

MAR 18 2009

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA, COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, PUBLIC POLICY CENTER AND SPARK M. MATSUNAGA INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE THE SAFE USE OF HUNTING DOGS ON PUBLIC HIKING TRAILS.

1           WHEREAS, certain public hiking trails in the State of  
2 Hawaii traverse across areas designated by the Department of  
3 Land and Natural Resources (DNLNR) as hunting areas, where  
4 hunters, hikers, and outdoor enthusiasts come into contact with  
5 one another; and

6  
7           WHEREAS, contact between these users increase on weekends  
8 and state holidays, which are designated by DLNR as hunting  
9 days; and

10  
11           WHEREAS, both hikers and hunters may be accompanied by dogs  
12 on these hiking trails; and

13  
14           WHEREAS, the placement of public hiking trails in hunting  
15 areas makes it easier for hunting dogs to move without restraint  
16 on trails that are also used by hikers with pet dogs; and

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18           WHEREAS, non-hunters are required by DLNR to keep their pet  
19 dogs on leashes at all times while on public trails; and

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21           WHEREAS, hunters are required by DLNR to keep their dogs  
22 "under restrictive control during transportation while in  
23 transit at all times, to and from hunting areas within the  
24 forest reserve"; and

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26           WHEREAS, hunting dogs are trained to aggressively pursue  
27 all animals, without distinction between wild animals and pet  
28 dogs; and



1 WHEREAS, while there are trailheads that require hunter  
2 check-in forms, they are not always properly filled out or  
3 verified, making it impossible for hikers or other outdoor  
4 enthusiasts with pet dogs to know whether hunters or hunting  
5 dogs are in the vicinity; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, it is not uncommon for hunting dogs to become  
8 separated from the hunters they accompany and in some cases are  
9 left behind; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, hikers and outdoor enthusiasts who take their pet  
12 dogs on public trails in these areas are concerned that  
13 aggressive hunting dogs are roaming freely and may harm their  
14 pet dogs; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, the officers of DLNR's Division of Conservation  
17 and Resources Enforcement that are responsible for enforcing  
18 rules regarding hunting dogs lack the resources for enforcement  
19 across vast areas of state lands and are unable to respond to  
20 the legitimate concerns of non-hunters; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, lost, injured, and neglected hunting dogs at times  
23 end up at local animal shelters without any permanent  
24 identification, making it difficult to reunite them with their  
25 owners and generating additional expenses for taxpayers; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, a dialogue among the various groups that are  
28 affected by the presence of hunting dogs on public hiking trails  
29 would be constructive in making concerns known and addressing  
30 those concerns in a way that is amenable to all parties; and

31  
32 WHEREAS, failure to address the issues posed by allowing  
33 hunting dogs to accompany hunters may negatively impact  
34 residents' and tourists' perceptions of safety on public hiking  
35 trails that travel across hunting areas; now, therefore,

36  
37 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
38 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the  
39 House of Representatives concurring, that the University of  
40 Hawaii at Manoa, College of Social Sciences, Public Policy  
41 Center and Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace and Conflict  
42 Resolution are requested to convene a working group to explore  
43 the safe use of hunting dogs on public hiking trails; and  
44



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group should  
2 include in the dialogue representatives from:

- 3  
4 (1) DLNR;  
5  
6 (2) Honolulu Police Department;  
7  
8 (3) Citizens for Safe Hiking;  
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10 (4) Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club;  
11  
12 (5) Hawaii Dog Foundation;  
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14 (6) Hawaiian Humane Society;  
15  
16 (7) The Humane Society of the United States;  
17  
18 (8) The Nature Conservancy;  
19  
20 (9) The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter;  
21  
22 (10) Hawaii Hunting Association; and  
23  
24 (11) Oahu Pig Hunters Association;

25  
26 and

27  
28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chancellor of the  
30 University of Hawaii and the Dean of the College of Social  
31 Sciences.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

