

DLNR - Division of Forestry and Wildlife

Public Lands Hunting Information Survey Report



**For the Hunting Year
January - December 2017**

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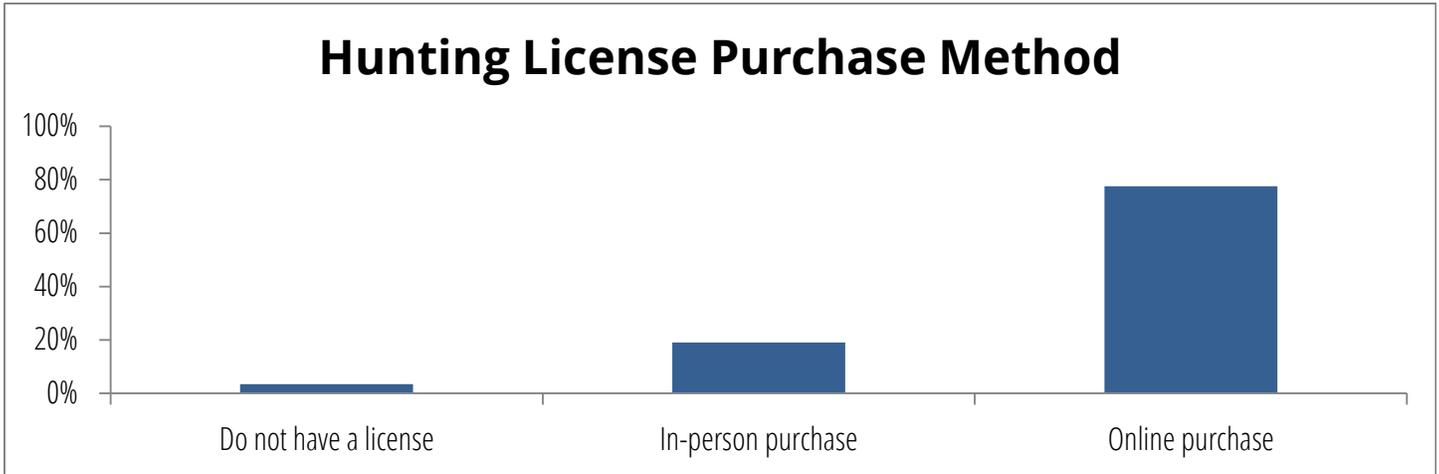
Report Overview

In 2018, The Division of Forestry and Wildlife posted an online survey for hunters in the state of Hawaii about their use of public hunting lands during 2017. 1198 hunters completed the online survey. The survey requested information about each hunter's license, hunting history, spending, hunting locations, game harvest, organization membership status, and comments about various topics related to hunting.

This report summarizes the data submitted by the hunters on the survey. The questions are taken directly from the survey and are arranged in the same order. Answering the questions on the survey was optional, so each question has a note in blue text showing how many of the 1198 people who took the survey responded to that question.

The purpose of this annual survey is to assist in improving management in public hunting areas in the State of Hawai'i. The information provided by the hunters who responded will be used directly in the planning of upcoming hunting seasons. This is an opportunity for the hunting public to provide important information to be used for decision-making and management.

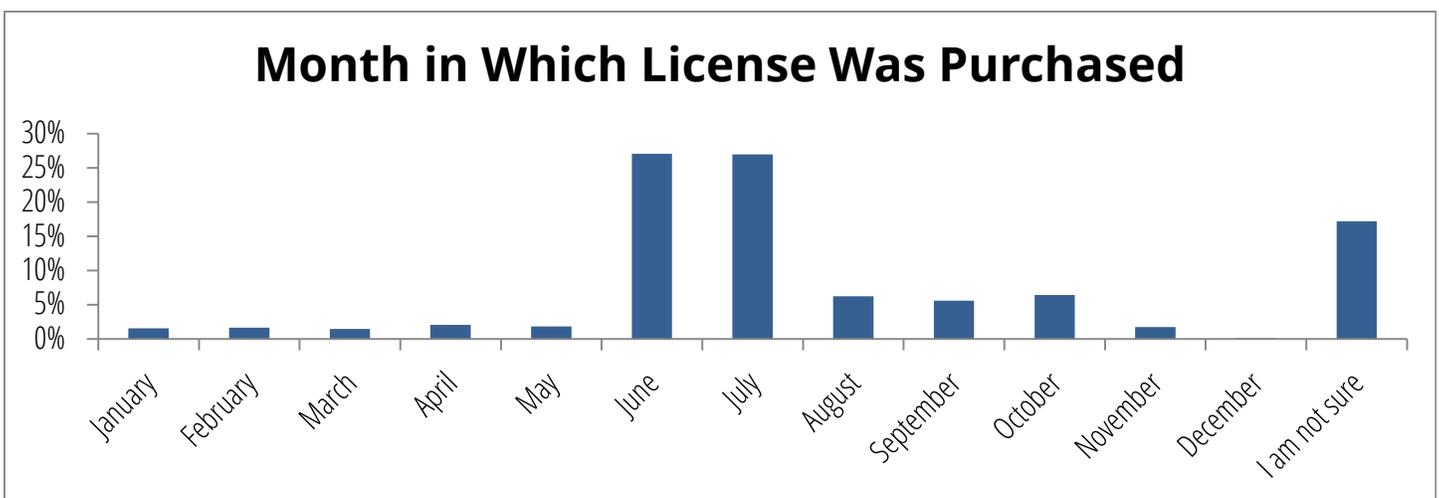
Q1: On which island did you purchase your hunting license? (1198/1198)



78% of people who took the survey purchased their license online. Of the 19% that bought their license in person, 25% purchased their license on Oahu, 28% on Hawaii, 33% on Kauai, 10% on Maui, and 4% on Lanai. 41 said that they did not have a hunting license.

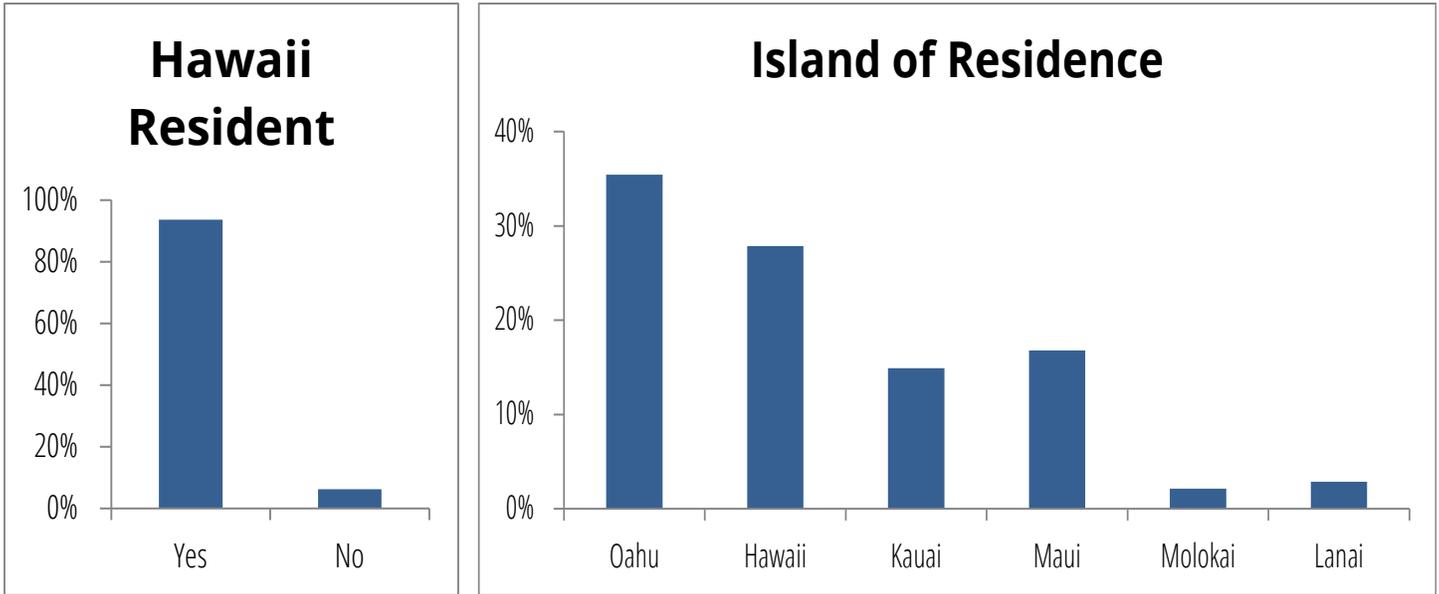
These numbers show only where hunters purchased their license, not where they spent time hunting. Many hunters travel to other islands for hunting trips, so the number of people who reported hunting on an island differs from the number of people who purchased their license on that same island.

Q2: In what month did you purchase your license? (1198/1198)



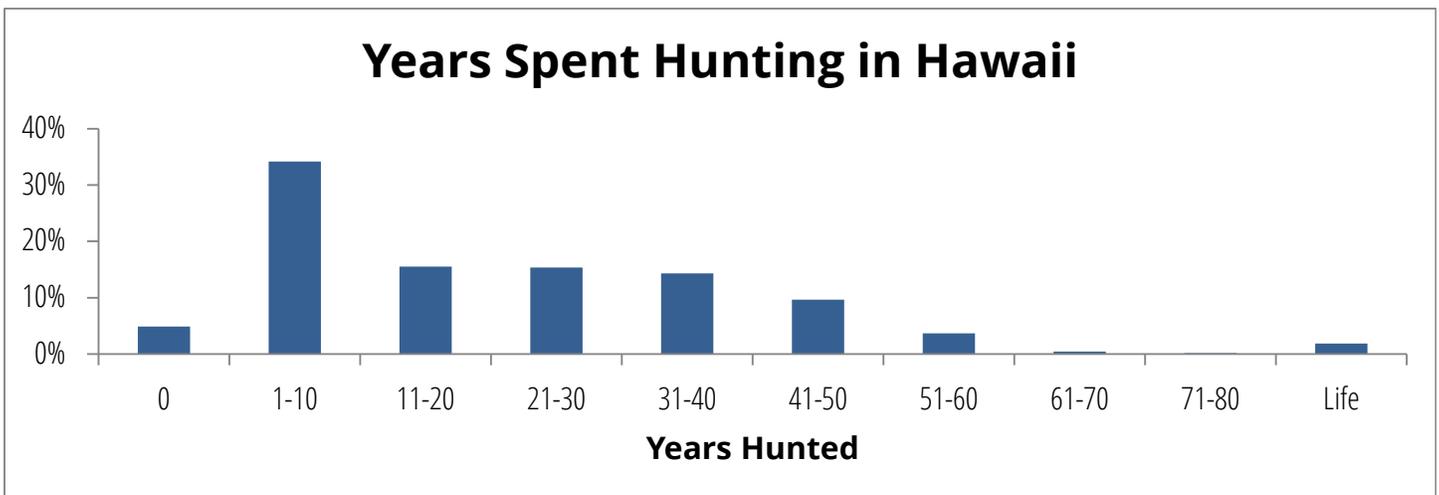
While 206 of the 1198 people did not remember when they had purchased their hunting license, the majority of those who did know purchased their licenses in June and July, when hunting licenses become available for the start of the fiscal year.

Q3: Are you a resident of the state of Hawaii? (1198/1198)



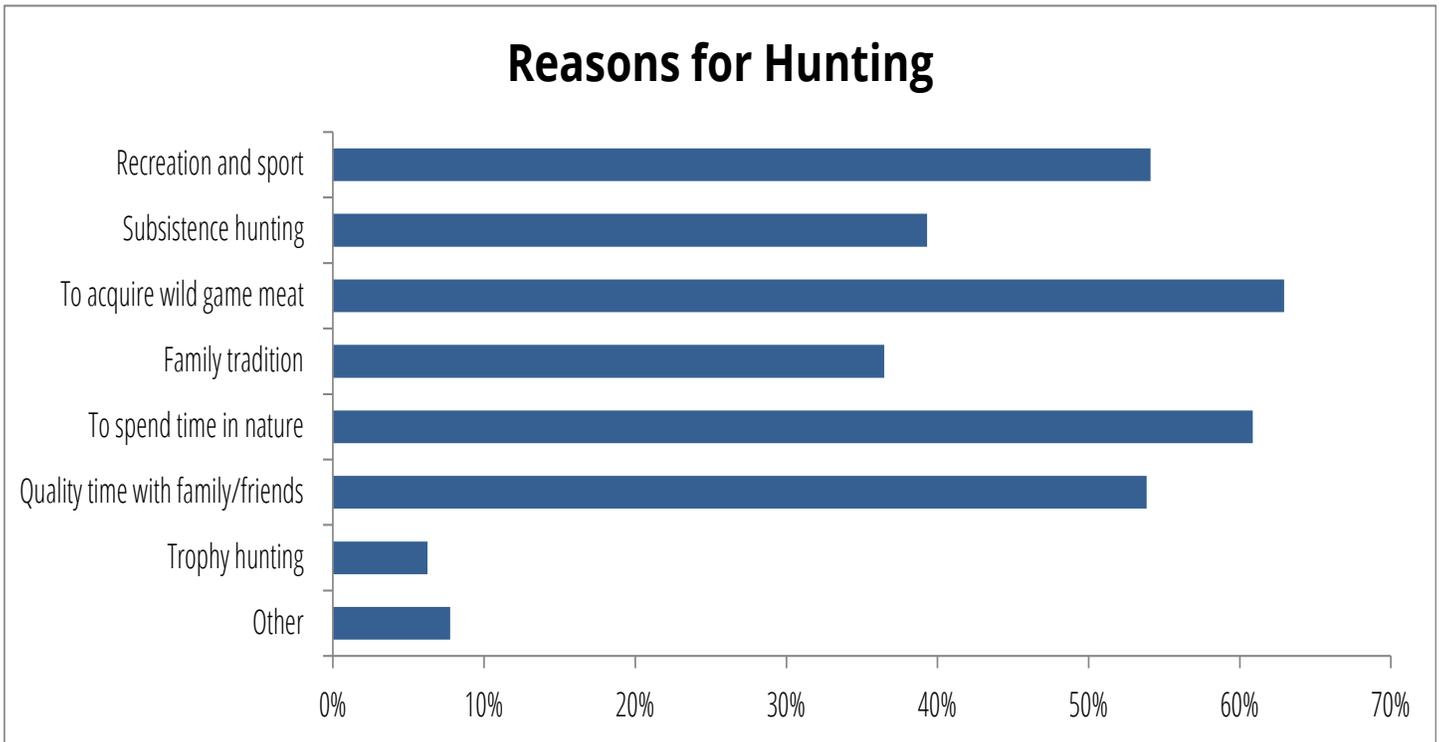
94% of people who took the survey responded that they were residents of the state of Hawaii, while 75 people reported that they were not. 1120 hunters who reported being state of Hawaii residents provided their island of residence. Of those, 35% lived on Oahu, 28% on Hawaii, 15% on Kauai, 17% on Maui, 2% on Molokai, and 3% on Lanai.

Q4: How many years have you been hunting in the state of Hawaii? (1193/1198)



The experience of the people who took the survey ranged from new hunters to some who had been hunting for more than 70 years or their whole lives. The average was 21.13 years. 5% had hunted for less than a year, 34% for 1-10 years, 16% for 11-20 years, 15% for 21-30 years, 14% for 31-40 years, 10% for 41-50 years, 4% for 51-60 years, 5 people for 61-70 years, 2 people for 71-80 years, and 22 people who reported hunting for "life."

Q5: What are the three most important reasons that you hunt? (1198/1198)



For the hunters who took the survey, the two most important reasons that they hunted were to acquire wild game meat (63%) and to spend time in nature (61%). 54% said to spend quality time with family and friends, 54% said for recreation and sport, 39% said for subsistence hunting, 36% said because hunting is a tradition in their family, and 6% said for trophy hunting. 93 hunters selected “other” and wrote in additional reasons for hunting, which included:

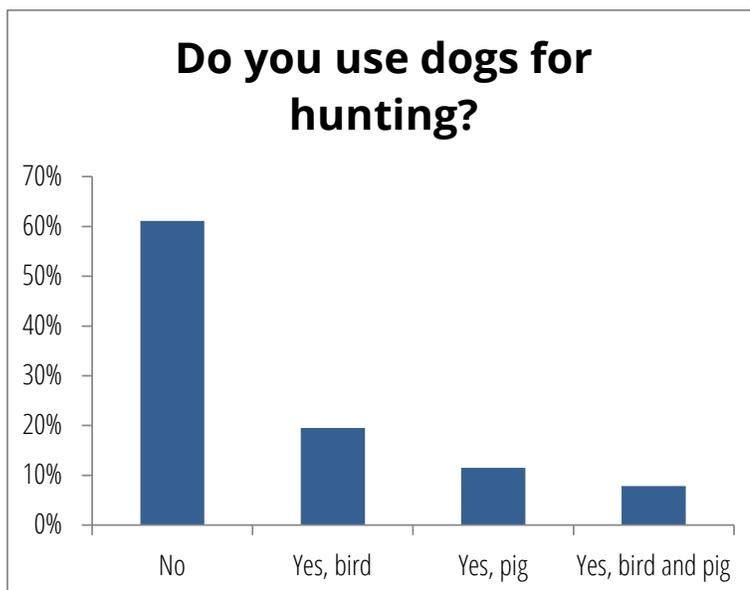
- control of wild or invasive populations to protect natural resources and property
- health benefits such as exercise or relaxation and stress relief
- spiritual connection and cultural or religious reasons
- knowing the value of Hawaii’s resources and where food is coming from
- enjoying work and training with hunting dogs

Q6: What type of hunting do you do? (1198/1198)



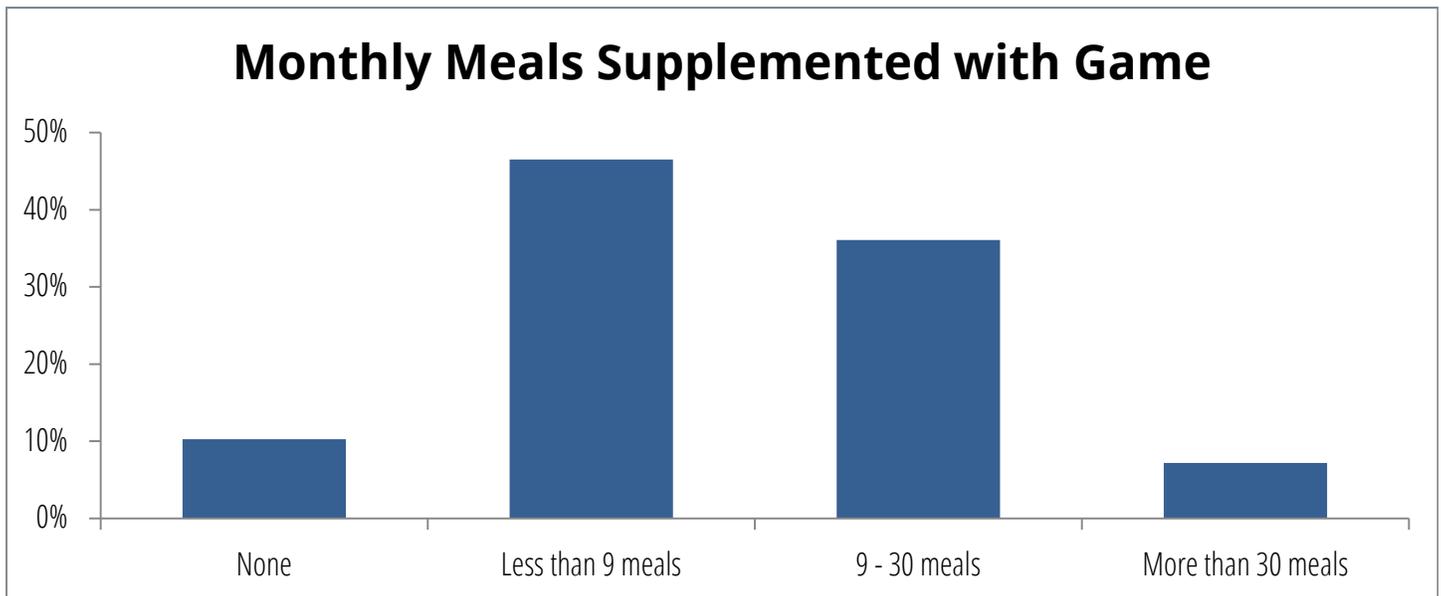
The most common type of hunting reported was rifle hunting, with 84% of respondents using that method. After that came archery, shot guns, muzzle loaders, dog and knife, and then hand gun. In the "other" category, 24 people reported hunting using various methods such as spear, air gun, traps or snares, or crossbow hunting.

Q7: Do you use dogs for hunting? (1198/1198)



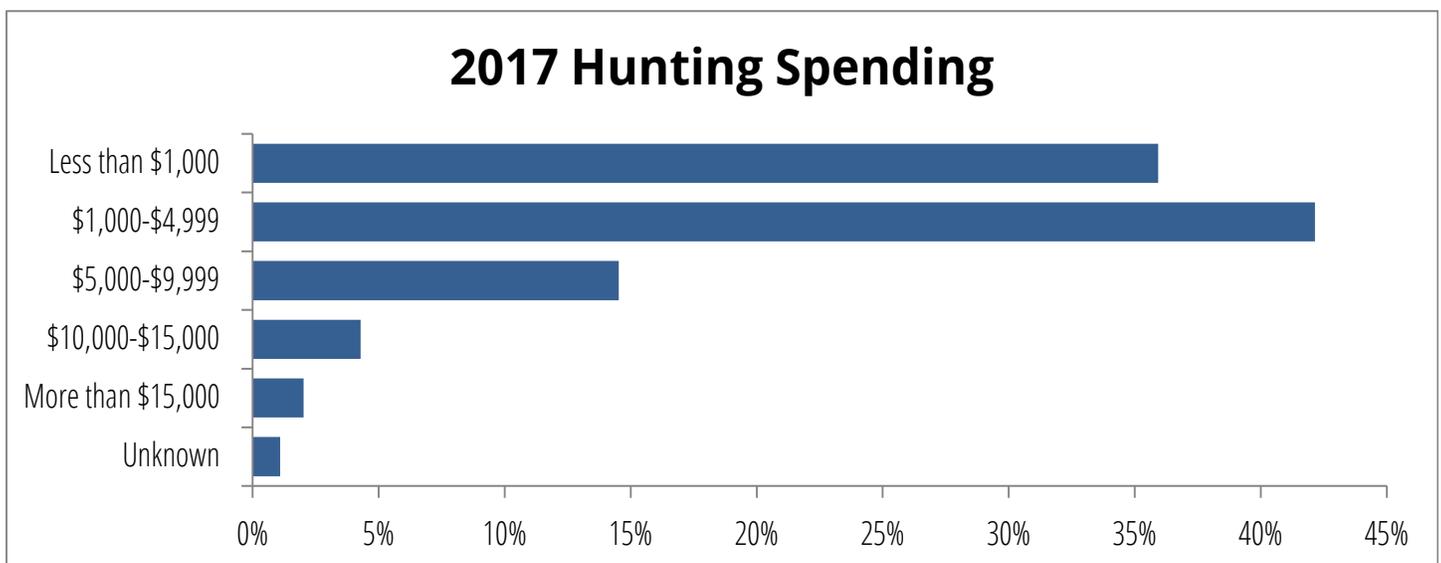
40% of the hunters reported that they used dogs for hunting. The majority of these hunters used their dogs to hunt game birds (20%), followed by pigs, and then both birds and pigs.

Q8: In a typical month, how many of your meals are supplemented with game that you hunt? (Assuming 3 meals/day, 90 meals/month) (1198/1198)



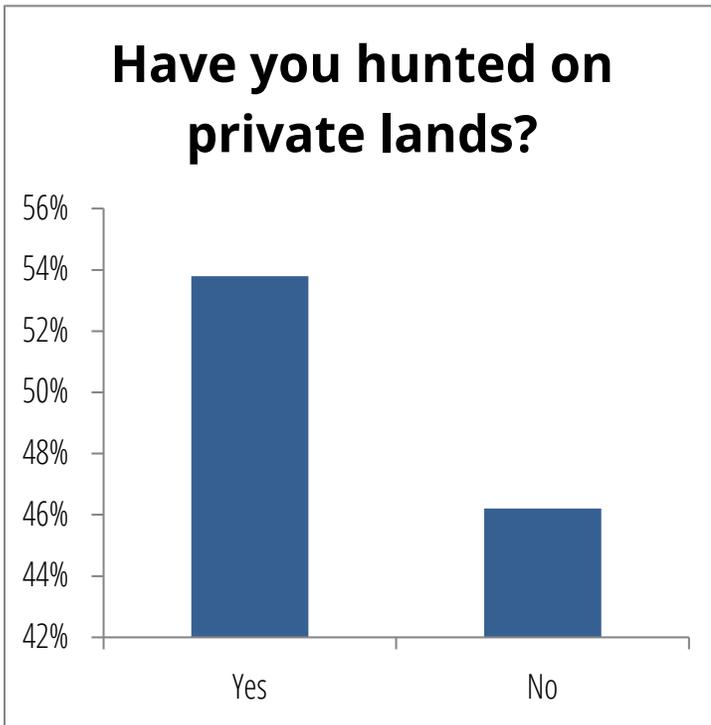
46% of hunters who took the survey supplemented less than nine meals per month with game, 36% supplemented nine to thirty meals per month, 7% supplemented more than 30 meals per month, and 10% did not supplement their meals with game.

Q9: Approximately how much did you spend on hunting in 2017 (on both public and private lands)? Please include ground and air transportation, vehicle rental, lodging, guide services, food, game tags, hunting dog maintenance, etc. (1194/1198)



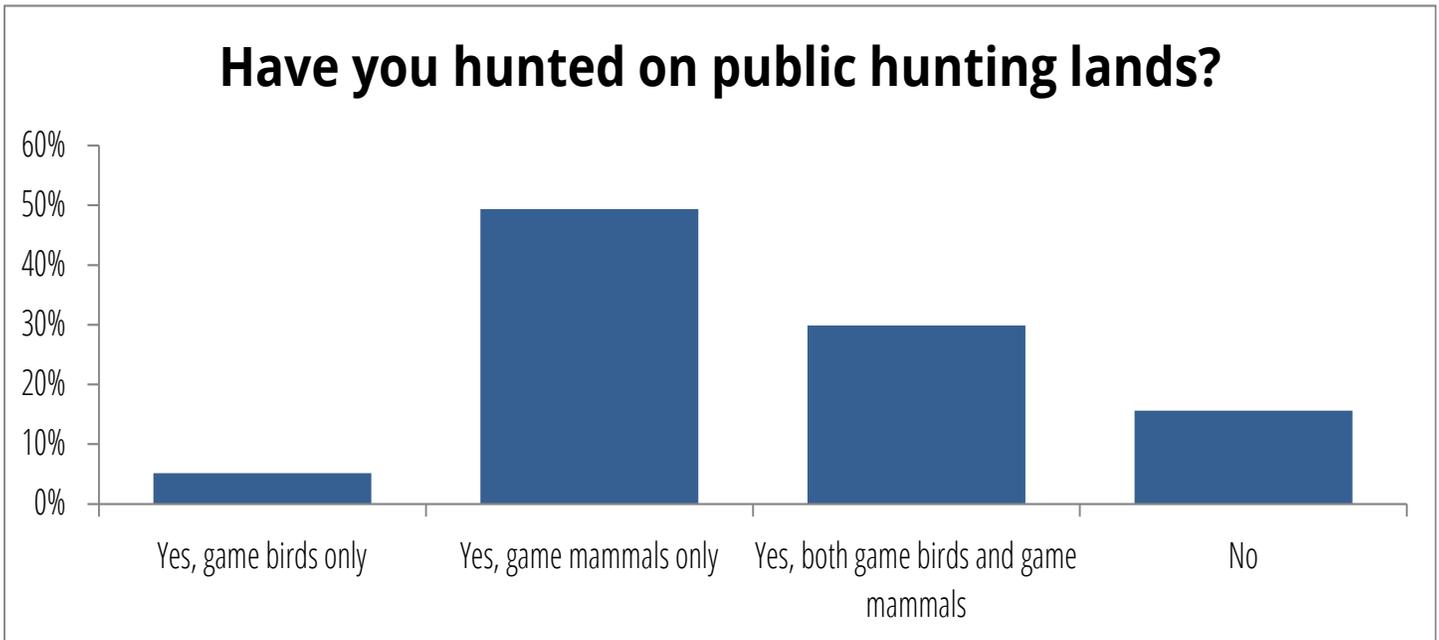
36% of hunters reported spending less than \$1,000 dollars, 42% spent between \$1,000 and \$4,999, 15% spent between \$5,000 and \$9,999, 4% spent between \$10,000 and \$15,000, and 2% spent more than \$15,000. 13 people were unsure how much they had spent. The average amount spent was \$2,887.49.

Q10: In 2017, have you hunted on private lands? (1186/1198)



54% of people who took the survey said that they had hunted on private land, and 46% said that they had not. The average amount of time those who responded "yes" spent hunting on private land was 27 days.

Q11: In 2017, have you hunted on public hunting lands? (1198/1198)



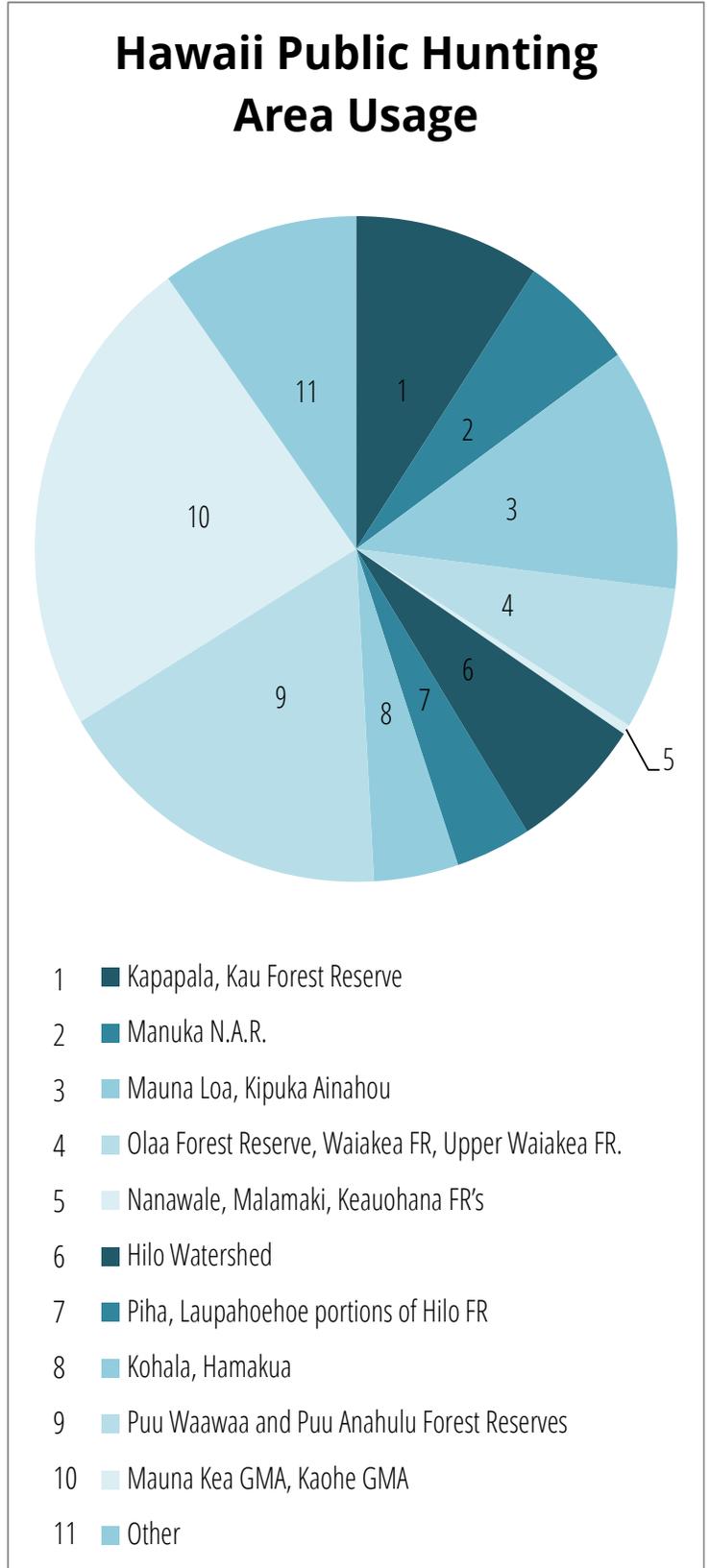
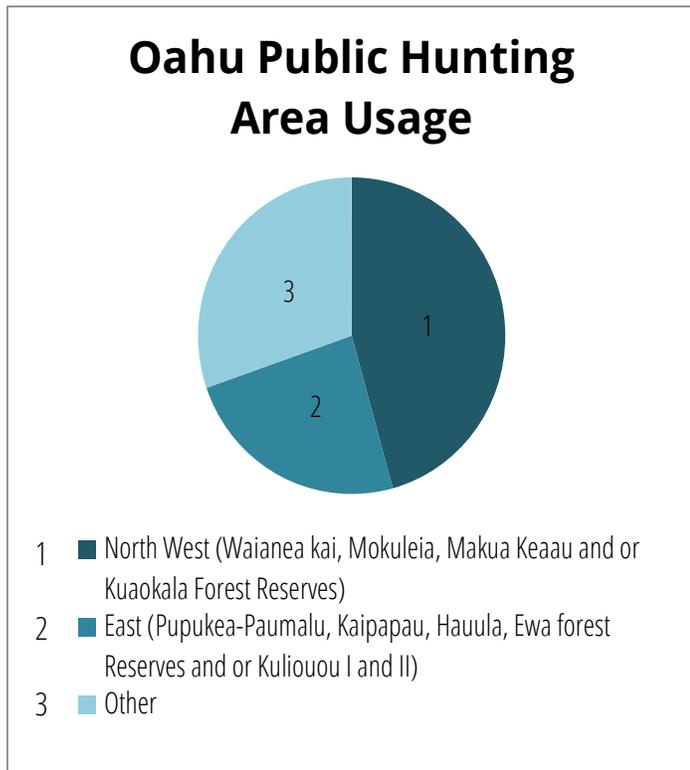
49% of hunters reported that they had hunted on public land only for game mammals, 30% for both game birds and game mammals, and 5% for game birds only. 16% reported not hunting on public lands.

Q12: In 2017, which public hunting areas (PHAs) have you hunted on? (764/1198)

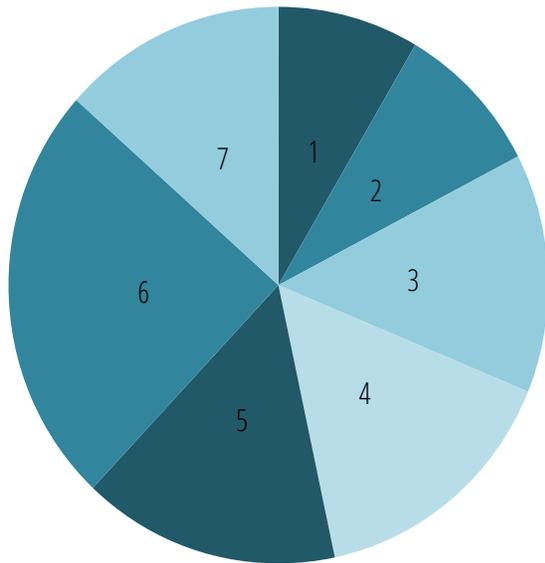
764 people reported the PHAs they had hunted on in 2017. The percentages show how many hunters used each unit out of the 764 total who responded across the state.

On Oahu, 16% reported hunting in the North West (Waianae Kai, Mokuleia, Makua Keaau and or Kuaokala Forest Reserves), 11% on "Other" areas, and 8% in the East (Pupukea-Paumalu, Kaipapau, Hauula, Ewa forest Reserves, Kuliouou I/II).

On Hawaii, 26% reported hunting on Mauna Kea GMA or Kaohe GMA, 19% on Puu Waawaa and Puu Anahulu Forest Reserves, 13% on Mauna Loa and Kipuka Ainahou, 11% on "Other" areas, 10% on Kapapala and Kau Forest Reserve, 8% on Oloo Forest Reserve, 7% on Hilo Watershed, Waiakea FR, and Upper Waiakea FR, 6% on Manuka NAR, 5% on Kohala and Hamakua, 4% on Piha and Laupahoe-hoe portions of Hilo FR, and 1% on Nanawale, Malamaki, and Keauohana Forest reserves.



Kauai Public Hunting Area Usage



- 1 ■ Kealia, Halelea, Moloaa and or Lihue-Koloa Forest Reserves- Unit C
- 2 ■ Na Pali-Kona Forest Reserve and or Hono O Na Pali N.A.R.- E1 & E2
- 3 ■ Puu Ka Pele Forest Reserve and Na Pali Kona – Unit B
- 4 ■ Puu Ka Pele Forest Reserve and Na Pali Kona – Unit H
- 5 ■ Kokee & Waimea Canyon Rds – Unit L
- 6 ■ Kekaha GMA, Waimea – Unit A
- 7 ■ Other (i.e Unit G, K, D, J and F)

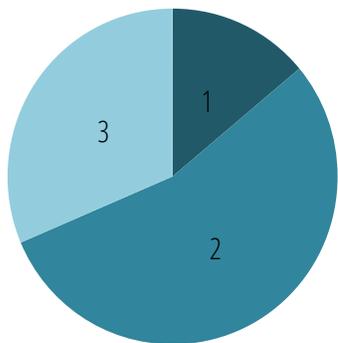
On Kauai, 15% reported hunting on Kekaha GMA and Waimea Unit A, 9% on Puu Ka Pele Forest Reserve and Na Pali Kona – Unit H, 9% on Kokee and Waimea Canyon Roads – Unit L, 8% on “Other” areas, 8% on Puu Ka Pele Forest Reserve and Na Pali Kona - Unit B, 5% Na Pali-Kona Forest Reserve and/or Hono O Na Pali NAR – E1 and E2, and 5% on Kealia, Halelea, Moloaa, and/or Lihue-Koloa Forest Reserves – Unit C.

On Maui, 14% reported hunting on Koolau, Makawao, Kula, and/or Kahikinui Forest Reserve, 8% on “Other” areas, and 4% on West Maui Forest Reserve.

On Lanai, 43% reported hunting on Unit 1, 40% on Unit 2, and 27% on Unit 3.

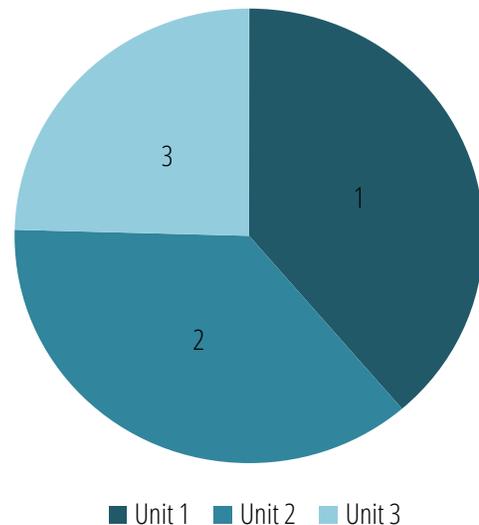
Not shown: Out of 764 hunters, 9% reported hunting on Molokai Forest Reserve. This was the only option of the survey for hunting on Molokai, so there is no graph for comparison between Molokai public hunting areas.

Maui Public Hunting Area Usage



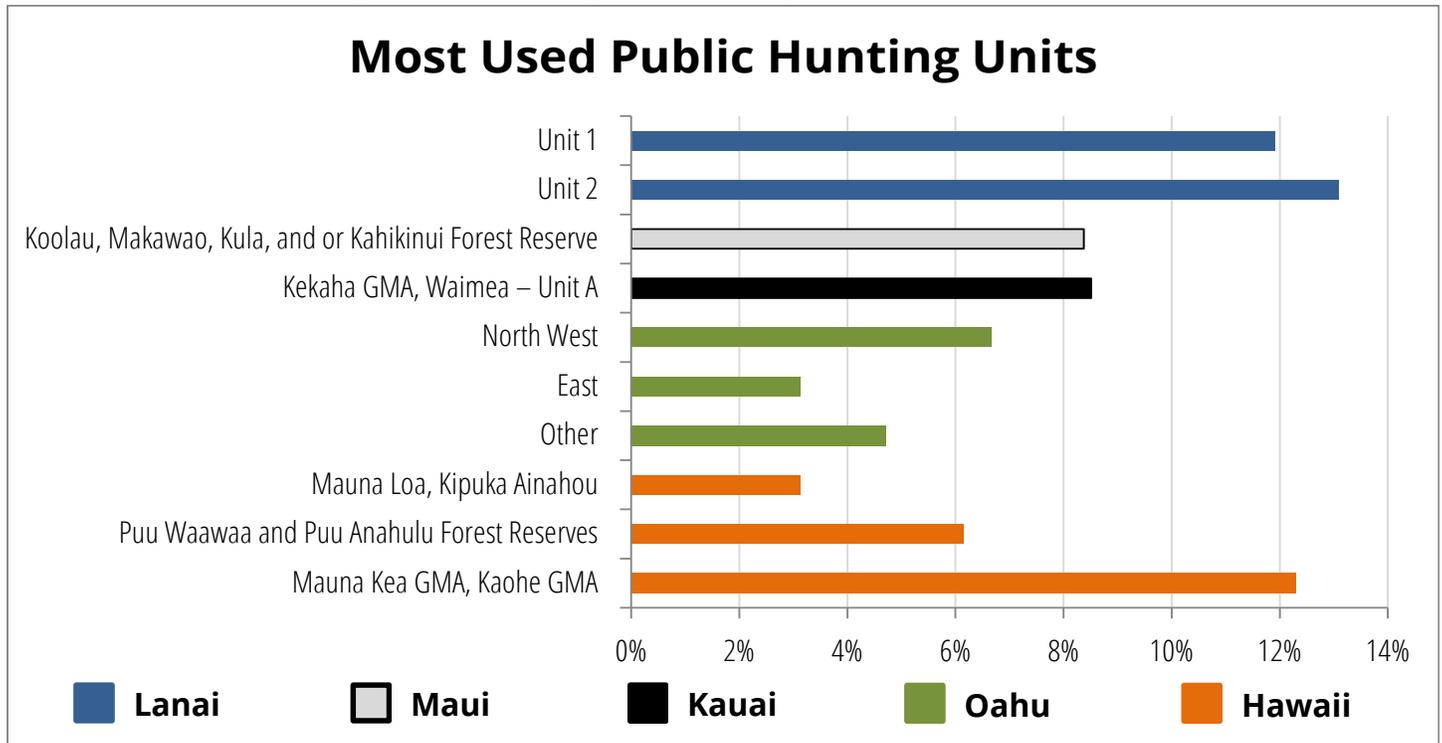
- 1 ■ West Maui Forest Reserve
- 2 ■ Koolau, Makawao, Kula, and or Kahikinui Forest Reserve
- 3 ■ Other

Lanai Public Hunting Area Usage



- Unit 1
- Unit 2
- Unit 3

Q13: In 2017, which public hunting unit have you used the most? (764/1198)



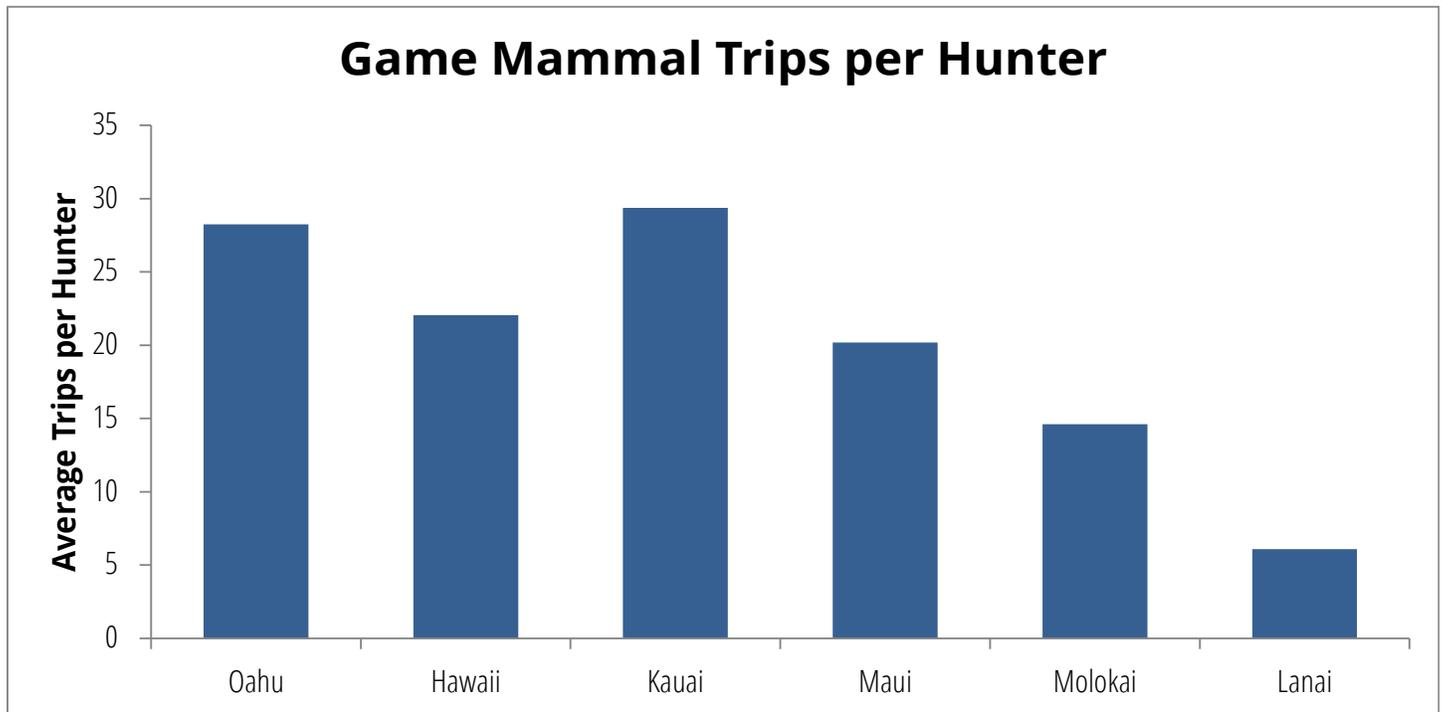
764 hunters reported which public hunting unit they used the most in 2017. The graph shows the top ten units that hunters used the most.

13% of those who responded reported using Unit 2 on Lanai the most, followed by 12% who used Mauna Kea GMA or Kaohe GMA the most, 12% for Unit 1 on Lanai, 9% for Kekaha GMA and Waimea Unit A on Kauai, 8% for Koolau, Makawao, Kula, and/or Kahikinui Forest Reserve on Maui, 7% for North West Oahu (Waianae Kai, Mokuleia, Makua Keaau and or Kuaokala Forest Reserves), 6% for Puu Waawaa and Puu Anahulu Forest Reserves on Hawaii, 5% for “Other” areas on Oahu (Pupukea-Paumalu, Kaipapau, Hauula, Ewa forest Reserves and or Kuliouou I and II), and 3% for Mauna Loa and Kipuka Ainahou on Hawaii.

Not shown in the graph: 18 hunters selected Molokai Forest Reserve as their most used public hunting unit, 18 selected “Other” areas on Maui, 18 selected Kapapala and Kau Forest Reserve on Hawaii, 17 selected “Other” areas on Kauai (this includes Unit G, K, D, J, and F), 17 selected “Other” areas on Hawaii, 16 selected Unit 3 on Lanai, 11 selected Olaa Forest Reserve, Waiakea FR, Upper Waiakea FR on Hawaii, 9 selected Puu Ka Pele FR and Na Pali Kona in Unit H on Kauai, 8 selected Kealia, Halelea, Moloaa, and/or Lihue-Koloa FR in Unit C on Kauai, 8 selected Hilo Watershed on Hawaii, 7 selected Kokee and Waimea Canyon Roads in Unit L on Kauai, 5 selected Na Pali-Kona FR and/or Hono O Na Pali NAR on Kauai, 4 selected West Maui Forest Reserve, 4 selected Manuka NAR in Hawaii, 3 selected Puu Ka Pele FR and Na Pali Kona in Unit B on Kauai, 3 selected Piha and Laupahoehoe portions of Hilo FR on Hawaii, and 2 selected Kohala and Hamakua on Hawaii.

Game Mammal Hunting in Public Hunting Areas

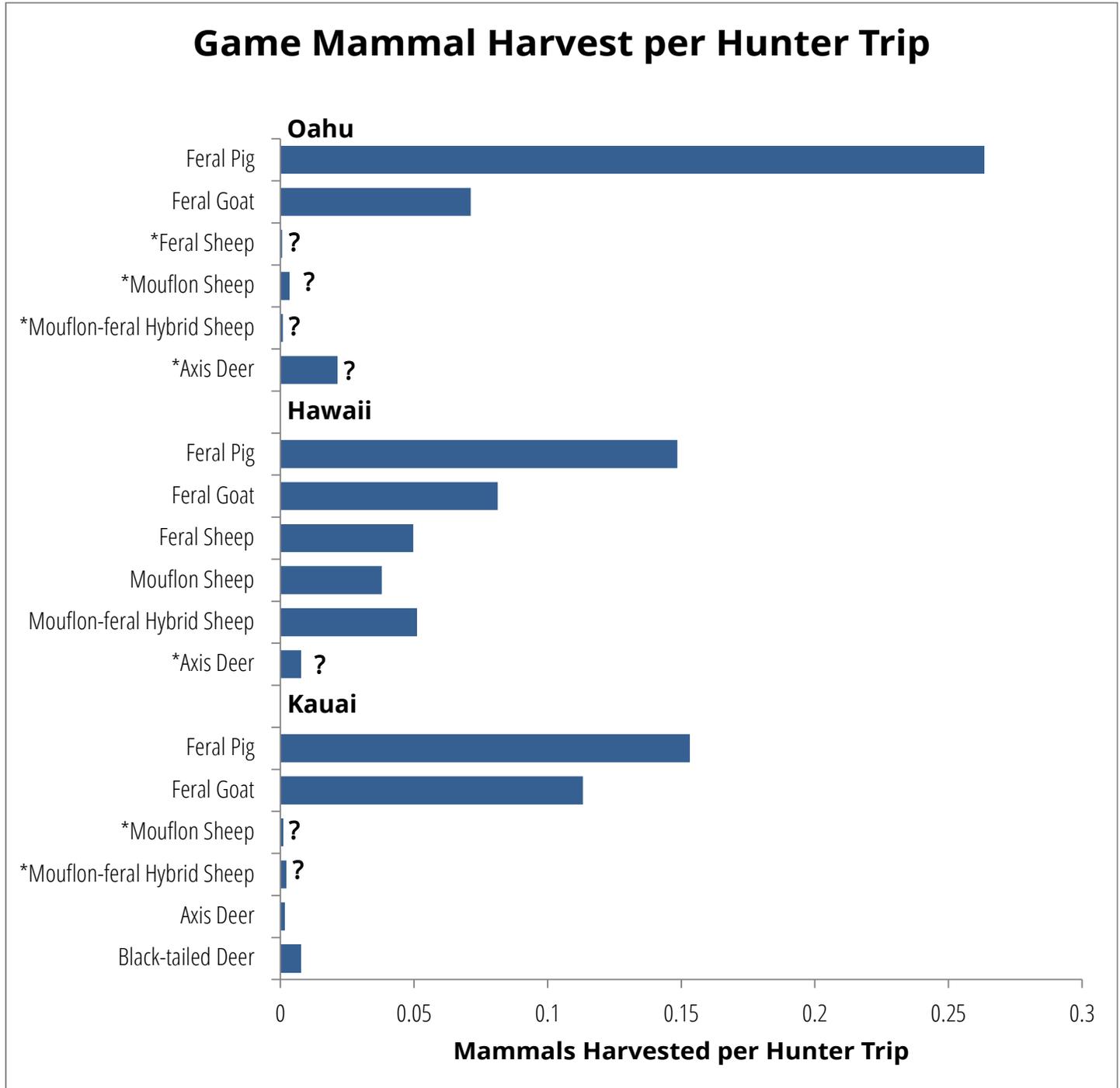
Q14: In 2017, how many days did you spend hunting game mammals in public hunting areas? Please include the days that you hunted but did not harvest any game. (764/1198)



Each day that hunters reported was counted as one hunting trip. The total number of trips made on each island was divided by the number of people who spent time hunting on that island to find the average number of trips each hunter made for game mammals there.

Hunters made an average of 28.2 trips on Oahu (152 hunters, 4293 trips total), 22.1 trips on Hawaii (227 hunters, 5007 trips total), 29.4 trips on Kauai (120 hunters, 3524 trips total), 20.2 trips on Maui (118 hunters, 2380 trips total), 14.6 trips on Molokai (62 hunters, 906 trips total), and 6.1 trips on Lanai (314 hunters, 1910 trips total).

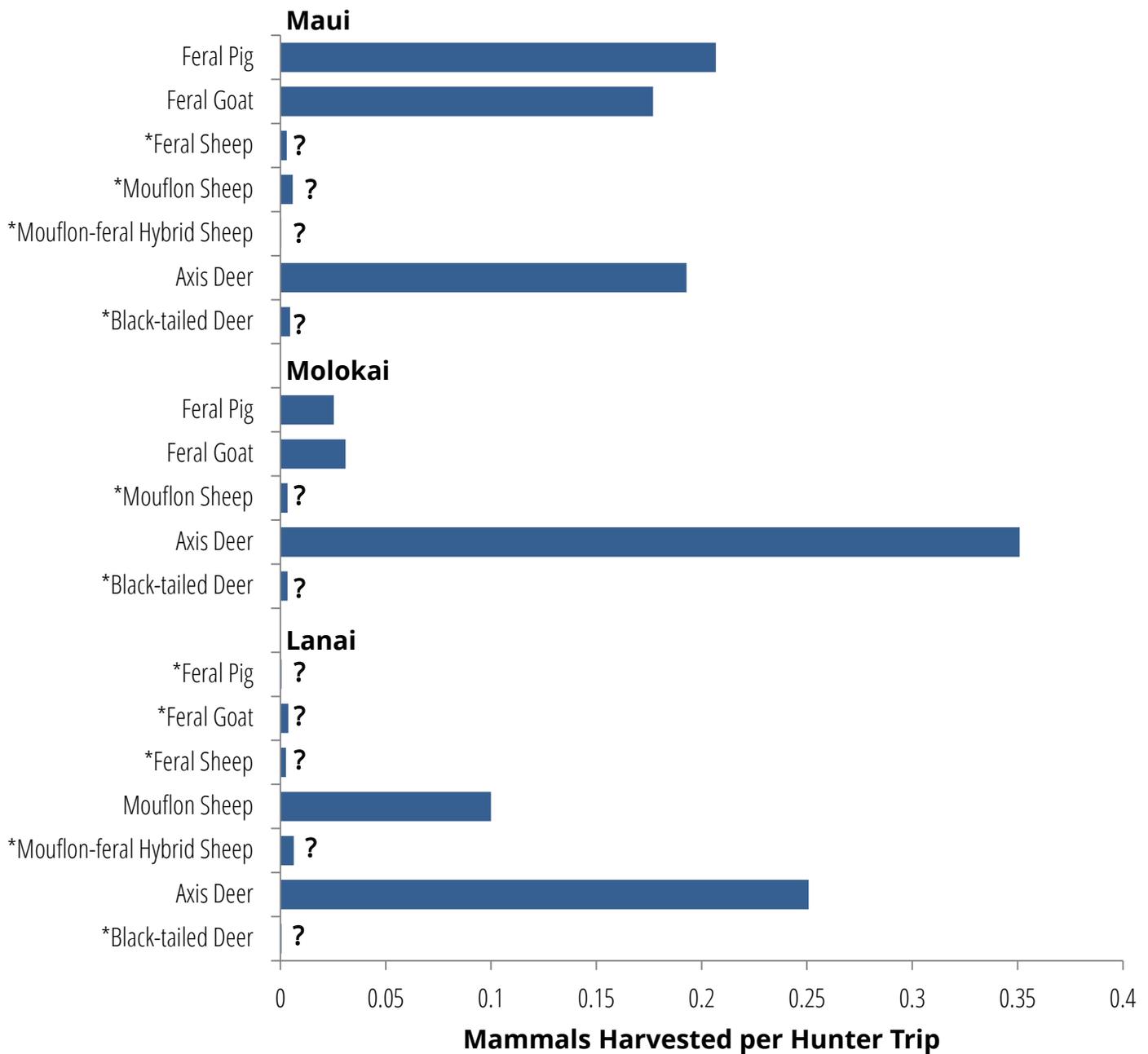
Q15: In 2017, how many game mammals did you harvest in public hunting areas?
 (577/1198)



The graph above shows the average number of each game mammal species that hunters harvested per trip on Oahu, Hawaii, and Kauai. For example, hunters on Oahu harvested 0.26 feral pigs per trip, which means that hunters have to make approximately four trips to harvest a feral pig on Oahu. On Oahu, Hawaii, and Kauai, feral pigs were harvested most frequently.

*Hunters reported harvesting these mammals on islands where they have not been confirmed. No instance of an unconfirmed mammal on an island has more than 16 hunters reporting a harvest. With the numbers so low, it is possible that this is due to mistakes inputting harvest data based on the survey format or to species identification mistakes.

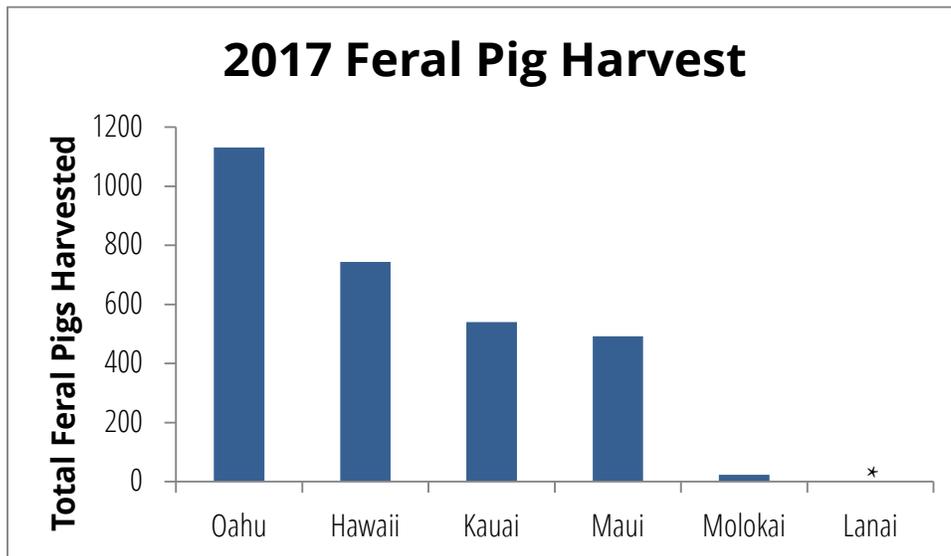
Game Mammal Harvest per Hunter Trip



The graph above shows the average number of each game mammal species that hunters harvested per trip on Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. On Maui, feral pigs were harvested most frequently, and on Molokai and Lanai Axis deer were harvested most frequently.

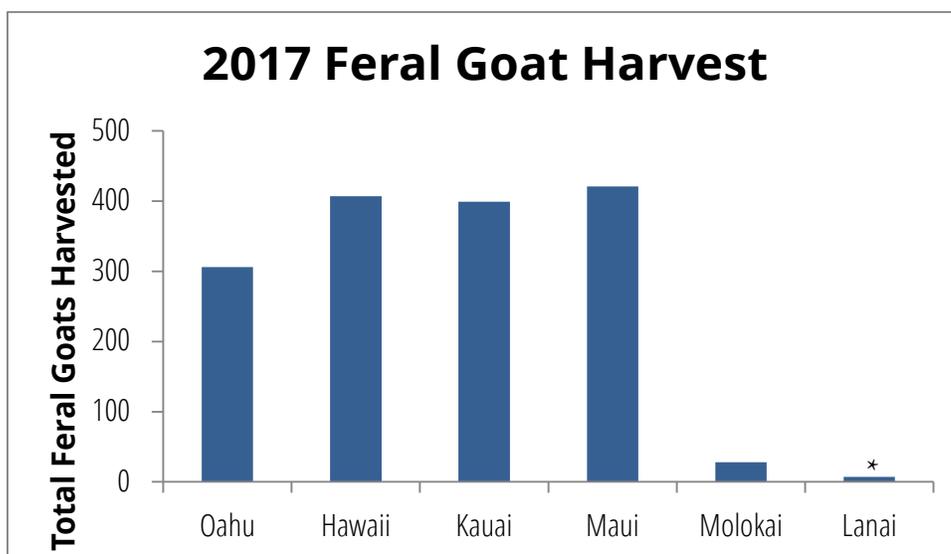
*Hunters reported harvesting these mammals on islands where they have not been confirmed. No instance of an unconfirmed mammal on an island has more than 16 hunters reporting a harvest. With the numbers so low, it is possible that this is due to mistakes inputting harvest data based on the survey format or to species identification mistakes.

Game mammal species that were harvested on more than one island are shown here for comparison of total harvest in 2017.



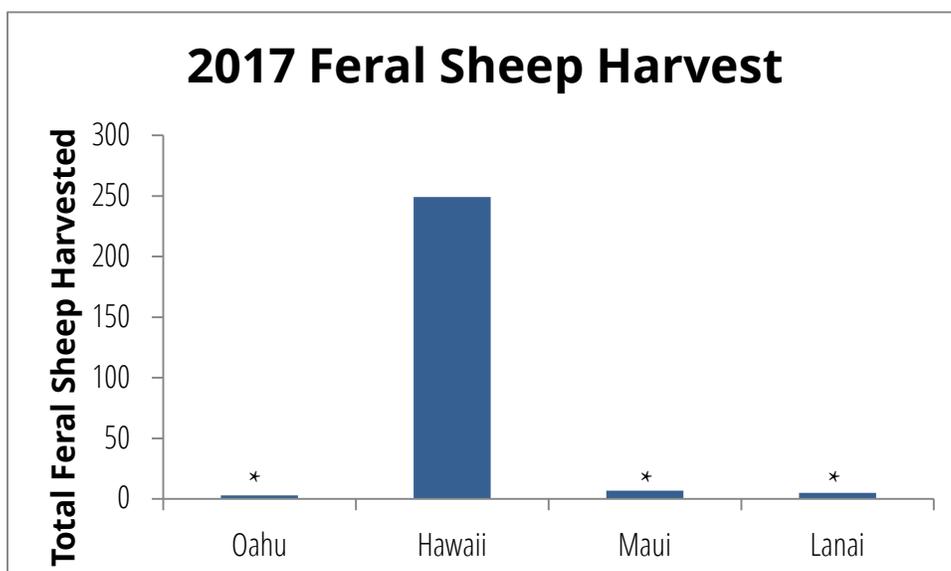
The most feral pigs were harvested on Oahu, with a total of 1131 pigs. 744 pigs were harvested on Hawaii, 540 pigs on Kauai, 492 pigs on Maui, 23 pigs on Molokai, and 1 pig on Lanai.

*Feral pigs have not been confirmed on Lanai, but 1 hunter reported that they harvested a feral pig there.



The most feral goats were harvested on Maui, with a total of 421 goats. 306 goats were harvested on Oahu, 407 goats on Hawaii, 399 on Kauai, 28 goats on Molokai, and 7 goats on Lanai.

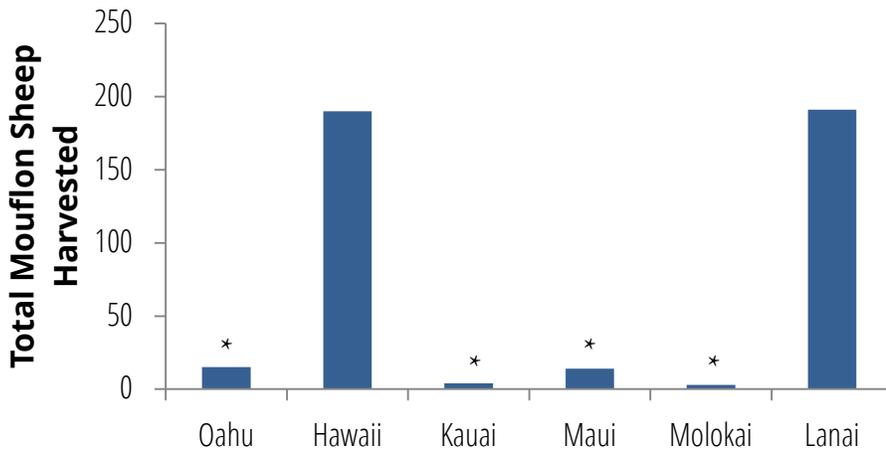
*Feral goats have not been confirmed on Lanai, but 2 hunters reported that they harvested a total of 2 feral goats there.



The most feral sheep were harvested on Hawaii, with a total of 249 sheep. 3 sheep were harvested on Oahu, 7 sheep on Maui, and 5 sheep on Lanai.

*Feral sheep have not been confirmed on Oahu, Maui, or Lanai, but 6 hunters reported that they harvested a total of 15 feral sheep there.

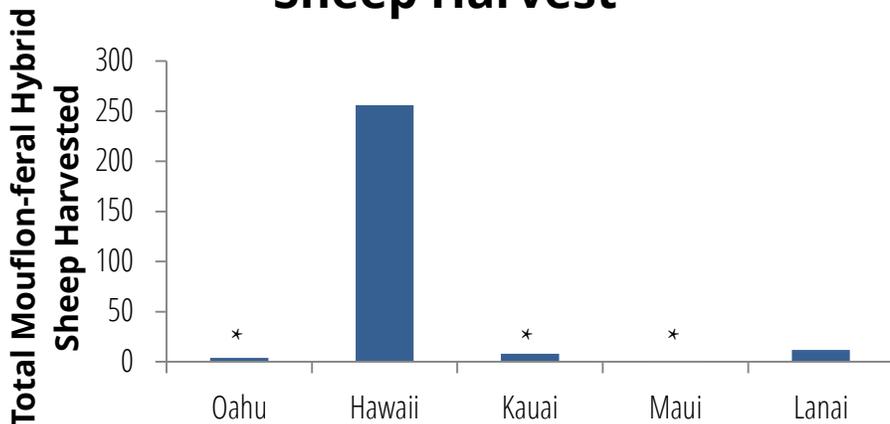
2017 Mouflon Sheep Harvest



The most Mouflon sheep were harvested on Lanai, with a total of 191 sheep. 15 Mouflon sheep were harvested on Oahu, 190 sheep on Hawaii, 4 sheep on Kauai, 14 sheep on Maui, and 3 sheep on Molokai.

*Mouflon sheep have not been confirmed on Oahu, Kauai, Maui, or Molokai, but 20 hunters reported that they harvested a total of 36 Mouflon sheep there.

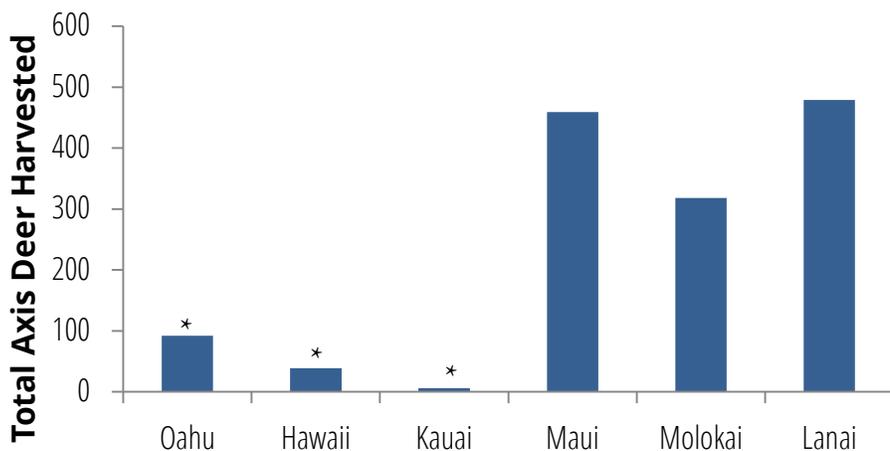
2017 Mouflon-feral Hybrid Sheep Harvest



The most Mouflon-feral hybrid sheep were harvested on Hawaii, with a total of 256 sheep. 4 Mouflon-feral hybrid sheep were harvested on Oahu, 8 sheep on Kauai, 1 on Maui, and 12 sheep on Lanai.

*Mouflon-feral hybrid sheep have not been confirmed on Oahu, Kauai, or Maui, but 5 hunters reported that they harvested a total of 13 Mouflon-feral hybrid sheep there.

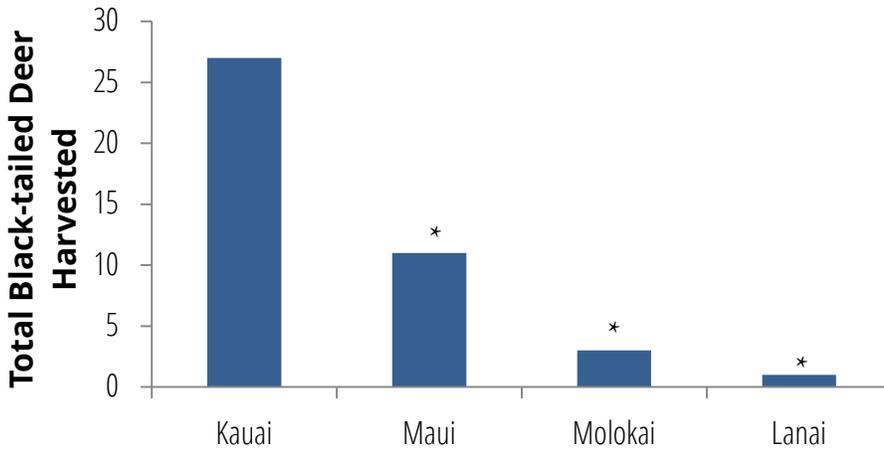
2017 Axis Deer Harvest



The most Axis deer were harvested on Lanai, with a total of 479 deer. 92 Axis deer were harvested on Oahu, 39 deer on Hawaii, 6 deer on Kauai, 459 deer on Maui, and 318 deer on Molokai.

*Axis deer have not been confirmed on Oahu, Hawaii, or Kauai, but 31 hunters reported that they harvested a total of 137 Axis deer there.

2017 Black-tailed Deer Harvest

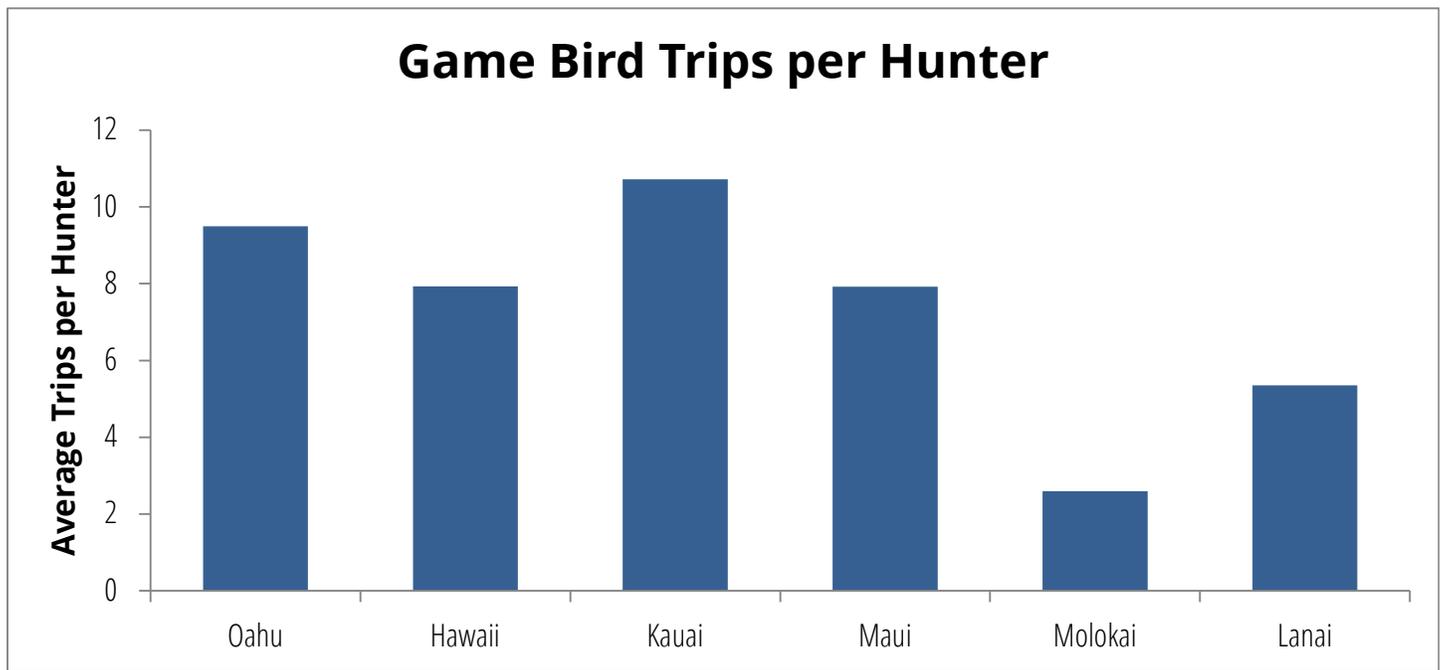


The most Black-tailed deer were harvested on Kauai, with a total of 27 deer. 11 Black-tailed deer were harvested on Maui, 3 deer on Molokai, and 1 deer on Lanai.

*Black-tailed deer have not been confirmed on Maui, Molokai, or Lanai, but 4 hunters reported that they harvested a 15 Black-tailed deer there.

Game Bird Hunting in Public Hunting Areas

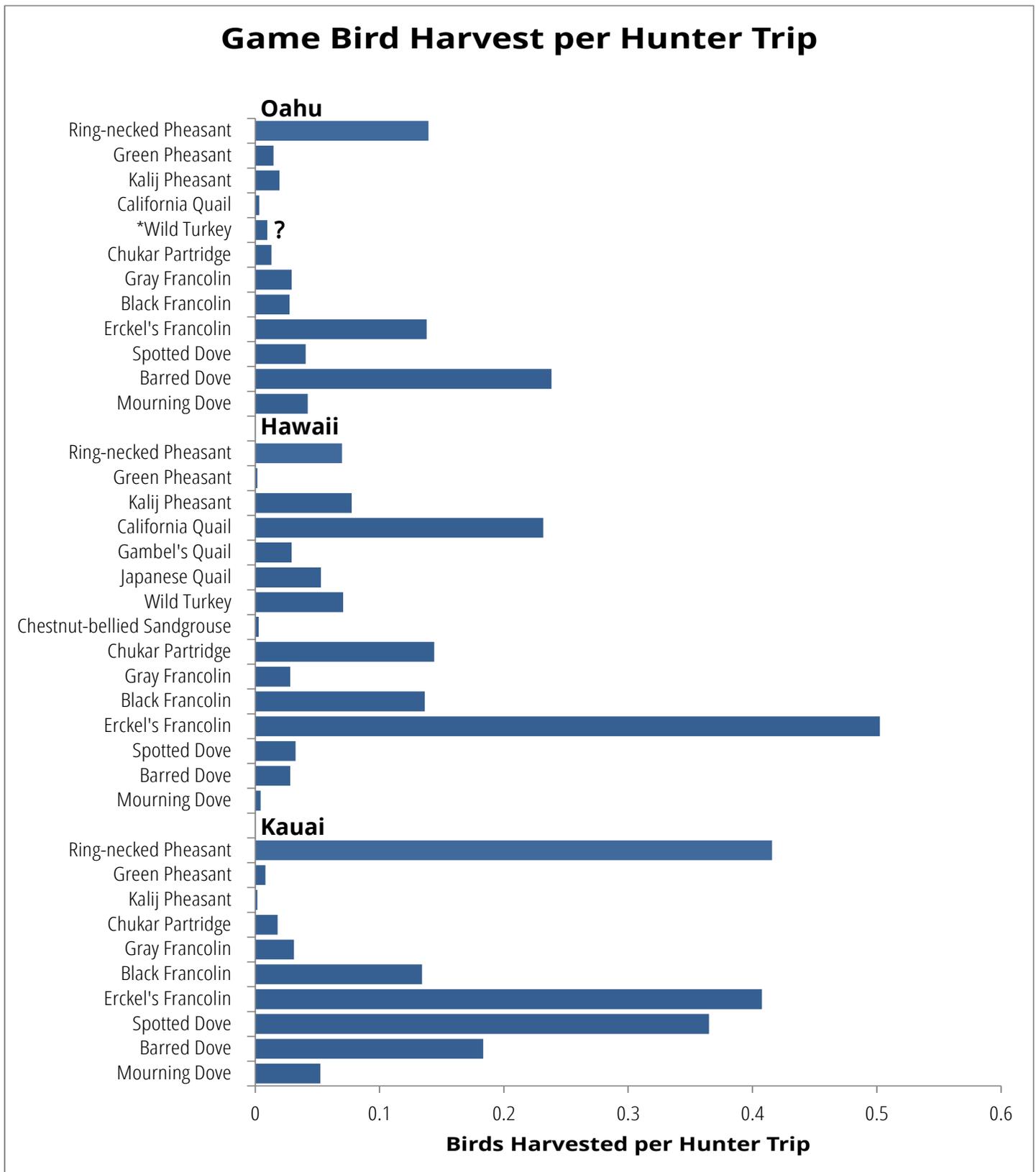
Q16: During the game bird season (November 2017 - January 2018), how many days did you spend hunting game birds in public hunting areas? Please include the days that you hunted for game birds but did not harvest any game. (765/1198)



Each day that hunters reported was counted as one hunting trip. The total number of trips made on each island was divided by the number of people who spent time hunting on that island to find the average number of trips each hunter made for game birds there.

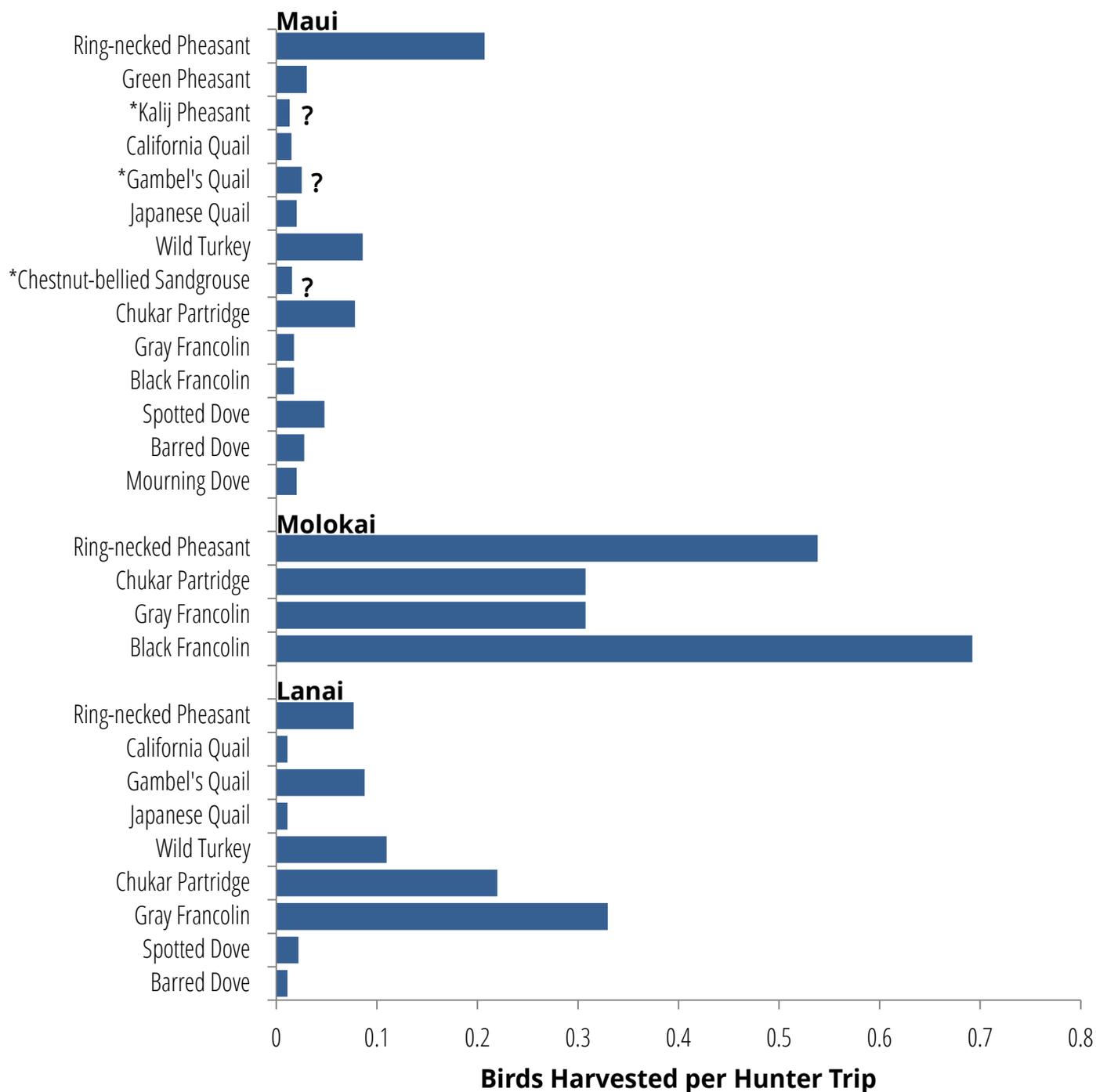
Hunters made an average of 9.5 trips on Oahu (65 hunters, 617 trips total), 7.9 trips on Hawaii (148 hunters, 1174 trips total), 10.7 trips on Kauai (57 hunters, 611 trips total), 7.9 trips on Maui (50 hunters, 396 trips total), 2.6 trips on Molokai (5 hunters, 13 trips total), and 5.4 trips on Lanai (17 hunters, 91 trips total).

Q17: During the game bird season (November 2017 - January 2018), how many game birds did you harvest in public hunting areas? (227/1198)



On Oahu, Barred Doves were harvested most frequently. On Hawaii, Erckel's Francolins were harvested most frequently, and on Kauai it was Ring-necked Pheasants.

Game Bird Harvest per Hunter Trip

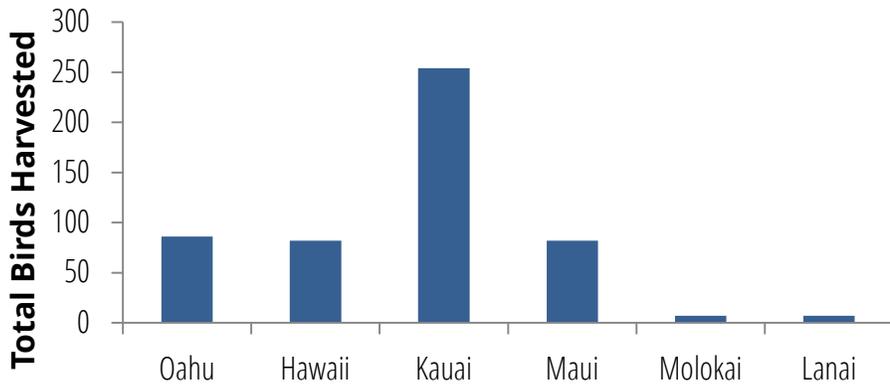


On Maui, Ring-necked Pheasants were harvested most frequently. On Molokai, Black Francolins were harvested most frequently. On Lanai, Gray Francolins were harvested most frequently.

*Hunters reported harvesting these birds on islands where they have not been confirmed. No instance of an unconfirmed bird on an island has more than 2 hunters reporting a harvest. With the numbers so low, it is possible that this is due to mistakes inputting harvest data based on the survey format or to species identification mistakes.

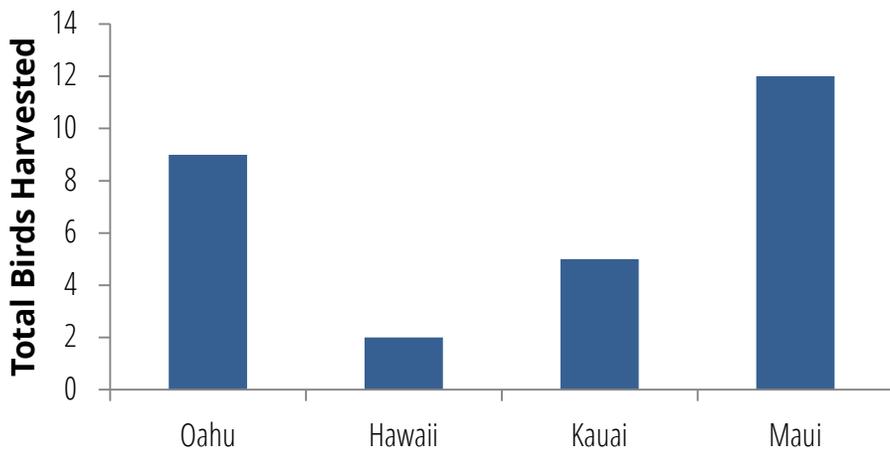
Game bird species that were harvested on more than one island are shown here for comparison of total harvest in 2017.

2017 Ring-necked Pheasant Harvest



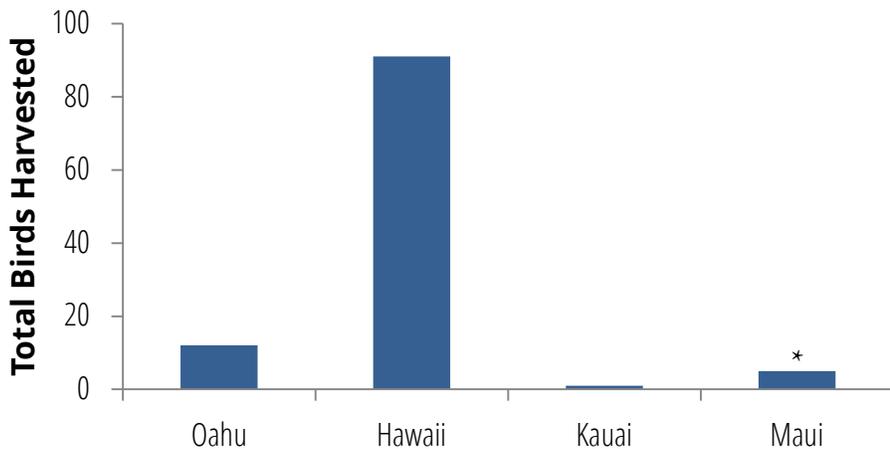
The most Ring-necked Pheasants were harvested on Kauai, with a total of 254 birds. 86 were harvested on Oahu, 82 on Hawaii, 82 on Maui, 7 on Molokai, and 7 on Lanai.

2017 Green Pheasant Harvest



The most Green Pheasants were harvested on Maui, with a total of 12 birds. 9 were harvested on Oahu, 2 on Hawaii, and 5 on Kauai.

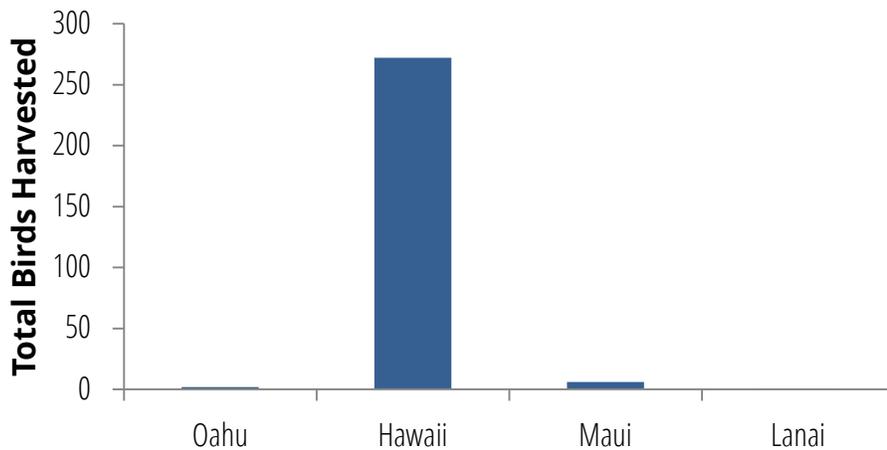
2017 Kalij Pheasant Harvest



The most Kalij Pheasants were harvested on Hawaii, with a total of 91 birds. 12 were harvested on Oahu, 1 on Kauai, and 5 on Maui.

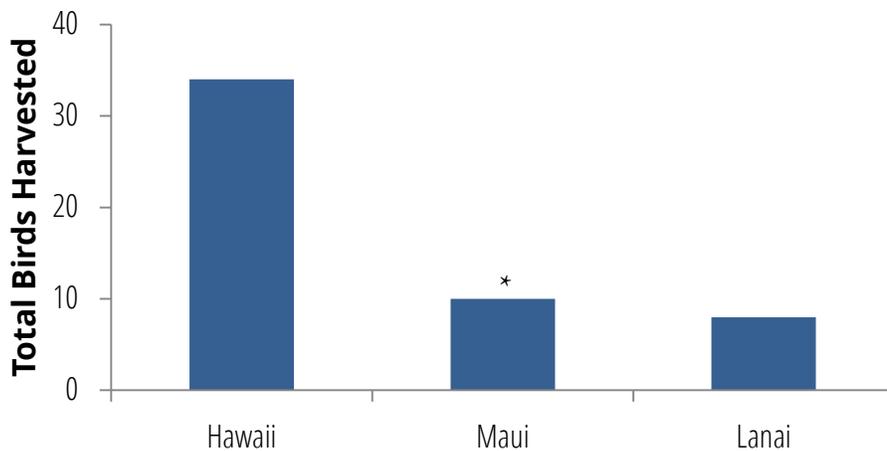
*Kalij Pheasants have not been confirmed on Maui, but 1 hunter reported that they harvested 5 Kalij Pheasants there.

2017 California Quail Harvest



The most California Quail were harvested on Hawaii, with a total of 272 birds. 2 were harvested on Oahu, 6 on Maui, and 1 on Lanai.

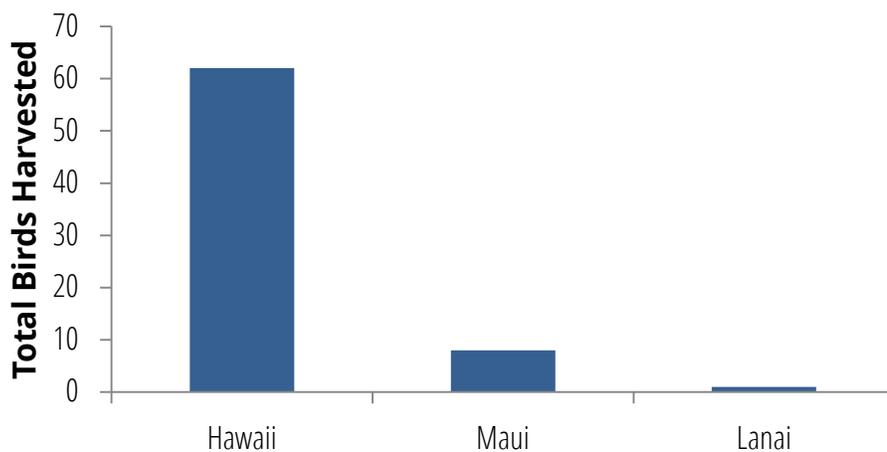
2017 Gambel's Quail Harvest



The most Gambel's Quail were harvested on Hawaii, with a total of 34 birds. 10 were harvested on Maui, and 8 on Lanai.

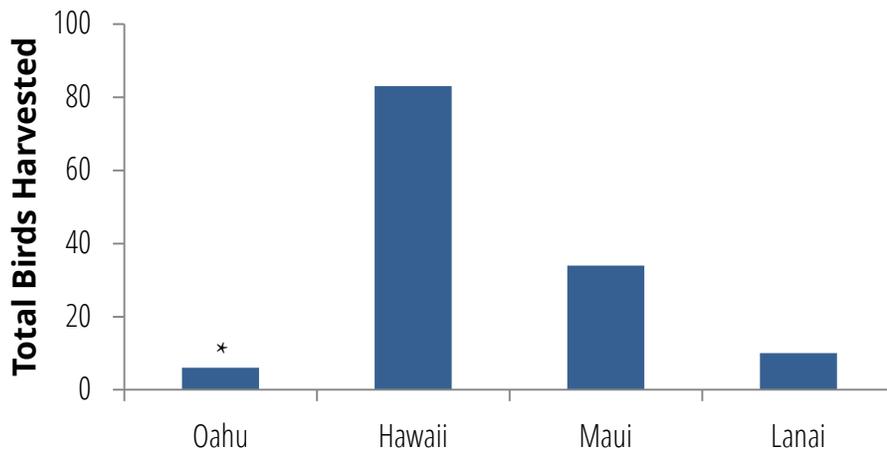
*Gambel's Quail have not been confirmed on Maui, but 1 hunter reported that they harvested 10 Gambel's Quail there.

2017 Japanese Quail Harvest



The most Japanese Quail were harvested on Hawaii, with a total of 62 birds. 8 were harvested on Maui, and 1 on Lanai.

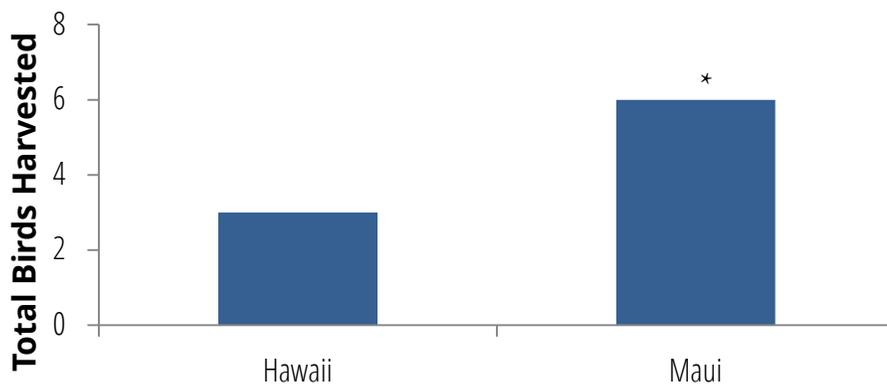
2017 Wild Turkey Harvest



The most Wild Turkeys were harvested on Hawaii, with a total of 83 birds. 6 were harvested on Oahu, 34 on Maui, and 10 on Lanai.

*Wild Turkeys have not been confirmed on Maui, but 2 hunters reported that they harvested a total of 6 Wild Turkeys there.

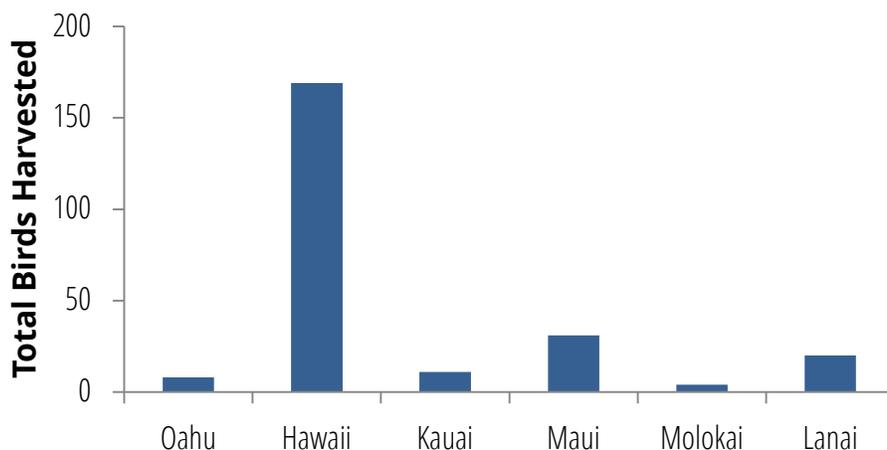
2017 Chesnut-bellied Sandgrouse Harvest



The most Chesnut-bellied Sandgrouse were harvested on Maui, with a total of 6 birds. 3 were harvested on Hawaii.

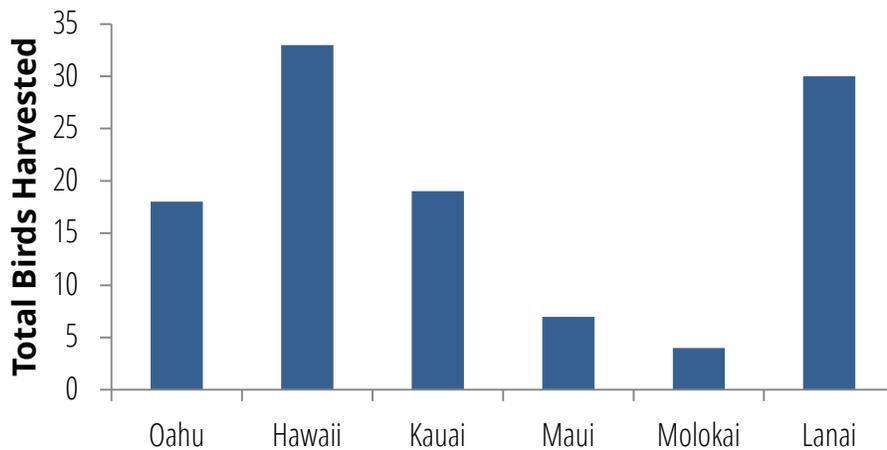
*Chesnut-bellied Sandgrouse have not been confirmed on Maui, but 1 hunter reported that they harvested 6 Chesnut-bellied Sandgrouse there.

2017 Chukar Partridge Harvest



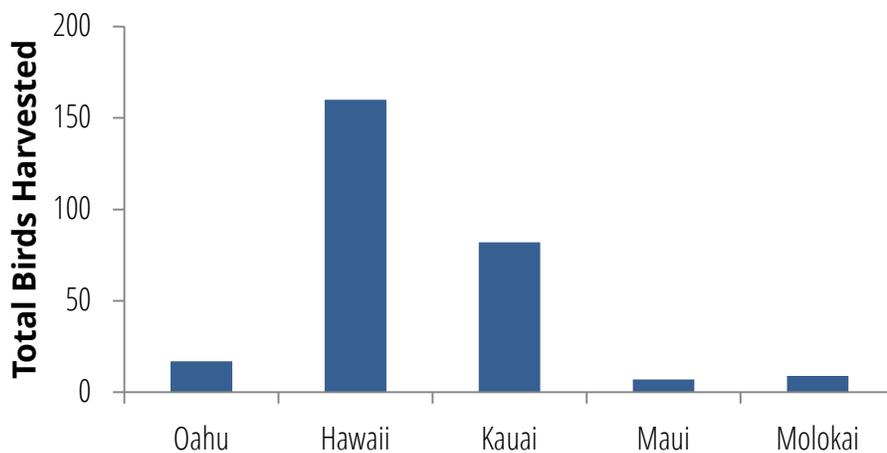
The most Chukar Partridges were harvested on Hawaii, with a total of 169 birds. 8 were harvested on Oahu, 11 on Kauai, 31 on Maui, 4 on Molokai, and 20 on Lanai.

2017 Gray Francolin Harvest



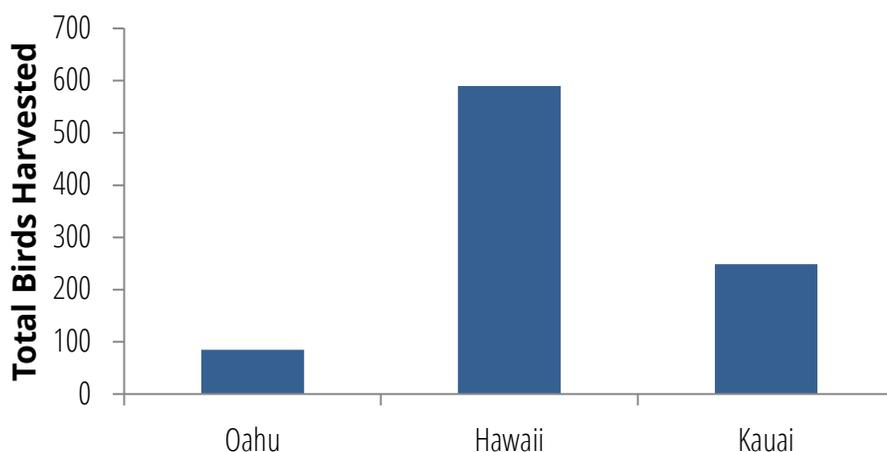
The most Gray Francolins were harvested on Hawaii, with a total of 33 birds. 18 were harvested on Oahu, 19 on Kauai, 7 on Maui, 4 on Molokai, and 30 on Lanai.

2017 Black Francolin Harvest



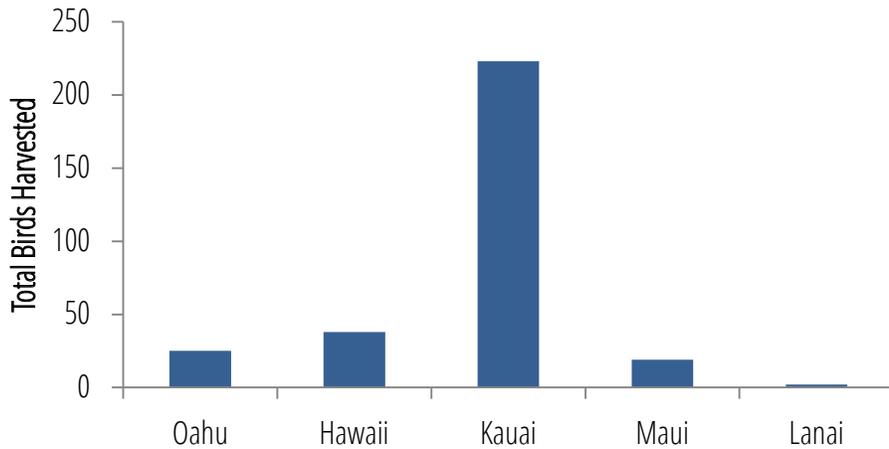
The most Black Francolins were harvested on Hawaii, with a total of 160 birds. 17 were harvested on Oahu, 82 on Kauai, 7 on Maui, and 9 on Molokai.

2017 Erckel's Francolin Harvest



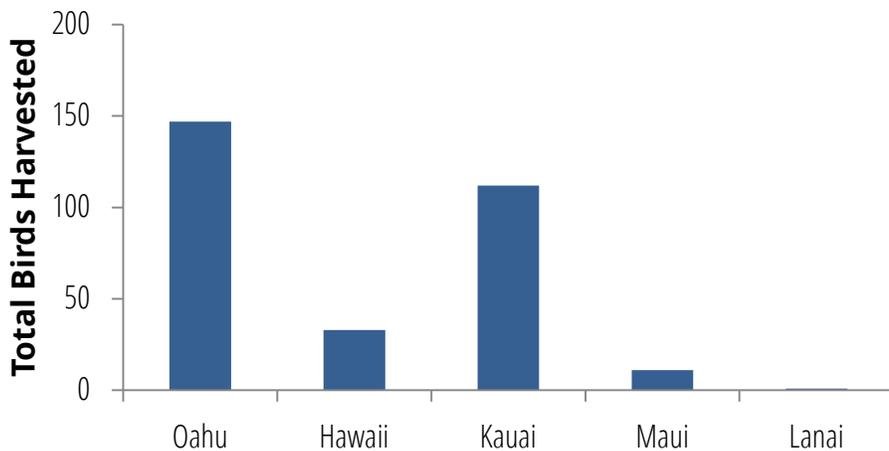
The most Erckel's Francolins were harvested on Hawaii, with a total of 590 birds. 85 were harvested on Oahu and 249 on Kauai.

2017 Spotted Dove Harvest



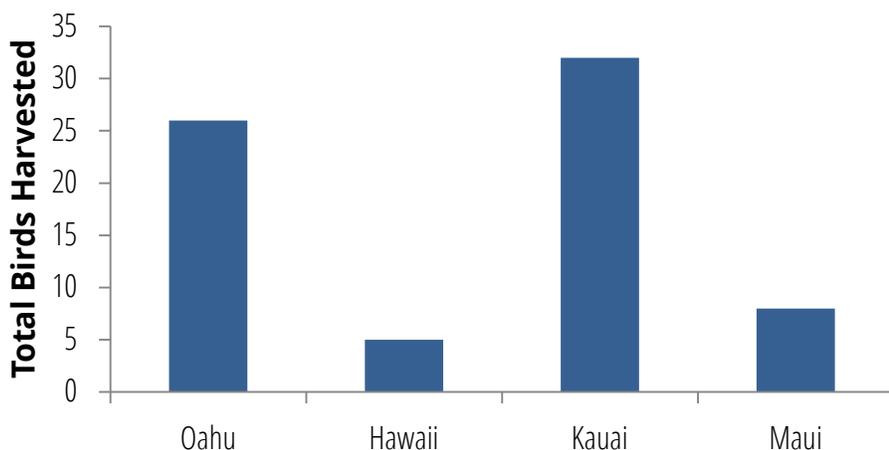
The most Spotted Doves were harvested on Kauai, with a total of 223 birds. 25 were harvested on Oahu, 38 on Hawaii, 19 on Maui, and 2 on Lanai.

2017 Barred Dove Harvest



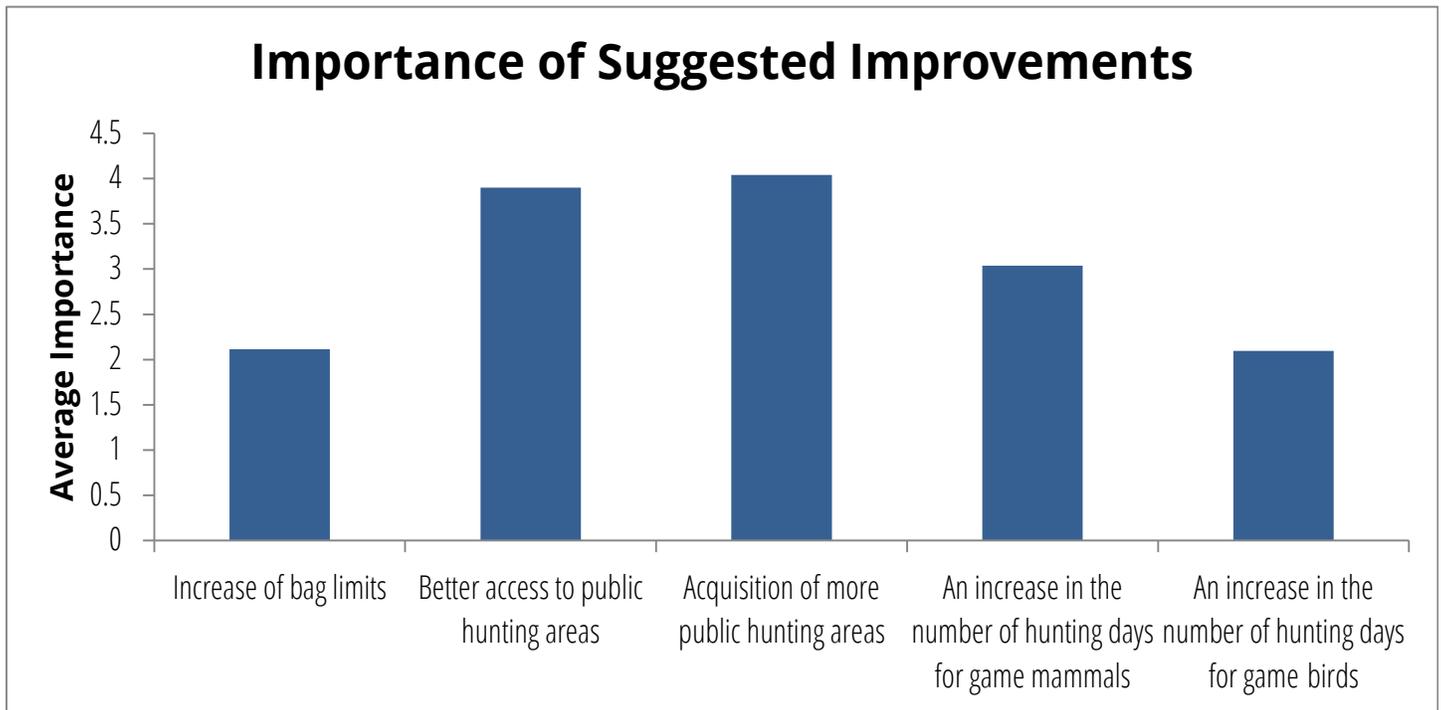
The most Barred Doves were harvested on Oahu, with a total of 147 birds. 33 were harvested on Hawaii, 112 on Kauai, 11 on Maui, and 1 on Lanai.

2017 Mourning Dove Harvest



The most Mourning Doves were harvested on Kauai, with a total of 32 birds. 26 were harvested on Oahu, 5 on Hawaii, and 8 on Maui.

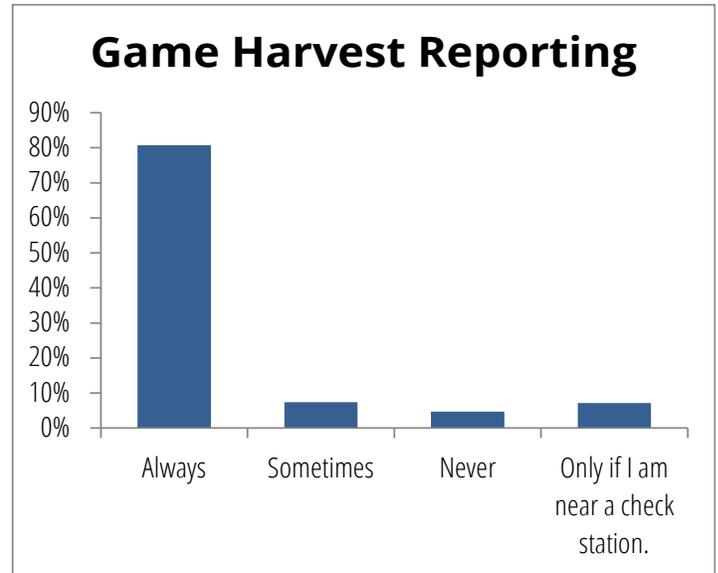
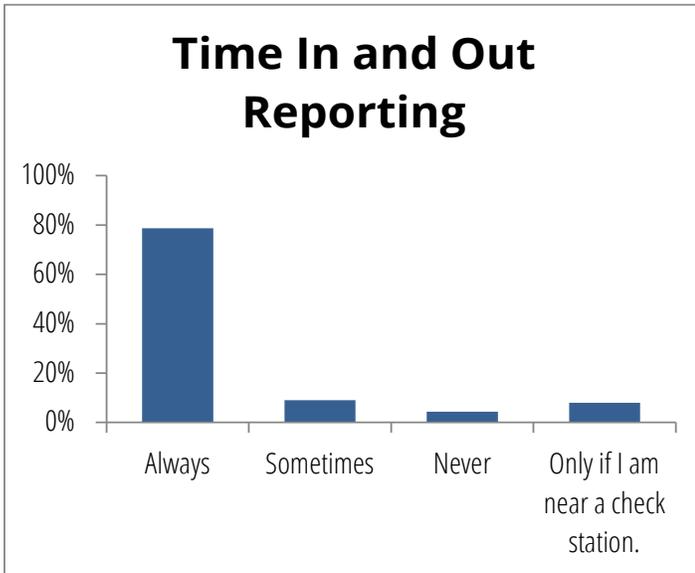
Q18: Using any number from 1 to 5 (1 being the least important and 5 the most important), please rank the following statements for how you feel they would improve your hunting experience in the State of Hawaii. (756/1198)



The average importance took into account the weight of the response, where 1 was the most heavily weighted and 5 was the least, corresponding to the scale of importance hunters used. The most important improvement was the acquisition of more public hunting areas, with an average importance of 4.04, followed by better access to public hunting areas with 3.90, an increase in the number of hunting days for game mammals with 3.04, an increase of bag limits with 2.12, and lastly an increase in the number of hunting days for game birds with 2.10.

Q19: How regularly do you check in at the check stations to report your time in and out of the hunting unit? (933/1198)

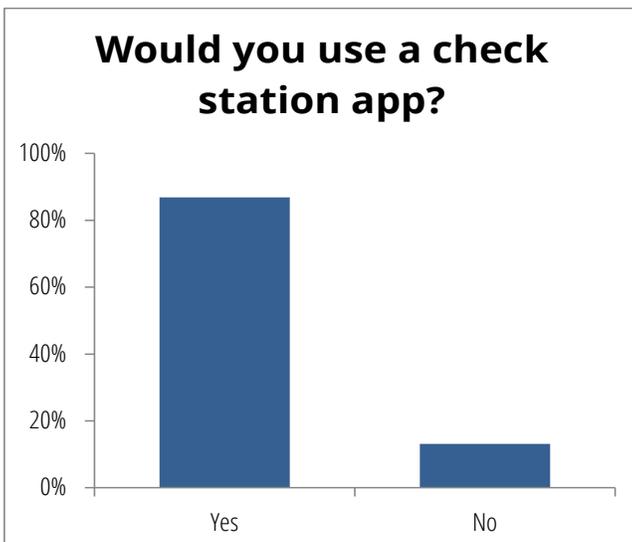
Q20: How regularly do you check in at the check station to report the type and number of game harvested? (933/1198)



79% of hunters reported always checking in and out at the check station. 9% reported using the check station sometimes, and 8% reported using the check station only if they were near it. 4% of hunters reported never checking in and out at the check station.

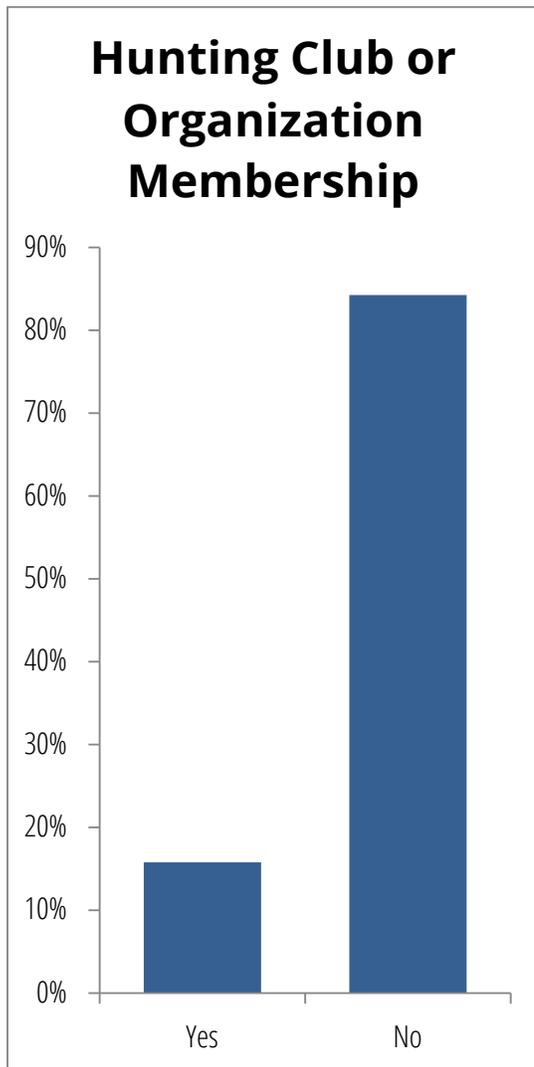
81% of hunters said that they always reported the type and number of game harvested at the check station. 7% reported using the check station sometimes, and 7% reported using the check station only if they were near it. 5% of hunters said they never reported the type and number of game harvested at the check station.

Q21: Would you use a smartphone app to access and provide the same hunting information that is currently collected at the check station if it meant that you did not have to stop at the check station? (929/1198)



87% of hunters responded that they would use an app that allowed them to provide the same information that is currently collected at the check stations. 13% said they would not use the app, with concerns such as some hunters not having smartphones or the technical skill to use an app, poor cell service coverage in certain areas, the desire to see who else was hunting in the unit, or that they were not interested or did not find an app to be a useful solution to problems with the hunting program management.

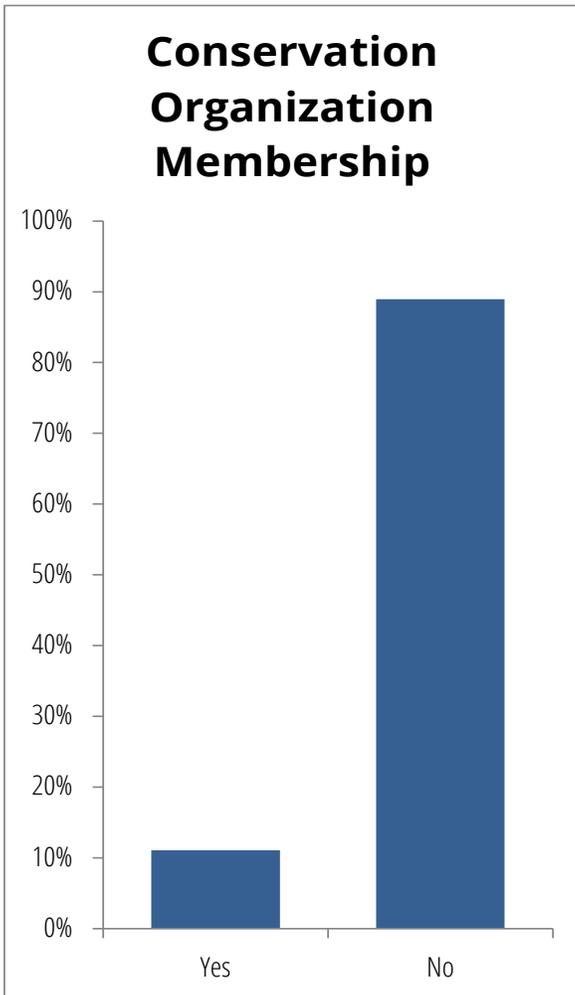
Q22: Are you a member of a hunting club/organization? (933/1198)



933 hunters reported whether they belonged to a hunting club or organization. Of those, 84% did not belong to a hunting club, and 16% did. The organizations they belonged to, and the number of hunters who indicated their involvement, include:

- Safari Club International (34)
- National Rifle Association (31)
- Kahikinui Game and Land Management Ohana (8)
- Kaupo Wildlife Club (8)
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (7)
- Waianae Hunters Association (5)
- National Wild Turkey Federation (4)
- Pig Hunters Association of Oahu (4)
- Kauai Hunters Association (4)
- Hawaii Sportsmen's Alliance (4)
- North American Hunting Club (4)
- Hawaii Rifle Association (4)
- Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (3)
- Pheasants Forever (3)
- Hawaii Island Archers Club (3)
- Molokai Bowhunters Archery Club (3)
- Aukahi Archers (3)
- Ducks Unlimited (2)
- On Target, Inc. (1)
- Sustainable Hunting of Hawaii (1)
- Hunting Farming and Fishing Association (1)

Q23: Are you a member of, or do you work for, a conservation organization?
(933/1198)



933 hunters reported whether they belonged to a conservation organization. Of those, 89% did not, and 11% did. Many of the reported conservation organizations overlap with the hunting clubs and organizations. The organizations they belonged to, and the number of hunters who indicated their involvement, include:

- The Nature Conservancy (10)
- Safari Club International (10)
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (8)
- Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (8)
- DOFAW (7)
- DLNR (6)
- Kahikinui Game and Land Management Ohana (4)
- Hunter Education (3)
- Wild Sheep Foundation (3)
- National Wild Turkey Federation (4)
- Hawaii Audubon Society (2)
- Sierra Club (1)
- USDA Wildlife Services (1)
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (1)
- Mauna Kea Soil and Water Conservation District (1)
- World Wildlife Foundation (1)
- Hui Mālama Makanalua (1)

Q24: Do you have any additional comments? (378/1198)

378 hunters left comments about their concerns, suggestions for improvement of the hunting program, and questions for the DLNR. The most common request, that the DLNR end eradication of game mammal populations, was mentioned 48 times. There were numerous comments calling for better management of the game program without offering any specific suggestions for improvement, but another frequently mentioned concern was accessibility. Many hunters felt that improving access to public hunting areas would be an important way to increase the amount of space and hunting opportunities available and reduce crowding in heavily used units. Some were concerned about the continued availability of public hunting land, with 31 hunters suggesting opening more or better quality land to public hunting. Seven people specifically noted that they were eagerly awaiting the opening of the Kanaio area on Maui. Commenters also pointed out the need for more maintenance of public hunting areas, particularly of roads and trails, and suggested investing in better parking areas.

Hunters were looking for more opportunities to hunt. They expressed concern about the lack of game in public hunting areas in general, with specific requests to release additional gamebirds for hunters and to consider closing the season on Lanai for Mouflon to allow the herd to improve. Seven suggested making goat and pig seasons year round or increasing the bag limits for those species so that hunters could harvest more game rather than using aerial shooting. Many commenters wanted to have more time to hunt, asking for weekday hunting so that people who work on the weekends and seniors would have more chances to go out. Hunters also wanted to see the Lanai Axis deer season extended and moved later in the year. Archery hunters wanted more land open for archery without gun hunting and dogs being allowed at the same time, so that bow hunting would be more successful. Both archery and firearm shooting ranges were mentioned as a desired improvement for the state.

26 commenters wanted more enforcement of hunting regulations, because they felt that the lack of enforcement was allowing people to take advantage of the system and creating unfair situations for hunters who followed the rules. They requested a stronger presence of DOCARE officers in the field to prevent poaching, and suggested increasing penalties for violations, more follow up on tips to the hotline, and faster responses. There was also concern about hikers and others using hunting areas for recreation during hunting days, and hunters were worried about dog interactions and the fact that other users are not required to wear blaze orange or pay any fees for use like the hunting community does.

Some commenters were looking for more frequent and clearer communication from the DLNR. The hunters mentioned a need for updated maps and easy access to the hunting regulations online. They also noted that they were glad that license purchases were available online and suggested making tags and other special hunting permits available from the website as well. Six people specifically commented on the improvements the mobile app could provide.

Other comments included requests for the legalization of crossbows and air guns (mentioned by 5 commenters), the prevalence of invasive plants in certain hunting units (3 commenters), and allowing hunting assistants to go in the field without a license as a way for more people to become interested in hunting (3 commenters). Ten people commented that they had not yet started hunting in Hawaii and were looking forward to joining the community. All of the comments hunters left show their desire for support for the continuation of public hunting on Hawaii, which is a major part of many of their lives and livelihoods.