

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

January 22, 2016

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

REQUEST REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF STUDENT MANUAL,
INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEOS, AND 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 student manuals, instructional videos, and 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 not been substantially updated in over fifteen years. In these fifteen years, there have been significant developments in the fields of firearms and archery safety and hunter education nationwide. Hawaii's current curriculum requires continuing 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 is pursuing updates of its student manuals, classroom videos, instructor guides, and creation of an online 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. STUDENT MANUAL

Approximately forty (40) states currently use the attached and updated student manual. By contrast, the Program's existing student manual is only in use in Hawaii. The updated student manual covers the following nine (9) units: 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, and Wildlife Conservation.

The updated manual includes a more student-friendly and logical format with higher quality pictures, graphics, and diagrams. Information is presented in an organized scaffolding format unlike the Program's existing student manual. Additionally, safety, conservation, and hunter responsibility information are current and consistent with IHEA Standards (rev. 2014) (attached). The Program's current manual is not consistent with the revised IHEA standards.

B. INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEOS

The Program's current videos have been unaltered and not updated in over twenty years. The updated videos were produced in 2012 and filmed in high definition (attached). The content covered in these videos is consistent with the revised IHEA standards. Furthermore, as the videos are provided by the same vendor as the student manuals and online course, the content between the instructional videos, student manual, and online course is consistent and complementary.

Unlike the Program's current videos which are approximately thirty minutes to an hour in length where each DVD focus on a singular subject, the updated instructional videos are contained on one DVD; each subject is broken down into individual segments, which are intended to supplement instructors' presentations.

The updated video segments include: Welcome to Hunter Ed, Ballistics, Blaze Orange Clothing, Field Carries, Ground Blinds, How to Act if Approached by a Conservation Officer, How to Avoid a Hunting Incident, How to Clear a Barrel Obstruction, How to Cross a Fence, How to Load and Unload a Firearm, How to Prepare to Hunt from a Tree Stand, Archery Safety, How to Transport a Firearm, Muzzleloader Safety, Tree-Stand Safety, and Zones of Fire.

C. ONLINE COURSE

The Program would like to expand certification options for the public by offering a hybrid online hunter education course to be combined with a mandatory in-person course completion session with final exam (approximately four 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 a hybrid course, which can be partially completed online. The course exam will remain the same for both courses.

A full printout of the online course is attached for your review. The online course follows the format of the student manual and covers the same nine (9) units: 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, and Wildlife Conservation.

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 (attached). 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 attend a mandatory in-person course completion session with final exam for certification. Upon successful completion of the online course, students will print a voucher provided by the online course, which acknowledges successful completion of the course. At that point, the vendor will assess a fee of approximately \$20.00 directly to the student to complete the transaction—the Program will neither charge nor be charged for these transactions. Students may use this voucher to attend and complete the course completion session with final exam for certification. This course completion session will focus on review of the online course, Hawaii Wildlife Identification and Conservation, Hawaii Rules and Regulations, and Game Care (these segments in addition to Firearms Safety, Muzzleloading Safety, Archery Safety, First Aid and Survival, Hunter Ethics and Responsibility will also be covered in the traditional course).

This proposed online course is produced by the same vendor that supplies the 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

Existing student manuals, videos, and instructor resources are currently provided by three separate vendors, which pose additional challenges to course consistency and standardization. Under this curriculum update, all materials will be supplied by one vendor to ensure complete consistency and standardization across the course curriculum. 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. The estimated total cost is \$25,822.73. The estimated pricing breakdown is attached.

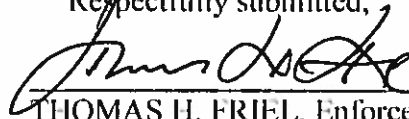
The Attorney General has determined that BLNR review and approval of the updated curriculum is required, and no further review by the Attorney General's office is necessary. Copies of the course materials are provided to the Board members for review. As the materials contain actual course content, the materials are restricted to Board members and not released to the public.

III. RECOMMENDATION:

“That the Board of Land and Natural Resources:

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

Respectfully submitted,



THOMAS H. FRIEL, Enforcement Chief
Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



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

Attachments

Item: