

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
*KA MOKU 'ĀINA O HAWAII*

**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
*KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA*

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**ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT RULE CHANGES FOR HAWAII ISLAND**

***Upcoming Updates to Hawaii Island Game Bird and Game Mammal  
Hunting Rules***

**HILO, HAWAII** — The Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) offers the following clarification about upcoming changes to hunting rules on Hawaii Island related to adaptive management authority for game birds and game mammals.

On March 08, 2024, the Board of Land and Natural Resources [approved adaptive management rule changes](#) for Hawaii Island under Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) [Chapter 13-122 \(Game Birds\)](#) and [Chapter 13-123 \(Game Mammals\)](#). These adaptive rules included adjustments to season lengths, bag limits, and tag requirements for several hunting areas on Hawaii Island. The adaptive management rules took effect on March 18, 2024, and are scheduled to expire on March 18, 2026.

Tagged hunts conducted under these adaptive management rules will continue through the expiration date of March 18, 2026. Upon expiration, and until further Board action, all hunts will **temporarily revert** to the standard rules and exhibits currently listed in:

[Exhibit 1 of HAR Chapter 13-122 \(Game Birds\)](#), and

[Exhibit 11 of HAR Chapter 13-123 \(Game Mammals\)](#).

DOFAW has been actively working to extend adaptive management for Hawaii Island and plans to submit a proposed adaptive management rule change for Board consideration.

The Board is scheduled to hear this item at its **May 08, 2026**, meeting.

## Temporary Rule Reversion Period

Due to the timing between the current rule expiration and the next applicable Board meeting date, there will be a temporary period starting from March 18, 2026, during which hunting rules on Hawai'i Island will revert to the existing HAR [Chapter 13-122](#) and [13-123](#) exhibits adopted prior to the adaptive management changes.

DOFAW recognizes that this temporary reversion may be confusing for both the hunting public and enforcement officers. The Department is committed to working closely with conservation and enforcement staff during this period to help educate hunters and ensure understanding of the applicable rules.

The primary hunting opportunities affected during this temporary reversion include:

- Pu'u Anahulu Archery Season
- Pu'u Wa'awa'a Archery Season
- Spring Turkey Season on Hawai'i Island

Hunters are strongly encouraged to purchase their hunting tags **in person after the March 18, 2026, expiration date**. Please review current regulations carefully and stay informed as the Board meeting approaches.

**\*NOTE: To honor participants of the Youth/Disabled Pu'u Wa'awa'a hunts, the 2026 season will proceed under the current Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) Title 13, Chapter 123 – Rules Regulating Game Mammal Hunting. This ensures that disabled hunters can participate in the 2026 season without delay, rather than waiting for the implementation of new adaptive management rules in the following year. As a result, the Youth/Disabled Pu'u Wa'awa'a hunts will occur concurrently in August 2026. The adaptive management rule changes described above will take effect thereafter.**

DOFAW appreciates the patience and cooperation of Hawai'i's hunting community and enforcement partners during this transition period. Officers and members of the public seeking clarification are encouraged to contact DOFAW directly for assistance.

For detailed information on these measures, please visit the DOFAW website or contact the Hilo DOFAW office at (808) 974-4221.

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**RESOURCES**

Legal Notice – 04/02/2026 HI Adaptive Management Public Notice:  
<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/recreation/files/2026/04/Legal-Notice-HI-Adaptive-Management-Public-Notice-DGS-1-signed.pdf>

HAWAII ISLAND - NOTICE OF ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT RULE CHANGES:  
<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/recreation/files/2026/04/Exhibit-View-Notice-AMRC-2026-2.pdf>

2024 Executed Adaptive Management Rule Changes. Effective March 18, 2024- Island of Hawaii: <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dofaw/files/2024/03/Adaptive-Management-March-8-2024.pdf>

Administrative Rules of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife & Adaptive Management Authority: <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dofaw/rules/>

Title 13, Chapter 122, Rules Regulating Game Bird Hunting, Hawai'i Administrative Rules: <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dofaw/files/2013/09/HAR-122-Game-Birds.pdf>

Title 13, Chapter 123, Rules Regulating Game Mammal Hunting, Hawai'i Administrative Rules: <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dofaw/files/2013/09/HAR-123-Game-Mammals.pdf>

Explore Outdoor Hawai'i Hunting Page: <https://outdoor.hawaii.gov/hunting/>