

Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)
Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW)
GAME MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING #13
DLNR Board Room 132, Kalanimoku Building
November 19, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Commission: Stanley Ruidas, Lanai (Chair); Nancy Timko, Oahu (Vice Chair); Josiah Jury, Oahu; Ryan Kohatsu, East Hawaii; Kalani Nakoa, Maui; Nelson Rapanot, Molokai; Robert Masuda, Representative of the Chair of DLNR;

DOFAW Staff: Jim Cogswell; Jason Omick; Dietra Myers Tremblay; Kanalu Sprout; Marigold Zoll; Jason Misaki; John Medeiros; Andrew Choy; Darren Ogura; Kathryn Stanaway; Sara Dillman

DOCARE Staff: Andrew Choy; Darren Ogura

Visitors: Charla Schreiber, Missile Defense Agency; Jamey Elliot, Missile Defense Agency; Krista Lizard, University of Hawaii; Liz Loschent, University of Hawaii; Momi Pearlman, University of Hawaii; Savanna Sahara, University of Hawaii; Timothy Ngo, University of Hawaii; Mariah Baker, University of Hawaii; Autumn Moya, University of Hawaii; Emily Gootgeld, University of Hawaii; Emilee Wong, University of Hawaii; Jake Brooks; Bitsy Kelley

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER – 10:08 a.m. – DLNR Board Room

Comm. Masuda called the meeting of the Game Management Advisory Commission to order at 10:08 a.m. (9:12)¹ Comm. Ruidas requests ITEM 2 be moved after ITEM 10. Request approved. Comm. Ruidas requests ITEM 4 be moved after ITEM 16. Request approved.

ITEM 3. ELECT A CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Action Required: Elect a Commission chair and vice chair.

(7:40)¹ Comm. Masuda made a motion to elect Comm. Ruidas as Chair and Comm. Timko as Vice Chair. Comm. Jury seconded. Unanimous, motion passed.

ITEM 5. MISSION DEFENSE PROJECT AT KUAOKALA

¹ Timestamp for the 'GMAC Meeting 13 Part 1' recording.

(12.06)¹ Comm. Jury requested this item after meeting the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) staff at a neighborhood board meeting. This item was brought up due to transparency issues. The community was wondering why DLNR hadn't reached out about the land being utilized on the Game Management Area (GMA). The neighborhood board discussed why they weren't notified or informed by DLNR.

Charla Schreiber provided a quick overview on the project. The Missile Defense Agency is a research development and acquisition organization that is part of the Department of Defense. They develop systems that are used for the war fighters to defend the nation from ballistic missile attack. In 2018, they were given the direction by Congress, under the National Defense Authorization Act, to procure a radar for the defense of Hawaii. The proposed radar in Hawaii would be able to determine where a nuclear warhead is amongst debris and other clutter. Hawaii is in a unique position, sensors need to be here to defend Hawaii. Three sites were narrowed down on Oahu after cultural and environmental assessments. The radar needs the appropriate security and infrastructure. A majority of the compound would sit on State of Hawaii land. The compound needs an area for construction as well. The construction property would go back to the State after the project is complete. There are significant cultural sites on the property. Those sites were identified and are still under discussion. On Thursday, they're going to be back in the Waianae area for further discussion with the hunting community.

Comm. Jury asked about communication and potential mitigation efforts from the MDA. Comm. Masuda replied stating it would be beneficial to have the site next to an existing science facility. The MDA folks engaged local cultural council and their own local staff. The Waianae Neighborhood Board meeting was a public information meeting. The local consultants help MDA decide what groups to meet with. Comm. Masuda emphasized that they have engaged with the community and have addressed the cultural importance. This is still the beginning of the project and DLNR is still waiting for more information in order to properly inform the public. MDA is inquiring with the community about the project and the land. Comm. Masuda encourages the Commissioners to call and ask if there are any questions about the project.

Comm. Masuda asked Comm. Ruidas what information should have been shared about the project. Comm Ruidas stated that a Commissioner should have been informed about the site and there should have been more communication efforts to inform the public. Comm. Masuda emphasized that DLNR is trying to prevent misinformation. The Department has a responsibility to initiate engagement on possible projects; however, this is not considered a possible project until all assessments have been completed.

Comm. Nakoa stated that in the past, the community has been left out. There needs to be transparency and increased efforts in communication. Comm. Timko stated that she has attended previous meetings and understands that assessments are ongoing; however, the issue is that the announcements have been minimal. The community requires more modes of communication for upcoming announcements and public outreach events.

Comm. Jury inquired about the buffer of the project acres taken. Comm. Masuda stated that Comm. Jury represents Oahu and should be meeting with our DOFAW staff and should be involved in the discussions regarding this project.

Action Item 1: Include Comm. Jury on future discussions regarding the missile defense project on Kuaokala.

ITEM 6. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR LANAI GMA

(48:44)¹ Comm. Kohatsu arrived for the meeting at 10:58 a.m. Jason Omick stated that H.T. Harvey and Associates have been hired to write a steering document for the Lanai GMA. DOFAW is in the beginning stages of gathering pre-existing data. There will be a draft in September and there will be a finalized product before the lease is over on Lanai. Comm. Kohatsu inquired about the proposed timeline of completion. Jason Omick stated that the draft steering document will be received in January 31, 2020. There will be thirty (30) days for comment. The second draft is due by June 30, 2020. There will be a two (2) week review. The entire project will be completed by September 30, 2020. The grant end date is December 30, 2020. Once the management plan is completed, there will need to be a board approved Environmental Assessment (EA). The consultant will be engaging with the Lanai Commissioner and all parties representing Lanai as the project continues.

ITEM 7. ISLAND OF HAWAII GAME MANGEMENT PLAN

(59:04)¹ Kanalu Sprout is working with the Island of Hawaii's county GMAC on the game management plan for their island. There was a game management plan for Hawaii Island in 2010. The original game management coordinator for the State, Shaya Honarvar, updated the draft. The county GMAC did not like the document, but they are going to keep the old plan as an appendix. They are going to start with the laws and then draft something smaller that is in accordance with those laws. Comm. Kohatsu emphasized the significance of not having a guiding document for game management since it affects every public hunting resource.

ITEM 8. HUNTING GUIDE UPDATES

(1:04:21)¹ Hunting guide contact information is listed on the DOFAW website. A new reporting form has been developed and is also located on the website. All commissioners have been provided with a handout comparing other state fees and requirements. This information can be used to update the State's hunting guide fees and requirements. There are possible changes for permits that include commercial activity. There needs to be a fee that is decided on and included in the Administrative Rules. There are no professional guide standards for the State and those standards needs to be developed as well.

Comm. Masuda suggested including a Commissioner, who is interested, in the discussion. Comm. Rapanot stated that the fees should be substantially higher and the requirements should be much more strict. Jason Omick stated that DOCARE needs to be brought into the conversation. Comm. Masuda stated that the fines are also minimal.

Action Item 2: A working group, including Comm. Rapanot and DOCARE staff, needs to come up with recommended changes in rules or law.

ITEM 9. PUBLIC SHOOTING RANGE, KAUAI

(1:14:30)¹ Andrew Choy from the Hunter Education Program provided an update on the public shooting range. In 2018, PBR Hawaii was contracted to do a blind GIS study to layer in features on GIS that would constrain sites. There were eight (8) initial locations for site selections and about six (6) or seven (7) of them were on private lands. Another site selection occurred with a broader criterion; however, eight (8) sites were yielded with most on private land. Lastly, a third round of site selections occurred with most sites on private lands. Out of all of that, 2 sites came up that were preferred, and both are Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) lands. They performed an aerial survey with the range architect and determined that sites H and eight (8) of ADC lands are still the preferred sites.

One thing to note – data published by US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Shooting Sports Foundation shows the number of youth participants, which historically gets the most resources from agencies, is declining. All demographics are declining except for the women demographic.

ITEM 10. CIVIL RESOURCE VIOLATION SYSTEM (CRVS)

(1:29)² Kathryn Stanaway is the law fellow for DOFAW and has been working on the CRVS schedule. CRVW is a department-wide administrative penalty. The process is similar to a traffic ticket. Each division has to have a sanction schedule that is board approved and has to go through a public hearing process. That sanction schedule lists out the maximum fine amounts. Those fines can be lowered but they can't be raised, depending on the circumstances of the case. The benefit of the program is that it doesn't go through the court system so it's not a criminal violation, it's administrative. A DOCARE officer would issue a notice of violation to a suspected violator and they would either have to pay a fine or go in front of an administrative hearing officer and have their case heard. If they don't agree with what the administrative hearing officer decides, they can appeal to the board. Then they can appeal to the court system. So, the benefit is that it doesn't go on their record. If people pay the fines, they go into DLNR instead of going into the general funds. DLNR's sanction schedule is in tables but it is currently still being worked on. The timeline for completion is set for next year.

ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action Required: Consider minutes of the Game Management Advisory Commission Meeting of June 25, 2019.

(12:40)² Comm. Timko made a motion to approve the minutes from the GMAC meeting of June 25, 2019. Comm. Jury seconded. Unanimous, motion passed. The Commissioners made a motion for the approval of summary minutes instead of verbatim minutes. Comm. Masuda made a motion

² Timestamp for the 'GMAC Meeting 13 Part 2' recording.

to have summary minutes instead of verbatim minutes. Comm. Timko seconded. Unanimous, motion passed.

Action Item 3: Include “Action Required: Decide between having summary minutes and verbatim minutes” on the agenda for the next meeting (meeting 14).

ITEM 11. FEEDBACK NEEDED FOR UPCOMING HUNTING SURVEY

(23:46)² Commissioners have been provided with a copy of the survey results that were categorized by island residents. Feedback is required from the Commissioners to address the language and content of the previous hunting surveys. The last question of the survey will allow the Commissioners to add additional topics/discussions/or questions to consider for the upcoming survey in 2020. The survey data is used continuously to help guide management. Comm. Kohatsu pointed out that it might be beneficial to tailor the survey questions to island specific issues since the previous surveys have been so broad. For example, access and acquisition may be a priority for some islands but it is not a top priority for the Big Island.

Action Item 5: Jason Omick shall send the link to the feedback survey.

Action Item 6: Commissioners shall provide feedback before the next GMAC meeting in January.

Action Item 7: Distribute the hunting survey questions for review to the Commission and the appropriate staff prior to the release date.

Action Item 8: Consider “Do you want to eradicate your hunting areas?” or similar question on the upcoming survey and tailor the questions to represent the appropriate demographics.

ITEM 12. HUNTING LICENSE RENEWAL EXTENSION

(18:58)² Jason Omick addressed extending the hunting license renewal process for experienced hunters so they can have a license for five (5) years. There has not been a chance for public opinion, so he suggested adding this topic in the next hunting survey. This change would require a rule change so it may take some time. A year-round hunting license has also been proposed. All licenses are reported to the USFWS so that process must be stable. Incentives will need to be considered for this as well. Comm. Masuda stated that Commissioners should receive copies of draft documents with corresponding dates for future revisions or updates.

Licenses are free for senior residents; however, they must purchase the stamps. Seniors are considered sixty-five (65) years and older. Comm. Kohatsu provided input saying that as an experienced hunter, he would not buy a five (5) year license because he’s not sure if the areas he hunts in would continue to have viable game species.

Action Item 9: Include the license renewal extension topic as a question in the upcoming hunting survey.

***Action Item 10:** Include the Commissioners in all draft documents (with the dates) related to the hunting license renewal extension.*

ITEM 13. LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

(38:10)² Jason Omick asked who would be submitting the legislative report and wanted to ensure reports are submitted on time. Jim Cogswell mentioned that September is the internal deadline for legislative reports. If DOFAW is submitting the report on behalf of the Commission, the report must be written and have feedback before the internal deadline. Comm. Masuda suggested promoting a partnership between the designated GMAC commissioner(s) and the staff members. Comm. Masuda also recommends switching the reporting year from the calendar year to the fiscal year. Legislative reports need to be submitted to the Hawaii Legislature twenty (20) days before session. The final version of the legislative report needs to be approved by the Commission. There should be a meeting with the Chair prior to submission as well.

***Action Item 11:** Include “Action Required: Decide who is going to be submitting the legislative report” on the agenda for the next meeting (meeting 14).*

***Action Item 12:** Propose a bill that would change the statutes to have the Commission report by fiscal year rather than calendar year (bill intro cutoff is January 23, 2020).*

***Action Item 13:** Ensure the Commission has ten (10) days to comment on the report and have a face-to-face meeting or phone call prior to final submission.*

ITEM 14. PUUWAAWAA/NAPUU HCP UPDATE

(56:58)² Comm. Masuda reported that staff members looked at the Puuwaawaa/Napuu issues and the project is a work in progress. The project is tedious, and the goal is to have something completed in the next year or two. They are working on a concept to have an integrated natural resources program. Instead of addressing singular items, they look at the program with program parts. Ungulates, fire control, grazing, non-grazing, fencing all make sense when you look at the whole project.

Comm. Kohatsu shared his concern that what is happening with this plan is what might ultimately happen with Lanai’s plan. Create an EA, figure out the hunting, the priority is endangered species, but it evolved into having the stakeholders consistently unhappy. Creating a plan is great but the reality is that people with bigger political sales get what they want.

Comm. Masuda asked Kanalu Sprout to provide a progress report by the end of the first quarter of next year to identify the problems and address ongoing issues. Comm. Masuda asked Comm. Kohatsu to provide guidance on this project if there are any future concerns. Comm. Kohatsu expressed further concerns regarding non-listed species and the overall progression of the project. He would like leadership to come up with some sort of official communication to have to project move forward. The leadership could set the tone of progress. Comm. Kohatsu stated that he may write a letter explaining his concerns regarding progress.

Action Item 14: Kanalu Sprout will provide a progress report for the Puuwaawaa/Napuu HCP by the end of the first quarter of 2020.

ITEM 15. 3C GOAT GRAZING PILOT PROJECT

(1:23:59)² Jason Omick stated that an individual from the Big Island asked about this agenda item and that individual is not present. Comm. Masuda asked to put this item on the next agenda.

Action Item 15: Include '3C Goat Grazing Pilot Project' in the next GMAC meeting (14) agenda.

ITEM 16. COMMISSIONER ISLAND REPORT

16-I **MOLOKAI.** (1:24:55)² Comm. Rapanot stated that he has not met with DOFAW and a hunting group was made on Molokai. There has been one meeting so far, with nothing to report on that. Comm. Masuda requests that DOFAW staff meet with Comm. Rapanot. Jason Omick stated that they work with Maui Nui so Shane or John from Maui will work with him. Comm. Masuda stated that Commissioners should have access to DOFAW staff at least once a month. Comm. Ruidas stated that he usually corresponds with Shane.

Action Item 16: Contact the appropriate DOFAW representatives to coordinate a monthly meeting with Comm. Rapanot.

16-II **LANAI.** (1:27:22)² Comm. Ruidas stated that Lanai has had more deer applications that ever before. They used to have only does but they have introduced bucks for next season. Housing will be tight. Construction has slowed down but it will still be tight. The report about the wildlife management plan being awarded to HT Harvey, as stated by Jason Omick, is similar to Comm. Ruidas' report. The expected timeline is hopefully sooner than expected and the update will help. In March, a biologist from the mainland will come over and work on DNA research on axis deer. There will be a community meeting so he can present what he knows. He has knowledge to determine what age the axis deer are. He will be collecting DNA samples and the staff will have access to the information. Melanie from Lanai is spearheading the coordination of this project. Bird season started, there were a few hunters. Unit three (3) is where most of the birds are coming from. That should be turned into a better food plot for the next season. They have the materials but not the man-power. They have Erckel's Francolins, Gray Francolins, Chukar, a few dove species, Wild Turkeys, and Pheasants.

16-III **MAUI.** (1:31:24)² Comm. Nakoa attended the last DOFAW meeting on Maui and they discussed the possible hunting areas and guidelines involved with hunting deer, pigs, and goats. They also discussed the numbers regarding population control and the overall timeline. Some community members came and for the most part, the meeting was pretty positive. Comm. Nakoa stated that he does not want DOFAW to go and eradicate all of the goats on the hunting lands discussed. He would prefer to have sustainable hunting. They came up with a five (5) year plan and that plan will open-up to the public soon. He hopes that this plan will set an example for other islands. Maui's logistics are different since a lot of the animals are on private land, compared to the animals on public lands on Big Island.

16-IV **OAHU.**

(1:35:39)² Comm. Timko met with Jason Misaki and received Nick Vargas's report regarding the bird release program in Kailua. The birds were released in Kuaokala. So far, the hunters have had positive experiences hunting.

(1:36:53)² Comm. Jury stated that he received his report until the night prior at 5 p.m. and had not had the chance to review the document. He said it can feel like a "one-man band" and doesn't know what questions to ask because he does not know what exists out there. He said that is the biggest frustration because since he has a conservation background, he knows where to look. Comm. Masuda stated that reports should be given two (2) weeks prior to the meetings. Comm. Timko asked Jason Misaki for an update and received the report at 5:00 p.m. the night prior and didn't see the email until 8:00 p.m. Jason Omick and Comm. Masuda agreed that the reports and updates need to be delivered in advance with enough time for review.

Action Item 17: Ensure reports, updates, and important information is sent out to Commissioners with enough time for review. Have the Oahu Branch provide reports with enough time to review.

16-V **EAST HAWAII.** (1:36:26)² Comm. Kohatsu stated that his report items were discussed during previous agenda items from this meeting.

Comm. Ruidas asked Comm. Masuda about the current Commission vacancies. Comm. Masuda stated that they are still looking for people who are passionate about the subject to apply. The vacancies include Kauai and West Hawaii. Applications must be submitted online through the DOFAW website. Comm. Masuda asked Commissioners to encourage others to apply for the positions. Comm. Ruidas asked to investigate Comm. Jury's official term.

Action Item 18: Look into Comm. Jury's official term on the Commission and the corresponding dates.

ITEM 4. DECIDE ON A FIXED DATE FOR GMAC MEETINGS

Action Required: Decide on a fixed date for the future GMAC meetings to avoid scheduling conflicts.

(1:45:15)² Comm. Ruidas stated that meeting should be every other month and that some meetings have been on other islands in the past. He stated that GMAC there should be a meeting on Maui and that meetings in the afternoon would encourage more of the public to attend. Comm. Masuda suggested having meeting start at 5:00 p.m. The Commissioners discussed the best days for them to meet. Comm. Jury preferred Fridays and Mondays as the alternative. Comm. Kohatsu stated that any day would work for him. Comm. Masuda preferred Wednesdays or Thursdays. Comm. Timko stated that she was available except for the third Wednesday of every month due to a fixed meeting with a client. Comm. Nakoia preferred Fridays. Comm. Rapanot preferred Wednesdays and Thursdays. After discussion, Thursday afternoons (usually during the third week of the month,

unless there was a holiday or conflict) at 5:00 p.m. were decided on. The Commission decided that the next meeting will be on January 23rd at 5:00 p.m at Oahu. Comm. Ruidas emphasized that the meets are limited to two (2) hours. The next meeting will be on April 16th at 5:00 p.m. on Maui. The following meeting will be on June 18th at 5:00 p.m. on Oahu. The last scheduled (in advance) meeting will be on August 13th at 5:00 p.m. on Oahu. Meetings after August will be scheduled in future meetings. Previous GMAC meetings have been held on Kauai and Hilo, there has never been a meeting on Maui.

ITEM 17. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE AND AGENDA ITEMS

(2:03:44)² Potential agenda items and flight times must be emailed to Jason Omick prior to the next meeting.

ITEM 18. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(2:04:56)² No announcements.

ITEM 19. ADJOURNMENT

(2:04:58)² Comm. Ruidas adjourned the Game Management Advisory Commission Meeting at 1:46 p.m.