

**REPORT TO THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
STATE OF HAWAII
2018 REGULAR SESSION**

**RELATING TO HUNTING AND THE GAME MANAGEMENT ADVISORY
COMMISSION**

Prepared by

STATE OF HAWAII
GAME MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

In response to Section 183D-4.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes

December 2017

GAME MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

PURPOSE

Act 210, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2016, amended Chapter 183D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by adding a new section (Section 183D-4.5) to establish the Game Management Advisory Commission to serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. This section also requires an annual report to be submitted by the Game Management Advisory Commission of its efforts to comply with Act 210, SLH 2016, including a summary of its activities during the year preceding the regular legislative session for which the report was prepared.

INTRODUCTION

The Game Management Advisory Commission is made up of nine members. Eight members were appointed by the Governor in the manner provided by Section 26-34, HRS:

- (1) One member from the County of Kauai;
- (2) Three members from the County of Maui, with one member from each of the Islands of Maui, Lanai, and Molokai;
- (3) Two members from the County of Hawaii, with one member from West Hawaii and one member from East Hawaii;
- (4) One member from the City and County of Honolulu;
- (5) One at-large member; and
- (6) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources or the Chairperson's designated representative, who shall serve as an ex officio voting member;

Committee on Water and Land (Committee), to which was referred Governor's Message Nos. 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, and 824, submitting for study and consideration the nominations of:

G.M. No. 817	ROBERT CREMER, for a term to expire 06-30-2019;
G.M. No. 818	NANCY TIMKO, for a term to expire 06-30-2020;
G.M. No. 819	RYAN KOHATSU, for a term to expire 06-30-2020;
G.M. No. 820	JOSIAH JURY, for a term to expire 06-30-2019;
G.M. No. 821	LORI BUCHANAN, for a term to expire 06-30-2019;

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| G.M. No. 822 | JEFFERY DEREGO,
for a term to expire 06-30-2020; |
| G.M. No. 823 | STANLEY RUIDAS,
for a term to expire 06-30-2018; and |
| G.M. No. 824 | JON SABATI,
for a term to expire 06-30-2018, |

Committee has reviewed the personal histories, resumes, and statements submitted by the nominees and finds Robert Cremer, Nancy Timko, Ryan Kohatsu, Josiah Jury, Lori Buchanan, Jeffery DeRego, Stanley Ruidas, and Jon Sabati to possess the requisite qualifications to be nominated to the Game Management Advisory Commission. The Committee has found the nominees to be qualified for the positions to which nominated and recommends that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations. The Senate confirmed.

GAME MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETINGS

After the formation of the commission, a total of three Game Management Advisory Commission meetings were held.

JUNE 19, 2017

The first meeting was held on June 19, 2017 at 9:00 am in DLNR Board room 132, Kalanimoku Building, 1151 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu. Before the start of the meeting, the commissioners took the Oath of Office in the presence of a notary. All above mentioned commissioners attended this first meeting except commissioner Jeffery DeRego.

After the meeting was called to order and introductions were made, the responsibilities of commissioners were reviewed by reading sections of the HB 1041 under section 183D-4.5. Ms. Suzanne Case announced that her designee for this board is Mr. Kekoa Kaluhiwa (Ex-officio voting member). A commission Chair and Vice Chair were selected from the appointed members. Commissioner Jon Sabati was appointed the Chair of the commission and Commissioner Lori Buchanan the Vice Chair. Commissioners received training by the Hawaii State Ethics Commission and by the Office of Information Practices (Sunshine Law).

Each commissioner discussed what they hope to accomplish during their term of service on the commission and what issues they believe that the commission should address. These included: open and transparent communication, access to hunting areas, more hunting opportunities, the addition of new lands to the public hunting inventory, finding balance between protecting native ecosystems and sustainable hunting, the importance of hunting to the economy, the development of a sustainable hunting plan and an apprentice hunting program, food safety and security, establishing shooting ranges, protecting cultural subsistence practices, the eradication of wildlife, loss of hunting habitat, expanding and moving the hunting program forward, enhancing the quality of game animals, aerial shooting and other management tools.

The commission was then provided a brief introduction of various Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) programs (Wildlife, Forestry, Native Ecosystem Protection and Management, Na Ala Hele), DOFAW aerial shooting policy, and the Wai‘anae Aerial Shoot Plan for the control of feral goats. Information regarding the Hunter Education Program was also presented.

A member of the public who has practiced subsistence hunting throughout his life questioned how the State of Hawaii would compensate him for his loss of “meat” from his diet and the diets of his future generations due to the eradication of their protein sources. The state had no response.

Action items:

- The commissioners suggested that they could use the funds to hold GMAC meetings, offsite visits for commissioners and bring district biologists to the GMAC meeting. Chair Sabati asked the commissioners if they are all in favor of using these funds for travel and transcription, Robert Cremer made a motion and Nancy Timko second the motion. In addition, vote taken to approve budgeting \$2000.00 to retain someone to help with the meeting minutes.
- Create a comprehensive and prioritized list of hunting and wildlife related issues per island.

After the first meeting, Mr. Kekoa Kaluhiwa left DLNR. The new chairperson’s designated representative, Mr. David Smith (Administrator, Division of Forestry and Wildlife), now serves as an ex-officio voting member.

AUGUST 17, 2017

The second meeting was held on August 17, 2017 at 1:00 pm in DLNR Board room 132, Kalanimoku Building, 1151 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu. All Commissioners attended this meeting except for commissioner Jeffery DeRego.

Commissioners had questions for DLNR/DOFAW staff relating to the informational briefing on the Waianae Aerial Shoot presented to GMAC at the June 19, 2017 meeting. Aerial shooting of ungulates as a management tool has been a source of contention between hunters and DLNR and much of the meeting was spent discussing it. Reports to GMAC members from hunters involved in pro-hunting legislation agree that during discussions with the Department specifically for aerial shooting, the Department represented that it would engage in discussions with communities affected by the use of aerial shooting as a management tool. Several suggestions to improve communication between hunters and the Department were discussed and a highlight was the DOFAW Administrator’s suggestion for commissioners to meet *personally* with their island DOFAW staff to discuss island issues. This suggestion/directive was well received by the commission.

Action items:

- The commission voted to send a letter to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) requesting that DOFAW put a “hold” on the Waianae Aerial Shoot Plan until the GMAC could further review the Department’s policy and obtain more information.

The commission voted to convene a committee to specifically address DLNR/DOFAW aerial shooting policy. The commission also voted that the two Oahu members would serve on that committee.

- The commission voted to write a letter to the BLNR and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to inquire about the status of negotiations related to the leasing of land for hunting on Kauai and Hawaii Island.

The Commission requested that the Chair inquire about the status of Commissioner Jeffery DeRego.

OCTOBER 12, 2017

The third meeting was held on October 12, 2017 at 10:00 am in DLNR Board room 132, Kalanimoku Building, 1151 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu. All Commissioners attended this meeting except for commissioner Jeffery DeRego.

During this meeting the minutes of the June 19, 2017 meeting were approved, David Smith abstaining. Follow up discussion regarding action items from the August 17, 2017 meeting were discussed:

Letter to BLNR in regards to Waianae Aerial Shooting Plan for the control of feral goats on Oahu. There was much discussion on this issue because soon after the August 17, 2017 meeting where the GMAC conveyed to DOFAW that more discussion should occur before commencing with the killing of goats in Waianae by helicopter, the Waianae Aerial shoot was initiated. DOFAW apologized for the unintentional oversight and reiterated their commitment to meet with GMAC commissioners on each island.

Additional issues discussed included: the need for the Hawaii Island game management plan (that was initiated many years ago) to be revisited, the creation of a comprehensive list of issues by island, encouraging the Department to move on filling vacant DOFAW positions, the need to discuss hunting on DHHL lands, the Mokai lease Hawaii island, DLNR permits to DHHL for aerial herding of goats, Habitat Conservation Plans, hunter check-in station and data collection, community outreach, new technologies (iSportsman), wanton waste laws, hunter safety, and the Natural Area Reserve System.

Action items:

- Work to get the Honolulu Board of Water Supply into discussions with DOFAW about their Waianae land holdings and ungulate control.
- Commissioners to create a “Stakeholder List” for the Department from interested persons from their island that want to be included in discussions on hunting issues.

- Commissioners to work on creating committees on their islands of people interested in hunting issues to help in distributing and receiving hunting concerns.
- Request funding from Legislature to complete a game management plan for the Island of Lanai.
- Review potential for neighbor island meetings and site visits.