

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement
Hawaii Hunter Education Program
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

November 10, 2020

Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

REQUEST REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ONLINE COURSE UPDATES
TO THE HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM CURRICULUM.

I. SUMMARY:

The Hunter Education Program (Program) and its curriculum is mandated under Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), §183D-28 to provide instruction in hunter safety, principles of conservation, and sportsmanship. For the purposes of maintaining national standards, and to make hunter education more accessible to the public the Program is respectfully requesting review and approval of online course updates to the Hunter Education Program curriculum.

II. BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

The Program's existing curriculum, which involves twelve hours of classroom instruction (lecture and video), has been substantially updated in over fifteen years. In these fifteen years prior, there have been significant developments in the fields of firearms and archery safety and hunter education nationwide. Hawaii's current curriculum has updates to meet national standards for hunter education, which are determined by the federal government (50 CFR 80.5; 521 FW 1) and the International Hunter Education Association-USA (IHEA). In order to maintain national standards and to make hunter education more accessible to the public and at a decreased cost to the State, the Program added the "on-line hybrid course" in 2017. This allowed more accessibility to the public who were unable to take the traditional 12 hour in person course. Data from the 2015 IHEA national conference indicate that forty-nine states are implementing a form of online hunter education. These standardized online courses are provided by third party vendors which are approved by the IHEA. These standardized online courses are expedient in making hunter education more accessible, while maintaining course consistency. Furthermore, student evaluations which are completed at the end of each hunter education course reflect an ongoing demand for updated curricula and increased course availability.

A. ONLINE ONLY COURSE

The Program would like to expand certification options for the public by offering an online hunter education course (approximately eight hours). This online course is intended to

complement the existing traditional course and provide an additional certification option for students. Students will, therefore, have the option to either attend the traditional twelve-hour classroom course *or* an online only course, which can be completed directly online. The course exam on both courses are recognized, approved and meets standards by IHEA.

The online course follows the format of the student manual and covers the same nine (9) units with additional 2 units specifically for Hawaii: Introduction to Hunter Education, Know Your Firearm Equipment, Basic Shooting Skills, Basic Hunting Skills, Primitive Hunting Equipment and Techniques, Be a Safe Hunter, Be a Responsible and Ethical Hunter, Preparation and Survival Skills, Wildlife Conservation, Hawaii Hunting Rules and Regulations with Hawaii Wildlife Identification Guide, and an Interactive Virtual Field Day.

It will consist of our approved Hybrid online course with the addition of:

- Better instructions and graphics in Field Dressing Larger Game (Unit 4-Field Care of Game)
- Field Dressing Game Birds (Unit 4-Field Care of Game)
- Unit 10 “Hawaii Hunting Rules and Regulations with Hawaii Wildlife Identification Guide”
- Unit 11 “Interactive Virtual Field Day”
- Hawaii specific final test questions (51-60)

The content between the student manual and online course is identical. However, the online course includes additional illustrations, photographs, animations, and instructional videos, appropriate for an online course format. These videos will be the same as those described above, which will be shown in the traditional course.

Additionally, each unit of the online course will have a mandatory quiz, which students must complete and pass before advancing to the next unit. The quiz questions will be generated from a pool of unit questions. Quizzes are graded automatically and students are notified of their scores immediately. A test critique will also be dynamically generated for the student to review.

Once the student has successfully completed all units of the online course he/she will be eligible to take the final exam. Upon successful completion of the online course and exam, the vendor will provide daily notifications to the Program with those who have successfully completed the course. The Program then issues the Hawaii Hunter Education Certification.

This proposed online course is produced by the same vendor that supplies the current Hunter Education Hybrid Course and Boater Education Course, approved by National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, which is currently in use by the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation.

III. CONCLUSION

All updated materials will be compliant with federal standards and provided by a single IHEA approved vendor that has been selected through the Hawaii Electronic Procurement System.

Due to Covid-19 and constant changes in our State’s restrictions, this is timely and needed in meeting the needs of the public in a safe and healthy manner. The online only course will allow

more accessibility to the public as a whole. Nationwide, 31 other states now have an online only Hunter Education course and appear to be successful in certifying ethical and safe hunters.

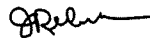
In addition, since Covid-19, our Program has had a back log of students waiting to complete the In-person conclusion portion of our Hybrid course (see attached by month). To alleviate this problem, the Program can approve those who have completed the Hybrid course from July 2019 to present to use their account and complete the Hawaii portion of the online only course at no additional cost. This course is not intended to replace the traditional instructor live course but provides another option for our students now and in the future.

III. RECOMMENDATION:

“That the Board of Land and Natural Resources:

- 1) Approve updates to the Hunter Education Program’s online curriculum.

Respectfully submitted,

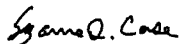


JASON K. REDULLA, Enforcement Chief
Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement



DARREN M. OGURA, Acting Manager
Hunter Education Program

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



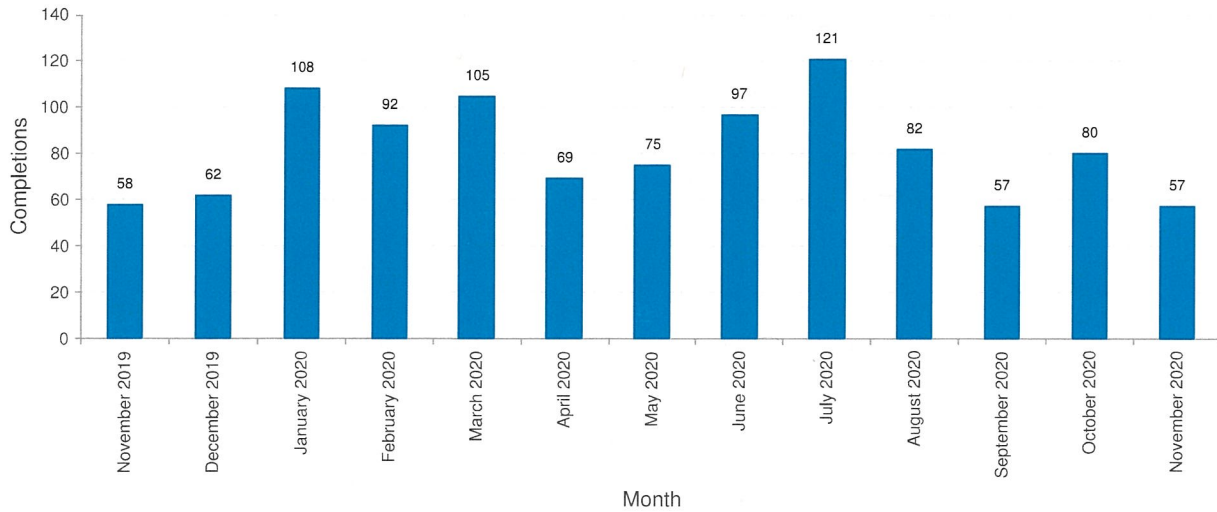
SUZANNE D. CASE, Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources

Hunter Ed Hawaii Course

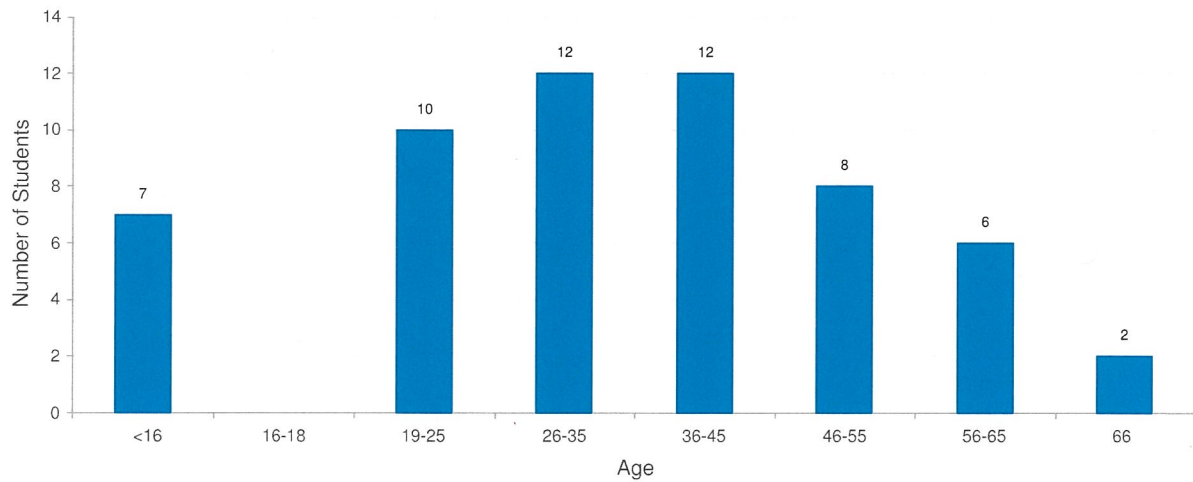
For November 01, 2020 through November 30, 2020

Number of Online Course Completions in November: 57

Number of Online Course Completions History



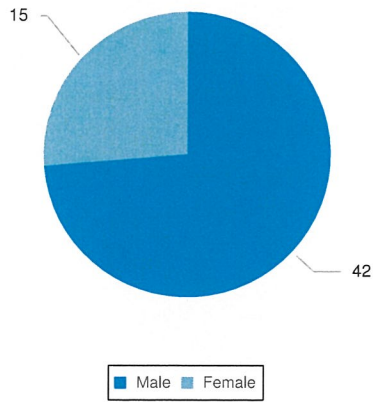
Age Distribution of Students Completing Online Courses in November



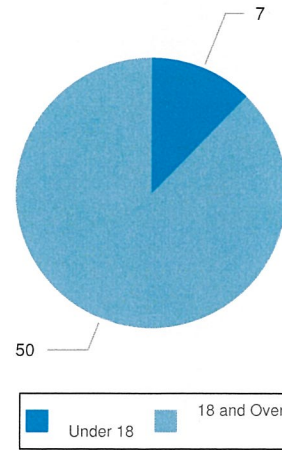
Hunter Ed Hawaii Course

For November 01, 2020 through November 30, 2020

Count By Gender of Students Completing Online Course in November



Age Threshold of Students Completing Online Course in November



| | |
|--------|----|
| Male | 42 |
| Female | 15 |

| | |
|-------------|----|
| Under 18 | 50 |
| 18 and Over | 7 |

Grade Distribution of Students Completing Online Courses with final exam in November

