

JAN 28 2015

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HUNTING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the enhancement and
2 maintenance of sustainable public hunting opportunities for
3 subsistence and recreational purposes are of critical importance
4 to the State and its people. A coordinated resource management
5 effort involving stakeholders is needed to prevent and offset
6 the loss, destruction, or degradation of public hunting areas on
7 any island of the State and expeditiously find replacement land
8 for hunting.

9 The purpose of this Act is to establish a game commission
10 to serve in an advisory capacity to the governor and the board
11 of land and natural resources.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 183D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
14 and to read as follows:

15 "§183D- Game commission. (a) There is established
16 within the department a game commission, which shall serve in an
17 advisory capacity to the governor and the board. The game



1 commission shall consist of nine members to be appointed by the
2 governor in the manner provided in section 26-34. Membership on
3 the game commission shall include one member representing each
4 county and five members at-large; provided that:

5 (1) Each member shall demonstrate strong interest in the
6 preservation, protection, and promotion of public
7 hunting in Hawaii and shall have knowledge,
8 experience, and expertise in hunting;

9 (2) At least one member shall have knowledge, experience,
10 and expertise in the area of native Hawaiian cultural
11 practices;

12 (3) At least one member shall have expertise in tourism;
13 and

14 (4) No more than three members shall represent, be
15 employed by, or be under contract to any sector of
16 government.

17 (b) The game commission shall select its own chairperson
18 from among its members. The members shall receive no
19 compensation for their services on the game commission but shall
20 be entitled to reimbursement for necessary expenses, including



1 travel expenses, while attending meetings and while in the
2 discharge of their duties.

3 (c) The game commission may establish policies and
4 criteria regarding the management, protection, and promotion of
5 public hunting in Hawaii and may adjust existing department
6 policies and procedures relating to hunting, particularly
7 regarding chapter 183D and chapters 13-122, 13-123, and 13-124,
8 Hawaii Administrative Rules.

9 (d) The game commission shall:

10 (1) Consult and advise the governor and the board on any
11 matter affecting hunting, including proposed rules and
12 regulations;

13 (2) Evaluate and approve a five-year game management plan
14 and any changes to the plan as necessary;

15 (3) Establish criteria to be used in determining whether
16 an area is suitable for hunting;

17 (4) Conduct studies of areas for sustainable yield game
18 production or enhancement;

19 (5) Recommend to the governor and the board areas suitable
20 for game production or enhancement;



- 1 (6) Establish policies and criteria regarding the
2 management, protection, and permitted uses of areas
3 that are used for hunting;
- 4 (7) Advise the governor and the board on any matter
5 relating to the conservation and sustainability of
6 Hawaii's unique game and non-game resources;
- 7 (8) Develop ways and means to extend and strengthen game
8 management areas, other designated hunting areas, and
9 mixed-use areas with the State;
- 10 (9) Advise the board and other public agencies that manage
11 state-owned land or natural resources regarding areas
12 under their respective jurisdictions that may be
13 appropriate for hunting and game production;
- 14 (10) In carrying out its duties, consult the most
15 comprehensive up-to-date compilation of scientific
16 data;
- 17 (11) Make recommendations relating to the process of
18 hunting rules modification;
- 19 (12) Collaborate with the board on the use and allocation
20 of the wildlife revolving fund.



1 (13) Collaborate with agencies and persons who gather
2 information and implement hunting programs and data;
3 and

4 (14) Take testimony and acquire information as it desires
5 and communicate its findings and recommendations to
6 the board.

7 (e) Any action taken by the game commission shall be by a
8 simple majority of its members. Five members shall constitute a
9 quorum.

10 (f) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the game
11 commission shall be subject to sections 26-34, 26-35, 26-35.5,
12 and 26-36.

13 (g) The department shall provide administrative support to
14 the game commission. Federal moneys and other moneys that
15 become available to the department may be used to off-set
16 administrative costs incurred by the department.

17 (h) The game commission shall submit a report to the
18 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
19 the regular session of 2016, and each regular session
20 thereafter, on its efforts to comply with this section,



1 including a summary of its activities during the year preceding
2 the regular session for which the report was prepared.

3 (i) The game commission may adopt rules pursuant to
4 chapter 91 to implement this section."

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
8 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
9 2016-2017 for the establishment of a game commission pursuant to
10 this Act.

11 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
12 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

15

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S.B. NO. 1224

Report Title:

DLNR; Hunting; Game Commission; Report; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a game commission to serve in an advisory capacity to the governor and the BLNR. Makes an appropriation.

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