

GAME MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: September 24, 2018
TIME: 10:00 AM
PLACE: Room 322, Kalanimoku Building, 1151 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu, HI 96813
PURPOSE: Game Management Advisory Commission Meeting (#8)

DRAFT MINUTES

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Lori Buchanan—Molokai (Chair)
Robert Cremer—Kauai
Glennon Gingo —West Hawaii
Josiah Jury—Oahu
Ryan Kohatsu—East Hawaii
Robert Masuda—Representative of the Chair of DLNR
Stanley Ruidas—Lanai
Nancy Timko—Oahu

STAFF (DOFAW):

Andrew Choy, Hunters Ed
Jim Cogswell
Ian Cole
Shane De Mattos
Dr. Shaya Honarvar
Lino Kamakau, DOCARE
Jason Misaki
Dietra Myers-Tremblay
Darren Ogura, Hunter Ed
Ryan Peralta
Kanalū Sproat

VISITORS:

Phil Isaac
Kūpaʻa Luat-Hūʻeu , UH Manoa Grad Student

Comm. Buchanan: I'd like to thank everybody, welcome to the September 24, 2018 meeting of the Game Management Advisory Commission. Commissioners, are there any requests for amendments to the current agenda before we move on? Okay, seeing none, we're going to move into ITEM 1, and actually we do have a new member on the commission so we're going to do introductions.

ALL COMMISSIONERS, STAFF, AND PUBLIC INTRODUCE THEMSELVES.

Commissioner Gingo introduces himself to the commission.

Comm. Gingo: Glennon Gingo, I've been on the Big Island for about 25 years, working in various organizations and non-profits, working with kids and the environment. I've worked for Mr. Masuda for 12 years, both at the international YMCA and the local YMCA, started a lot of interesting programs that took kids out into the ocean, to hunting, to an appreciation for the environment. I'm an avid hunter, I hunt probably two to three times a month. Just got back from Namibia, South Africa, and Michigan, I'll be on my way to Nebraska and South Dakota. I'm also a member of SCI, I serve on committees of SCI. Serve as the president of On Target Incorporated for range development, which I'm happy to say has a great relationship with developing a shooting range, working with the NRA as far as the quality of the shooting range goes, and also looking at lots of good opportunities to engage not only younger people but more women in shooting sports, and more women in hunting, which is the fastest growing contingent of people going out into the forest and wildlife, statistically speaking. So I'm looking forward to helping in any way I can, I'm always available, always willing to roll up my sleeves and grab a firearm or a bow or just going out to look around and help with gathering information. Glad to be here.

Comm. Buchanan: Awesome, we're so fortunate to have you.

Comm. Masuda: If I might add, Glennon mentioned all his terrestrial experience and expertise, but his super expertise is also in the water. He's the highest level SCUBA instructor trainer, so he certifies SCUBA instructors. He's also expert witness for several top law firms in aquatic-related stuff, and has testified on major marine cases. Also has been our key guy on working with Jean-Michel Cousteau on developing marine-related stuff, and so it goes on and on. We got acquainted because while I was running the World YMCA, I got a request for our top to help different countries establish SCUBA instructor training, so I searched the country, I got six names, and he was the one we picked when we got started, so Glennon has started SCUBA instructor certification programs in Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Korea, etc. So that's also a background on his expertise.

ITEM 2. Action Required: Approval of minutes from August 20, 2018 GMAC meeting.

Comm. Buchanan: The minutes are 32 pages long, thank you very much.

Comm. Masuda: If I might comment, I was stunned to receive not minutes but the verbatim report. I think as a matter of minutes, we will work with the staff in terms of taking all of this recorded information and putting it into a minutes form. For this group, maybe like our Board minutes, four or five pages. To do the verbatim thing I think is a waste of resources, I don't think we need to have everything verbatim recorded. We have the recording if anybody wants to go back to it on a question

and keep the recording for six months or whatever it is. But I think to have to translate the recording into written form in forty something pages took two people two weeks?

Shaya Honarvar: Two people one week, so eighty hours.

Comm. Masuda: I think we can have a better use of our resources than transcribing verbatim notes, so unless any commissioners want to vote to continue with verbatim notes, that's your privilege, but unless you do so I will do an administrative management thing, working with our staff in producing minutes that accurately reflect the discussion and clearly the decisions will be verbatim as a matter of record, but having verbatim notes I think is excessive and it's a waste of our staff time.

Comm. Buchanan: Thank you Deputy for that feedback. Commissioners, any more feedback about the minutes?

Comm. Ruidas: Yeah, I've seen that before, I like that kind of minutes, but as long as you have a record to keep.

Shaya Honarvar: The recordings are kept for a really long time, It's a part of proof that the meeting happened and anyone can ask for that. I don't know how many years, I've never asked that question before, but I believe it's a long time.

Comm. Ruidas: I'm fine with that as long as it's recorded and lumped in.

Comm. Cremer: I'd request that the commissioners that don't come to the meeting be sent the recording somehow through email or something, because I'd like to know what the meeting was about all in all, not only the high points. I like to hear, I like to feel the people, know what they want to say. So maybe we can have that sent, the commissioners that are not present be able to see the whole meeting.

Comm. Kohatsu: I do send the minutes to people who didn't come, and more specifically, I guess, the comments of the representatives that came at the last meeting were of high interest to people who weren't there to see it.

Comm. Masuda: Minutes would reflect that kind of information.

Comm. Kohatsu: So they're just going to try to put the audio somewhere?

Shaya Honarvar: So the recordings, I don't put it online because they're very big files, and whoever requests it, I send it to them, and no one has requested that in the past year that we've had meetings.

Comm. Kohatsu: So we could request it, if I brought a flash drive I could just get it from you or something?

Shaya Honarvar: Yes! And if you request it then I can put it in Dropbox or some other format, and then just give you the link, and then you can go and download it, you don't have to physically give me a flash drive.

Comm. Buchanan: I'm sorry, Deputy, but I do love verbatim minutes, I read them all the time. And I get requests from GMAC on the Big Island for minutes, for my minutes, because they tell me they cannot find them posted online. I think sometimes they want them faster than we finish them, but it helps me at the end of the year when I'm trying to write up the legislative report, and I love verbatim minutes for that reason.

Comm. Buchanan: Well I'm not going to sit down and listen to one thing for two hours after I already was in the meeting for two hours, to listen to the meeting again to find out exactly, but I can take my own notes too, but when I'm writing the report I do go back to the minutes. But I'm willing to make a compromise. The compromise would be for now, verbatim minutes—maybe I don't have to write the report next year—but for this year, the last two meetings, I would request verbatim minutes, and then we can take up the issue again in the new year of 2019. I'm sorry Deputy, that's my feedback.

Comm. Masuda: Don't be sorry, this is a democracy. I would be happy to accommodate the Vice Chair's request given her duty to write up the legislative report and her need for that, but I would move therefore, Madam Vice Chair, that starting January 1 in the New Year that we instruct the staff to write standard minutes such as Board minutes are done, and forget about literally transcribing the hours of tape, in the interest of saving some of our resource time. But until such time, the next two minutes they'll do as is, and also in that will be the verbal transcription on recording will be made available to commissioners who have been absent who request such.

Comm. Jury: May I just add that if we're talking about compromising, maybe we should consider, depending on how we revisit this topic next year, but also certain items that may be very sensitive to the commissioners or the interests of the islands, maybe those particular action items should be verbatim. Because I understand looking at our resources, some time you can save, you know. What people say or what's being said...

Comm. Masuda: I have confidence in the staff, Madam Vice Chair, that they will use their professional judgment appropriately in making sure that issues of substance are included verbatim if necessary to elucidate on the subject, but I think after we try that we can always adjust.

Comm. Cremer: Okay, I have a question. What about the Sunshine Law, would this...?

Comm. Masuda: We meet the Sunshine Law requirements.

Shaya Honarvar: Yes, we meet the Sunshine Law requirements.

Comm. Jury: I would just like to say that I think the verbatim has proven to be a useful tool in keeping accountability and transparency on both sides of the table. I think when you look back, like Commissioner Buchanan said, it's easier for me to scroll down on a paper to look for the action item and being sure of what was said, by myself or others or the community testimony or representatives, so that way there can be a clear understanding moving forward and there's no misrepresentation of what was said. So I still have to say, yeah, I enjoy the verbatim, I do read it, I can understand why. I think what we've got to look at is that if for some reason I'm going to ask for the recording, it will be more for me to

do them, which is cool, we can do that too. The last six months and the last year that we've had it, I see success looking back, and bringing it back up in the minutes follow up meetings, and without that verbatim, it would be harder for me to readdress the issue of what was said.

Comm. Masuda: I would like the actions of this Game Management Advisory Commission and our deliberations to be productive in the outcomes of establishing game management or hunting improvements or advancements. I don't want to get into this "who said this, who said that" kind of game playing. I'd like for us to put our energy into establishing what I hear the hunters and what I hear you guys saying the last meeting are important to you. So I can play Josiah's game as much as he wants.

Comm. Jury: I don't think it's a game, sir. It's fair to say that in the past things were said in this meeting that were not being said on the outside of these doors, and without that verbatim, me as a commissioner telling my islands one thing that's being said in this meeting only to be said in a different way from your department shows some inconsistency, and without that verbatim, it's going to look like I'm inconsistent, and with that verbatim it will show who is inconsistent. So if we're going to talk about yes we want to be productive and we want to move forward, I'm glad that you're here on top of the Board, but there have been some things proven in the past that have been said that have not been translated clearly or consistently outside these walls.

Comm. Masuda: Well, we have a motion that I would call the vote on that indicates starting on January 1st... now if in the next two minutes we find that you'd like to change that, you can so do.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay, so you're making a motion?

Comm. Masuda: I did move.

Comm. Buchanan: So, the Deputy has moved for consideration, is there a second?

Comm. Masuda: If there is no second, then the motion dies.

Comm. Buchanan: Then the motion fails. So Commissioner Jury and Deputy, I have a suggestion. The suggestion is that we bring this up again in our first meeting of 2019. In the meantime, in our next and last meeting of the year, can you bring us a sample of what the minutes look like from what the Deputy is discussing to make sure everyone is comfortable with how the minutes are going to look, and then we can take a vote in 2019. That is my suggestion.

Comm. Masuda: That's a great idea.

Comm. Cremer: So I move in the direction as far as Vice Chair—Presiding Chair now—that we revisit and look at the minutes from the last meeting and then revisit it in January.

Comm. Masuda: I second that motion.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay, since it's a motion, I was just going to see if anyone was not amenable to that, but since there has been a motion that has been seconded, is there any discussion?

Comm. Gingo: Commissioner? I haven't been officially sworn in, but just food for thought for our next meeting. You actually have a potential of creating inconsistency when you do verbatim versus recorded minutes, because human error potential, and that's why recordings are an excellent way, just as in court transcripts, to have the exact stated flavor of the meeting, personality of the meeting. That's not inconsistent, that's the record, and that meets the Sunshine Law as well. Minutes are just a way of encapsulating the meeting, and the most important thing in minutes is to have the voting, anything that has to do with making decisions or voting. The back-up discussions are right there, so actually you run the risk of having the verbatim and the recording having some inconsistencies between the two. So food for thought.

Comm. Buchanan: Thank you. Any more discussion? Okay, if not we'll call for the vote.

ALL COMMISSIONERS VOTE IN FAVOR OF MOTION. COMMISSIONER GINGO DID NOT PARTAKE IN VOTING (He has not been officially sworn in).

Comm. Ruidas: We haven't approved the minutes yet. I make a motion to approve the August 20, 2018 minutes.

Comm. Cremer: Seconded.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay, is there any discussion or corrections to the minutes? Okay, seeing none, we'll call for the vote.

ALL COMMISSIONERS VOTE IN FAVOR OF MOTION. COMMISSIONER GINGO DID NOT PARTAKE IN VOTING (He has not been officially sworn in).

ITEM 3. Action Required: Selection of a new commission Chair from the current commission members.

Comm. Ruidas: I nominate Commissioner Buchanan for Chair.

Comm. Cremer: I second.

Comm. Buchanan: Alright, there's a motion and a second, there's no more nominations from the floor? We'll take a vote then, and by the way, thank you my fellow members for your vote of confidence. It's not going to last long so you guys better be ready for the next one. All those in favor of me being the Chair raise your right hand.

ALL COMMISSIONERS VOTE IN FAVOR OF MOTION. COMMISSIONER GINGO DID NOT PARTAKE IN VOTING (He has not been officially sworn in).

Comm. Buchanan: Thank you very much, I'm very humbled. So now that I'm not the Vice Chair, we have an opening for the Vice Chair.

Comm. Cremer: I nominate Josiah Jury. I make a motion.

Shaya Honarvar: So, it was not written in 183D-4.5 to have a Vice Chair, and so I don't think it's appropriate to have a Vice Chair.

Comm. Buchanan: Well guess what, we're going to put it in.

Comm. Ruidas: How can we put it in?

Shaya Honarvar: I believe it would rule making ... I'll have to find out.

Comm. Buchanan: Or an amendment.

Dietra Myers-Tremblay: they're authorized to write their own rules, so...

Comm. Buchanan: So we would write a rule, but we'd have to have it approved at an administrative process layer, right, I would think so. So with that, Commissioners, I'd still like to have a Vice Chair person that this commission feels could run the meeting if the Chair is unavailable. So can we do that?

Shaya Honarvar: I need to look into it, and I can do that for the next meeting, and hopefully by the next meeting we will have a Maui commissioner as well, so if we can table the Vice Chair until next meeting that would be better so that I have time to check with the Sunshine Laws and everything.

Comm. Cremer: From my understanding there was somebody that applied?

Shaya Honarvar: Jeffrey DeRegos did resign, that's official. We are waiting for a new person now to apply.

Shane De Mattos: I'm not aware of anybody who applied for the Maui Commissioner position.

Comm. Masuda: Until today, until just now, I did not know that the Maui person in fact resigned, and so until they resign, we don't have an opening. But we did actively work on pursuing an action. We spend a lot of time trying to keep the organization as an organization, hopefully we'll get the organization fully loaded by next time.

Comm. Ruidas: So Chair? For our own rules that we were supposed to have made, how are we going to handle that?

Comm. Buchanan: We already formed the Interactive Group, we just need to schedule the meeting dates. We could do that today before we adjourn.

Comm. Masuda: What's the interactive group?

Comm. Buchanan: We did a PIG [Permitted Interaction Group], we formed one in order to look at the administrative rule making process for this body. But we never had a separate meeting, we never got together yet. So between the Deputy and our new person from Kona side, do you guys have any suggestions in lieu—because we're not going to have the Vice Chair figured out by the next meeting, but in your extensive backgrounds, do you know how this commission can have a second person while I'm not here, because I think it was an issue in the past, so I'd like to resolve it now since it's on the agenda. How do we choose a second to act on my behalf when I'm not here?

Comm. Gingo: Sure, it's already stated that there's no provision for a Vice Chair, then that should exist with the chair to make a decision to designate somebody to sit on your behalf during your absence.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay, I'm going to do that.

Shaya Honarvar: And it can be somebody different every meeting.

Comm. Gingo: That gives everyone a chance for leadership who wants it.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay, great, can I do that right now for the next meeting? I'm going to set the next three people in line for if I'm not here.

Shaya Honarvar: So yes, you may do that, but the issue would be if you are not coming for instance on the November meeting, how will we know if you decide Ryan is going to be your next person if he will be able to attend the next meeting. So we don't have to vote on that, so can just email me and say "Shaya, I'm not going to be here, Ryan is going to run the meeting for me."

Comm. Buchanan: Alright. That's great. Commissioners, are you guys okay with that?

Comm. Ruidas: I suggest you make several.

Comm. Buchanan: Yeah, I'm just going to start that way and work my way down. Alright, thank you very much.

ITEM 4. Briefing on Mile Marker 16 by Lino Kamakau (DOCARE Branch Chief, Hawaii Island).

Lino Kamakau: I'm Lino Kamakau, Branch Chief for DOCARE on the Big Island. I was asked by my chief to come in and talk to you guys about Mile Marker 16 if some of you don't know about it. I know it started late 2017 into the beginning of 2018 that my administrator, Chief Farrell, had looked into opening a shooting range on the Big Island. If you guys don't know, on the Big Island there are zero shooting ranges for the public when it comes to high power rifle. Problem with that is they've going up Mauna Kea are using it as an area to practice, if you can say that, and even in Manuka, in south Kona. So he'd looked into the rules, came up with two places, which are potentially going to be Manuka Natural Area Reserve and the Watershed off of Saddle Road Mile Marker 16. MM16 is on the East side of the Big Island, so if you're coming up Saddle Road, MM16 is also Morita Camp. Currently, well not right now, but it was under the watershed, 30 something acres, and I think on February 23 the Board approved acreage in that area to utilized as a shooting range. So currently it is 3.6 acres that are authorized as a shooting range open to the public seven days a week during normal hunting hours, so half an hour before sunrise, half an hour after sunset. All legal firearms can be used there. Part of the condition because they have to be in conjunction with hunter education, you need to have a hunting license in order to use that place, and we all know that has to be ten years of age and older. If they're under ten, they need to be accompanied by an adult male who should be licensed. So that right now is where we're at. When it initially opened up, we were kind of blindsided, because when the news initially went out on February 23, everybody thought that it was open, because the Board did not say when it would be opened, it said it was approved. So everybody mined social media, we had a shooting range. So that was

kind of caught in a blindside, I think even for Andrew. But I know sometime in March, Andrew came up and came back with some rules, which now we're following. And part of it is the ten commandments of range safety, but I guess being a licensed person, who has a hunting license, presumably you would have gone through a firearm safety class, so that's where we're at and I think it's a good thing for the Big Island. I know everybody thanks you guys, I'm not sure when the west side is going to have one, but that's the biggest thing, it's good for the public. So MM16 is now a legal, public hunting range. It is quite small though. I think Ian and I discussed it, and it is small as far as safety for the hunters. I'm not sure how the department is going to enhance it to make it even more safe than it is right now, I think you've probably been there, so something to get done in the future that they're going to work on. But other than that, that's pretty much it. Andrew, do you have anything to add to this?

Andrew Choy: Andrew Choy, Hunter Education Program manager, I want to thank my esteemed colleague for giving me the opportunity to support him and provide some testimony. So just a couple other points to highlight: it is an unmanned shooting range, there is no range safety officer, and that was the intent all along. We hope that at some point in time, shooting organizations would step up and basically police it themselves, that's kind of the intent. We haven't had discussions with the county if they want to take it over, I don't know if that will ever happen. But here and now it's a self-policing range, unmanned safety range. The other thing I would note is that it really was a stop gap measure, that was the intent, administratively—to provide an immediate solution for firearms practice. It was either that or just shut it down and enforce illegal shooting in the area. So to support the shooting community, to support firearms training, hunter education, we all thought that it was best to provide this solution through Board action to designate this area as an official public shooting area. And basically, as Lino was saying, the only rule that we have, which is the 123 shooting rules, we're kind of projecting that on this shooting range where it applies, so legal firearms, hunting license, etc.

Comm. Ruidas: Okay, so being unmanned, at any point do you guys go and check those guys, or just let them go?

Lino Kamakau: That is correct, it is being patrolled by DOCARE. But not every hour, not like that, but when they're passing they'll stop by.

Comm. Ruidas: I ask because we had the problem of that on Lanai, and they're talking about closing the range because of liability, they pulled out that liability card, so I was just asking how things were manned here.

Lino Kamakau: So far, speaking from our division, enforcement side, we haven't had any complaints. The only complaint we've had, which is not bad, is that it's crowded. On weekends, on nice days. So people are smart now they'll go on weekdays instead of weekends. It is a small area.

Comm. Masuda: I have a question. I'm told that people go and set up tents as cover, and so when somebody sets up a tent, generally he's like getting the space for the day, and so I would recommend that we seriously look at it from a safety point of view, because it is so makeshift, that we get the place at least delineated more and put up berms as we originally were thinking of. Get a bulldozer there, take down that middle section, make a shooting range look like a shooting range, put up a little frame that

keeps the rain off of the shooter, maybe, so that people can have an hour, the next person have an hour, rather than you put your tent and you're there for the day.

Lino Kamakau: I haven't had any complaints or people staying there for the whole day. I know I've been there myself, there are tents, I don't blame them—it's either going to rain or it's super hot. But as far as people staying there all day, I haven't had any complaints like that, not yet.

Andrew Choy: In any case, I'm happy to bring that recommendation back to my chief and talk about possibilities, definitely.

Comm. Masuda: Shouldn't cost much.

Andrew Choy: And then there's safety concerns too, right? You want a standard shooting line, you want berms, there's a hunting area behind it.

Comm. Masuda: Yeah, I think that would set up a standard shooting line.

Comm. Kohatsu: Alright the comments I have may or may not be mine, some of it is just what the constituency has requested of me. I kind of noticed it was mentioned public shooting range and then someone said public hunting range. Could someone delineate what it is officially?

Andrew Choy: I have not heard it referred to as a public hunting range, it should be public shooting range.

Comm. Kohatsu: Okay, it's public shooting range?

Andrew Choy: Yeah, and that should be consistent with the board approval.

Comm. Kohatsu: Okay, so the Board approval was just through admin rule, they can do this? Okay. So does it substitute as a public shooting range that anyone in the public can participate in?

Andrew Choy: As long as you have a hunting license.

Comm. Kohatsu: So the definition of a public shooting range would be requiring a hunting license for a public shooting range in Hawaii State.

Lino Kamakau: No, but in this specific area, yes.

Andrew Choy: And once again, this is not intended to be the final shooting range for Hawaii Island. This is internally and administratively a solution that we could put on the ground quickly to provide a target range for the area.

Comm. Kohatsu: I'm echoing—again, this is not particularly my comments, I applaud the effort, it's great—but I just have a lot of people on my side of the island that get into the semantics. And they do understand that some of these things are very loosely held. They went through one range development before that required an EA and all that stuff, it didn't take much for them to figure out that it would be very easy to remove this or to be forced into an EA, so they have apprehensions that this would

substitute as a range and maybe take away from efforts, maybe ongoing, that are actually building the real one. So they just wanted me to echo those comments. I mean, this is great, they want it to keep going, do what you can, but they wanted to echo that real public facility, it shouldn't take away from at least continuing on trying to figure that ball of wax out too.

Andrew Choy: No, I understand, and the only thing I would say is that—and I know my Chief was really clear about this in his initial Board submittal when he pushed this through—statutorily, the Department pursues shooting range in support of Hunter Education, so that speaks to the scale of the Department's involvement in shooting range development, that it's really just consistent from Hunter Education firearms training. It's not a big facility per se. That's not to say that the Department or whoever can't be involved, in many cases we are involved in shooting range development. The other side of that is that it is very important that the county is involved in the shooting range development process. If you look at all the public shooting ranges in the state, the county's a big player, whether they're running it entirely or they have a concession. So I understand that. And I know that there have been efforts with the Hawaii Island Game Management Advisory Commission to work with the county to pursue shooting range development, a final solution.

Lino Kamakau: Two things in reference to your question. One is my cell number: 987-4616. Take that, pass it on to your comrades, tell them to call them directly with their questions. Number two is, understand that this shooting range came about because in the verbiage in the watershed, and correct me if I'm wrong watershed people, Hunter Ed is mentioned in there. So I'm eager to take the watershed area and move that to a shooting range versus Manuka in Kona which is a Natural Area Reserve. You can't do that there like how they did it at the watershed, you've got to go through an act of congress and the NAR, it's just the verbiage, it was easier. So for people's understanding for your guys, because I've had people say "why not open a shooting range in Manuka?" It's not that easy. So just the complications of why it was easier to get it at the watershed.

Comm. Kohatsu: Yeah, for sure. Like I said, I'm just being really honest, if you don't mind. They have the record, the minutes. That information you gave us is useful.

Comm. Gingo: I've been intimately involved in the range development process for at least the last ten years. In no way and no part are we saying that there shouldn't be an ongoing pursuit of having technically a sanctioned type of shooting range. We're talking about multi-million dollars if you're doing it correctly. And I think as Andrew said, this stopgap measure was to give some people a place to go that is designated, that people are aware is a shooting range and people can shoot with a degree of safety, and having a requirement of a hunting license insures from all sides that there's at least some minimal understanding of firearm safety before you're there, which I applaud that effort and I supported that effort. And I worked directly with Chief Farrell on doing all the drone video of both Manuka and MM16 to map it out. I think the challenge is for Manuka, as you said, is that it has multi-jurisdiction. You have NARS there and you also have oversight and you also have some use with the Department of Transportation. So there are some challenges there that we sort of thought "well, let's approach that as we go but at least get something started now and at least show the public that we have a concerted effort and concern for a good place and a safe place to go shooting," and that's why this came about.

And I think what Ryan's speaking of, and I've heard some of the same comments, is that is this the catchall be all and is it truly public, and why is it required that you have to have a hunting license? I firmly believe from a liability standpoint there should be some minimal training, whether it's Hunter Safety or an NRA firearm safety course to at least assure us in greater part that the people that are there know what they're doing. And that's important. As Mr. Masuda said, shooting stations makes sense, and some of the non-profits I work with—we're rarely in a position where we can raise the money to do those kinds of things when it's appropriate to do it. And that's where we stand ready. I have had nothing but positive input from my constituency that finally something has been done, and they're all very positive about DLNR's effort, especially with DOCARE, with hunter safety, and I think it bridges some gaps of misunderstanding between the state DLNR and the average person that's shooting firearms. So I want to thank you personally for that.

Comm. Buchanan: I just have one question for Hunter Ed. Is it sufficient now that you've been having herds of people running to one unmanned range, is Hunter Ed being offered in the capacity for Hawaii Island residents, because I know on Molokai, we've got to wait a long time. So I'm just wondering about that, since you're putting the onus of hunter safety and firearms training on people that are going to access the unmanned, is it sufficient?

Andrew Choy: Sure, I understand the concern. Moloka'i is a unique scenario. So for many, many years we had Billy Akutagawa, a master instructor, phenomenal guy I'm sure you know him really well, and he retired for a number of reasons. He had designated his instructor Gary Zukeran, who he was friends of old with from Molokai High School, to fill his place, and so Gary was doing a great job, I believe we had classes as much as needed under his watch. However he is on sabbatical, he's on a mission trip I think it's for the better part of two years or maybe even longer. In that, we've had to send instructor teams from Oahu to Molokai to provide classes, so it is a considerable expense for us, and we're trying to send them once every two months, every other month, and under Billy's watch, classes were about that same frequency, but they were only about eight students or so because he was having it at Na Pu'uwai and it was a small conference room. Our classes have been closer to thirty students recently. So with the Big Island, going back to that, our classes do fill, preregistration-wise, but what I can say is that, by and large without fail, 40-60% of preregistered students don't show up, so we always have room for standbys and we haven't had to turn away students in the better part of five years. There was one scenario, and Ryan may know this, where Aupuni Center in Hilo had maybe 40 people show up and then another 60 or 70 standbys, in which case we have to turn students away, but that was the only time in the last five years. So to that end, I would think there are sufficient classes, and we also offer hybrid classes now, so people can complete part of the class online.

Comm. Masuda: What is a hybrid class?

Andrew Choy: So we have two offerings. One is our traditional class, it's a standard 12 hour class broken up over one night and one full day or three weeknights. And in 2015 I believe we added a hybrid class, so what it consists of is an online portion that you do at your own rate. It's through hunter-ed.com, it's the nation standard for hunter education, and then you show up for a one night completion portion. And that one night is from 6-10 and it covers all the Hawaii specific information, rules and regulations,

wildlife ID, so it's a condensed version. So those two options are meant to expand offerings and meet demand.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay, thank you. So I got my NRA certification while we were at Mile Marker 16. While we were there, they did put up a tent because there was a bunch of us training, right? So you have to sit down and do your sharp-shooting and all of that kind of stuff. So when you said tent, I was thinking "wow, that's organizations," for the actual guys who are training for NRA certification are using MM16. After that we went up to Mauna Kea, we used Mauna Kea for long range shooting, and so I guess I was thinking about kuleana, because of spent shells, who's picking up the rubbish, is this sufficient clean up and all that kind of stuff. So for kuleana, as our new commissioner said, you have organizations that are promoting hunting and the youth like that, is anybody trying to hook up these guys to actually take kuleana like **konohiki** (54:06) over one area, to make sure everything is cleaned up, to watch that no one is camping over there, although I don't know who would camp more than two hours at MM16 although it is really nice. Is there anything like that occurring?

Andrew Choy: Not to my knowledge, just organic conversations. But I agree, that's the intent: that we would be able to connect with some shooting clubs...

Comm. Buchanan: So where's DOCARE training? Where are the police training, where are they doing all their training? On Molokai they're shooting by my house, so that's why I'm asking. Are they using Mile Marker 16?

Lino Kamakau: No. We use PTA if needed for long range, and then we have a shooting range on Kohala mountain road, that Puu, I'm not sure of the name, but that's where most everybody, us, HPD, sheriffs...

Comm. Buchanan: So how for the guys training the wildlife guys and stuff, do they all do their own training on their own land? Right? The Volcano, Forestry... US Fish and Wildlife guys were training with the NRA.

Kanalū Sproat: No, I've done stuff at Mile Marker 16.

Lino Kamakau: On your own, you can, but I know they have a shooting range at MM22, is that correct?

Comm. Buchanan: I'm just wondering, because here you have organized people using the area besides the public. It would be nice if everybody could somehow get together and try to work that out, and throw the county in on the way.

Andrew Choy: No, I agree, and that's our intent, to have community support to police the range. It's a multi-use area, we can't prevent that. But at the same time, that does kind of go beyond the scope of what administratively our intention was for this range, which was a public stop-gap measure.

Comm. Buchanan: Well, thank you for moving that along with the Board, whoever was responsible.

Comm. Masuda: The chief and the deputy chief are here. We're delighted to introduce the chief of our DOCARE, Chief Farrell and Deputy Chief Jason Redulla. Thank you for supporting the shooting range and game management efforts.

5 MINUTE RECESS

Comm. Buchanan: Okay, if it's amenable to everyone, we don't need to take a vote. Let's move ITEM 5 to after ITEM 7, which will move up ITEM 6 and I hope Shane is ready by the computer. Is there anyone not in agreement with that amendment to the agenda? Okay, seeing none, so moved. We're moving on to ITEM 6.

ITEM 6. Presentation on the proposed Kanaio Forestry and Wildlife Management Area by Shane De Mattos (DOFAW, Wildlife Biologist).

Shane De Mattos: I'm the wildlife biologist for the district of Maui, and this presentation that I'm about to show everyone is a project I've been working on myself and some people from the district of Maui for a hunting area on the island of Maui. Before we go to the presentation, I looked at the 183D-4.5, and the "Game Management Advisory Council shall 3) Assist in criteria to be used in determining whether an area is suitable for hunting"—and you know we never did do that, but my criteria on Maui was access and animals, that's pretty much what was the two criteria that we used. "4) Advise on studies of areas for sustainable yield gain production or enhancement." Again, we never did do that, but I think the important part here is "5) Recommend to the Board the areas that are suitable for game production or enhancement." So this is an area on Maui that we've been working on that we feel is a proper area to have this game production or enhancement. So we're talking about the Kanaio Forestry and Wildlife Management area, located on the southern portion of the island of Maui. And please interrupt if you have any questions. I'm going to go through six different categories: Background, current uses and issues, general goals and objectives, management tools and approaches, planning process and timeline, maps, and of course discussion.

Comm. Buchanan: How did you get the funding to fund SWCA to help you with the strategy...

Shane De Mattos: this funding is coming from Pittman-Robertson. This is the area that we are looking at, it's roughly 8,000 acres. And so the bigger portion of the green was unencumbered state lands, it's about 5,500 acres. So back about two or three years ago we went to the Board to do a set aside. So now it's set aside to the Division of Forestry and Wildlife from the Division of Land Management, and then once the Governor approves it, it should be in the hands or under the management of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife. You see the other portion within that red line? That is Ulupalakua Ranch. They have shown an interest in cooperating with us in allowing the public to hunt on portions of their property. So that's an additional 1,500 acres. There are some issues that we've got to go ahead and discuss with Ulupalakua Ranch in order to allow us to hunt on their property, but we think that it's a workable solution, and we're hoping that their parcel will be included in this overall Kanaio hunting area. So right now there has been little ongoing management, but there has been active law enforcement. It is open for public use, but very limited, and it's not managed for any specific public benefit.

A short background: we have native plants, there is wildlife and there is suitable habitat. We do have to contend with endangered species, and we do have game mammals and game birds in the area. So the game mammals that we have there are goats, deer, and an occasional pig. Game birds, we have chukars, gray and black francolins and an occasional pheasant. So current uses in the area, it is accessible to the public as stated but very limited. There is limited hiking, there is ocean recreation. People do go down there and fish along the coast, there is camping along the coast also, and then there is some cultural preservations of the area. Current impacts, we do have dirt bikes, you can see the trail heading up the Pu'u in the right hand slide. Vehicles are down there, they're not staying on any particular road, they're damaging the coastline. We do have feral cattle in the area and illegal dumping, we do have a handful of abandoned vehicles along the quarter down to the coast. They impact us by damaging the vegetation and cultural sites, they're harming our wildlife, and they're impacting the reef and fish habitat. So when we sat down and did our general goals and objectives, we wanted to have a place that has sustainable compatible uses and it needs to provide for public benefits. We want to try to maintain the remote wilderness characteristic of the area. And then we are trying to protect and restore our natural resources. So back to that sustainable, compatible uses. Potential compatible uses that we were scoping was to protect and restore natural resources by protecting native plants and wildlife and protecting our cultural sites and by protecting our geological features. We'd like to provide better public access by creating roads and potentially maintaining some of the existing trails in the area. For recreational opportunities, we want to provide hunting, we want to continue the fishing opportunities, we want to take a look at hiking and we want to make sure that people can enjoy the nature and outdoor experience. We need to first designate what this area would be, so we have options of making it a forest reserve, making it a natural area reserve, making it a game management area, or making it a wildlife sanctuary. Some of the approaches that we want to do are to construct and establish water units, we want to improve our trails and our access into the area, we're looking at maintaining the remote wilderness characteristics so we want to manage our vehicle access into that area, we want to go ahead and designate that area as something, you know forest reserve. We want to establish hunter check stations. We want to continue law enforcement and increase law enforcement of the area. We do need to create regulations for the area. We do need to construct enclosures to protect those native species and endangered species. Within that area I forgot to mention that there are little kuleanas as part of the area, so we've got to create safety buffers around those areas so that the residents there feel the least amount of impact from public hunting. We do want to create firebreaks to protect against any wildfires, and then we do want to do some limited habitat restoration. Management tools: just some pictures, you know, signs, enforcement, enclosures, water units, again just some signage there. Planning process and timeline, so these are the five stages: Preliminary surveys of natural and cultural resources, meeting with constituents to share resource information and learn about compatible resource uses, identify needed management actions or tools, draft the management plan and request additional comments, and then finally draft an Environmental Assessment. So this process started about a year and half ago, and this is the timeline that we set out. Unfortunately, we are behind. Right now, we are... so we did our biological surveys and the biological paper is being written at this time. Our cultural resources actually have not started yet. There have been some delays with both SWCA and just some of the preliminary paper work to begin cultural resources. We're hoping that the cultural resources surveys begin sometime toward the latter part of this year, and wrapping up sometime early next year. We are in the

process of identifying the management actions and tools, we are drafting a management plan, and we are requesting additional comments, and ultimately we want to go ahead and draft an Environmental Assessment. Preliminary surveys of natural and cultural resources: So, we did do an ungulate survey at the beginning of this process, I think it was done sometime in the early part of last year. Feral ungulates were observed and were in the thousands, higher than expected. We do plan to conduct additional surveys of the area as part of the overall management plan of the area. We want to incorporate some of those, I guess, in 2003 there was a sea shore conservation study area which is depicted in blue, that is the boundary of the conservations study, so we're going to incorporate that into the management plan, or use bits and pieces of information that we feel is relevant to our overall plan. We do have native and endangered species, so again, we did do our biological surveys. The information that we had was historical data for those threatened and endangered plants were, so these biological surveys were conducted to go and verify if they were still existing and to find any others that may or may not exist. Again, we do plan to do our cultural surveys, and again, they're planned the latter part of this year and early into next year. So some of the compatible uses, the shoreline access is critical and that's one of the push backs that we had initially with opening this area more to the public, so we've got to figure out how we can go in and mitigate some of those impacts to the shoreline that's currently occurring without preventing too much restrictions on public access into the area, so that bubble right there, that's the hot spot for access. We are looking at some historical trails in the area, we are contemplating road construction within this area to better distribute the hunting community. And as I said, going back, those little white parcels within the green area, those are the kuleanas that we've got to go ahead and work through as we develop this management plan. We do want to have public hunting in that area, we do want to maintain the access for the fishermen down along the coastline, and we do want to allow the public to do some limited hiking in that area. And again, we also want to go ahead and protect our natural resources and do some habitat restoration, and then if there are any other recreational activities that can be incorporated into this, we can go ahead and consider that. Proposed management tools: As you can see, safety buffers which surround the kuleanas currently within the area, we do want to create some water units, we do want to create or maintain enclosures. So the enclosure that you see to the bottom right, that has existed I think since the early 90's to protect some of those threatened and endangered plants. And we also plan to fence off that Pu'u, this Pu'u Pimoj, which has some critical threatened and endangered plants. We do want to establish hunter check stations, we do want to properly designate this area, we do want to create firebreaks, which would include those roads that are depicted there, those are those checkered lines within the area. One is leading to the enclosure to the bottom right. We do want to improve trails and access, we do want to manage vehicle access so this place is not overwhelmed with vehicles, we want to maintain and hopefully increase law enforcement in the area, we do have to develop our hunting regulations within this area, and we do want to do some limited habitat restoration. And with that, that concludes my presentation. Any questions?

Comm. Buchanan: Shane, ordinance?

Shane De Mattos: Okay, so that area from the middle road to I guess our right was actually a former air national guard training area, so there are some ordinances that are in that area. Over the past two or three years, I believe Na Ali'i the company has been hired to do a sweep of the area to determine what

ordinances are out there and how practical it is for the public to access that area. So at all the meetings I've attended they've pretty much given the all clear except for a maybe about 200-300 acreage which would be from the bottom of that Pu'u Pimoi, which would be that center enclosure along the road about 200 acres where they haven't given us the all clear yet, all they said was that as long as we can go ahead and provide the public with information, notifying them of the potential ordinances in the area, we're allowed to have public access into the area.

Comm. Buchanan: Shane, who's paying for that, the feds?

Shane De Mattos: As far as the ordinance clean up? I believe it is the military. So we're not part of that.

Comm. Buchanan: So is SWCA doing the scoping? Are you guys getting stakeholders now or wait for the EA process for community feedback?

Shane De Mattos: So I believe SWCA is supposed to be contacting those stakeholders, those kuleana lands. They're supposed to be contacting them, and again ultimately we do need to hold one public meeting on the island of Maui to garner public feedback, but leading up to that we want to go in and have smaller meetings with some of the constituents. We've already met with an unofficial hunting group from the island of Maui, and I've also met with the Maui island Na Ala Hele, I've met with state GMAC today, and I do believe I have to meet with maybe one or two smaller interest groups, and then again prior to the final environmental assessment I do need to have a public meeting.

One of the pushbacks we were having is that they were thinking that we were going to limit public access into the area, so that was the bulk of the opposition, especially from the Kanaio community. Once we were able to assure them that we will not prevent access—we won't encourage it, but we won't prevent public access—a lot of the pushback has somewhat dissipated. There are always going to be people that are totally opposed to what we're doing, and I've accepted that, but I think if we can go ahead and turn around those middle of the road individuals, I think we're going to be okay.

Comm. Kohatsu: Question. Your first slide, you particularly pointed to a couple of responsibilities of the game commission, I assume for an intended purpose. It mentioned a lot of sustained yield stuff on top of that. In your professional opinion, do you feel that there will be sustained yield potential in this area?

Shane De Mattos: So the reason why we selected this area was because we wanted to look for an area that was accessible, had game mammals, and there was a limited number of threatened and endangered species. So those threatened and endangered species that potentially are there, there are recovery plans for those species elsewhere outside of this potential hunting area, so that's why this area was selected. So we do want to go in and have a sustainable yield hunting program there. I do want to reiterate to people that there are a lot of goats there. So what we want to do is we want to go ahead and, in my professional opinion, more people are interested in hunting Axis deer than they are in feral goats, so what we want to do is bring the population of goats down dramatically and then see if we can build up the Axis deer population to suit the needs of what I believe more people want to pursue. This will be an archery only area with a potential to maybe do some shotguns, but right now it's going to be designated as an archery only area for mammals and it's going to fall in line with the game bird hunting

seasons. So to answer your question, yes, we do want to have a sustained yield hunting program within this area.

Comm. Kohatsu: And the EA is subject to federal biological opinion as well?

Shane De Mattos: Yes, correct.

Comm. Masuda: What is the advantage of tying in the game bird hunting season with your access for archery hunting?

Shane De Mattos: No, so the archery season would be a certain time of the year, and then the game bird season would fall in line with the state season, standard November through January.

Comm. Kohatsu: Do you foresee being stuck in mitigation while none of the hunting plan moves forward?

Shane De Mattos: We hope not. So the feds have been involved from the beginning, we don't want to be blindsided by them at the last hour. So we have been talking with them, they have been from all conversations that I've had SWCA, with our district manager, they've been supportive of this area. So that's my thinking, but I know everything changes once you put pen to the paper, and we need signatures. You know, things change, but we've been told verbally that "let's look for areas where sustained yield game mammal hunting can occur." This is an area.

Comm. Masuda: Can I ask—since I don't hunt anymore and I'm not up to date. If you have plenty goats, why wouldn't you allow rifle?

Shane De Mattos: Right now the reason we don't want rifle is safety, because you have all these kuleanas right next to a highway, and that's kind of the communities concerns and that's why I've designated this as an archery area, because of safety issues. So we've got to think outside of the box in this area because there's so many goats, we've got to think outside of the box of how do we go ahead and dramatically reduce this population within a short period of time with the understanding that the goal is for a sustainable yield public hunting program.

Comm. Masuda: Which means you've got to reduce the goat population.

Comm. Cremer: What do you think is the population of goats in the area right now?

Shane De Mattos: Right now, I think from the surveys that were done by subcontractor, 2,500 goats, 300 deer, and I think there's about 100 head of cattle.

Comm. Cremer: What is the sustainable yield you think for goats?

Shane De Mattos: That's a good question. What I want is more deer in that area than goats. So whatever that number is, we do know that there's a lot of goats out there, so we want to drop that. But we don't know what the number is. I would think anything lower than the current population is better.

Comm. Masuda: How many hundred acres in this area including Ulupalakua?

Shane De Mattos: So total is 8,000.

Comm. Buchanan: Is the rancher [indiscernible] quantifying your cattle for grass area? Because we know that.

Shane De Mattos: so that cattle is actually illegally being grazed in that area.

Comm. Buchanan: So what's going to happen to the cattle? How much cattle do we have in there?

Shane De Mattos: Upwards of about 100 head, roughly. So by law, if we're to remove the cattle, we need to give the owner 30 days to remove the cattle from that area. And how flexible we are on that depends on how cooperative they are.

Comm. Gingo: Is there room in there for cooperative grazing? Would you use that as a tool for management in the future?

Shane De Mattos: No, I don't think so. So on Ulupalakua Ranch side we may have to get an agreement with the ranch where they may be allowed to bring cattle within the area during certain parts of the year.

Comm. Masuda: So the people opposing this are the ones who are getting rent-free grazing there.

Shane De Mattos: No, that's one of the reasons. They've been so used to no one having access to that area, that was their own icebox. There's no management, very little enforcement. So those are the people that tended to be opposed to that area, and we may never change their minds.

Comm. Cremer: It seems like this section is like our Unit A section on Kauai where there are not too many native species that we have to protect, population can stay at a sustainable yield. I'd like to applaud you for doing this. I really appreciate it. I wish everybody within our state that is a manager like you would take the initiative and try to do things like this. As a hunter and more so, I'm not a hunter, I'm a sustainable hunter—it's about meat, I don't want a trophy on my wall as you guys have heard me say many times. I think that is very important, I think we can look at other things in the future as far as going beyond archery but at least this is a start and I applaud you and I'm willing to support you 100%.

Comm. Masuda: Our goal is to have a managed hunting area kind of plan for all districts, right?

Comm. Cremer: Yes.

Comm. Masuda: So this is a step. Starting with Maui, I would like to take the... I know Josiah said, and I agreed, Josiah, we need to get the Waianae goat hunting plan done, because that's one of the first priorities, and as we said last meeting, all the wildlife managers should be working with their game management commission representative and collaborating on pushing this. It needs to be a team effort, and we are planning to pull together our NARS and watershed people along with our wildlife people to work together.

Comm. Cremer: I'm not saying that Kauai, now that there's a GMAC, now Kauai's really susceptible and they started to do archery things and looking at different places and opening up archery in the game management area which we've asked for a long time that there be. But I see that you started this prior to that game management stuff, and I appreciate that.

Comm. Masuda: When you say archery, that includes like crossbows and stuff?

Shane De Mattos: I hope.

Comm. Cremer: You can obtain a permit from your doctor, you get a doctor's paper and you can obtain a crossbow permit.

Comm. Kohatsu: This is particularly for Bob. There have been other processes that have done EAs that are still ongoing for a long time. What the hunting community desperately needs is a commitment from the higher level leadership from the Department to get these things done. Because what will happen is there will be conflicting views, and they will stall the whole process.

Comm. Masuda: I think I tried to make it clear at the last meeting that the Department's management and leadership wants to move forward in playing win-win...I happen to believe that good game management and wildlife management is the other half of the coin to watershed protection. Good conservation and good environmental ethic, if you will, it's two sides of the coin. You cannot have only one face of the coin, you need two sides. And if they work together, by having good hunting opportunities managed, I like to think that we will probably increase the protection of our watersheds and we might even increase our reforestation efforts. At least, that's what I believe.

Comm. Kohatsu: There's a history to this kind of stuff, and the history is certain sections don't want any hunting. All I'm saying is that unless we get past those road blocks, the EA is not going to move forward. Approval of the plan is never going to move forward. And in the meantime, I might add, everything else in the plan usually gets done, so the fencing, the patrol, the eradication, the mitigation, that eventually happens, irrespective of whether the plan gets approved or not. And all the other sides of the plan that don't have as much political power like hunting, they don't get done. So that's just the history.

Comm. Masuda: Well, we're here Ryan, you know what I told you in Hilo... I'm not going to waste my time here if we're not going to get this done. And in another month I'll know whether I'm going to be here another four years to help you, so we will see what happens.

Comm. Kohatsu: What's a reasonable time to get an EA done in your opinion, Bob?

Comm. Masuda: I have no opinion, but I do have communication with my wildlife people and my watershed people in terms of what can we do to have a win-win situation instead of a lose-lose situation going on. We need to eliminate that and work towards getting both advanced.

But we're serious about you guys working with each of your wildlife managers in each district, and this is a good example: I met with Kanalu, and he shared with me some of the thinking around Pu'u Wa'awa'a and Pu'u Anahulu, and we hope to work together with our watershed and forestry guys in seeing how

we can make this thing work. And at the same time protect more of our endangered things quickly. I'm a believer that if you have endangered wildlife and resources that need to be restored, if you take a long time to get it done, there's going to be less to protect or that will need to be protected. So the quicker we can protect those things that need protection, the greater number we'll be able to protect and move on.

Comm. Jury: I just have a question. So currently it's unencumbered—are you guys giving special wildlife control permission to hunters to kind of access the area and see what the field is like?

Shane De Mattos: No, no special use permits, because it was unencumbered but now it's set aside to the Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

Comm. Jury: I know forestry reserves on unencumbered land can be permitted to have special permits for good field about the hunting when it comes into those areas for wildlife control. That's just one question, and you answered the question, so second is I know that you said there's about 8,000 acres, give or take. So with the transects lines that are being flown and basically looking at 2,500 give or take, that's like three goats per acre in that area. This is pre safety zones, pre exclosures, and pre safety trails and property line. What are the contingency plans being that you do want to reduce the goats to a carrying capacity as well as increasing the deer. What is the contingency because only bow will be allowed if they cannot be reached by hunting?

Shane De Mattos: So what we do is that we would get... That's why everyone needs to think outside the box, including myself. So I would say, let's say that we have 800 animals as the magic number, how that plays out...so let's say year one we have the hunting and we do a survey and we have 850. So my job as a manager would be to increase the bag limit and tell the hunters "hey, we were above our capacity, we need to be less selective about what we shoot, and go out there and shoot," and if we go out there and it still doesn't work and the population builds up, then we need to plan and go to the next step, which may be if we don't get the harvest levels that we want, aerial shooting may come into play. But I want to give the hunters that opportunity, we're going to that 800 animals and we're going to reduce them back so that if the hunters can meet their objective of getting out there...

Comm. Masuda: And the first choice is to work with the hunters in managing.

Shane De Mattos: It's my job to set down bag limits so that we meet our objectives.

Comm. Jury: I believe the right side is also Ulupalakua, is there a reason it was open to the left side for hunting but not the right?

Shane De Mattos: the right side is Ulupalakua Ranch, that's the Auwahi windmills. So that's one of the reasons why, and then you know for them the cattle grazing in this area is not that great, so they were willing to... Again, they haven't agreed to anything, I want to make that clear, and then if we do agree to anything there are certain things we need to meet with the ranch for in order for them to allow access through their ranch.

Comm. Ruidas: I want to say something. When I started the GMAC over a year ago, they told me about this project coming on, and Shane has come a long way since then. It's too bad that our prior GMAC commissioner over there never had the opportunity to help in this process. And you know, when I looked at this project, I said "Aww, I don't hunt archery, but for the archery guys that I know on Maui, this is a really good opportunity for them."

Comm. Cremer: Out of everything I despise aerial shooting. Whether it's a tool you guys are allowed to use or anything, what would be the reason for the aerial shooting if this place doesn't have the amount of native species you guys are trying to protect?

Shane De Mattos: So we're responsible to maintain the landscape and to maintain the animals at an acceptable level. And so that's why we've got to go in, we don't want the goats eat everything off the land. We do still have an obligation to protect the resource, because then you're looking at erosion, there's a lot of different factors.

Comm. Cremer: I know since you said that and I understand that, I know on Lanai and in a lot of places throughout the United States, there's shotgun hunters before we even go to aerial shooting...

Shane De Mattos: I know, but we've got to think outside the box, right. I don't think by limiting ourselves we're doing anybody any favors. So I want to keep everything in the back pocket. So it is archery right now, but we may open it up to crossbows, we do want to potentially do shotgun, but my intent is to satisfy the archery community on the island of Maui, because on Maui the archery area that we have is poor at best. So this area would be somewhere I can tell the archers "look, I've satisfied you guys, this is your area," and we can go in and work on other areas for rifle, muzzleloader. But again, I don't want to go and lock myself in a corner and say "I'm not going to this, I'm not going to do that."

Comm. Masuda: But you're working with the hunting community actively.

Shane De Mattos: Yes, correct. And by doing the surveys and manipulating the bag limits and seasons, whatever number that is that's what I need to hit, and I need to work with the hunters so that they know that if this doesn't happen, it's going to trigger this, if that doesn't happen, it's going to trigger that.

Comm. Cremer: The public hunting for deer and goat—is there any other place besides this place that you'd designate...

Shane De Mattos: For right now I'm focused on this area.

Comm. Cremer: No, but is there any other place you can go? That's what I'm asking.

Shane De Mattos: Yes. On the island of Maui, yes, but none of them are sustained yield areas.

Comm. Cremer: And then what's going to happen to the cattle if the cattle are not removed? Are you guys going to remove them or are you going to open them up to the public?

Shane De Mattos: We don't know. We hope that the responsible owner will go to do his or her part in removing the cattle from the area.

Comm. Cremer: Thank you for doing that.

Comm. Kohatsu: I just want to add, if it takes four-six years whatever, Bob, we're going to get aerial shooting to control those animals. So if it takes long to get the process done, there is probably going to be staff aerial shooting, right?

Comm. Masuda: And that's why we want to work with you guys. We want our wildlife staff and the hunting community and all that to work together to make it happen sooner rather than later.

Comm. Kohatsu: It's not us. It's you guys, it's you.

Comm. Masuda: It's not "you guys, you guys," let's stop pointing fingers and point to both sides to get their act together and work together. And if you guys have a problem, call me and I'll see you in a meeting too.

Shane De Mattos: I don't want this to drag on. I don't want to waste my time, because I've been working on this for like five years, and I know the Big Island has some issues too.

Lino Kamakau: I want to make a statement, have you guys consulted ranchers? The reason I ask is because on Big Island with the deer, [indiscernible] on the Big Island, hunters love them, right? Ranchers said no. My son in law, a Sakugawa on Maui, they are north of Ulupalakua, they don't want the deer. So to tell the public you want to increase the deer on their site and decrease the goat, how well will the ranchers feel with that? Especially with the Ulupalakua, because I know who they are. Are they in favor of that?

Shane De Mattos: Well Ulupalakua ranch is because they're potentially a participant in this.

Lino Kamakau: Because I know Sakugawa is mountain north of that, and they don't want any...

Shane De Mattos: Right, yeah, but that is because from [indiscernible] that Sakugawa is leased lands. So they would have to go in and get approval from the land owners. But we've gone to every land owner on Maui, all the major ranches, and we've asked them if we can assist with the control of Axis deer, and they've said no at this time. So we've gone to Ulupalakua Ranch, Haleakala Ranch, Kounoulu Ranch, and they've said "oh no, we're not interested at this time." To help with the Axis deer.

Lino Kamakau: Yeah, because DHHL is a little bit different, and I agree with you, because DHHL—you can't hunt on their property. But for a private land owner, which is them, they have a problem with deer eating grass, because you won't keep them in that 8000 acres, we know that. They'll jump any fence line unless you build eight feet tall, so to say that you'll increase deer, how will that impact adjacent land owners?

Shane De Mattos: Well, they're saturated with Axis deer already, so whether we increase them or not, there is nowhere for their deer to go, they're just saturated. So by increasing ours won't negatively impact them, in my opinion.

Comm. Cremer: I don't know about Axis deer, but I know with Black-tailed deer, where the goat habitat is strong with high populations, the Black-tailed deer don't like to be there. They don't like to coexist with the goats as much as possible. They do, if they need, if they push, but all the areas that had high density of deer before, they don't have as much where the goats are now. They're going to pass through if they're pushed into that area, but they're not necessarily... they don't like hanging around the goats.

Shane De Mattos: So my next step, we're going to wait until the Environmental Assessment is completed, we're going to meet with the necessary constituents, and hopefully wrap this up by next year.

Comm. Masuda: How do you get your EA going? Is it in progress? You have it funded and everything?

Shane De Mattos: It's in progress. It's about... I think we're over that hump. So I think we're beyond 50% complete. Yes, we should have the funding for that. If something comes up that's relevant, I'm going to definitely provide some feedback, but I don't anticipate anything really happening in the next couple of months, but I'll let you know if something does.

LUNCH RECESS

COMMISSIONER GINGO (W-HAWAII REPRESENTATIVE) WAS OFFICIALLY SWORN IN DURING LUNCH BREAK.

ITEM 5. General discussion on goals, design, and utilization of proposed state game management plans.

Comm. Jury: I was trying to think of discussion points and things that we would talk about within these meetings, and I know last time the Deputy was mentioning the proposal of a game management plan statewide and touched on it a little bit, and also just kind of following up with the management plan because I know I'm going to bring this up in my update, but I think we all received the memo from Chair Case regarding what's going on in the Waianae's, so just having an understanding of what the state looks at when they think of a game management plan and being that it's going to be something that's going to happen in probably the near future, at least begin in the near future, with goats, ungulates, and birds, what are their directives. And also maybe one specific question, I know it is the game bird plan that they want to do first, before the ungulates, and what led to that decision?

Comm. Masuda: I think it's good that Mr. De Mattos did a nice presentation today, and to me that's what every district needs to have for their areas, some focused on ungulates like his is, and some might be on birds, but it's up to our wildlife experts and representative commissioners from all the districts working together to come up with what you guys see as your priorities. I asked Kanalu if he can make arrangements for our next meeting, if he can do a presentation on the Pu'u Anahulu, Pu'u Wa'awa'a. Habitat Conservation Plan, which I thought was pretty detailed, and we need to move forward. So from

the staff point of view we're going to work with forestry and watershed folks, endangered species folks, and our wildlife folks in trying to see what are the log jams and see how we can move them forward.

Comm. Jury: So is the statewide game management plan something that is being worked toward, and where does it lie in the priorities?

Jim Cogswell: We actually do. It's the PR 5-year management plan. Each state identifies priorities and activities, it's outlined there in the Pittman-Robertson management plan, and it specifies how to improve and maintain access, it talks about fire management, it talks about monitoring and evaluation, it specifies surveys, rate of surveys per unit, and all these details. So it's already there. I think in its current form, maybe it's a little hard to grasp as a statewide management plan, but maybe we could do something to modify its format more so it's more island-specific. Each island can then look at it and see in general how the state is currently managing those game and hunting areas. So that exists and we can refine that to make it more user friendly, but whenever we get down to these more site-specific plans, which I think is what people really want, I mean you saw the detail that's going into the management plan that Shane just described, and that's the kind of thing... so a lot more in depth, and for that, we need to really sit down and prioritize where those management plans, those high detail plans are going.

Comm. Masuda: You can have a state plan, the districts, and then all the specific stuff can be plugged in.

Jim Cogswell: Yes, as we focus down, that's where some areas are already more detailed and we need to find more detail in other areas. And I think that's where commissioners work with wildlife folks in their district, and kind of help to prioritize those areas. It's also a big monetary commitment, so we need to keep that in mind as well. Where are we going to get those funds? We can all join together in looking for resources to make that available, put pressure on the legislature.

Comm. Masuda: I can tell you, what Jim is saying is important, and that's why it's a priority for me to have commissioners and staff working together and sharing stuff and collaborating, because when it's time to go to the legislature and we can do it together, in a unified way, the result will be much to your liking rather than going in disconnected.

Comm. Gingo: So what you're saying is we really don't have a game management plan, it seems like what you have contained in the Pittman-Robertson portion is a statement of fact of what the general purpose the state does, is that what you're saying?

Jim Cogswell: Yes.

Comm. Gingo: Okay, so there is no game management plan per se because it lacks the details necessary to manage game specifically across the state.

Jim Cogswell: Right. Because if you drill down to that level of management, then we're talking site specific things.

Comm. Gingo: So if I were to pull out the state of Michigan DNR's management plan, it would drill down to much more detail than we have here, or Ohio, or Pennsylvania.

Jim Cogswell: That's quite possible. I'm not saying we can't improve on our game management plan.

Comm. Gingo: Well it just sounds like it's lacking the details of what would be defined as a game management plan.

Jim Cogswell: So I think as we move forward we need to prioritize which areas we want those details for and then just fill it in.

Comm. Cremer: I know Deputy Masuda is saying that we have to move forward, but this game management plan has been sitting on a burner for 20 years. In every state, almost every state throughout the United States there's a game management plan, yeah? And we've been trying, the older guys who have been involved for a long time, I've been talking to people on Kauai. These guys have been doing it for years, Jon Sabati has been doing it for years, the Pittman-Robertson document is not a game management plan. It's not. It's just a direction of what you can use the money to do a game management plan.

Comm. Masuda: I can tell you in my mind, Kauai's game management plan includes looking at what you call your Unit A. I can tell you, in my mind Unit A and the disposition of how we can look to potentially transfer Unit A into a hunting area or game management area, and trading off with DHHL, is in my mind a priority of a part of a game management plan on Kauai. It's not a game management plan. I'm just telling you a discussion which is helping to guide actions also.

Comm. Cremer: This part of what Shane did is what everybody should be doing to work toward a general plan. And that's why I take my hat off to you, Shane, I appreciate what you're doing. Throughout the state we should be looking at every district manager doing them, with the collaboration from you and us and everybody to get it done. But for years and years it goes like this, hand it over, what we want, then it goes away. I just hope that we can go forward and get a plan done, because nothing against watershed and NARS, we all need balance, but right now there's no balance. Game population where you cannot hunt is big, in the general public hunting area, not sustainable. Part of the Pittman-Robertson and everything else if for a sustainable game management plan. And that's all I ask, with balance, thank you.

Comm. Masuda: I'm all for what you said, for the record.

Comm. Kohatsu: So as we're talking about, there's history with all of this, pretty long history. But more just for the people that I represent. So, before the next meeting, I would like to make a request on an action, perhaps. And that action would be: can we list out all of our hunting areas across the state and can someone, whoever is in charge, make a policy assumption on these areas—is it eradication, is it control, or is it sustained yield? Because when we're talking about a priority—I know Bob mentioned priorities—I believe the priority, and someone can correct me, but the interest of a lot of commissioners here and the people they represent, the priority would be finding sustained yield areas. There are opportunities in control and eradication, sure, like guys go hunting and they kill stuff. But the reason why we have a Game Commission is because they're worried about their future. So that priority would exist in places of sustained yield, perhaps. And before you even have your plans or whatever you want

to write, you need to have a place to do it in, right? So if someone could just do that, and I think what the list would show is that sustained yield is a very small portion of what exists out there. So we're struggling with creating plans, that's nice, although unless a policy exists that can be a sustained yield place, that plan is never going to go anywhere.

Comm. Masuda: I think that's a great idea. Actually, I've already made a request for an inventory of all of our Game Management Areas, hunting or whatever you want to call them, and what I'd like to do is go further and identify it on a statewide map island by island, and also have a narrative summary by location or by size or whatever, and then as we get that, we'll pull together... Jim, maybe this is where you, Dave, Shaya and myself, begin to identify and very honestly list out what is our current practice for each of these areas, like the words that he used. Control, or whatever, to the degree that we could quantify it. And I think that it's like running a business or managing any enterprise, I always like to have a physical inventory of the organization I'm dealing with. A financial inventory, called an audit, of the organization I'm dealing with. A human resources inventory or personnel organization chart and what it implies in terms of where the weak points are and where the strong points are. Just any time I start a new business or a new organization. And what you're asking for is as a Game Management Advisory Commission, we should all have this on the wall at any given time, so when we talk about what's on the agenda we can point out what we're talking about.

Comm. Kohatsu: Well just to start. Even for the next meeting, I don't want it to be too much work. There's really only three designations I can think of: eradication, control or sustained yield. So which is it, pick it. Even if it's all eradication, I don't care, as long as it's on paper and at least we're working with something.

Comm. Cremer: I'm going to have to ask you to read the last two minutes from last month over here that we had with the representatives from this island and the representatives from Kauai and look what they said about being able to back us up financially to get this game management plan going. I know my representative is going to do it, the ones that sat in the last meeting said they were willing to do it, and they actually said that if they need to put things in legislature they will. So we don't like to go through that route. I know my island guys said he's ready, I talk to him on a weekly basis. We don't want to go that route. We're going to do them over here.

Comm. Masuda: Thank you. I don't respond well to threats either, so I like doing it nicely to get it done.

Comm. Ruidas: So, from day one I always talked about Lanai and our management plan for Lanai, and I always said we should have one for the whole state, for every island we should have one. So by the next meeting, how about we get a dollar amount, because I don't hear a dollar amount to hire anybody. Dollar amount of hiring somebody, or getting money from the legislature—how much should we ask them for to present this package?

Comm. Masuda: Oh, you want to hire somebody to do the plan?

Comm. Ruidas: Yeah, because obviously that's what I heard last time.

Jim Cogswell: Yes, we can come up with something.

Shaya Honarvar: It's important to know where we want to start. You talk about all the different states on the mainland have a game management plan, I can see that. But for the State of Hawaii, every island is completely different. The vegetation, elevation, weather, the animals, everything is completely different. So to have an overall game management plan for the whole state is not in my mind as important as to having a game management plan for each separate area. That said, maybe we could have a statewide game management plan that say: these are the activities that we do on all of the islands, but then one of the goals in the statewide management plan is to look at different areas and different game species. So if you want to come up with a dollar amount for a plan like that versus the plans that are smaller, that's all different. Like Kanaio is completely different than the Lanai management plan, the size, the species, everything is different and to put a dollar amount on those things right now it's going to be plus or minus \$50,000-\$100,000 or even more. So I think it's important to kind of figure out where you want to start and what is the goal, and then put a dollar amount to it, or try to at least.

Comm. Ruidas: Because it seems like Jim said monetary, and you say financial, okay everything it comes down to right now for me on my island is money. It's been one year, you know, and they've been working on it, but Pulama warned me, it's either do it or we don't have hunting on Lanai.

Comm. Masuda: I think part of our report on game management areas and inventory, let's try to see if we can wrestle with "what would it cost us to fund studies in each of the islands?" And just as a start. And then we pick after that which one comes first...

Shane De Mattos: Just to put it into perspective, so the Kanaio plan that we're looking at cost us I think over half a million dollars, but again there's a lot... but Shaya's right, it's unique to that area. It depends on what we want in the plan, how specific we want it to be...

Comm. Buchanan: Does that include the EA?

Shane De Mattos: That's what it is. So it's not an EA for the—it's for the entire area, but like for water units, they're not surveying the entire area, I had to select spots and they're going to survey ten by ten perimeter grids to make sure there's no impact to that specific site. Now if we were to do a full blown EA, I mean you can just look at the cost.

Comm. Masuda: So the cost of half a million dollars, Shane, is not including the EA yet?

Shane De Mattos: It is, it's including everything. If I wanted to put, I cannot just put a water unit anywhere in Kanaio, I've got to specifically say "I want to put five water units in this location." If I want to do more water units moving forward, I have to do another EA...

Shaya Honarvar: However, the cultural sites need to be done still, so we might have to add some more funds to that as well. It's not cheap.

Comm. Masuda: Oh, I know it's not cheap. It sounds like you used up the whole budget for Maui Nui.

Comm. Cremer: You spent that much money already, or is that the projected amount that you're going to spend?

Shane De Mattos: That is the projected amount, \$500,000 something, I don't know what the exact dollar amount is.

Comm. Cremer: Okay, so how much energy and time did it take you to put that project like it is now.

Shane De Mattos: Five years.

Comm. Cremer: It's interesting to note, because if we're going to start now on doing the rest of the state we're going to be done in 40 years, I'm going to be dead, my grandson going to be pau hunting already.

Comm. Kohatsu: That's why I mentioned about timing. I remember before we had Bob come on we had Dave, and Dave kind of made it explicit to me that the DLNR doesn't manage game, they manage the hunting program. He was very explicit to me at the Hilo meeting. So is your feeling different from that, Bob?

Comm. Masuda: I have to go find out what people mean by what they say, what does game management, what does hunting mean to Dave, to you, to everybody else.

Comm. Kohatsu: His context was that "you guys can go hunting, but I kind of don't care about that game resource." If it's there, it's there, and if it's not there, it's not there, that's how it was.

Comm. Masuda: So are you saying game management means replenishment as well as...

Comm. Kohatsu: Treat the game like fish. But going back to the timeline on this stuff, we're stuck at EAs, right? And the only thing that moves EAs forward is the Department. Not the public, because if you let the public and the little departments war between each other then it goes nowhere, because no one ever agrees on everything. So it's Department prerogative to move those forward if indeed they want it done.

Comm. Cremer: Is there any way that a directive could be handed to each section like how... he took his own initiative, but is there any way you guys could direct our island and sections to do what he did?

Comm. Kohatsu: What I would say is that the EA is costly, but the history has shown it doesn't go anywhere. So while I applaud the effort and I'm down for getting it done, if it gets done that's great. But right now, I feel, and you can correct me, Bob, I feel that the state has the prerogative to manage game species on state land in the way they want. Now that's to lawsuit for endangered species or watershed, whatever it is, however the prerogative I still feel exists, and their inactivity to do so while always stating "Oh, what do the watershed people think? What do the endangered species people think? What do these other people think? Oh, that's why I'm not going to do anything on this end" because these guys don't like what you're going to do, I feel like the state isn't taking prerogative there.

Comm. Masuda: I think that's a very legitimate concern and issue, and I will tell you what I told you before. Give me a little bit more time, and I expect that the way we work together here will be to deal with this and move this forward, and that's why I want to deal with the subject and the issue, learn more about it, and talk about how we can move it forward.

Comm. Kohatsu: I should clarify that these comments that I make are not particularly to solve an issue between what we are doing now, because the real work happens not here, I understand that, but I do make these comments for the record to go on the minutes for the people in the public, for their edification of what the issue is and where we're going, so I do have to show the people that I go back to at home that "hey, we have actions and we're doing something, we're not just talking."

Comm. Masuda: You can tell all the people that you're going to report back to, most of whom I know and who know me, that we are moving forward and we will move forward, so if they have something to contribute they can do it through you and Ian Cole. So, they need to talk with Ian and Joey also, and work together and if you guys come up with a rough draft throw all the dots together at the target and see where it falls kind of presentation, do it. At least it's a start. And then we can add and subtract and add some logic to something that may not be logical or whatever, and come up with something. And answering Robert, yes. That's why I'm hired. I believe in democracy, but I believe democracy needs to be directed at times. So all the wildlife people heard the message last time, I think, that everybody needs to work with their representative and begin to develop a plan. Jim and Shaya and I will be working with Dave and others to see what else we need to do to get things moving forward, and I want to see wildlife and game management and hunting have as much priority as watershed, aquifers, restoration of Koa native forest, and protection of endangered flora. I believe these things go together.

Comm. Cremer: The thing about it is Bob, we cannot get funding by our representatives if we don't plan in the same direction that Shane is doing, so we need people to take actions so this thing can come forward. The action was taken before, and like I said, it got thrown in the back of the bus again 15 years ago. And it's a sour thing in our mouth, Bob, so you've got to understand why we go back to that all the time. I know you're here now and you say we're going forward, but I'm going to tell you, it's just sour, sour in my mouth and I get bent out of shape.

Comm. Masuda: I totally accept what you're saying, and I don't take it personally. I think these things need to be said, hopefully just once is enough and I can hear and remember, but we need to move forward together, and I'm going to keep saying that. And maybe the form, Jim, in which we can help answer the question is we might come up with some draft legislation on development of game management with kind of a budget, something that we can help our mutual champions work on since our administration budget is pretty well moving forward already, we may have to go another route. And don't forget, we appreciate DOCARE's help. So we answered your question partly.

Comm. Gingo: You know, one of the things I've noticed, I was using that analogy of different game management plans in many states that I've hunted in, and one of the things that is different but there are some commonalities there too. Regardless of the plan there has to be some overall top plan with consideration for differences in climate, elevation, and so on. California has to deal with this, you know

the differences in environment there, our climate zones here are very distinct and diverse, but we also don't necessarily look at hunting as other states do. They look at it as recreation with income, and that income is used within the state as a very important part of recreation, whereas we don't place a lot of emphasis on hunting as a recreation in this state. And that's something that's very different from the way other states manage their hunting programs. The hunting programs in other states carry a lot of weight with their legislature because it does translate into very well defined income, and that recreation is a very important part of how they operate. So I don't see that as much in Hawaii. We go out, we hunt, we enjoy, it's more of a local level. You ask ten people off a plane who come here for all the other recreations and things that are in Hawaii, and the last thing they're ever going to say is associating Hawaii with hunting as a recreation, people don't identify it as a recreation. So it's just different. It's different the way it works, it's different the way it translates into money, it's different in the way it's treated as a credible activity for the state. I mean we go out and we love to hunt, we love to eat our meat, we love to go hunting for meat and not trophy, but it's not the same as it is in a lot of other places.

Comm. Buchanan: Thank you commissioner. I was going to bring that up as the same thing, because it is lucrative and that's why states spend so much money on sustaining a lucrative business for them.

Comm. Gingo: It is. I just applied for an elk tag that I probably won't even get and it's over a thousand dollars. Or, you know in Nebraska to go white-tail hunting I'm going on private land and I'm still spending over \$500 for a tag. So that's the way it works. That's why when you roll into town in Nebraska, there are signs that say "welcome hunters."

Comm. Kohatsu: We love the non-residents that make up most of the budget in non-resident fees.

Comm. Buchanan: It's very different here. Plus Hawaii has very unique land laws compared to the other 49 states. And our constitution supports those land laws and uses, so that's another complex layer that is part of everything and I think the first or second meeting that we had of this game commission, all of what we said today all came up, and I've got to give kudos to Dave Smith, who at that point said "well, what do you want?" And so every time I have disgruntled hunters call me up I ask them the same question: "Well, what do you want?" And I think we said it time and time again, and again I'm going to give Dave Smith kudos for that, he always said "get with your wildlife biologists on your island and figure it out, what do you want?" So if you look at every island, you know you can put a big circle on every mountain and say "Watershed partnership. That's it, we're going to save all the last, best... with climate change, we need the top of the mountain, native intact forest..." Zero tolerance, okay. It's pretty simple. Doesn't take a lot. Within that, you get when Pu'u Maka'ala went to NARS, Hilo people were irate because they felt like they were left with all the trash all the strawberry guava, all the junk places they never liked, all you heard was that the NARS and forestry guys were taking all the nice good hunting areas. And then to Ryan's credit, he's always bringing us back to the replacement value, where if we're taking very good areas and moving that to zero, then where are we going to go. Kapapala... I see this most prevalently on the Big Island and that's why I pick on the Big Island all the time, and not being a hunter on Hawaii Island but listening to a lot of disgruntled hunters there, it's the push and shove between the prioritization of state lands. So if DOFAW and DLNR only has purview over state lands and

not over private lands, then we have that one place to focus, but then you have agreements with Pohakuloa or Kahua Ranch or whatever to have hunting on their lands, and that makes it more complex. Then the Natural Area Reserve System has their own management plans, so that's how come hunters are always grumpy, because nobody really understands the layers of complexity, and we try to have presentations on our first and second, maybe third meetings, I don't remember the Pittman-Robertson stuff. But I wanted to change real fast and talk about Environmental Assessments. Anyone in here wrote the Ka'u Forest Reserve Plan? Had anything to do with the Ka'u Forest Reserve Plan? In short, it was a very large document. With multiple actions, and when Shane says "if I want to move a water trough I have to get another EA," that's not entirely true. So the Department of Defense figured this out a long time ago, and what they moved to doing, and you see this mostly from Federal entities, they have programmatic environmental impact studies. So you don't have to chew again your cultural studies for broad areas or almost the same, you fly it past the environmental... we have an environmental board, not OEQC, we have an environmental council—and that's where DLNR goes to get all their exemptions on fencing, the watershed priorities, right, they say "hey, we're exempt for fencing because it's the same action." So when multiple same actions occur, you can get them all exempted, and all that written up into one programmatic type of thing. So now you start to make that more concise, and you don't have to spend two million dollars on an individual Environmental Assessment in a 1,000 acre GMA. So there's ways to get that whittled down and work it, bring the cost down. But no matter what we say it always goes back to what Ryan says and what I always think is "well, what do you want?" If you want the Kauai lease, then let's focus on Kauai lease. If it's getting Puu Maka'ala back for East Hilo hunters then fine or Pu'u Anahulu, or the kipukas on Saddle Road, whatever. Then focus on that, where the hunters are really being pushed out, and then go through that reprioritization within the watershed and then the federal layers of critical habitat, species, Fish and Wildlife, whatever. And then I think it's more palatable. And it's hard, because I'm aware of the statewide forestry plan, I'm aware of every forestry plan, on every island there is a plan. Game management is written into those plans but not to the point of bag limits and all that stuff. So what I like what Ryan said, and what the Deputy said, is I'm ready for January. I'm ready to introduce some stuff for legislation. So I was hoping today, I was going to put it on the agenda for next time, was for us to come up with between three to five priorities of either amendments to 183D or outright stuff whether it be aerial shooting and asking DLNR to ban aerial shooting as a management tool for hunting, or if it's to be used but that some protocol is set up in order for the GMAC or somebody to review where and how that is being used as a management tool if it's appropriate, if it's not appropriate—that's the kind of stuff I wanted to get with. And then you have action items being done by this board.

Comm. Kohatsu: Yeah, so I fall back on that list of areas and the policy of each area—if it's not sustained yield, then in my view the default is either eradication or control. So I need that list because I think people need to know what you're working with before you even work on it. And I think the list will show that places that may be sustained yield, the Department doesn't even know if it is yet. So we're talking about trying to do something with land that doesn't even exist in their policy yet. So I need that leadership policy first, and until someone in the Department says it's okay for you to keep your sheep over here, it's okay for you keep goats up here," then we're just talking back and forth on it.

Comm. Buchanan: So Ryan, I would hope as a user... Right now I'm telling Molokai Ranch, "Molokai Ranch I'm sorry but I need 1,800 acres for you to be public hunting." So as a user, I'm telling the landowner and the state what it is that from the user's perspective I know I need or that I would want. And I think that that way you get more traction, because it's really the users who are being impacted, but that's just my thought. You being impacted in your area, you being impacted on Lanai... right now, the priority is for Lanai before they lose their lease. Lanai company is saying "You know, I gave you guys a chance and you never came through," and we're over here going "Jim hurry up, write a plan because we're going to lose on our land." So within ourselves we have priorities. My priority on Molokai is really not as urgent as Lanai's priority or Kauai's priority right now, so I would hope that we could at least get to that point and then review each action, because Bob will do everything for us. He's going to go to the Board and say "Hurry up, sign this lease for Lanai or Kauai before they lose their land," and then they'll figure it out. But that's just thoughts, so. I'd like to do something legislative this session.

Comm. Kohatsu: I can say actions exist already. The local wildlife biologists, they know what they want to do in some of these places, even on the hunting side, and a lot of the hunting community would be in support of that. It's just that the Department requests that they ask permission from people that don't want it to happen, from specific communities on the environmental side that we've got to ask permission to do this, permission to do that. Sometimes the prerogative lands solely in the Department's hands to do stuff and they just use it as a cop-out. "Oh yeah, this guy said no, no can, we've got to do this instead." So that's the roadblock.

Comm. Buchanan: So now that the Deputy is here on the cop-out kind of stuff...I'm just saying that he's saying that cop-out kind of stuff maybe cannot cop-out anymore because our wildlife biologist is sitting right there and we're having an open and transparent discussion about issues. So maybe we can hit that up now, because when you say the "environmental side," I would say that I'm part of the environmental side because I'm an environmentalist who happens to be a hunter, actually I'm a hunter who happens to be an environmentalist, so I believe all can be accomplished, but I really would want us to focus on what we want to move forward legislatively. Either in support of something that comes from the Department or the Department supporting something that comes from GMAC. Either way. Because I think we're going to get more traction. Of course we want money, so there has to be a dollar amount at the end, and let us be the people that are going to push the finance and ways and means.

ITEM 8. A short report by each commissioner summarizing their meetings with DOFAW staff on the island that they represent.

Comm. Ruidas: I talked to my wildlife biologist Shane and so October 1st next week Monday we have the deer application coming up for Lanai. It will be a bag limit of three does because we had too many animals this season not being taken out because of the weather and whatnot. I can foresee a lot of housing being really tight again, in fact tighter now, so if anybody applies and gets lucky, tell them to find their housing right away. Also talked about on October 8-9, I'm going to meet with Shane's guys again. On Lanai we have a community meeting which is with DOFAW and the hunting community in Lanai, whoever will show up. And my results from my last two meetings with the community are going

to be presented to DOFAW at that time. And that will be, I can tell you something, Lanai has never had so many meetings about hunting since the last year, and it's good. So that's my report, thanks.

Comm. Cremer: Thomas never got back to me about the lease [indiscernible]. Presently we just had the first meeting on our shooting range—Andrew, do you want to give a short synopsis of what we discussed? We went through and they made a GIS map where we had all the sites we had to go and try to see if this was going to be good, if this was not going to be good. Right now we're going back to the table so she can go back and implant more pictures into the map and map them out a little bit better for us so we can get the area that we like in a safe and more centralized area. There is a west side range that could be used, but it wouldn't be able to accommodate all the stuff that we foresee that we want as far as a range for trap shooting, pistols, long distance. Ultimately we'd like to have 300 acres with a 100 acre parcel inside which would be the original range with the safety buffers on the outside. You can add whatever you want now, Andrew, those are the points I remember.

Andrew Choy: We have a consultant, and we're working with PBR Hawaii. Katie Cullison has a lot of experience and expertise that they brought in and they're very thorough. Basically, the scope of work that we have for them ends on June 30, 2019, and it's basically a feasibility study. And so the different stages of this contract include scoping, community meetings, the one that Robert is referring to just happened, we have several scheduled over the next couple of months. Timeline wise, we're hoping to have a short list of sites outlined by November of this year. We will, in concert with stakeholders—so that includes members of the County, the legislature, the hunting community on Kauai and DOFAW Kauai—make a determination on the preferable site sometime in December. And then from December through June of next year, we will get the feasibility study completed. And then hopefully, as these things go, who knows, but the intention is to wrap that feasibility study into an eventual EA or EIS from July 2019 through December 2020. So that gives us about a year and half to do that, and then construction would hopefully be on January 2021. So it's a pretty aggressive timeline but there's a lot of support on this project. We do have federal funding and we do have CIP funding available, but that is strictly for planning and design compliance work. In a nutshell, that's where it's at. The challenge that Commissioner Cremer was referring to is basically a GIS exercise that the consultant did for us. We met internally and came up with a really loose set of parameters that would be essential for the shooting range like topography, soil, climate, public access, utilities, special use permits, whatever. All these kind of things were wrapped up into a list which the consultant then went back and plugged all those parameters into a blind GIS that he came up with about five sites. Turns out most of those sites are not going to work, but there are two sites that can work, and that's where we're at right now. An existing site that Mr. Cremer referred to that's an existing range, trying to rehab that kind of more as a stop-gap measure, and then looking at other parcels, whether private or public land, to develop an actual range.

Comm. Timko: I met with Jason Misaki, he brought me up to date on what's been going on in Waianae and I was very disappointed to learn that they're not going to be releasing game birds this year, so I don't know how well your game bird season is going to go this year. He does want to get the program up and running again and when he does I'm going to try to pull together some volunteers to help raise the birds and help Nick out in that way.

Andrew Choy: Can I make a comment as just a private hunter? I think the issue that we encounter is that I understand completely about what you are saying and that it's so specific to the areas, and Kuaokala being the only Game Management Area on Oahu. Yeah, having stocked birds is great, but the other challenge is just the access, and specifically what that is hunters encountering different procedures that DOD enforces each time or every time you can get a different procedure. You hunt Saturday morning and go back Sunday morning and it's a completely different run down. One day you're just asked for your hunting license, the next day you're asked for your vehicle registration and insurance. I think that's the kind of stuff that as hunters yeah, stocked birds would be great, sustainable yield would be fantastic, but that kind of stuff is really the issue, I think. In my personal experience, and having talked to hunters in the area, is access, at that particular area.

Comm. Buchanan: I think we should put that on the next agenda too, because I have plenty of people who grumble about that. We'll come back to that. You have anything to offer?

Comm. Gingo: Yeah, I think access considerations are a big part of it, and consistency. I think the DOCARE guys obviously in the field, I think the hunters in the relationship with DOCARE, especially in the field, has to be a stronger relationship. With education, and citations and stuff leading to citations can be alleviated just by having a good education program and again, it goes back to the recreation, where you have people that are fairly new residents that want to shoot, they come from places they've shot, they come from places they've hunted and they wonder why they can't just go up to a hunting area and sight in a .22 and they don't realize that a .22 is not an acceptable caliber, it's illegal to use. It's all in the approach, and I think the teamwork between DOFAW and DOCARE has to be strengthened as far as what can be hunted, how it can be hunted, the method of take, and being out in the field as helping people understand this resource, especially those that are newer to the island and want to take part in the recreation but feel intimidated by the fact that there's so much to take in and understand. Most of those people that are getting into these infractions are doing it in good faith, I would say, they're doing it with a valid excuse because they're not finding out enough information and having access to it. But there are a lot of people that need to be corrected in what they do. But at the same time I think that relationship needs to be bolstered, and I'll do what I can in meeting with them regularly. I'm trying to get more kids involved in hunting, I'm trying to get greater access, less brick walls running into and getting a course for hunter safety. People should be able to say "I'm interested in doing this thing called hunting and I'm 12 years old and I want to do this thing," there shouldn't be a lot of road blocks, there shouldn't be a lot of issues. There should be an acceptance, an embracing of what we do and how we go about doing it, I think that's what I stand for and I'd like to get all of our staff people and figure out what they perceive it as and how I can help.

Comm. Kohatsu: I haven't seen Joey since the last meeting, but I talk to Kanalu a lot. We're simple, we prioritize it down to pretty much everything I've talked about here, so I'm good. I have nothing else to report.

Comm. Jury: Thank you for doing the bow and the hunting data this morning that was great down here on Oahu and Kapolei. But just for the update, I think we're right, we need to get DOCARE to come in. I asked DOCARE to come but it was kind of short notice, so next time they can try to put something

together so they can be on the agenda. I called them and talked to some of their guys at Admin to see if they could come in and talk in general stuff about what they do and maybe they can field some questions and concerns, and maybe we can do the same, maybe we can help build that relationship as well. Of course they're out there, encountering hunters and other people in that area. Definitely right about Kuaokala, I'll try to follow up with that. I usually try to go out there the day before and I try to alert the guard, but you're definitely right, it's whoever's there. I let the guard know the day before that tomorrow's hunting. But then the next day you have somebody different, so you definitely hit the nail on the head when you say you do have concerns in that area, but I also talked to our local representative and kind of made that concern, kind of have some influence. One last thing, I know everybody got the memo from Chair Case regarding the aerial control in Waianae and Makaha, and as it stands they decided that our letter was not going to make the BLNR agenda, but one of the biggest takeaways that I have—of course, she highlighted everything the Department was doing to communicate and what's going on with the Board—but the Waianae and Makaha area in particular, Unit C in the Waianae and Makaha valley, that although they're still upholding the request by the legislation or Maile Shimabukuro to put a pause until January 2019, they'll also add onto that no further action will be taken until a wildlife management plan is created for that specific area. So for me as the Oahu commissioner, the way I feel is that I'm grateful for that, I think we as a commission and the way I look at it as a commissioner to the Game Management Advisory Commission, to have an area that there wasn't a game management plan in and I think we all got together as the community, heard the concern of the hunters, and although we didn't get to the BLNR agenda, I think the outcome is kind of what I would have hoped for and when asked that question from before, "what do you want?" They wanted a management plan to show how they can help participate. So we'll be working together, the Department as well as the GMAC and the communities to try to figure out what the fastest and most efficient way to get this going is, and keep trekking forward. And then on the flip side of that, they did give out the issue to the rest of the Oahu residents for they're going to do aerial shooting in a lot of areas on Oahu. So they're going to have aerial shooting, and that's why people get confused. I'm going to get calls from guys on other islands, so people don't get confused, the Waianae Makaha is not going to be touched, I'm going to participate with them on the survey, I'm awaiting the Pittman-Robertson update that they've been doing for the annual monitoring of aerial control in the area of Makua Keaau and Waianae Kai for goats, I'm awaiting all that data prior to my flight with them, and they only doing it more to assure transparency across the board in what they're doing. I'm only going to assist them in that area, the Waianae Makaha, but the aerial shooting will continue to take place elsewhere across the island where permitted, and I think we all got that paperwork. If you haven't, I'm sure they can get you all that. That's it.

Comm. Ruidas: I forgot one thing. October 8-9, they're also doing aerial surveys to count how many animals we have on the island, both on the GMA and the Pulama side. I forgot to say that.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay, Josiah, your hunters, nobody else is giving you grief about aerial shooting elsewhere, but they never see it?

Comm. Jury: They saw it. I got a couple of calls this morning before I walked into this room. But our intention was always geared toward the focus of the Waianae public hunting area and the Makaha which is adjacent to the two public hunting areas that have feral goats.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay. Molokai, we're still working on ours, we're meeting here and there with different groups, but our focus is on Molokai Ranch, because that's 56,000 acres and that's where most of our game lives. Actually, we have plenty of game everywhere, but you're not invited. It's not for recreation.

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

MEETING DATE SET FOR DECEMBER 10TH, 2018.

ITEM 10. Announcements.

Shaya Honarvar: So how we're going to set up this meeting on December 10th, the GMAC meeting would start around 11 or so, because there is a one hour workshop for the rule changes that we were talking about last meeting.

Comm. Buchanan: Josiah wanted the Interaction Group to meet as well. Who's on the Interaction Group? Nancy, Ryan, and... we'll look it up. To discuss the rules, making rules for this commission.

Shaya Honarvar: So we do 9-10 for you guys, 10-11 for the workshop, and 11 to whenever for the GMAC meeting.

Comm. Buchanan: So we're talking about in January, when the legislature convenes, having a meeting then and then meeting with our representatives.

Comm. Jury: I think it should be either the day before or the day after, because I remember going there after our meeting, and it was kind of a long meeting and everybody was kind of wrapping up.

Comm. Buchanan: Do you guys still think it's a good idea? Let's think about it. How's our budget?

Shaya Honarvar: You have used a little bit more than half of it. So there's budget for this coming fiscal year.

Comm. Jury: Because we do have concerns about prioritizing stuff that's going to be coming up on Kauai, Lanai, can that budget be used to help the personnel to help streamline that kind of stuff, get efforts into pushing the right people...

Shaya Honarvar: So that budget is specifically for the commissioners and the commission, so if you need to travel to meet with Shane for example, off commission time, I believe that's allowed, but I will double check.

Dietra Myers-Tremblay: Just a suggestion for you, whoever is on the committee might want to look at other commissions' rules. Like the Forest stewardship commission, you might want to go on our website and see what their rules look like. There some other commissions too, so that's just an idea.

Shaya Honarvar: The way the Permitted Interaction Group works, you decided who's going to be in it, then you meet. Then there has to be one meeting to report and then one meeting to vote. So we could potentially put the meeting where you report on the same day as your meeting to speed up everything if you want that, but I do need to know that beforehand so I can put it on the agenda.

Comm. Jury: Is it easier to put an action item and say we're just not going to vote on them, she said we have to report...

Shaya Honarvar: So, reporting is not an action, so as long as I just say the PIG is going to report... so we can put that in there and then if you don't have anything to report or you didn't meet for some reason, we can just postpone it to the next meeting.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay, very good. I think we're set. Potential agenda items we already discussed, but if you get anything else, get it to Shaya. Shaya, usually files it to me and then that's it. No announcements? Then we are adjourned.

ITEM 11. Adjournment.