

Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW)  
**GAME MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING #14**  
DLNR Board Room 132, Kalanimoku Building  
January 23, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT:

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

DOFAW Staff: Jim Cogswell; Jason Omick; Sheri Mann; Emma Yuen; Sara Dillman

Visitors: Mary Rapanot; Jacquie Robson

**ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER – 5:00 p.m. – DLNR Board Room**

(3:25) Comm. Ruidas called the meeting of the Game Management Advisory Commission to order at 5:00 p.m. Commissioner Nakoa will be arriving later in the meeting. No move-ups requested.

**ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Action Required:** Approval of minutes from the November 19, 2019 GMAC meeting.

(5:06) Comm. Timko made a motion to approve the minutes from November 19, 2019. Comm. Kohatsu seconded. Unanimous, motion passed.

**ITEM 3. VERBATIM OR SUMMARY MINTUES**

**Action Required:** Decide on having verbatim minutes or summary minutes.

(5:41) Comm. Timko made a motion to provide summary minutes instead of verbatim minutes for future GMAC meetings. Comm. Kohatsu seconded. Unanimous, motion passed.

**ITEM 4. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

**Action Required:** Decide who is going to be submitting the legislative report.

(8:15) Comm. Ruidas explained that DOFAW staff have previously drafted the legislative report and the Commissioners then reviewed and made changes to the report. Comm. Kohatsu made a motion to have DOFAW staff submit the legislative report. Comm. Timko seconded. Unanimous, motion passed.

## ITEM 5. NĀ PALI LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROJECT

(10:28) Sheri Mann, the DOFAW branch manager on Kauai, provided a quick overview on the project. The Nā Pali Landscape Restoration Strategy includes many actions, interests, stakeholder groups and lots of biodiversity.

(11:49) The Honopū Seabird Conservation Strategy is a joint partnership between DOFAW and the Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI), a DOD funded entity usually used to acquire lands. This is the first project where REPI money is being used for endangered species mitigation rather than buying/acquiring land. They approached DOFAW via the naval base on Kauai to protect endangered seabirds. The plan is to use a predator proof fence that would be five (5) to six (6) acres then to add an ungulate proof fence that is around two hundred and fifty (250) acres and then inside the fencing, they would take out all the predators and ungulates and continue to maintain that area. Include social attraction mechanisms inside the fencing to nest and breed, while protected. This is a fully funded plan and hope to start within the next three (3) to six (6) months. This is in the western upper edge of Kauai in the Nā Pali area. There are no lights, telephone lights in the area. The predators include rats, cats, pigs and barn owls. The idea is to protect the endangered plants in that area at the same time.

(15:03) Another initiative is the Honopū Predator Control Action Plan. That is a little more detail that includes DOFAW managed lands on the Nā Pali coast as well as State Parks managed lands. State Parks is having a lot of issues with predator control and it is interfering with human recreation initiatives. They allow archery that is very regulated. They are interested in partnering with DOFAW to offer more targeted hunting, some firearms, some dog and knife, etc. DOFAW would help put those lotteries on and to help with seasonal permits. Some of the forest birds/sea birds are so endangered that DOFAW is working on relocating them to other islands.

(22:20) The Plant Extinction Prevention Program is working on protecting the endangered/native plants which may include out planting, fencing, propagation, etc. There are three (3) species of rats, six (6) species of mosquitoes, barn owls, cats, dogs in the area. Some of the ungulate threats can use more hunting, relaxed rules, different types of hunting in different areas and trying to get more hunters in focused areas. Invasive plants are also a major threat with flammable vegetation. The website will be updated in the near future to include photos of different projects, areas that are closed, EA's, plans, and GIS layered maps.

## ITEM 6. HUNTING SURVEY FEEDBACK

(50:43) Jason Omick wanted additional comments on the hunting survey feedback received from Commissioners. The information was gathered for further review among Commissioners. Comm. Ruidas wants a GMAC related question on the survey to see if people know what GMAC is.

*Action Item 1: Include a question on the survey regarding GMAC and some conflicts that have been mentioned in GMAC meetings.*

Jason Omick requested the Commissioners to provide comments or concerns on the survey by email. Comm. Ruidas explains that people may not know where to find the survey. Jason Omick responds by suggesting other means of communication, such as the newspaper. Comm. Kohatsu couldn't access the survey on his computer and requests the link to be open for a longer duration.

Comm. Ruidas emphasized that not enough hunters are expressing their concerns and DOFAW should look for ways to get more hunters involved in the upcoming survey. Comm. Timko suggested having the survey at the hunter check in station and when they buy their tags. Jason Omick stated that all the above can be included with the upcoming mobile application.

*Action Item 2: Send the hunting survey feedback to the Commissioners for further review. Jason Omick will compile the information so Commissioners can review the information.*

### **ITEM 7. MODIFICATION OF LOTTERY**

(1:02:52) Comm. Ruidas asked to have this item on the agenda. Comm. Ruidas spoke with Shane due to the influx of hunters asking about lottery results. People at the lottery get their results there and people that did not attend the lottery get their results after the event, a week later in the mail. Shane is exploring how they can provide real-time results for the Lanai lottery. Comm. Masuda explains that it is a good idea and that the technology is there. Jason Omick stated that it should send an email to the recipient as the lottery results are being conducted. He will begin working with Hawaii Information Consortium, the people that manage the website for the Lanai results, on adding that attribute. The main issue is that hunters aren't having enough time to plan once they receive their mail-in lottery results. Comm. Timko reinforced that by the time the hunters get the information, those that have the information real-time have already booked their housing and vehicles. After one week, the limited supply is booked and full.

*Action Item 3: Jason Omick needs to work on getting the real-time results published for the Lanai lottery. i.e. who is in charge, how we are going to provide that information, etc. Put this item on the next agenda (the meeting in Maui).*

### **ITEM 8. COMMISSIONER ISLAND REPORTS**

- 7-I **MAUI.** (1:07:48) Comm. Nakoa stated he met up with Shane and John to discuss potential bow hunting areas on Maui. He is concerned with how the process works within DOFAW. It appears the admin office plays a large role in acquisition and that it takes a long time to get any sort of response from the admin office. There are a lot of feral pigs on the private lands in Maui. Comm. Nakoa communicated what he has been seeing and hearing on the island to Maui DOFAW staff.
- 7-II **WEST HAWAII.** (1:11:28) Comm. Mossman stated that he does not have anything to report on since he is brand new to the Commission.
- 7-III **EAST HAWAII.** (1:11:37) Comm. Kohatsu stated that he did not have too much correspondence with the staff over the holidays; however, he learned that about \$3.6 million

were spent in 2002 in order to get the Puuwaawaa plan completed. Comm. Kohatsu is just waiting for that plan to come to fruition. Jason Omick stated that he brought out a USFWS representative to review the area and the ongoing plan. Comm. Kohatsu expressed his concern that what has delayed the plans all these years has been the constant turn-over of staff. Comm. Masuda states that the plan has an expiration date of December 2022.

7-IV **LANAI.** (1:18:03) Comm. Ruidas stated that on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. a graduate student from the mainland in coming to Lanai to present his study on axis deer. This study includes genetics, age determination, etc. Many people have applied for the lottery this year since the bucks are include. Comm. Ruidas is working on getting a D6 for Lanai to help fix roads and work on fire control. Harvey and Associates in still involved in writing the management plan and Comm. Ruidas is working on getting a post-check from them. Comm. Kohatsu stated that he has gotten many more inquiries about Lanai due to social media.

7-V **OAHU.** (1:23:11) Comm. Timko stated that she did not physically meet up with DOFAW staff but received the December report from Nick Vargas on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Bird season went really well, hunters having nothing but good things to say. However, hunters did mention that the field needs to be cleaned up and pretty soon it is not going to be bird habitat if they don't clear the area.

7-VI **MOLOKAI.** (1:23:46) Comm. Rapanot stated that he met with Tony and spoke with Shane about concerns on Molokai. They discussed illegal guide licenses and law enforcement. DOFAW staff understand; however, nothing is being done about these regulations. On Molokai, people are posting on social media that they hunt during the week, showing people where they hunt, and when the season is closed. Comm. Rapanot asked who is supposed to be enforcing this? Comm. Rapanot also wanted to know what the repercussions are for unlawful hunting activities. People on Molokai are worrying about the lack of enforcement on the island. Another issue is that the island is overrun by deer. The Commission mentioned having a special permit for the axis deer issue; however, Jason Omick stated that the administrative rules allow for deer on Molokai, when encountered on public hunting areas, can be taken. Comm. Rapanot suggested having the State fund hunting area gates to help with the enforcement issue. Comm. Masuda stated that it might help Molokai residents to have a press/news release regarding deer hunting. Comm. Rapanot emphasized that residents think that they are hunting deer illegally; however, DOFAW would like to better communication to inform hunters of the correct protocols for deer hunting. Comm. Ruidas stated that special assignments for DOCARE may be necessary for certain hunting seasons, such as the Lanai season. Comm. Rapanot mentioned a bill that limits gun magazines to 10 or 5 rounds. Comm. Ruidas stated that the bill also limits 'ghost guns'.

*Action Item 4: Comm. Masuda wants Jason Omick to speak to the Maui Nui staff to set up some solutions to address the above concerns (deer issue, enforcement, and guide licenses).*

*Action Item 5: Comm. Ruidas needs to email Comm. Masuda regarding the special assignments for DOCARE officers during hunting seasons.*

## **ITEM 9. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE AND AGENDA ITEMS**

(1:43:20) The next meeting is set for April 16, 2020 in Maui and 5:00 p.m. All potential agenda items need to be sent to Jason Omick before the next meeting. Jason Omick reminded Commissioners to prepare travel in advance. Additional meetings can be scheduled out at future meetings. Comm. Rapanot preferred having meetings in the morning; however, Comm. Nakoa would prefer evening meetings.

*Action Item 6: Determine what times the next GMAC meetings will work for Commissioners.*

## **ITEM 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(1:51:52) No announcements.

## **ITEM 11. ADJOURNMENT**

(1:52:00) Comm. Ruidas adjourned the Game Management Advisory Commission Meeting at 6:51 p.m.