

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

May 08, 2026

Chairperson and Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i

SUBJECT: Request for Approval of Adaptive Management Measures by Formal Board Action, Pursuant to Section 183D-3(b), Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to Temporarily Amend Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) Title 13:

1. Chapter 123 – Rules Regulating Game Mammal Hunting by Revising Exhibit 11, as Referenced in HAR §§ 13-123-3, 13-123-4, 13-123-22, and 13-123-23, for Game Mammal Hunting on the Island of Hawai'i; and
2. Chapter 122 – Rules Regulating Game Bird Hunting, Field Trials, and Commercial Shooting Preserves by Revising Exhibit 1 (Game Birds to be Taken, Daily Bag Limits, Hunting Periods, Hunting Days, and Special Conditions) to Expand Open Hunting Areas on the Island of Hawai'i from Units A, F, and G to Units A, C, E, F, and G, Including Private Lands, for the March 1 through April 15 Hunting Period.

SUMMARY

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (“Department”), Division of Forestry and Wildlife (“DOFAW”), requests that the Board of Land and Natural Resources (“Board”) approve, by formal Board action pursuant to section 183D-3(b), Hawai'i Revised Statutes (“HRS”), the adoption of temporary adaptive management measures to amend:

1. Exhibit 11 of Chapter 13-123, Hawai'i Administrative Rules (“HAR”), Rules Regulating Game Mammal Hunting; and
2. Exhibit 1 of Chapter 13-122, HAR, Rules Regulating Game Bird Hunting, Field Trials, and Commercial Shooting Preserves.

These amendments are necessary to address increasing populations of feral goats, pigs, and sheep on the island of Hawai'i, which are adversely impacting natural

resources and may pose public safety hazards. The proposed changes will expand hunting opportunities to help reduce populations to sustainable levels.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS – GAME MAMMALS (HAR CHAPTER 13-123)

DOFAW proposes to amend Exhibit 11 to modify hunting days, bag limits, means of take, and special conditions across multiple hunting units on Hawai'i Island. Key changes include:

- Expanding open hunting days to allow daily hunting in multiple units;
- Increasing bag limits in select areas to better control populations;
- Modifying hunting methods (means of take);
- Adjusting special conditions, including tagging requirements; and
- Adding or revising hunting periods and opportunities in specific management areas.

(See Attachment A for detailed strikeout/underline changes and maps; Attachment B for final exhibit tables.)

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS – GAME BIRDS (HAR CHAPTER 13-122)

DOFAW also proposes to amend Exhibit 1 to expand game bird hunting opportunities in areas with high bird populations by:

- Adding Units C and E as authorized hunting areas;
- Establishing archery-only spring bearded turkey hunts (March 1 – April 15);
- Aligning hunting days with mammal hunting schedules; and
- Establishing permits, tagging, and no-dog requirements for these areas.

IMPLEMENTATION NOTE

To honor participants in the Youth and Disabled Pu'u Wa'awa'a hunts, the 2026 season will proceed under the current HAR Chapter 13-123. The proposed adaptive management measures will take effect beginning September 1, 2026, and remain in effect through May 18, 2028.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

The Department, through DOFAW, is responsible for managing and administering wildlife resources statewide, including regulating hunting and protecting wildlife pursuant to HRS § 183D-2.

Section 183D-3(b), HRS, authorizes the Board to adopt temporary adaptive management rules outside of Chapter 91 rulemaking when necessary to respond to rapidly changing resource conditions.

Such rules:

- Must be adopted at a publicly noticed meeting;
- Require at least 30 days' public notice;
- Are effective for up to two years, with possible one-year renewals; and
- Become effective ten (10) days after Board approval unless otherwise specified.

All rules adopted under this authority are subject to enforcement and penalties under HRS § 183D-12.

NOTICE

Public notice of this rulemaking was provided on April 3, 2026, through statewide publications, including the Honolulu Star-Advertiser, West Hawai'i Today, Hawai'i Tribune-Herald, The Garden Island, and The Maui News.

BACKGROUND

Feral goat, pig, and sheep populations on Hawai'i Island remain high despite prior control efforts. These species are prolific breeders and can sustain large populations, resulting in:

- Vegetation loss;
- Increased soil erosion;
- Degradation of native habitats; and
- Potential roadway hazards.

Expanding hunting days and opportunities will provide hunters with increased access and flexibility, thereby improving the effectiveness of population control efforts and reducing impacts to natural resources.

JUSTIFICATION FOR ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

DOFAW has determined that current resource conditions require immediate adaptive management. Amending Exhibit 11 (Chapter 13-123) and Exhibit 1 (Chapter 13-122) is necessary to:

- Respond to increasing ungulate populations;
- Expand public hunting opportunities; and
- Adjust regulations governing hunting methods, bag limits, and seasons.

These temporary amendments will allow for timely management actions while longer-term rulemaking is considered.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board:

1. Find that adaptive management measures are necessary to address rapidly increasing populations of feral goats, pigs, and sheep on the island of Hawai'i and the resulting impacts to natural resources; and
2. Approve the temporary amendment of:
 - o HAR Title 13, Chapter 123, by revising Exhibit 11; and
 - o HAR Title 13, Chapter 122, by revising Exhibit 1;

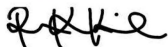
pursuant to section 183D-3(b), HRS, to expand hunting opportunities and implement management measures necessary to control game mammal and game bird populations on Hawai'i Island.

Respectfully submitted,



David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL



Ryan K.P. Kanaka'ole, Acting Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources

Attachment A. Current maps of Hawaii Island Public Hunting Areas for Game Mammals. See Figures 1-5.

***Note: Strikethrough text indicates items proposed for removal. Underlined text highlighted in yellow denotes proposed revisions to the rules or exhibits.**

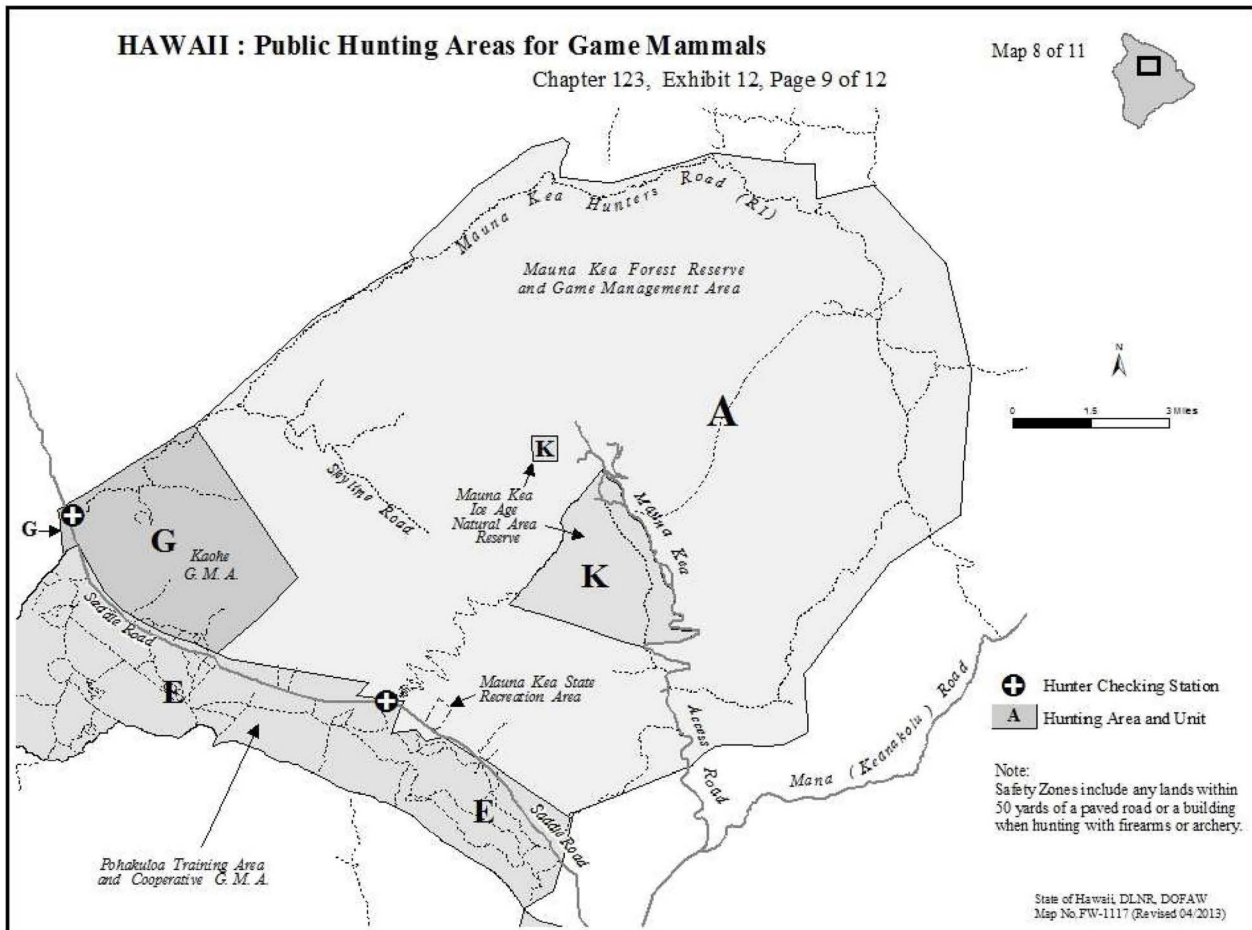


Figure 1. Exhibit 12 Chapter 13-123 p. 9 of 12.

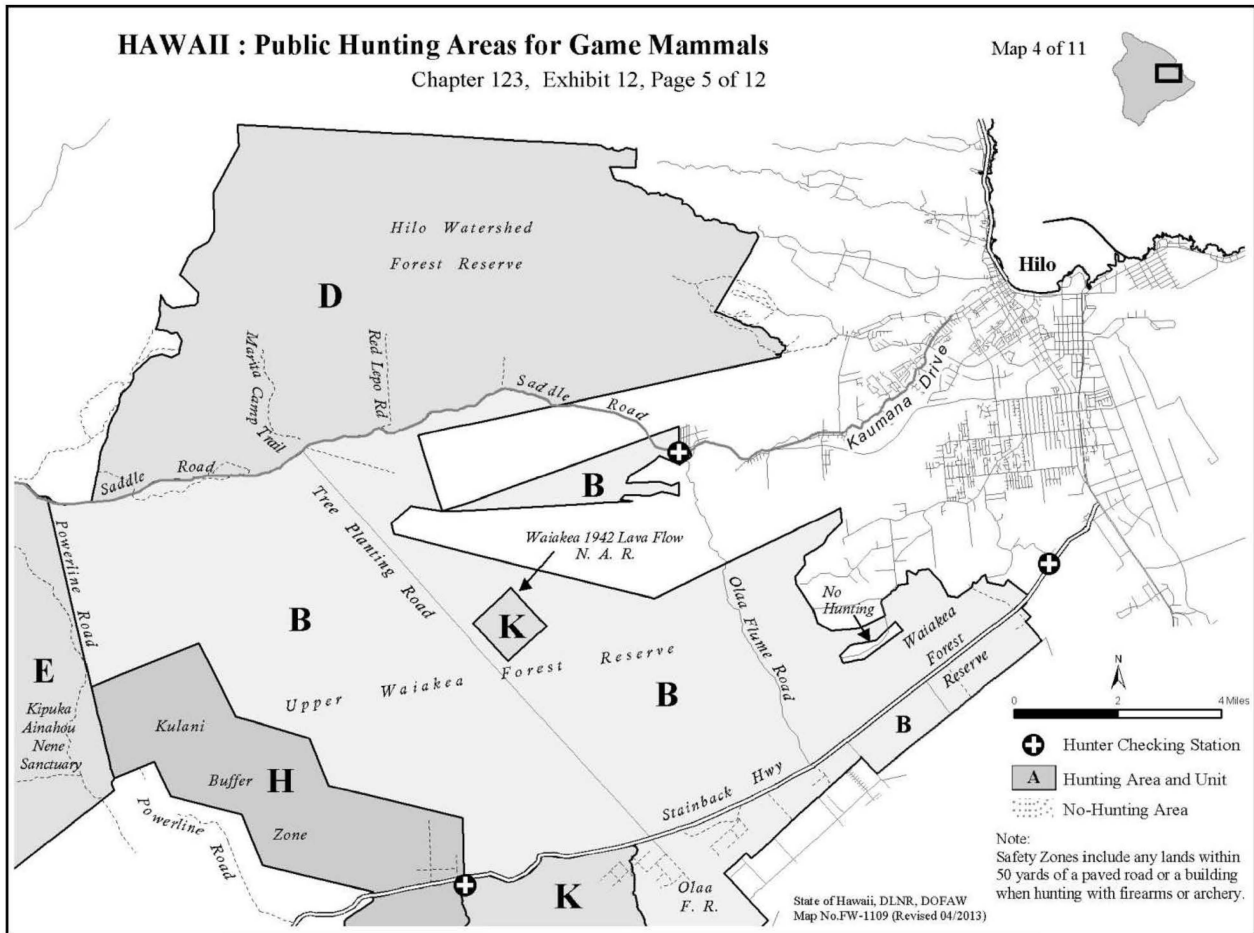


Figure 2. Exhibit 12 Chapter 13-123 p. 5 of 12.

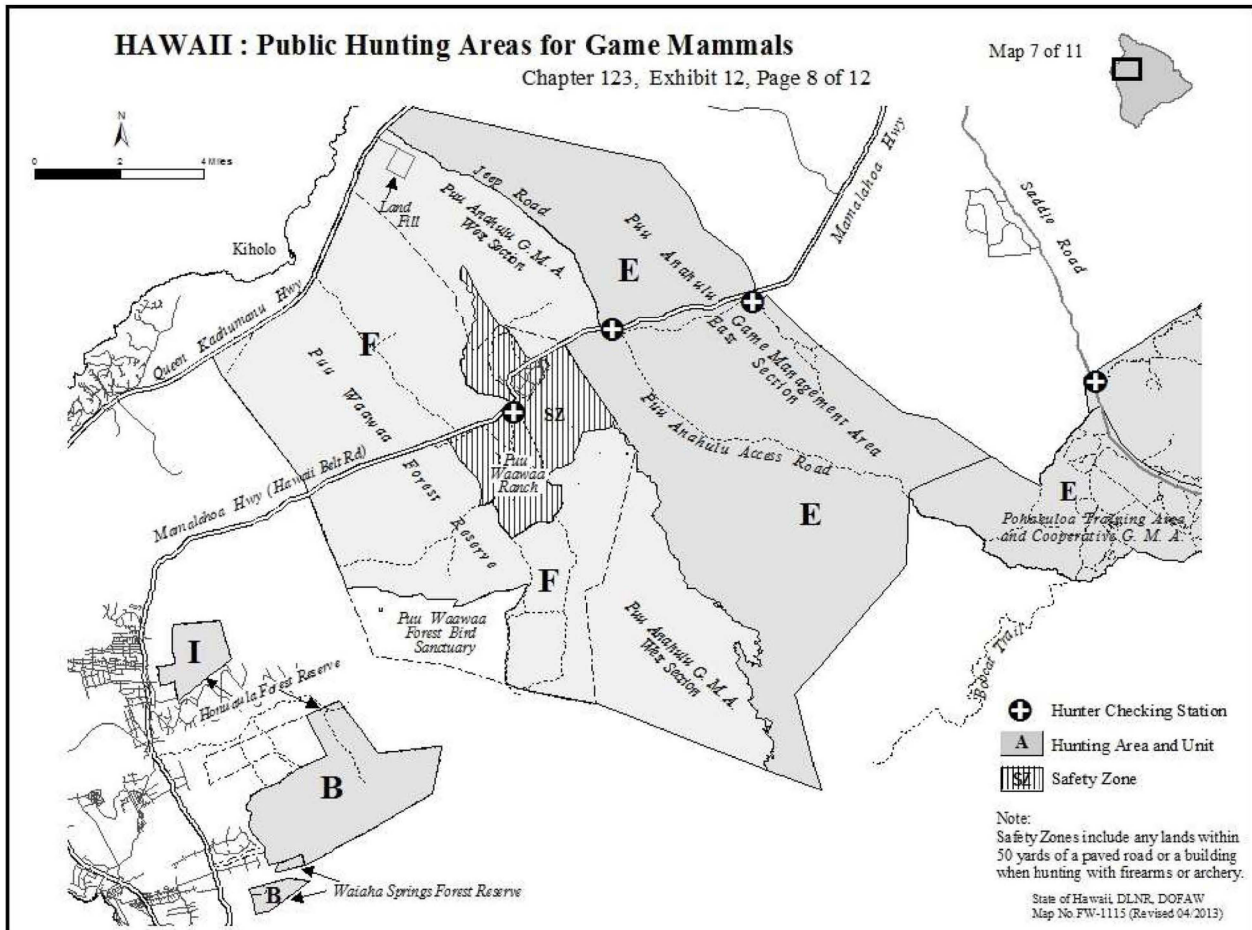


Figure 3. Exhibit 12 Chapter 13-123 p. 8 of 12

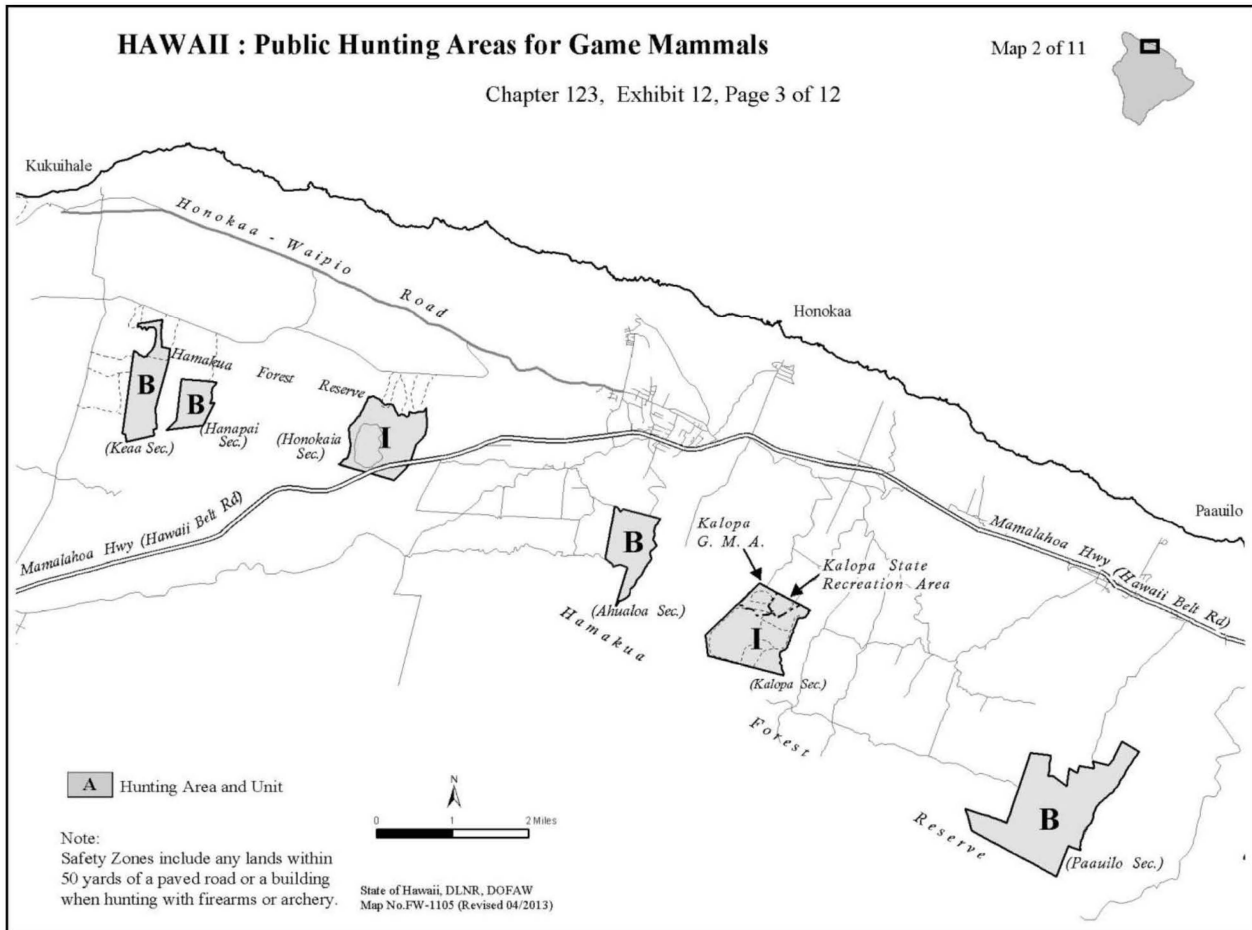


Figure 4. Exhibit 12 Chapter 13-123 p. 3 of 12

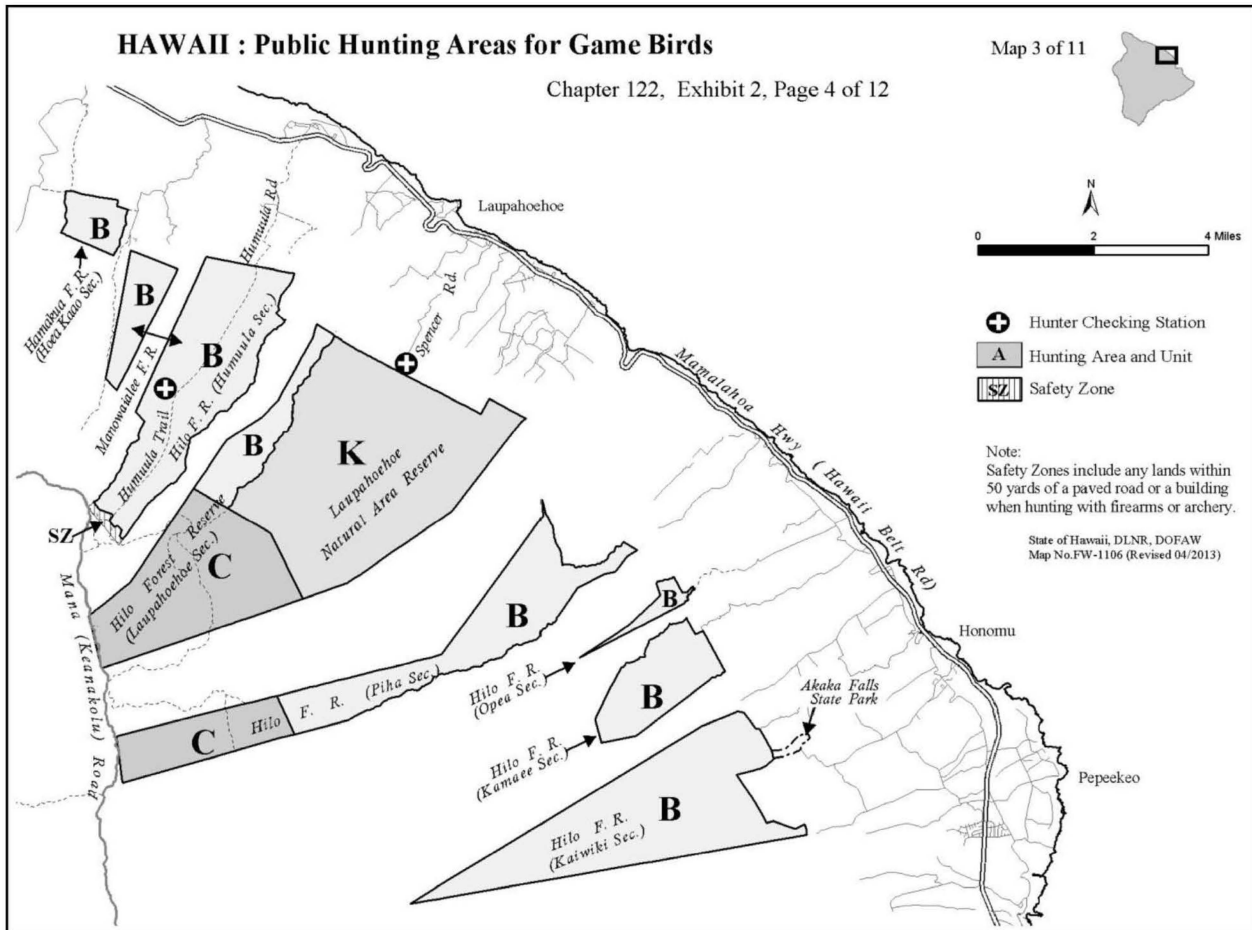


Figure 5. Exhibit 2 Chapter 13-122 p. 4 of 12.

The current administrative rules for game mammal hunting in Hawai'i island shown in Exhibit 11, "Game mammals to be taken, means of take, daily bag limits, hunting periods, hunting days, and special conditions for hunting on the island of Hawai'i" located at the end of Chapter 13-123, HAR and the current administrative rules for game bird hunting in Hawaii island shown in Exhibit 1, "Game birds to be taken, daily bag limits, open hunting periods, open hunting days, and special restrictions. See Table 1. Proposed adaptive management rules will be posted on DOFAW's website (at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dofaw/rules/>) for the duration of their validity. See Attachment 1.

REQUEST FOR ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT MEASURES BY BOARD ACTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 183D-3(b), HRS, TO TEMPORARILY AMEND HAR TITLE 13 CHAPTER 123, AND TITLE 13 CHAPTER 122

Hunting Unit	Game Mammals To Be Taken	Means of Take	Bag Limits	Open Hunting Periods	Open Hunting Days	Special Conditions and Restrictions
E Pohakuloa Cooperative Game Management and Training Area	Feral pigs, wild sheep and Feral goats	Archery only. Dogs not permitted.	One pig, one goat, and one sheep per hunter per day. No season limit. Limits set by the PTA Commander.	Year-round	Daily, subject to training.	Entry permit to PTA Unit E required from PTA Commander.
Puu Anahulu Game Management Area (GMA), East Section			One Four pigs, one typical ram, one non-typical ram, two goats per hunter per season. This is the season limit for sheep. There is no season limit for goats or pigs.	March through June. First Friday of March through the last Sunday of July	Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and State Holidays	Tags required at Puuanahuli East Section for typical rams and non-typical rams. No tags required for pigs or goats.
			Muzzleloader rifles and shotgun with slug (makai only). Dogs not permitted.	First Friday of September through the last Sunday of March through October		Tags required for typical rams and non-typical rams. No tags required for pigs or goats.

Hunting Unit	Game Mammals To Be Taken	Means of Take	Bag Limits	Open Hunting Periods	Open Hunting Days	Special Conditions and Restrictions
F Puu Waawaa Forest Reserve (makai) and Puu Anahulu Game Management Area, West Section	Feral pigs, wild sheep and Feral goats	Special Youth & Disabled Archery (Puu Lani and Puu Waawaa Safety Zone) Dogs not permitted****.	Three non-typical rams and one typical ram per hunter per day. This is also the season limit. Two pigs and three two goats per hunter per day. There is no season limit for pigs and goats.	April	Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and State Holidays	Tags required for rams and non-typical rams. No tags required for pigs and goats.
		Special Youth Archery (Puu Lani and Puu Waawaa Safety Zone) Dogs not permitted****.		August	Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and State Holidays	

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	General Archery (makai only) Dogs not permitted.	One pig Two pigs and two goats per hunter, per day. There is no season limit for pigs or goats. One non-typical ram per hunter per day. This is also the season limit.	Four consecutive weekends beginning the first weekend in August First Friday of March through the last Sunday of July	Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and State Holidays	Tags for non-typical rams required.
	Muzzle loader rifles and shotgun with slug (makai only). Dogs not permitted.		First Friday of September through the last Sunday of October		

Hunting Unit	Game Mammals To Be Taken	Means of Take	Bag Limits	Open Hunting Periods	Open Hunting Days	Special Conditions and Restrictions
G Kaohe GMA	Feral pigs	Archery, muzzleloader, and shotgun with slugs. Dogs not permitted.	One Four pigs per hunter per day.	Year-round except on legal game bird hunting days. Archery: September through June. Muzzleloader, Muzzleloading rifle and shotgun with slug: July-August	Daily	Hunters must check in and out at Kilohana, Gil Kahele Recreation Area, or Puu Huluhulu Checking Stations.
	Feral goats and wild sheep		No bag limit. No season limit.			

Hunting Unit	Game Mammals To Be Taken	Means of Take	Bag Limits	Open Hunting Periods	Open Hunting Days	Special Conditions and Restrictions
I Kalopa, Honokaia, Makaula Ooma tract of Honuaula Forest Reserve	Feral pigs, and feral goats	Archery or spears and knives only. Dogs permitted.	Two Four pigs and one goat. No season limit	Year-round	Daily Saturday, Sunday, and State Holidays	

Hunting Unit	Game Mammals To Be Taken	Means of Take	Bag Limits	Open Hunting Periods	Open Hunting Days	Special Conditions and Restrictions
K Natural Area Reserves: Puu O Umi, Waiakea, 1942 Lava Flow, Kahaualea, Kipahoehoe, Laupahoehoe, Manuka, Mauna Kea Ice Age, and unencumbered portions of Manuka, Kaulanamauna, and Kipahoehoe	Feral pigs, feral goats and wild sheep	Rifle, muzzleloader, handgun, shotgun, archery. Dogs permitted*.	No daily or season limit.	Year-round	Daily.	
Mauna Kea Ice Age					Daily, except on legal fall game bird hunting days.	

Revised Exhibit 1.

Game Birds to be Taken	Daily Bag Limits	Open Hunting Periods	Open Hunting Days	Special Conditions and Restrictions
SPECIAL BIRD SEASONS				
Wild Turkey (Spring Hunt Only)	Three bearded turkeys per season***	March 1 through March 31, Kipuka Ainahou**	Daily	*Permit and tag required for public and private areas. No dogs allowed.
		March 1 through April 15, Units A, C, E, F, and G, and private lands	Daily and concurrent with mammal hunting days at Unit F, Puu Waawaa Forest Reserve (makai) and Unit E, Puu Anahulu Game Management Area (GMA), East Section	*Permit and tag required for public and private areas. No dogs allowed. Units E & F – Archery only, to run concurrently during mammal archery only season. No firearms.

*/1 Dogs must be kept under control at all times except when actively pursuing game.

Attachment B: Proposed adaptive management rule changes to be included in Exhibit 11 of Chapter 13-123, HAR, and in Exhibit 1 of Chapter 13-122.

The adoption of these rules shall take effect ten days after this formal action by the Board of Land and Natural Resources (“Board”), and shall remain in effect for no longer than two years, subject to legislative approval and renewal by the Board. If renewed, the Board may extend the rules for up to one year at a time. These rules shall be posted on the Division of Forestry and Wildlife’s website, where they will remain for the duration of their validity.

These rules are subject to administrative penalties as provided by section 183D-12, HRS.

Revised Exhibit 11.

Hunting Unit	Game Mammals To Be Taken	Means of Take	Bag Limits	Open Hunting Periods	Open Hunting Days	Special Conditions and Restrictions
A Mauna Kea Game Management Area (GMA) and Forest Reserve	Feral pigs	Rifle, muzzleloader, handgun, shotgun, archery. Dogs not permitted.	Four pigs per hunter per day. No season limit.	Year-round, except on legal game bird hunting days.	Daily, except on legal fall game bird hunting days (when all of	Evidence of sex and species waived for sheep and goats.
	Wild sheep and feral goats		No bag limit. No season limit.	Year-round	Unit A will be closed to all mammal hunting), and during spring turkey season (Mar 1-Apr 15), when firearm mammal hunting is restricted to elevations above treeline.**	
Section of Unit A directly across Daniel K. Inouye Highway from Gil Kahele Recreation Area, commonly referred to as "the slice"		Archery only.				

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Hunting Unit	Game Mammals To Be Taken	Means of Take	Bag Limits	Open Hunting Periods	Open Hunting Days	Special Conditions and Restrictions
D Hilo Restricted Watershed	Feral pigs, wild sheep and feral goats	Rifle, muzzleloader, handgun, shotgun, spears, knives, archery. Dogs permitted.	Four pigs, two goats, and two sheep per hunter per day. No season limit.	Year-round	Daily.	
Kohala Restricted Watershed					Saturday, Sunday, and State Holidays.	

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Hunting Unit	Game Mammals To Be Taken	Means of Take	Bag Limits	Open Hunting Periods	Open Hunting Days	Special Conditions and Restrictions
E Pohakuloa Cooperative Game Management and Training Area	Feral pigs, wild sheep and Feral goats	Archery only. Dogs not permitted.	Limits set by the PTA Commander.	Year-round	Daily, subject to training.	Entry permit to PTA Unit E required from PTA Commander.
Four pigs, one typical ram, one non-typical ram, three goats. This is the season limit for sheep. There is no season limit for goats or pigs.			First Friday of March through the last Monday of July	Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays, and State Holidays	Tags required for typical rams and non-typical rams. No tags required for pigs or goats. Spring turkey season, Archery Only (Mar 1 – April 15) to run concurrently during mammal archery only .	
		Muzzleloader rifles and shotgun with slug (makai only). Dogs not permitted.	First Friday of August through the last Monday of October		Tags required for typical rams and non-typical rams. No tags required for pigs or goats.	

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Hunting Unit	Game Mammals To Be Taken	Means of Take	Bag Limits	Open Hunting Periods	Open Hunting Days	Special Conditions and Restrictions
F Puu Waawaa Forest Reserve (makai) and Puu Anahulu Game Management Area, West Section	Feral pigs, wild sheep and Feral goats	Special Disabled Archery (Puu Lani and Puu Waawaa Safety Zone) Dogs not permitted****.	Three non-typical rams and one typical ram per hunter per day. This is also the season limit. Two pigs and three goats per hunter per day. There is no season limit for pigs and goats.	April	Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays, and State Holidays	Tags required for rams and non-typical rams. No tags required for pigs and goats.
		Special Youth Archery (Puu Lani and Puu Waawaa Safety Zone) Dogs not permitted****.		August	Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays, and State Holidays	
	General Archery (makai only) Dogs not permitted.	Two pigs and three goats per hunter, per day. There is no season limit for pigs or goats. One non-typical ram per hunter per day. This is also the season limit.	First Friday of March through the last Monday of July	Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays, and State Holidays	Tags for non-typical rams required.	
	Muzzle loader rifles and shotgun with slug (makai only). Dogs not permitted.		First Friday of August through the last Monday of October			
Puu Waawaa Forest Reserve (makai) Archery Only						Spring turkey season, Archery Only (Mar 1 – April 15) to run concurrently during mammal archery only .

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G Kaohe GMA	Feral pigs	Archery, muzzleloader, and shotgun with slugs. Dogs not permitted.	Four pigs per hunter per day.	Year-round except on legal game bird hunting days. Muzzleloading rifle and shotgun with slug: July-August	Daily, except on legal fall game bird hunting days	Hunters must check in and out at Kilohana, Gil Kahele Recreation Area, or Puu Huluhulu Checking Stations.
	Feral goats and wild sheep		No bag limit. No season limit.			

Hunting Unit	Game Mammals To Be Taken	Means of Take	Bag Limits	Open Hunting Periods	Open Hunting Days	Special Conditions and Restrictions
I Kalopa, Honokaia, Makaula Ooma tract of Honuauula Forest Reserve	Feral pigs, and feral goats	Archery or spears and knives only. Dogs permitted.	Four pigs and one goat. No season limit	Year-round	Daily	

Hunting Unit	Game Mammals To Be Taken	Means of Take	Bag Limits	Open Hunting Periods	Open Hunting Days	Special Conditions and Restrictions
K Natural Area Reserves: Puu O Umi, Waiakea, 1942 Lava Flow, Kahaualea, Kipahoehoe, Laupahoehoe, Manuka, and Puu Maka'ala and unencumbered portions of Manuka, Kaulanamauna, and Kipahoehoe	Feral pigs, feral goats and wild sheep	Rifle, muzzleloader, handgun, shotgun, archery. Dogs permitted*.	No daily or season limit.	Year-round	Daily.	
Mauna Kea Ice Age					Daily, except on legal fall game bird hunting days.	

Revised Exhibit 1.

Game Birds to be Taken	Daily Bag Limits	Open Hunting Periods	Open Hunting Days	Special Conditions and Restrictions
SPECIAL BIRD SEASONS				
Wild Turkey (Spring Hunt Only)	Three bearded turkeys per season***	March 1 through March 31, Kipuka Ainahou**	Daily	*Permit and tag required for public and private areas. No dogs allowed.
		March 1 through April 15, Units A, C, E, F, and G, and private lands	Daily and concurrent with mammal hunting days at Unit F, Puu Waawaa Forest Reserve (makai) and Unit E, Puu Anahulu Game Management Area (GMA), East Section	

*1/1 Dogs must be kept under control at all times except when actively pursuing game.