

GAME MANAGEMNET ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: August 17, 2017

TIME: 1:00 PM

PLACE: DLNR Board Room 132, Kalanimoku Building, 1151 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu.

PURPOSE: Second Game Management Advisory Commission organizational meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

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

Vice Chair Buchanan commenced the meeting and mentioned that Chair Sebati sends his regrets for not attending the meeting. She also reminded attendees to sign in and include an email if they would like the staff to send the agenda to them ahead of time.

The following commissioners were present and introduced themselves and the island which they represent:

Josiah Jury – Oahu

Stan Ruidas – Lanai

Robert Cremer – Kauai

Nancy Timko – Oahu

Ryan Kohatsu – East-Hawaii

David Smith – Forestry and Wildlife

Lori Buchanan – Molokai

With no requests of move ups in the agenda, Vice Chair Buchanan moved to ITEM 2 on the Agenda.

ITEM 2. Announcement of the new chairperson's designated representative Mr. David Smith (Administrator, Division of Forestry and Wildlife), who shall serve as an ex-officio voting member.

Vice Chair Buchanan announced that the administrator of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Mr. David Smith, will be the ex-officio voting member of the commission.

ITEM 3. Additional follow up on the presentation given by Ryan Peralta (Forestry Program Manager, Oahu Branch) and Lance DeSilva (Forestry Program Manager, Maui Branch) during the June 19th GMAC meeting on aerial shooting policy and the Wai'anae mountains aerial shoot plan for the control of feral goats. The commission may take action.

Vice Chair Buchanan states this is a follow-up on the presentations by the Forestry Program – Ryan Peralta who is present and Lance DeSilva not here. This Item is focusing on Wai'anae

mountains aerial shooting plan in the first meeting. Open for discussion to the commissioners for any follow-up questions or discussions. Also, there is a letter for the commission to consider – but that can wait until after the questions and discussions. Any questions, commissioners?

Commissioner Josiah Jury (Oahu) believes that there were some positive outreach efforts/measures that were made toward the Wai‘anae and Nanakuli neighborhood boards. DLNR-DOFAW is doing their due diligence for the outreach and Dr. Sturm also attended the meetings but could not attend this one so I have passed out a copy of their suggestions to everyone at the meeting today. **Vice Chair Buchanan clarified Jury’s comment by asking if the Department is doing their due diligence in meeting with the neighborhood from the west side.** Commissioner Jury responds, there was a resolution proposed by the board in Wai‘anae and given to Dr. Sturm on what they feel might be a way to access the meat. The biggest issue was the meat salvage of the carcasses left over from the aerial shooting. Vice Chair Buchanan stated that the Chair is in receipt of a letter from the Waianae coast neighborhood board and its states, “resolution on meat salvage from aerial eradication.” Asked Dr. Shaya Honarvar (DOFAW-Game Program Coordinator) if there were copies for the public, to which Dr. Honarvar replied that it is included in the public folder. Vice Chair Buchanan asked what are they asking in the letter? Commissioner Jury clarified that the letter was received from Dr. Sturm and that this is what they came up with in regards to what they thought would help in the meat salvage and expressed that towards the Forestry Manager and is in collaboration with them at this point. And that is the extent of my knowledge on this topic. **Vice Chair Buchanan read a portion of the letter that states, “therefore be it resolved that the committee on parks, land and natural resources under Wai‘anae coast neighborhood board supports both hunter access and to voluntarily construct goat traps as a mean to control.” Do they mean this as opposed to aerial shooting or in conjunction with?** Commissioner Jury – It is in conjunction with. I interpret it is that they understanding what the state efforts are and they want to worry about the meat salvage and they want to have an additional tool that the public would try and do some trapping or at least make efforts to salvage the meat. Vice Chair Buchanan reads (page 2), “permission to voluntarily construct both traps as a means to control population and eliminate future unnecessary efforts to destroy herds via aerial shooting.” Then it goes on to say, “They want DOFAW to support the policy and collaborate with hunters to gain access to Makaha valley for hunting.” Commissioner Jury stated that at that point they were asking DOFAW to work with them with board of water supply. Which DOFAW has reached out to board of water supply, but are still awaiting a response from them because topography wise that would be the best place to put any kind of goat traps. Vice Chair Buchanan asked when the resolution was created. Asked if DOFAW had a chance to read the letter yet. Commissioner Jury stated that he had received this email this morning.

Commissioner Robert Cremer asked if anyone was taking meeting notes at the neighborhood board meetings? Commissioner Jury said that there should have been someone taking minutes and said he can follow-up with that. Ryan Peralta also mentioned that the meetings are recorded on Olelo. Commissioner Cremer requested that the meeting minutes be sent to him.

Commissioner Ryan Kohatsu raised a point in the resolution that may need some expanding, but would like to hear the follow-up on the aerial shooting plan from the forestry program first. Vice

Chair Buchanan reminded that this item on the agenda was for staff to answer any questions that the commission may have regarding the aerial shooting plan. Commissioner Kohatsu read from the resolution, “Where as hunters in the community explain the migratory patterns of the goat herds and how the goats from Makua-Keao travel to adjacent ridges and risked being wiped out completely from these eradication practices.” So, understanding that the goal is zero, I also understand that the lower part of that ridge may or may not be critical to watershed function and also very adjacent to the hunting area and the hunters do understand that the goats seek shelter in that area during rifle or archery hunting. Migration will constantly be an issue. **How critical is the top of that ridge to the watershed, how far does it go down watershed function wise and is it necessary to conduct the shooting in that section? Addressing the concern that this is a safety area for hunters and that it would decimate their current level of supply. Map of aerial shoot includes some portions of native forests section and I can agree that it’s important, however, for the lower portion of the ridge I am not entirely sure what the land type is. And of course the question of ingress comes up. How would you address these concerns?** Ryan Peralta stated that Makaha is under the jurisdiction of the Board Water Supply and they are a land managing entity as well. Lands set aside for the Board Water Supply are for watershed purposes, much like the forest reserves. The difference between DOFAW and Board Water Supply is that DOFAW is a more multi-user approach to land management where as Board Water Supply is only concerned about watersheds; no recreation, camping, hunting, or hardly anything at all. So, they’re not interested in maintaining goat populations on their lands regardless of the adjacent land owners management philosophies. In Makaha, they are coming to us and asking us to do this. I’m speaking for them and thinking what they would say and basically they’re not interested in goat populations. They’re just trying to manage watersheds and we’re basically assisting them in their land management area. **On that point, Commissioner Kohatsu asked what guarantees that the hunters will have their current populations protected, to which Peralta said there is no guarantee. Commissioner Kohatsu also asked DLNR’s view on how critical the ridge is for watershed.** Peralta said that Makaha ridge has been identified as a priority watershed by the Board Water Supply. The two major watersheds in the leeward coast is Waianae kai and Makaha. These hydrologists and specialists in the field of watershed and independently they submitted to us that in their review of watersheds, Makaha is a priority watershed, which is expert testimony that they wrote in paper. **Commissioner Kohatsu asks: If that’s the case, wouldn’t Makua-Keao itself lie in priority watershed as well with respect to DLNR’s view? If they are taking a watershed view, why isn’t DLNR eradicating Makua-Keao as well?** Peralta explained that he didn’t know why Makua-Keao wasn’t considered a priority watershed, which gave us an opportunity to leave Makua-Keao alone for goat hunters. Board Water Supply had scientific models that explained why it was determined as that. David Smith added that they identified those areas as priority watersheds years ago and put in this infrastructure, including wells and pipes, so a lot of it is based on that and protecting those areas in a practical sense. Commissioner, Kohatsu, ingress will always be an issue. Goats will constantly leave the hunting area and go to these grounds and get eradicated. Peralta, this project will definitely impact the hunting opportunity in Makua-Keao. We’re not going to lie. Vice Chair Buchanan mentioned that the watershed planner could better answer his questions pertaining to watersheds. **Commissioner Kohatsu asked, are there any methods to keep the goats in the hunting area versus having them leave that area to get eradicated? Are there any water units?** Peralta - there’s water units in Makua-Keao for birds. **Commissioner Kohatsu, would the state be willing to use purely state funds for the construction of water units to maintain**

goat herds within the hunting area and prevent them from venturing off into the critical watershed that Board Water Supply has designated? Peralta deferred the question to Jason Misaki who introduced himself as the district biologist for DOFAW and answered that they would consider that option to enhance game management, as long as the goal of watershed protection in the forest reserves are met and so we have examples of different areas that have integrative plans to manage both game and our native and non-game species. So, it would be a long, complicated process, but it's part of our due diligence to do that and to provide opportunities to the hunters. Commissioner Kohatsu replied that there are more creative ways to keep them in where you want them and keep them away from where you don't want them. I know it's a challenge, like on the big island, with section 7 and using Federal funds but it's something to consider. David Smith suggested a fence to keep them from going back and forth. Commissioner Robert Cremer added that they asked that in the first commission meeting and they said it was too costly. Peralta mentioned that they were talking about the whole project area. It might be possible to do Mahaka, but we don't own that land. We can discuss more on that, but we don't have the money to fence, we have money for the aerial shooting. Mr. David Smith said that it was a concept that was brought up in the past, and we've never fenced an area in for game management, but I don't know the feasibility on that. Just throwing it out there. Commissioner Kohatsu, I know that a part of the environmental community is to fence in hunting areas, as a commissioner I would like to avoid if possible. Just because the sensitive areas are smaller than the public hunting areas, so economically it would make more sense to fence in the environmentally sensitive than the non-environmentally sensitive. Commissioner Cremer mentioned that the biggest problem for him is that animals migrate for better habitat during different seasons and the concern that commissioner Kohatsu brings up is the same concern he has because during the hunting season, the goats will move up to higher grounds same as in Kauai. Go to in accessible areas. Goats move depending on rain, water units may help keep the goats from migrating out of the hunting area. That would be a great idea. Every animal move with pressure and with seasons.

Peralta updated the commission: we were asked to come back to do a second Waianae Kai neighborhood board meeting to present the presentation that the commission saw, went back two weeks later because not enough people were at the first meeting and they wanted to call more people to do a more focus group. Had more dialogue. We also did a neighborhood meeting at Nanakuli, again they asked us to go back for a second meeting. Neighborhood meetings were good because we were able to identify who the goat hunters were, there's no organized association of goat hunters. We got their contact info and now we can actually talk to the right people. Some things that came out of this meeting were they wanted access to the Waianae Kai forest reserve/public hunting area. Someone emailed requesting access through a particular TMK, which we don't have control because it's not state land, but we are trying to get in touch with the land manager for that area to see if we can work things out. He also talked to the owner of Waianae Kai Valley Ranch, thinking that TMK was his property, and he is interested in allowing public access through his property, but he co-leases. He is currently in contact with the other owner and will get in contact with her shortly. DOFAW is in between the hunters and the land owner, so it would help if the commission can support DOFAW. One hunter brought up wanting to have capture pens in Makaha, but we do not manage that land, Board Water Supply manages that land, we recommended that he writes a letter about his proposal and include that DOFAW has no objections to it. Peralta also called and emailed the land management division of

Board Water Supply saying that DOFAW can discuss the proposal with them if they wish. For meat salvaging, after the aerial shooting period ends, hunters with permits can go in and salvage as much they want. So, we collected a list of names and emails, I asked everyone to get me their contact info and I will give them a permit to salvage the meat but no one has gotten back to me yet. Another concern is the impact to the watershed with nutrient overload from the carcasses. Studies have shown that the long-term benefits outweighs the short term spike. We took water quality before the project began, and we already have plans to take them again after the project, so we will see whether or not it will affect the water quality. Vice Chair Buchanan thanked Peralta for the update and taking the extra effort to connect with the community. Commissioner Kohatsu asked if there is a time where there isn't a hunting season for Makua-Keao? Jason Misaki replied that it is closed during bird season, November to end of January. Closed for mammals, open for birds.

Commissioner Kohatsu asked: is there an urgent need to fly immediately? Possible to fly after rifle season? Jason Misaki said there is no specific date, so we will be able to take that into consideration. Commissioner Kohatsu, even though there will always be ingress, it would be good to give a little buffer. Jason Misaki added that in the meetings with the community, they expressed that they understand that we have to do this, they didn't question that. It was a matter of keeping them informed and allow them opportunities to meat salvage or trap, so we're actively pursuing that. Got to know where they are with this, what we're doing and their okay with it. They want have more access and meat salvaging and we can make that happen. Commissioner Kohatsu agrees with Misaki's community assessment, but his view is of that of the hunters', that's all.

Vice Chair Buchanan asked Jason Misaki: if the community knows that they plan for zero tolerance and if they're okay with that? Jason Misaki replied yes with the exception of Makua-Keao because DOFAW won't be doing any kind of control there. Commissioner Cremer expressed his appreciation for the outreach. Commissioner Jury also shared his appreciation for the outreach, being from Waianae. He read a portion of the bill that started this commission stating, "The legislation finds that the enhancement and maintenance of public hunting opportunities for subsistence and recreation purposes are of critical importance to the state and its people...a coordinated resource management effort involving stakeholders is needed to prevent and offset the loss of public hunting areas and hunting opportunities." Looking at an offset for a public hunting area that will be lost for goats and just hoping to continue to get updates on how that state is pursuing this offset for the loss of hunting in that area.

Commissioner Timko asked when the second meeting presentation in Nanakuli was going to be, to which Peralta answered the 31st of August at 7:00 pm at Kawaihona right when you enter Nanakuli on the left hand side.

Vice Chair Buchanan asked how long the project will be and what is the cost to the taxpayers for this type of control because it's difficult to see zero tolerance in an open system, and have you secured funding for the project already? Peralta said that this project will probably be indefinite because it is an open system. Fencing off the five or six different valleys will cost millions of dollars a piece versus \$40,000 a year, so the cost offset is huge and more economical. We estimate that it will cost \$20,000 a year for the initial missions, then once the numbers are down, it will switch to a maintenance phase which would be about \$8,000 every

year. In comparison to Molokai, during the aerial survey they see about 4,000 goats which is less than what they have in Molokai so we feel that zero tolerance can be reached quicker than 10 years. Also conducted ungulate control projects on Oahu without fences and were able to eradicate all the goats.

Vice Chair Buchanan, in your outreach to the community, are you clearly conveying this? That this project is an ongoing, long term project with restrictions? She would like the public to really know what they're signing up for. Peralta, really hopes so and trying to be as transparent as possible. When the area is closed for the shoot, it's about 6:00 am – 2:00 pm once or twice a quarter during weekdays, so it's for a very short period of time. Looking at the cost-analysis, treating Nanakuli, Lualualei, Mokuleia, Kaala NAR, Waianae Kai and Makaha for \$40,000 over a two year increment compared to \$240,000 on watershed management in Waianae kai alone which includes fuel break maintenance, invasive species control, fence maintenance, native tree planting, education and outreach, in that perspective it's good for us.

Vice Chair Buchanan, noticed that DOFAW submitted a letter from mayor Kirk Coldwell in the first meeting for the city and county of Honolulu who is in charge of Board Water Supply, I keep hearing that Board Water Supply is an issue. However, Mayor wrote a letter to Chair Case stating that he's going to help DLNR and think that it's a great idea, feel free to contact us. I think the Department needs to step in and convey what the community is saying because your keep saying its Board Water Supply. She also reiterated that Jason Misaki was agreeable to the possibility of water units and strategic fencing, how would you...who should the commission be talking to in order to push that to the forefront for consideration. Peralta deferred to Mr. David Smith. Smith thinks that the best thing to do is for the hunters on each island to work with their wildlife manager to see where they can get wins. There's a lot of things we can do and we have a great public hunting program. As the Oahu manager in the past, we had really good relationships with hunting organizations, pig hunters association would always come to us for things. When he first started out with DOFAW, people were calling the state for animal control...trap, snare, etc. on private property to try alleviate pig damage, but pig hunters said that they would do that for free and so they started taking the calls and we started this great relationship. We would meet once a month and brainstorm about things, work together on different projects – you have to balance things out, it just depends on the area, but we're always looking for ways to provide opportunities for hunters. In Commissioner Jury's case, the math was done on all the land that we procured into the DOFAW systems and those that were taken out/fenced for native forests/watershed areas, and we had about 11,000 acres on Oahu for areas that were available for hunters. So we just need to look at both sides of the equation to see what are we adding or subtracting. Another important thing for DOFAW and the commission to work together on is enhancing areas that we're doing well and build our success. We're always going to have issues because of our dual mandate, but the big one is where can we build really successfully right now together to get better access, adding acreage and inventory for hunting areas. It's really important for the hunters to know their wildlife managers at DOFAW and work with them directly.

Vice Chair Buchanan brought up the issue of indemnification. In the MOU, does the state take the indemnification with private citizens on hunting? David Smith said no. The pig hunters association required insurance and liability waivers through the NRA, so that really helped and it was easy to work with them. That's why he referred a lot of people to Pig Hunting

Association. DOFAW tries to make the connections between the pig hunters and the private citizens, but there are always setbacks. It's hard for the state to provide liability for hunters especially when it comes to private land issues, but there's always a possibility of creating some kind of access to maybe a few select amount of people. Vice Chair Buchanan clarified that from the Department's perspective, the liability is mostly because is hunting, to which David Smith said it could be anything, even people four-wheeling, etc. Buchanan mentioned that the state indemnifies places that tourist usually frequent, so has the state talked to the AG about it? Mr. David Smith said there was an act that gives land owners some indemnification for providing access, the problem with that is if the private land owner is sued for something that happens on his property, the state has to get legislative approval before they pay for it, so owners get turned off by that. The commission can work with the legislators to pass some kind of indemnification language through, but it would be difficult. However, there are still ways to work together. When Mr. Smith worked in the NARS program, he used to escort a select group of hunters to the places where pigs needed to be removed, so it was a win-win. When he tried to get that opened up to where staff was no longer needed, that's when it kind of fell apart because certain people needed their supervision. Commissioner Cremer clarified whether that access was to hunt directly on private land or access through the property onto state lands, to which Mr. Smith answered that it was both. Commissioner Cremer asked if there was a way to lease that section of land needed for access to state land? David Smith replied that it is possible through easements, to which Cremer added that the responsibility would not fall onto the land owner. Mr. Smith said that it's important thing to look for access easements to get into state lands. Cremer mentioned that the greatest concern for land owners is liability. Mr. David Smith stated that in Mokuleia from the road to the forest reserve and for Makua-Keao state wasn't aware that the access road was actually owned by the state rather than the rancher who was allowing certain people into the hunting area. So there is more research needs to be done to see what the state actually owns. Buchanan mentioned that the commission raised the concern about urgency of hiring an access and acquisitions position. Smith added that DOFAW is looking into hiring another position that focuses on just the acquisitions side.

Vice Chair Buchanan opened the discussion to the public for testimony, to which two people from the public provided their testimony.

James Manaku stated, "First, I would like to give a little bit about Waianae. Our water comes from Kaala. That's why Waianae Kai and Makaha valley is a watershed area because it's directly below that. I am totally against the killing of our goats and when you say zero tolerance that means that you want to kill all that meat. I am not sure if you folks know this, but that is you folks responsibility and that is to protect our resources (like the macadamia nuts, it is not from here but it is protected because it is a resource for us). So all these animals that we are talking about become a resource for us and yet there is no talk about how you guys going to replace that. I am really concern about this. The problem with the native species is not on top of the mountain anymore it is in the forest. We have rats and parrots that attack birds and there is no plan to catch them. Or the snails are dying because of the chameleon but no plans to get ride of them. Its not the pig, and the goat causing all these problems but its those animals. All they care about is the ungulates. By the way, I have hunted for many years but I do not have a hunting license but I do gather goats. Because if you look into our constitution article 12 7.1 it says that we allowed to access and gather. It doesn't say that if there are too many animals that we need to get ride of

them all. Because what is going to happen if we do that? I have 25 grand children and 4 great grand children so far and I am proud of that. But I need to protect the meat that we will need in the future. Again your main responsibility is to protect my resources so I am asking you guys to understand the problem we have here. If you are worried about a population explosion talk to us we would be more than willing to hunt for more. But no, what you guys are going to do is kill them. I am asking you folks what are you going to do today will affect our future generation. I can not see you guys shooting and no one getting the meat.

Vice Chair Buchanan asked the commissioners if they had any questions for Mr. Manaku. (no questions).

Munsta Souza state our resources always should be protected and hunting is what matters the most to me. It is important to pass this to the future generation. I work in conservation, I protect endangered species but I am also a hunter. I built some of the fences and it broke my heart because me and my dad used to hunt those areas. I was supposed to protect those areas for hunting but yet I was the person who built the fences there. I could not even talk to my family about this because they though I am such a back stabber. In that I know there are things that need to be protected. I guess my question to Ryan Peralta is if we could all work together and use people like us who have a lot of experience working in these areas and build the fences in a strategic way and not fence everything in but smaller portions that really need to be fenced. I think if the private land owners are requesting the removal goats than they should be here at this meeting. I want to know why they don't want hunters and are not open to it. If they are against it then they should be here and explain to the commission, why they are against it and not have the State stand here and have to explain why they want to do this. For the aerial shoot and it being indefinite when things happen the animals are going to move so how can not feel that at some point all of the resources are going to be eliminated. I think it is important to work with people like us who are conservationist but also hunters and have seen many different scenarios like this. I am very happy that this commission exists and have been waiting for this for a long time. It is awesome to have this commission and have a voice. I am more than willing to help in any way I can.

A question from Commissioner Cremer for Mr. Manaku and Souza: How much the Wai'anae aerial shooting going to affect your resources in the hunting area? How big of a hunting area will be affected by this? How many acres are we talking about?

Mr. Manaku: the aerial shoot last time was disgusting and the animals were still alive. They are going to kill them all. They will shoot and the herds will move and then come back to the area and get shot. Every time there is aerial shoot it will restrict the resources for the future generation. The area is the whole mountain.

Mr. Souza: It will definitely affect the hunting area that is available to hunters to what degree it is hard to say. Because the goats move and animals adapt and hid from the helicopters. The impact will be hard to gauge. It will depend on area, season and where the herds are at the time of shooting.

Mr. Peralta: Most of the areas that we are treating is not a public hunting area. The only public hunting areas that we are treating are Mokolea FR and Waianae Kai FR. Only the top part of these areas will be targeted and only goats and not pigs will be targeted.

Commissioner Cremer asked what the reason was to shoot in the hunting areas? Waianae Kai FR is right next to Makaha and there are hundreds of herds there and the hunter data sheets show that there is no take what so ever. We look at that and we see how many animals the hunters get and we know there are a lot of animals there. The public says to get them access to these areas and let them salvage the meat and we said ok. The aerial shooting is the only way we can have a positive impact on watershed because half of the mountain if a public hunting area and the other half is board of water supply and the animals will move from one side to the other. Commissioner Cremer adds that, I think the number of take is incorrect, because a great number of hunters are not recording their harvest because they are worried about the state wanting to do animal control if there are too many animals are being harvested. We need to emphasis this at our hunter education courses a lot that it is important for hunters to record their number of take.

Commissioner Timko asked: If you are going to do animal eradications quarterly, could you not do controlled hunts (with the goat hunters) quarterly? Of course the public hunting areas will remain open and the hunters can go hunt when they want and the hunting days are now daily (in the past they were only over the weekends and holidays). There is nothing stopping the hunters to go up there daily and there is access.

Commissioner Ruidas asks: How many animals are on the board of water supply land? Are they doing any animal controls on their lands? Can we get access for hunters on these lands? Mr. Peralta - the majority of animals are on their land the animals on the board of land water supply and they do not do any animal controls. Mr. David Smith adds that the State has been trying to get access for hunters on Makaha for years but they have not been successful. We can maybe work on that again.

Mr. David Smith goes back to Commissioner Cremer's comment about hunters not wanting to record their harvest data. If we do not see anyone taking anything then we have to go in and do animal control or sometime the opposite we have to close the area and drive up the numbers. What we can do here is to come up with a better system for reporting that hunters would buy into, maybe a more anonymous system it would be good to have a discussion with the commissioners and the hunters to figure out what would be a better way to report what they are taking, how can they feel comfortable and how can we get better data on that.

A representative from Hunting, fishing, farming Association stated: we stand against aerial eradication and we also believe that what you kill is what you take. Do not leave any carcasses in the forest and we stand by that.

Vice Chair Buchanan stated: we have more questions than answers right now. We have written a letter (handed out at the beginning of the meeting) addressed to the Board of Land and Natural Resources that we would like to submit to the Board about the subject matter of the aerial shooting specifically the one in Wai'anae but more generally eludes to the Oahu aerial shooting Project. We understand that this is the first aerial shoot on Oahu and

that there will be more coming up. Peralta confirms that this is the first one that they are doing and that the military has done them in the past. In the letter we are talking about the following in summary:

“At the June 19, 2017 GMAC meeting agenda item 9, was a briefing by DOFAW about aerial shooting policy and the Wai‘anae Mountains aerial shoot plan for the control of feral goats. Commissioners appreciated the briefing and request the opportunity to further review the policy and the shoot plan for the Waianae Mountain. GMAC realizes that the Department has been working for several years on a programmatic aerial shooting plan for Oahu. GMAC understands and supports the mandates of the department to protect public trusts lands and its biodiversity. GMAC acknowledges the hard work by the department to add aerial shooting to their list of management “tools” for ungulate control. In order for GMAC to carry out its duties stipulated in HB 1041 with reference to “Assist the department on policies, plans, and procedures related to the control of game mammals, including aerial shooting activities by the department and its contractors”. GMAC humbly request that the Board place a “hold” on the Waianae aerial shoot plan until the GMAC can further review the department’s policy and obtain information and clarification from DOFAW on Commissioner’s questions”.

Vice Chair Buchanan adds: The session today is not enough to answer the cultural questions that I personally have and to actually more of a strategic type of engagement between the commissioners and the staff members on the particulars of the plan.

“To expedite this request GMAC proposes the following to the Board:

- GMAC may convene a committee to meet with department staff to discuss community and commissioner’s questions and concerns.
- Following a meeting(s) the committee will present findings and recommendations to GMAC for approval and submission to the Board for consideration/action.

GMAC hopes the Board is amenable to our request and sincere proposal to discuss one of the most controversial issues facing the department and GMAC.

GMAC looks forward to working collaboratively with the Department to enhance and maintain sustainable public hunting opportunities for subsistence and recreational purposes of critical importance to our state and our people”.

Vice Chair Buchanan Continues: What the chair would like to ask the commissioners is to decide if they would like to move forward with submitting the letter to the Board and put a hold on the aerial shoot so that we can all work together and come up with more strategic ways to go about this. We have an Oahu commissioner that is willing to put his time into this. It would be good to see if we have other alternatives to the aerial shoot. These alternatives are not really clearly vetted out within the plan. In these type of cases I always suggest that the Department, or the agency that is proposing the action move with the precautionary principal, when you really don’t know what the long-term of the action will be than you should move with cation and if it something as big as this where you might be restricting the rights of cultural practitioners,

because of I have not seen the base line population studies, our data collection is not the best, we rely on arbitrary type of data collection that is provided voluntarily by hunters.

Vice Chair Buchanan asks the commissioners if this is something that they would like to act on today and if it is than they can sign off on it and send it to the Board.

Commissioner Cremer makes a motion to move forward with this and submit the letter to the Board of land and natural resources. Commissioner Jury seconds the motion. No discussion. Vice Chair Buchanan asked all those in favor to raise their hand. Commissioners who raised their hand were:

Vice Chair Buchanan, Commissioners Jury, Ruidas, Timko, Cremer and Kohatsu

Mr. David Smith abstained.

The motion carries.

Vice Chair Buchanan asks the commissioners if they wanted to form a committee to move forward with this. We can also go out of this commission to get experts. But it is usually not a very large committee. We can only have to commissioners in this committee. Both commissioners Jury and Timko volunteer for this. At least 3 other Oahu people should volunteer for this committee. [Katherina from sustainable hunting of Hawaii, Mr. Manaku \(Cultural Practitioner\) and Mr. Souza \(Hunter and conservationist\). – CHECK & CONFIRM.](#)

Mr. Peralta state: it would be good to keep the neighborhood meetings in the loop as you all meet because they are all like-minded people with similar philosophies. I can forward you their contact information. Vice Chair Buchanan states that it would be the hope of the Chair that this committee would be more focused. I hoping to see more of the technical type of the plan discussed during the strategic meetings and will be willing to asking for maps and more spatial data and other information that is currently not provided.

Commissioner Cremer makes a motion to accept the two committee members and Commissioner Ruidas seconds the motion. Vice Chair Buchanan asked all those in favor to raise their hand. Commissioners who raised their hand were:

Vice Chair Buchanan, Commissioners Jury, Ruidas, Timko, Cremer and Kohatsu

David Smith abstained.

The motion carries.

---Break Time (5 min)---

ITEM 4. Additional follow up questions on the various presentations and briefings that took place during the June 19th GMAC meeting from Division of Forestry and Wildlife

(DOFAW) programs (Wildlife, Forestry, Native Ecosystem Protection and Management, Na Ala Hele) and Hunter Education Program.

Vice Chair Buchanan asks whether the commissioners had any questions/discussions in regards to ITEM 4. Commissioner Jury states that after the presentations at the last meeting he reached out to the hunter education program staff and plans to attend one or two of the classes. He also encourages the other commissioners to connect with them.

Commissioners did not have any questions.

Vice Chair Buchanan asked the commissioners if they had the maps from Jan Pali's presentation (Forestry) and the commissioners did not. She encouraged the commissioners to contact Dr. Honarvar in the future to let her know that they would like to have a hard copy of the emailed materials at the meeting. Vice Chair Buchanan then suggested that ITEM 4 be moved to next GMAC meeting.

ITEM 5. Discuss and initiate the creation and prioritization of a comprehensive list of hunting and wildlife related issues per district.

Vice Chair Buchanan suggested and asked Dr. Honarvar that we take the statements that each commissioner had given on June 19th GMAC meeting as a starting point for creating a comprehensive list of hunting and wildlife related issues per district.

Commissioner Cremer – One of my main concerns on our island that I like to put on next meeting's Agenda and get communication about is the status of the DHHL land (Unit A), the lease expires on August 31st. In the past we have had 15-year lease. We are talking about 13,000 acres of hunting area with majority bird, goat and deer hunting. I am very concerned that we may be losing this area. If we do lose this area, hunting in Kauai will be miserable. According to this document (lease?) CHECK "The first amendment covers a one year period from September 1, 2016 – August 31st 2017. A longer-term disposition shall be considered in the near future before August 31st 2017 end date". If DHHL does not want to renew the lease is there anyway that we can work collaboratively with them, where we still can coexist as far as being able to hunt on their lands with you state being able to enforce it? What is the status on the renewal of this lease? and why is DLNR asking for 1 year lease instead of asking for a longer period lease?

Vice Chair Buchanan asks commissioner Cremer if there are any beneficiaries from DHHL that are also concerned about this? From a beneficiary perspective? Commissioner Cremer – the last I spoke to the beneficiaries at the beneficiary meeting, had 57 beneficiaries at the meeting and a lot of the beneficiaries that use that land were never invited or known about it. Vice Chair Buchanan – Ok, that is not the Department's concern. Commissioner Cremer agreed. Commissioner Kohatsu – From what I know about Kipuka Ainahou, every lease has to go through a beneficiaries consultation, there was a movement within the beneficiaries, perhaps rightfully so. They were upset and asking why the Department is giving leases to non-Hawaiians and non-beneficiaries. Perhaps there has to be a benefit to the beneficiaries and not just for

hunters. Perhaps DOFAW's presentation to them should include: What is in it for the beneficiaries? How is this a better situation than they are currently in? Or what "not to do anything approach" would mean for them? In our case at Kipuka Ainahou, we do not have a lease anymore and there is no hunting in that section. There is poaching and a lot of gun fire. Bird watchers complain about the gun fire regularly. If we do nothing that land will be taken over. I do not think that the beneficiaries understood that and the presentation did not get any of that across. This is what I saw and what killed that lease. It was the beneficiaries being upset and the hunters didn't state their case very well.

Vice Chair Buchanan asks commissioner Cremer if there is an economic issue with the lease being 1 year versus more? commissioner Cremer – what is the Department willing to invest in a lease that is year to year versus a 15-year lease? We are talking about maintenance fees as far as roads, fire control, signage, infrastructure and more.

Vice Chair Buchanan asks if commissioners have any questions and if not than should we entertain a motion to write a letter for clarification purposes to the Department and also maybe a letter to DHHL on behalf of the board because we all represent our islands and not only subsistence and beneficiaries but also for recreational purposes.

Commissioner Cremer makes a motion to write a letter to BLNR and DHHL. Vice Chair Buchanan added- to ask for clarification and where we are in the process and to state our concern about the loss of PHA and there was a second to the motion.

Ryan Kohatsu added – There has to be a benefit to the beneficiaries. This was the reason that they stopped the lease in Kipuka Ainahou. I am not taking any sides just stating what happened. The whole meeting is available online on youtube. Vice Chair Buchanan – there is some historical issues that I am aware of happened on the big Island and I am not sure if they are having the same issues on Kauai. Commissioner Cremer added that some of the beneficiaries want to make hydro plans to start to make homesteads for raising crops. But to develop that land and to be able to make it sustainable to farming is very hard. The land is dry, rocky, steep and the roads (if not for the state) will be gone. I don't know if DHHL would have the money to maintain the roads or the ability to police that area.

Mr. David Smith – We have explained these concerned to DHHL and we are close to get some kind of an agreement but may not be 15 year agreement. We are trying to work out some kind of compromise and it is getting by the beneficiaries. Commissioner Cremer – does DHHL has a long term plan for that area? Mr. David Smith – I do not think they have a long term plan, a lot of this is due to the push back from the beneficiaries.

Vice Chair Buchanan asked all those in favor of the motion to raise their hand. Commissioners who raised their hand were:

Vice Chair Buchanan, Commissioners Jury, Ruidas, Timko, Cremer and Kohatsu

David Smith abstained.

The motion carries.

Vice Chair Buchanan asks the commissioners if there are other concerns and issues that they like to mention now so that it can be included on the comprehensive list of hunting and wildlife related issues per district. Also they can be emailed to Dr. Honarvar so that she can put together a list.

Ryan Kohatsu – 1) There is a draft of a Game Management Plan for the Island of Hawaii following up with the management plan should be a priority; 2) Poaching is a great concern to hunters. On the mainland they publish the violations that they catch perhaps we should be thinking similarly here and maybe publishing DOCARE violations that have to do with hunting on PHA; 3) better data collection needed. Checking stations are too far and perhaps start asking volunteers to man the check stations would help; 4) Look for cooperative GMA's for public hunting.

Commissioner Cremer – One of the most important things that we have to do is to know how many animals we have of each species on each island. Without this type of information we can not even start working on a management plan in the state of Hawaii. We also need to stop the poaching to get accurate numbers.

Vice Chair Buchanan – It is very important for the commissioners to learn more about all that DOFAW does in order to work collaboratively and efficiently with them. It is important for the commissioners to know where these priority areas are on their island and to work with staff on how they can enhance and protect those areas.

Vice Chair Buchanan – On Molokai hundreds of acres have been fenced to keep deer out. All the patterns of their migration has now changed and now you add a number of high energy projects (for instance solar and farms). Taking all this into account, so why are there any bag limits? why do you have hunting closed? Hopefully we can work with our district manager on this. We are organizing adhoc hunting the Aha Kiolo which is the cultural community of Molokai there was already a meeting with 100 people in attendance. We want to start creating grass roots and than bringing the Department in as partners. And to work together on revising rules, maybe?

Vice Chair Buchanan – I am aware that Maui, Oahu and the big Island all are working on a draft management plans. Is the Maui management plan close to be released? John Medeiros responds that they are still working on it. Shane DeMattos asks which draft management plan is Buchanan referring too because there are a lot of different management plans from different programs under DOFAW. Vice Chair Buchanan – this is exactly the issue that the commissioners do not know everything that DOFAW does. We need to know from the Department side what their priorities are, what actions they take for hunting related projects. Buchanan stated that projects under DOFAW are mainly focused on wildlife and not so much on hunting related projects, based on what James Cogswell presented at the first GMAC meeting. A lot of the funding and priorities goes too or gets deferred to other projects that are the opposite side of our mandate. The Department needs to be focusing more on balancing this so that it can benefit the other priorities and mandates as well.

Emma Yuen – NARS is a part of DOFAW. A lot of the funding we get from the Feds is for a specific program (for instance for endangered species). It is not necessarily discretionary for us to move around funds that are for endangered species to hunting. Vice Chair Buchanan agrees and adds that in this case the Department needs to even work harder to bring more funds to programs that are underfunded like the hunting program.

Vice Chair Buchanan refers to the minutes from the June 19, 2017 GMAC meeting where James Cogswell (Wildlife Manager) talked about different wildlife programs and projects. She is disappointed that there are not that many hunting and game programs and projects currently under DOFAW. Mr. David Smith adds that this might have been a result of messaging. The majority of the state's forest reserves are open for hunting and there is a lot going on hunting areas and with game.

Vice Chair Buchanan – I can not help to think about hunters in Hilo, when they got Puu Maka Ala re-designated it just killed them the hunters felt that they were left lands that were not sustainable for hunting and the state took the best of the best. It is hard for me to argue because I am a conservationist as well.

Commissioner Cremer has hunted at Puu Maka Ala for the last 20 years but not every year. The designated hunting area there is not worth much. I hunted there 3 years ago and I walked for 10 miles before going into an enclosure that they say there is still hunting available before we could catch a pig. The area does not have many animals, is over grown, there are a lot of buckets and metal pins and all kinds of stuff was left behind after building the fence. If you are going to fence for us like that at least fence it in areas that you can maintain it instead of letting it grow and let the invasive species take over our native forests. You are fencing but are not able to maintain it. Mr. David Smith suggests that the commissioners should go on field trips and take a look at these areas.

Commissioner Kohatsu – At the back of the PR grant proposal there was a section that gave each area a designation (hunting/conservation/game enhancement and so forth). An issue that was discussed for years was if an area is designated a game production area can we then enhance game by using state monies and not federal monies since there are section 7 issues. If you designate an area where we can keep game, can I do anything to actually keep them there versus they just exist by accident. That has been the sentiment for many years. It is only a matter of time till more funding is available to fence and eradicate some more. We can put on a piece of paper what we want to put but then do nothing about it and pick and choose only the sections that you want to do. State has this dual mandate but they have chosen to work heavily on one and not the other. Commissioner Cremer adds that on Kauai bag limits are increased and some units you can hunt in every day without any reason. Commissioner Kohatsu - I personally do not have a problem with no bag limits, if there are tons of game then fine, as long as there is data to support that decision. Mr. David Smith - a lot of time the idea is to provide more access to hunters and if I did not have the data, I would say open it up to hunters and let them figure it out. Because we did not have data that said one way or the other, I did not see a reason why we should put up more restrictions on hunting. My default was to open it up and give hunters more access and let them self regulate which seems they can do pretty well. It does depend on species and the

location though. Vice Chair Buchanan adds that for Molokai, since we are a small Island our community is going to insist for a population assessment before even thinking about a management plan. Its not easy and it will be expensive to do but needs to happen.

Commissioner Ruidas – On Lanai we have 6 more months on our lease and there is 3 more years on the table that needs to be signed. One of the stipulations on that 3-year lease is writing a 10-year management plan that Pulama Lanai has requested. If DOFAW doesn't manage to put together this plan the public hunting land lease will not continue and we will lose our hunting. What we need is financial support to get the Maui staff all the support they need to formulate the management plan. This is the last extension and without a management plan we will lose this land. Mr. David Smith said: "I am sure we can do that".

ITEM 6. Future trainings and workshops for the commissioners.

Vice Chair Buchanan – suggest doing a workshop by Richardson law school for cultural studies to come in and do a workshop (Contact person **Professor Malia akula CHECK & CONFIRM** and Melanie Mckenzie).

Betsy Gagne - In January they do a workshop for all boards and commissions at the Richardson Law School and we will make sure you all get on the mailing list for that. This training is now required by law for all boards and commissions both at the state and county level. There is also a handbook on Hawaiian rights which is a very useful reference.

Mr. David Smith recommended site visits for commissioners in order for them to get familiar with different sites and talk about all kinds of issues for a specific piece of land.

ITEM 7. Set future meeting schedule and potential Agenda items.

Meeting time will be extended because the commissioners felt they needed more time to learn more about different programs and activities and all that DOFAW does. The commission has enough funding to hold 9 meetings in fiscal year 2018 if needed.

Next meeting will be on October 12, 2017 at 10:00 am (at least for 6 hours).

ITEM 8. Announcements.

Dr. Honarvar stated that the GMAC legislative report is due to the Department at the beginning of September and that she will be working on a draft and will send it to the commissioners for their review and approval.

Commissioner Jury – for the next meeting can we ask the Department to give us a comprehensive back ground of each island and their public hunting areas (what they are working with, issues, activities, priority areas). It would be good to get a presentation 2 weeks ahead of

time so that there is enough time to go over it before the GMAC meeting. Vice Chair Buchanan – Kauai can go first during the next meeting and maybe other islands can follow in future meetings.

John Medeiros suggest that the commissioner meet with the DOFAW staff on their own islands to get a better idea of different programs and projects. Mr. David Smith agrees and adds that the commissioners can do a lot of the homework on their own island with the DOFAW staff. We need to try to workout most of the stuff before coming to the meeting and what needs more attention the commissioners can work together on it.

Mr. David Smith suggests maybe we should have the GMAC meetings also on other islands to give the public a chance to attend. All commissioners agree.

Commissioner Cremer and Vice Chair Buchanan add that it would be useful to see the spreadsheet of funding sources and what they are spent on. David Smith adds – they way to look at this is by deciding what the commission would like to get done and how can we fund it. The first thing to do is to get a priority list together so that we can see what are the things that you would like to see accomplished per island.

ITEM 9. Adjourment.

Commissioner Kohatsu - motion to adjourn and motion was second by Commissioner Cremer.

Meeting was successfully adjourned.