the time that we put into the project is volunteer, so no cost to us. And then of course the fuel and maintenance of the area, about \$6000-7000.

Comm. Buchanan: Commissioner Cremer, do your hunters like that?

Comm. Cremer: It's really important, I think. I just wish the birds were a little bit more wild, and we could do a little bit better.

Comm. Buchanan: That's my issue, I was just going to say. Because I only know one person who had a permit to do birds on Molokai, and they were some stupid. So I would've killed like 100 already on top of my road, just running them over with my car, so that was my question.

Comm. Cremer: The vast majority is going to be easy the first season, but once they survive the first season then they're going to be educated already.

Thomas Kaiakapu (DOFAW): Yeah, after the first year it really, I'd say 25-30% of birds are not harvested, they survive, and you see the birds throughout the off season in the area, and as time goes by, the birds become more wild. They understand what predators are, so they run and they flush faster versus a bird that was just released one or two months earlier.

Comm. Buchanan: Yeah, I see that on Molokai too. We have some cocks that survive and then...

Thomas Kaiakapu (DOFAW): What we have been doing is setting up the auto-feeders away from dirt roads to keep the birds away from them. And when we first started this project, we were using automatic feeders attached to a tailgate and road feeding, but you know the first year the birds stayed near the road, so when hunters drove in the birds were near the road. So we stopped that by doing away with the tailgate feeder and using remote auto-feeders, but you have to drive way off the road, and maintain it. So that helped a lot, because it kept the birds away from the road. A good year is when you have good rainfall, wild food such as guava, kiawe, those that have kept the birds in there without having to rely 100% on supplemental feeding. Some months we turn off the feeders so that the birds are forced to feed on wild foods, and once they got that then they survived better in the field. And they move away from the auto-feeders.

Comm. Buchanan: The person on Molokai that imports birds, they get fed money, so they import birds on Hawaii. They have automatic feeders, but what I noticed about two years after they started feeding them that all of a sudden I had weeds that I never used to have on Molokai spreading in these different areas. I never knew where it was coming from, but I suspect it was coming from bird seed, that probably wasn't regulated well enough. So that was one issue, and I found out that it was permitted in the state book. I can't do anything about weeds that I never had like they're planting on Maui. I'm just amazed, because now with the birds eating the they're inadvertently spreading it. I'm glad that you guys like that, the project and program, I'm glad it's working out, and I'm glad that the numbers are still low, that they're surviving enough at least to make it challenging for the kids. But thank you for all the work you're doing on the Big Island, because Puu Waawaa and Kau are always problematic from the hunters' perspective.

Comm. Cremer: If we go back about the invasive species stuff, that's why that area, Unit A, is so pristine for what they're doing there, because no one knows endangered species or birds or anything where human population or animal population going to affect the plants, and everywhere else is natural area or we have a certain species of plants that have twenty-something left or something, like when you go into unit H or D or C, this area is a dry country, very few native plants that are impacted.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay, so you just have to work with DHHL. Maybe you should go talk to them... So now that we've done all the islands, Item seven.

Comm. Jury: Commissioner Buchanan?

Comm. Buchanan: Yes?

Comm. Jury: I want to add one more thing to the Oahu update. Just as a follow up, I know we mentioned it last time, but the last meeting that we had in March, at the time there was a House Resolution that was going through, submitted by representative Gates, supported by Tupola, district 44 and 43. Unfortunately it didn't get heard by the Finance, on March 23rd it got heard by Water and Land, and it was approved. The head of Water and Land also approved the resolution, but because of a whole bunch of resolutions that happened this year, Finance, the last committee, was unable to hear it. So I think it's good to just point out that it was supported by the Chair of Water and Land, and it's also probably worth pointing out that there was a letter submitted on behalf of the Department to Suzanne Case which did not support the resolution, and it can be found on top of the website, but the resolution in short encouraged the Department... let me just say it word for word, commissioner, just the top part so that way there is clarification. "In short, House Concurrent Resolution 182 House Resolution 153 urging the Department of Land and Natural Resources to work with local hunters to accommodate traditional and customary native Hawaiian hunting practices, and change its policies based on the concerns of local hunters." And again, this was passed by the Water and Land, but was not heard by Finance, and Suzanne Case, the Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, did state in her letter that the Department does not consider this particular goat hunting to be constitutionally protected traditional and customary Hawaiian practice. And I just wanted to say that for the record, so you know, it didn't go any farther than that. I just wanted to update that for the Oahu report.

Comm. Buchanan: Josiah, do we have a copy of the correspondence from Chair Case?

Comm. Jury: Yes, I have it here.

Comm. Buchanan: You can give it to Shaya, and Shaya can distribute it.

Dietra Myers-Tremblay (DOFAW): It's testimony, so it's posted.

Comm. Jury: Yeah, it's posted on the Leg., if you look up hunting, the status, that's how I got it. It's public testimony.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay, so I now have to look, you can send it to me?

Comm. Jury: Yes, it's on the Leg., that's where I found it. Just following it.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay. Thank you. You think you guys can work on them and try again this next legislative season?

Comm. Jury: We'll see what happens between now and the next legislative session in terms of... but yeah, I think from representative Gate's office they just said it wasn't heard through Finance because of the amount of resolutions that they had. Again, he would just be that avenue and that voice for the community on the leeward side of Oahu.

Comm. Buchanan: Alright, thank you. Anybody have any more questions on any of the island updates? Did you finish?

Comm. Smith: Oh, I just had a couple of things. We just referred a pig complaint to Oahu Pig Hunters Association, so we had some pigs causing a nuisance in a residential area, I just referred that the other day, and then we're also working on Big Island, Palamanui, the nice native remnant dry forest areas, we're working with the UH campus there, they're trying to do some restoration work on the wiliwili and some of the other native plants in that area, and they've found that there's goats impacting the native forest, and so I'm going to be referring... a lot of that land is State unencumbered land, so it's just open state land, so we're going to work with the State Land Division to look at some of these unencumbered lands where maybe we don't technically have access for hunters and see if we can get hunters in there, even if we could do an open archery hunt kind of thing. So that might be another opportunity to open up lands for hunting that haven't traditionally been considered public hunting areas. We'll have to work with Land Division on that. That's an opportunity, and that opportunity that may exist on other islands, where if we can find state unencumbered lands that aren't deeded to DOFAW or aren't public hunting areas or game management areas currently, it might be possible to open up some of these areas so that hunters have access.

Sheri Mann (DOFAW): I have a small comment to add to David's, sort of related to that. This area right here we're about to acquire, it's about 162 acres, and it's right where this road ends, so the plan is to have some kind of a parking area...

Comm. Cremer: Was that Kalaheo dam? Above the nursery?

Sheri Mann (DOFAW): Yeah. So that'll be added as more hunting but as important...

Comm. Cremer: But legal access with the check station is good?

Sheri Mann (DOFAW): Yes.

Comm. Smith: It provides legal access. That forest reserve was landlocked prior, so we're doing this acquisition to provide access into this area.

Comm. Cremer: It's needed.

Sheri Mann (DOFAW): And that was something that we worked with Land Division. Their lease ran out, or terminated early, and we asked if we could have it, and we're working it out.

Comm. Buchanan: Nice!

Comm. Jury: I've got a question for Dave. So this, like you said, as a commission, as all of us from our representative islands, what's the best approach that we can help with this unencumbered land? I'm actually looking for something that we can do as well coming out, I hear what you're saying with

unencumbered land and just kind of filtering that to our respective managers. I know that it's not going to be every land, I'm not saying every land that is unencumbered we want to hunt on, but just something that we can help participate in the movement of. Something like Hawaii Island, that you were saying, for unencumbered or other State Department lands. What can we do? How can we assist in that process or help streamline it?

Comm. Smith: Work with your wildlife managers on your own.

Comm. Jury: Cool.

Sheri Mann (DOFAW): Very high priority for us is the east side DOFAW managed lands, about 40k acres, they're almost all landlocked. So we've been really looking for access, easements, acquisitions, opportunities so we can get people into those areas. That's a very high priority for us.

Comm. Smith: Yeah, so we're looking at a statewide inventory of all the state lands that are under the division of land. Some of them are encumbered by leases or local permits, some of them are unencumbered, and we're looking at those areas, and some of those areas there's potentially a lease in there for grazing or something, but we're also looking at "well, what's the possibility of that being a hunting area" and when the lease comes up do we want to think about opening it up for hunting, or maybe people give up the lease, but we just really want to be able to keep an eye on what that inventory is and be able to take advantage of opportunities as they come up. A lot of it is just paying attention. Everyone gets busy and they kind of wander off, and all of a sudden an opportunity pops up, so we're trying to get ahead of that a little bit, and get inventories put together where there may be opportunities out there to get additional hunting lands, especially in highly impacted areas where we don't have the native species or native ecosystem negative impacts from introduced animals, these are old agricultural lands or whatnot, where it's no problem having hunting in that area. So those are the kind of areas that I think would be of really high value in terms of hunting, and also, the other thing, instead of having all the hunting away at the top of the mountain, making it more accessible for people so... you know like on Oahu, looking for areas lower down so you don't have to drive half the day to get to Kuaokala or wherever you're going. Like Kaneohe side, at the base of the Ko'olaus, looking at lands in there to see if we can make them more accessible so you guys can drive 15 minutes and get a little hunt in after work before dark. So we're looking at all these opportunities, some areas can be bigger, some small, but trying to think creatively about how we can expand opportunities for hunters. And the way this stuff happens is on the ground with the managers on the island. I can think of times when maybe we if we could use the Commission to write a letter to somebody we'll do that, but right now it's just looking for those opportunities. And maybe, just having thought about that, Land Division is not really land managers in the sense of managing game, or hunting, or other land use, they're just looking to lease things out to people that come to them. So when the lands say that they're unencumbered, they're not necessarily thinking "oh, what could we be doing with this thing" it's just sitting there fallow, there may be opportunities like that. So here we have a consortium where we've got the Fish and Wildlife Service and ourselves and the University coming together, wanting to look at protecting some of these dry land native forest areas, and there's impact from the goats, so "hey, let's get the hunters in there and start working on it!" So it's kind of a win-win deal and that's the kind of opportunities we're looking at. And there may be reasons they can't do it, for one reason or another, but at least we can explore those options.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay. Commissioner Jury, did that answer your question?

Comm. Jury: Yeah.

Comm. Cremer: So if there's DLNR land that is currently used for agricultural purposes, at the end of Moalepe road that has never been leased for over twenty years, wouldn't we be able to use that as a hunting area? Because currently it's not on the map as a hunting area. Would we be able to say "now we can use this as a hunting area"?

Comm. Smith: It's DLNR land?

Comm. Cremer: It's right there adjacent to the GMA, it's by Moalepe stream in between Makaleha ridge and the GMA.

Thomas Kaiakapu (DOFAW): Wailua Game Management Area.

Comm. Cremer: Yeah. You've got about, I would say close to 1000 acres, that are all forested now. They used to use for grazing, [pad lines 57:20 unintelligible on the recording] of the lease, back in the '80's.

Thomas Kaiakapu (DOFAW): That area is considered a Land Division land. We have been working with the land agent here to see if we could take back part of that area and put it under DOFAW management, and open it up to more variety of hunters. There's one parcel that is currently leased out to **Centralist, Cremer 57:50 unintelligible on the recording**, and from our last meeting with Land Division, they told us they still want to hang onto that lease, and that agent said we should maintain some areas for cattle ranching. We're okay with it, as long as the cattle rancher can maintain the area under the agreement in such a way that it enhances game bird habitat. That's part of the agreement, but unfortunately over the last decade the quality of that area declined because invasive species such as rattail has invaded that area. So it's taking a lot more money and time to keep these non-native plants from taking over. So one idea was to allow the cattle rancher to keep one parcel, and the other two parcels to be handed over to DOFAW for hunting management, so that we could bring our equipment into the area and enhance it for game birds, and also include game mammals, right now it's technically closed to game mammal hunting, but we would like to introduce game mammal hunting to the area. But we still have to work out some of these details with Land Division and the cattle rancher

Comm. Cremer: I think the section along Kuamoo Road which would be closest to Wailua, I think that section would be done as far as a bird management area, but mammal hunting would be good, there's plenty of game in there. Many times the dogs chase them out of the forest and because that is the nearest they end up in there.

Thomas Kaiakapu (DOFAW): After conducting our hunting trial in the Nounou mountain forest reserve, our next move is Wailua GMA.

Comm. Cremer: That'll be good.

Thomas Kaiakapu (DOFAW): Lindsey, then game biologist and I, have been considering starting this trial hunt in the next fiscal year, which of course starts on July 1st. We're working on that so we'll keep you informed on that.

Comm. Cremer: Thank you, I appreciate it. Lindsey's been calling me and we talk.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay. Anymore questions for Dave on what he just said? Commissioner Jury, I think what I hear at every meeting, constantly, is the same two things. Number one, access and acquisitions and landlock and that kind of stuff is an issue for DLNR. It's been an issue, it'll always be an issue, sometimes they have one person to work on acquisitions, sometimes they don't. My sense is that now they don't have any dedicated staff that is working on our issues besides the Wildlife and stuff like that. But I constantly hear that they have land that is landlocked, constantly hear that access is an issue, and

then I always hear Dave say the same thing at every meeting, which we should take to heart, is work with your local staff, because the problem is so large and so complex, that if you pick and choose, if you know your hunters need this, then focus on that for now, and in the meantime try to work on bigger vision, overarching issues, that maybe we can solve legislatively. And it probably sounds like it's more of a process issue, all these ag. lands, you know ag. zoning doesn't allow for this, so you've got all that other red tape bureaucratic kind of issues, but try being more specific, like Dave always says, and work with your local guys, and in the meantime try to solve the bigger world problems. I'm sitting here thinking about this access issue, because I remember taking Sheri on the helicopter for Legacy Lands, and it's back to access and acquisitions again, especially on the big island. What if this commission was to try and educate our representatives and tell them that this is what we see as an issue, that we need dedicated staff within the Department, maybe one per county, to work on something really specific. Like, is there an unencumbered land map that I can just pull up and go "oh yeah, like this, this, that, and that" and if not, if it takes research, that this person could work on that and with the help of a legal fellow that is assigned to the Department... Maybe you could put a number on that? On money, how much it would cost to fund four positions to work in four counties on only that, only access and acquisitions. Is there a need within the Department for that, first of all? Would that be helpful?

Comm. Smith: It's a high priority for us. Before you mentioned it, I was going to mention that at a minimum we would like to get an access and acquisitions coordinator under Trails and Access Program that could service the entire division. And the branches have actually mentioned that every single branch would like to have their own access and acquisitions coordinator. So maybe that's something that we go in this year and try to get that in the governor's budget, perhaps Commissioners could work with their constituents to support such a thing, because that would be an extremely helpful way to move this forward. Like I said, there is no map, what they give us is like a list of a thousand TMKs, we've got to punch it into our GIS system and pull them all up and it's super cumbersome. So there's no question that you could have a person in each county working on access and acquisition projects, and that would be a big step forward for all of our programs, the hunting program included.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay. I think we need our overhead on this.

Thomas Kaiakapu (DOFAW): At the last program managers meeting Sheri mentioned the need for a planner position, and outreach position, a combined position to help the district on issues such as hunter access and other issues. That position could be just focused strictly on that, and I'm hoping that's something we can do, establish that position.

Sheri Mann (DOFAW): Another important part of acquisition is that you almost always have to have some seed money to get an appraisal and to get due diligence done before you can even really apply for monies to buy the land or put a conservation easement on it. So it's important to have this position, but it's also important for there to be some functional monies, because appraisals can be very expensive, and the state can only pay fair market value, and so it is definitely a position, but there's also just some funding with it would really make it be able to get a lot done.

Comm. Buchanan: I agree. I think our Senate President could be a good champion for taking money from the [Transient Accommodation Tax and not NAR fund 1:06:40 unintelligible on the recording] to start a little kitty for an acquisition and appraisal fund, and to fund our four county positions for access and acquisitions. Of course, we would have to write their position description because we're selfish, and so part of that would have to be the hunting, and the hope that we were all created under which was

“the lava came, I need a replacement” or “I need to enhance game” or whatever they’ve got to do, so we can put that to the PIG guys, the interaction group...

Comm. Smith: Well, we already have acquisition staff, we’ve got an RCUH position that’s already been written.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay. But you know RCUH staff is not supposed to do civil servant jobs

Comm. Smith: I don’t want RCUH staff, I want a civil servant position. RCUH would just be a holding pattern to get something on the ground.

Comm. Buchanan: Maybe we can help educate you all on what that means.

Comm. Smith: Well we already had it, we had Dave Penn in that position prior. When he went to Legacy Land that position became open and we didn’t have the funding for it so it’s just vacant. But the template is there to have someone to do that.

Comm. Buchanan: Yeah. Because it sounds like you need a GIS dedicated person as well, you cannot be having all your individual planners, the GIS guys got to talk story with each other. Okay, we know what we’ve got to work on. If anybody has anything else for discussion, we can continue this item. If not, we’re almost there! Did we ever do Item 8?

ITEM 8: Updates on commissioner’s terms expiring and funding for GMAC past 6/30/18.

Shaya Honarvar (DOFAW): Okay, Jon Sabati’s term ended at the end of June, and he did not apply for another term. And then Stanley Ruidas, his term is coming to an end in June as well, but he applied, and your term is now extended for four years.

Comm. Ruidas: Oh! I thought it was for one more.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay. Is anybody else close to going off? Who’s the next one to go off?

Shaya Honarvar (DOFAW): I guess a number of peoples’ terms are coming to an end next June, including the Maui commissioner.

Comm. Buchanan: Kanalu, maybe you and Joey can check on replacing West Hawaii.

Kanalu Sproat (DOFAW): I have a couple of people in mind.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay, any questions about Item 8, anyone from the public wishing to testify on Item 8? If not, we’ll go on to Item 9... go ahead, Shaya.

Shaya Honarvar (DOFAW): So, the second part on Item 8 is the funding. So we were able to move the funding to another account and we can keep using it past June. So it’s all good for now.

Comm. Buchanan: What is for now?

Shaya Honarvar (DOFAW): I think until we have finished the funds. We have used about \$8,000.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay, so we’re good, Shaya said we’re good. Anything else Shaya?

Shaya Honarvar (DOFAW): No, that’s it.

Comm. Smith: I have something else on that. Senate President Kouchi had mentioned wanting to get something to support, and the technicalities with moving paperwork and everything else, you know the NARS commission started the executive secretary that does all that kind of work. This has all been dropped in our lap, it’s all in addition to duties that we already have, there’s no extra monies or positions for us to do this work. It would really help move things along if there was someone dedicated to do that, so you might consider trying to get an executive secretary position to support the commission. They do the minutes, they set up the agenda, they coordinate with the commission, they

handle all your issues going back and forth, so that would be a way to do it. We're just trying to wing it with existing people, and ...

Comm. Buchanan: Well, you're lucky you have competent people, because they're winging it really well. Shaya's fabulous. Maybe we find one for you and keep Shaya? No, just joking. Okay, who has to put in that request for that support person?

Comm. Smith: It would probably be our request, and then take the governor's budget, and it could be something the commission would work to support through their constituents.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay, you can put it in, and then tell the Senate President and Representative Tokioka that we need that. Can that position be an RCUH position? No, because it's staff, okay. Well, thank you for helping us wing it in the meantime. We appreciate it very much. Anything else on funding for GMAC or anything else? Seeing none, we'll move on to Item 9.

ITEM 9: Set future meeting schedule and potential Agenda items.

Shaya Honarvar (DOFAW): Since we're not in a hurry to use up the funds anymore, it is really up to you all when you'd like to have the next meeting. We've been having the meeting every two, two and a half months, so...

Comm. Buchanan: Commissioners, any suggestions? In five months it will be November. In November, if we wanted to introduce any type of legislative stuff, we should have them at least by November ready to go.

Comm. Cremer: One more meeting in between would be good so we can discuss what we want.

Comm. Ruidas: Two more.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay, and the Interaction Group needs to meet too, yeah?

Shaya Honarvar (DOFAW): Would the Permitted Interaction Group meet today or would you like to have another meeting?

Comm. Buchanan: I think the interaction group would have time after this meeting, so we can meet today. But for the GMAC meeting, within the next few months.

MEETING SET FOR THIRD WEEK OF AUGUST ON OAHU, FOLLOWING MEETING IN OCTOBER

Comm. Ruidas: Shaya, how long is it going to take to replace Jon's position?

Shaya Honarvar (DOFAW): We missed the deadline, which was the end of February, so I don't know, I will look into that. But I believe we're going to be without a commissioner at least for six months.

Comm. Ruidas: So Lori, should we be choosing a replacement for the Chair?

Comm. Buchanan: Yeah, next meeting we can do that. Do we have provisions to have a person acting as interim?

Shaya Honarvar (DOFAW): That's a good question, I don't know. I believe other commissions have done that, so I can look into that.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay, look into that. If that's the case we can have an interim person won't have to jump through all the hoops but will be able to fill in for two or three meetings. Okay, commission members, do you have any other last minute announcements, anything you want to let us know,

because it's a public hearing, just a reminder to not send anything in emails to each other, send it to Shaya and Shaya will send it out to us. Kanalu, find a West Hawaii representative and Lori find a Maui representative.

ITEM 10: Announcements.

Shaya Honarvar (DOFAW): Would you like to mention on record that you attended the Native Hawaiian...

Comm. Jury: Yeah, thank you for that, everyone.

Comm. Buchanan: That is great! Commissioner Ruidas, for the record can you report on that quickly?

Comm. Ruidas: It was a really good workshop about Native Hawaiian Law, and it took us back from before when the canoes came, and the end was at the burial, we stayed until the end, burial rights and stuff. It was great to learn all the different case laws between the OHA and all the other guys that challenged the Native Hawaiian laws. But also interesting was how at the beginning with the four chiefs, the Ahu Mokus who became responsible to divide their lands into ahupua'as, that was interesting. They never had Molokai though, I remember that.

Comm. Buchanan: We did that on purpose, naturally. It was good yeah? Sorry to the commissioners who missed out, you guys have to go to the next one. I think it's mandated anyway, yeah? Anybody that sits on a state board or commission has to have that legal training.

Shaya Honarvar (DOFAW): It's preferred.

Comm. Buchanan: It's preferred. Well, you guys should go. They brought up two Kauai cases on access for subsistence hunting, and you guys had a recent one too, so Kauai had like three cases, so it's good for you guys to go and hear that stuff because it's precedent setting in law.

MEETING ADJOURNED