

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND**

**Friday, April 09, 2021
1:00 PM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 229

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 737
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFORMATION TO THE GAME
MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JASON
SANBORN, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2024**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports Governor's Message 737, nominating Mr. Jason Sanborn to the Game Management Advisory Commission (Commission) for a term to expire June 30, 2024.

Mr. Sanborn was born and raised in Hawaii, has a great love for the outdoors, and has a close connection to the environment. Mr. Sanborn is a native Hawaiian, an active licensed hunter on the island of Hawaii, and relies on game animals to feed his family. The Department feels Mr. Sanborn's passion to address game management plans and policies would make him an excellent member on the Commission representing the County of Hawaii and their hunters.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's support of Governor's Message 737, nominating Mr. Jason Sanborn to the Game Management Advisory Commission.

LATE

GM-737

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 2:25:31 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/9/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Inga Gibson	Testifying for Pono Advocacy	Comments	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Water & Land Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the GMAC Nominations.

As you know, the GMAC was established in 2017, and advises and makes recommendations to DLNR, the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and the state legislature, on game management issues, laws and regulations.

Any land management professional or wildlife scientist would agree that game management includes much more than hunting, yet **every** member of the Commission, must be a licensed hunter in the state (see below).

Game management requires professionals with expertise in land planning, mitigation and exclusion methods, environmental impacts and assessment considerations, water issues, public health, animal health and zoonotic diseases, public safety and legal and public policy expertise. Further, more than only 1 member should provide expertise and input on native Hawaiian traditional and cultural practices and their historical methods of land management (outside of the context of hunting).

One need only look to the thousands of deer who suffered and died due to dehydration and starvation on Molokai this past year, to see that the state cannot "hunt itself" out of the larger issues of game management which include climate change (drought/heat waves), decades of poor land management, lack of accountability and oversight of large ranching and cattle operations and ineffective trophy hunting, which favors only killing larger males for their "racks" (antlers). It would be interesting to hear how the nominees believe this situation could have been mitigated, and how to address it moving forward

The resumes posted in the hearing notice of the 3 proposed new members of the GMAC provided little information as to their background on the above areas of expertise, let alone their statutorily required "*leadership experience in working directly with local hunter or shooting organizations.*"

I encourage the Committe to ask more questions as to the background and experience of the nominees and what methods(e.g. dogs, gun, bow) and types

(recreational/sport/trophy or subsistence only) of hunting they engage in, including their affiliations with any trophy hunting or other agencies, and if they have ever been charged with a hunting/fishing or other natural resource violation in Hawaii or elsewhere.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Inga Gibson, PonoAdvocacy



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

To: Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Members of the Committee on Water and Land

In Opposition to: GM 737

Date: April 8, 2021

Testimony by: Lindsay Vierheilig, Hawaii State Director, The Humane Society of the United States

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong opposition to the confirmation of Jason Sanborn, a licensed hunter, to the state's Game Management Advisory Commission. The Humane Society of the United States believes that there is an unacceptable lack of representation in state wildlife management commissions and agencies by citizens who do not hunt or trap. This is especially true in Hawaii, where being a licensed hunter is a requirement to serve on the Game Management Advisory Commission. This requirement does a disservice to the ecosystems the state is trying to protect. When state wildlife commissions are traditionally dominated by hunting, trapping, or ranching and agricultural interests, the result is that most decisions reflect the interests of those consumptive users, and often neglect the interests of non-consumptive users, wildlife, and ecosystems.

In order to adequately protect the resources of the islands that we share with these animals, much stronger requirements of those who serve on this Commission should be required. A hunting license does not reflect an understanding of the complexity of "game management," as evidenced by the mass die-off of the Axis deer on Molokai just this past year.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service data show that wildlife watchers and other non-consumptive users now outspend hunters by almost three to one nationwide.¹ Wildlife-watching tourists in the United States spend millions of dollars in local economies. According to the National Park Service, "In 2019, 328 million park visitors spent an estimated \$21.0 billion in local gateway regions while visiting National Park Service lands across the country. These expenditures supported a total of 341 thousand jobs, \$14.1 billion in labor income, \$24.3 billion in value added, and \$41.7 billion in economic output in the national economy."²

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis in the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, outdoor recreation in the U.S. generated \$842,199,000,000 (\$842.2 billion) for the economy in 2019. Of that figure, hunting and trapping generated \$7,790,000,000 (\$7.8 billion), which equals about slightly less than one percent (0.92%) of the total outdoor recreation dollars spent in the U.S. Skiers and snowboarders contributed roughly the same amount, or 0.91% of all outdoor recreational spending in the U.S. People attending festivals, sporting events, and concerts spent almost four times more than hunters, and people traveling less than 50 miles from their homes for outdoor recreation spent more than nine times more than hunters.³

Only 0.7% of Hawaii residents held a paid hunting license in 2020.⁴ The vast majority of Hawaiian citizens who do not hunt or trap should not be excluded from the policy decisions that affect the wildlife held and managed in their trust.

¹ The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: "2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation" at www.fws.gov/wsfrprograms/subpages/nationalsurvey/nat_survey2016.pdf

² National Park Service, "2019 National Park Service Visitor Spending Effects Report," <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/vse.htm> (2021).

³ Dept. of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis, "Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account, U.S. And Prototype for States, 2019," <https://www.bea.gov/news/2019/outdoor-recreation-satellite-account-us-and-prototype-states-2017> (2019).

⁴ The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Historical Hunting License Data at www.fws.gov/wsfrprograms/Subpages/LicenseInfo/Hunting.htm



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

Therefore, the HSUS supports policy changes and other efforts to balance citizen representation on state wildlife commissions, and to remove restrictive and unnecessary prerequisites for commission membership like the holding of hunting, trapping, or fishing licenses.

The HSUS further supports efforts to ensure that the objective of wildlife agencies and commissions is conservation and stewardship rather than “management”—as in, the recreational killing—of wildlife. This model should integrate ethics and the best available science and take into consideration the welfare of individual animals and ecosystem health.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lindsay Vierheilig". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Lindsay Vierheilig
Hawaii State Director
lvierheilig@humanesociety.org

LATE

GM-737

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 5:11:45 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/9/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Oppose	No

Comments:

It is short sighted of the BLNR to require a hunting licence to sit on the game management commission. There are other possibilities rather than lethal control - and this person does not measure up to be deciding issues of such import.

GM-737

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:26:04 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/9/2021 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Water & Land Committee:

Please, senators, consider carefully whether the 3 nominees for the GMAC have the expertise that DLNR, BLNR, and the state legislature need to advise them. Game management means more than just experience with hunting; it means expertise with land planning, environmental impacts, public health, animal health and animal-borne diseases, water, public safety, and more.

One nominee has long hunted with very large packs of dogs who are trained to bite and maul pigs. This practice is very cruel to both the hunted animals and the dogs. Rescue groups across the state take in abandoned, starving, and badly injured hunting dogs every day.

Moreover, as you know, we have had too many cases of hunting dogs attacking and killing pets. Hawai'i's residents have long called for more regulation and accountability for hunting dogs, without result. In November 2010, a pig was brutally mauled in my back yard by three hunting dogs who were completely unsupervised; off-leash with no hunter around. The pig lay in agony for several hours in my back yard because the Humane Society did not have a van available to come immediately to help the pig out of her misery. Here is a report from KGMB9:

<https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/13540858/attack-on-pig-escalates-debate-on-hunting/>

If hunters who malnourish their dogs and train them to maul other animals are serving on the GMAC, what hope does the public have of changing these tragic cases?

A few of this nominee's videos are here:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ThCw4bcXZzY>

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=-2JBcb3YUaY>

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=5AQmq2W8HiM>

Hunting dogs attacking pets:

<https://www.khon2.com/local-news/horse-attacked-by-hunting-dogs-in-windward-oahu-struggles-to-survive/>

<https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2021/01/03/hiker-says-hunting-dogs-along-popular-trail-attacked-his-family-their-dog/>

<https://www.kitv.com/story/36135809/two-dogs-survive-vicious-mauling-by-hunting-dogs-on-hiking-trail>

<https://www.khon2.com/local-news/dog-mauled-to-death-by-hunting-dogs-on-tantalus/>

The second nominee has posed in photos after killing many rare animals in New Zealand, while the third nominee has posted photos of himself after killing a shark.

Please, senators, think carefully about the ethics and practices of nominees who do not have the range of qualifications needed to properly serve on the GMAC, and who instead have conflicts of interest with the actual healthy management of our precious land, environment, and animals in the state.