

REPORT TO THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
STATE OF HAWAII
2020 REGULAR SESSION

RELATING TO THE GAME MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION
FISCAL YEAR 2019

Prepared by
THE STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

In response to Section 183D-4.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes

NOVEMBER 2020

GAME MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

PURPOSE

Act 210, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2016, amended Chapter 183D, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), by adding a new section to establish the Game Management Advisory Commission to serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board). Section 183D-4.5, HRS, requires an annual report to be submitted by the Game Management Advisory Commission on its efforts, including a summary of its activities during the year preceding the regular legislative session for which the report was prepared.

The Game Management Advisory Commission is made up of nine members, including:

- (1) One member from the County of Kauai;
- (2) Three members from the County of Maui, with one member from each of the Islands of Maui, Lanai, and Molokai;
- (3) Two members from the County of Hawaii, with one member from East Hawaii and one member from West Hawaii;
- (4) One member from the City and County of Honolulu;
- (5) One at-large member; and
- (6) The Chairperson of the Board or the Chairperson's designated representative, who shall serve as an ex officio, voting member.

GAME MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETINGS

During the 2019 calendar year, a total of four Game Management Advisory Commission meetings were held.

January 16, 2019, 9:00 AM
Room 322C, Kalanimoku Building, 1151 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:
Lori Buchanan—Molokai (Chair)

Robert Cremer—Kauai

Josiah Jury—Oahu

Stanley Ruidas—Lanai

Nancy Timko—Oahu

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Glennon Gingo —West Hawaii

Ryan Kohatsu—East Hawaii

Robert Masuda—Representative of the Chair of DLNR

AGENDA:

ITEM 1. Call to order, introductions of members, staff, and visitors; request for move-ups on the agenda.

ITEM 2. A discussion on proposed legislation.

ITEM 3. For discussion and possible action: Report from Permitted Interaction Group on internal policies, practices and procedures for state GMAC.

ITEM 4. A short report by each commissioner summarizing their meetings with DOFAW staff on the island that they represent.

ITEM 5. Set future meeting schedule and potential Agenda items.

ITEM 6. Announcements.

ITEM 7. Adjournment.

SUMMARY:

Discussion occurred on ITEM 2, including proposed legislation by the Hawaii County Game Management Advisory Commission. Members from both the Hawaii County Game Management Advisory Commission and the State Game Management Advisory Commission reviewed the proposed legislation prior to this meeting. Meetings also occurred with legislators in an effort to find someone to introduce the legislation.

There was no action taken on ITEM 3, because the permitted interaction group did not meet. Commissioner Buchanan recommended that the members of the permitted interaction group review the template from the Molokai Planning Commission rules to identify language that would be appropriate for the Commission. By the end of this year, rulemaking was expected to commence, however the permitted interaction group did not meet again. Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) staff suggested establishing procedures on how the Game Management Advisory Commission would support legislation.

ITEM 4 included discussion on:

- Oahu: Commissioner attendance at the Safari Club International conference, update on game birds at Kuaokala, concern with the proposed missile defense radar, creation of a program where the hunting community can support and work in partnership with the Board of Water Supply and DOFAW on ungulate management in Makaha, aerial shooting meeting to be scheduled, and goat survey methodology for Waianae Kai and Makua Keaau.
- Kauai: Goat hunt on Nounou Mountain, Unit A lease, and possible special hunts at Kalalau.
- Lanai: Lottery for deer season and management plan for the game management area.
- Molokai: Navy training.

No potential agenda items were identified for the next meeting under ITEM 5.

For ITEM 6, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Hunter Education Program staff announced that a site visit on February 4th is scheduled for the Kauai shooting range. Also, efforts to upgrade the Mile Marker 16 shooting range on Hawaii Island are ongoing.

March 28, 2019, 10:00 AM

DLNR Board Room 132, Kalanimoku Building, 1151 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Lori Buchanan—Molokai (Chair)

Robert Cremer—Kauai

Josiah Jury—Oahu

Ryan Kohatsu—East Hawaii

Robert Masuda—Representative of the Chair of DLNR

Nancy Timko—Oahu

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Stan Ruidas —Lanai

AGENDA:

ITEM 1. Call to order, introductions of members, staff, and visitors; request for move-ups on the agenda.

ITEM 2. **Action Required:** Approval of minutes from December 10, 2018 and January 16, 2019 GMAC meetings.

ITEM 3. Discussion on recently published public lands hunting informational survey report.

ITEM 4. Updates and discussion on Habitat Conservation Plan in Pu‘u Wa‘awa‘a Forest Reserve and the Pu‘u Anahulu Game Management Area, Hawaii Game Management Plan and Lāna‘i Cooperative Game Management Area plan.

ITEM 5. Discussion on Division of Forestry and Wildlife and Natural Area Reserve reports to the 13th legislature, 2019 regular session.

ITEM 6. A short report by each commissioner summarizing their meetings with DOFAW staff on the island that they represent.

ITEM 7. Set future meeting schedule and potential Agenda items.

ITEM 8. Announcements.

ITEM 9. Adjournment.

SUMMARY:

ITEM 2, to approve minutes from the December 10, 2018 and January 16, 2019 meetings, was approved. Commissioner Kohatsu moved to accept the minutes from both meetings.

Commissioner Cremer seconded. Motion carried. A discussion on if the Commission should continue verbatim transcription of minutes occurred. The Commission agreed to bring this up again at the next meeting.

For ITEM 3, some community members approached Commissioner Kohatsu with concerns that the numbers are wrong in the recently published public lands hunting informational survey report. DOFAW staff clarified that the numbers included in the report were collected via survey and are not harvest data collected from the check stations. Approximately 2,000 people completed the survey, which is ten percent of registered hunters. The responses can be separated by island, however, the number of people who completed the survey by island is not statistically significant. A discussion on adjusting hunting seasons and creating game management plans followed, and Commissioner Masuda recommended further discussion on these topics at the next meeting (hunter survey revisions were presented to the Commission of November 19th and comments from the Commissioners were requested).

For ITEM 4, DOFAW submitted a grant proposal to Pittman-Robertson for writing a management plan for Lanai. This is an overall management plan. Although it has a game component, it is not game specific. The plan needs to be written in order to extend the lease. DOFAW has also prepared some goals and objectives, which is being discussed internally as well as with Pulama Lanai. The plan does not include compliance.

Discussion also occurred on the habitat conservation plan in Puu Waawaa Forest Reserve and the Puu Anahulu Game Management Area. In December of 2018, DOFAW committed to briefing the Board for their insights on whether to proceed with a habitat conservation plan or another type of plan for this area. At this point, DOFAW staff was in the process of consulting the Attorney General before bringing it to the Board. The DOFAW Administrator suggested liberalizing rules so there are more hunting days in this area. Commissioner Kohatsu had concerns with that suggestion. The DOFAW Administrator did not commit to either plan. Commissioner Masuda recommended having DOFAW staff work with Commissioner Kohatsu on this topic. (The Attorney General later returned with two questions: Would there be any take of endangered plants as a result of implementing this plan to maintain or enhance game species in the area? Is the Department exempting from HRS 195-D? As a result, DOFAW decided not to bring the question to the Board at this time)

Regarding a Hawaii game management plan, the State Game Management Advisory Commission has previously asked DOFAW to write a statewide game management plan. House Bill 1405 was amended by inserting an appropriation in general funds for the game related program statewide. These funds can be used to write a statewide game management plan. The bill was heard by the Committee on Ways and Means, but ultimately the bill was not passed, thus there was no funding to write a statewide game management plan this year.

For ITEM 5, Commissioner Buchanan wanted to make the commissioners aware that a legislative report with goals, policies, objectives, and measures of effectiveness for DOFAW exists. DOFAW staff confirmed that all of the DOFAW legislative reports are available online. Commissioner Buchanan pointed out that the legislative report relating to the Natural Area Reserve System does not include the number of animals controlled and requested that the number of animals dispatched by aerial shooting be shared with the Commission. Commissioner Buchanan also requested a copy of the court order relating to aerial shooting on Mauna Kea. Commissioner Cremer requested information on where and how animals are being dispatched and the number and type of animals being dispatched. DOFAW staff had attempted to provide this information to Commissioner Cremer prior to this meeting. Commissioner Buchanan requested another presentation on where fences exist and where fences are planned. (DOFAW staff didn't succeed in arranging this meeting with the Commissioners, but the Commissioners were informed that the DOFAW website has maps of current and proposed fences statewide.) Discussion then turned to other topics, including the habitat conservation plan for Puu Waawaa Forest Reserve and the Puu Anahulu Game Management Area; the Commission's legislative report; progress of the Commission; fencing on Kauai; changes to the firearms section in the hunting administrative rules; aerial shooting, fencing, and survey methodology on Oahu; Commissioners working with island DOFAW staff; compliance and consultation protocol for aerial shooting and other projects; game management plans; animal control on the ground on Kauai; and legislation.

ITEM 6 included discussion on:

- Kauai: Nounou Mountain archery hunt, Nualolo Kai lottery hunt, and Unit A lease.
- Molokai: Concerns with outfitters, aka hunting guides.

No potential agenda items were identified for the next meeting under ITEM 7.

No announcements were made for ITEM 8.

June 25, 2019, 1:00 PM

DLNR Board Room 132, Kalanimoku Building, 1151 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Lori Buchanan—Molokai (Chair)

Robert Cremer—Kauai

Ryan Kohatsu—East Hawaii

Robert Masuda—Representative of the Chair of DLNR

Stan Ruidas —Lanai

Nancy Timko—Oahu

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Josiah Jury—Oahu

AGENDA:

ITEM 1. Call to order, introductions of members, staff, and visitors; request for move-ups on the agenda.

ITEM 2. **Action Required:** Approval of minutes from March 28, 2019 GMAC meeting.

ITEM 3. GMAC Chairperson's report and a discussion on the GMAC legislative report. The commission may take action.

ITEM 4. A short report by each commissioner summarizing their meetings with DOFAW staff on the island that they represent.

ITEM 5. Set future meeting schedule and potential Agenda items.

ITEM 6. Announcements.

ITEM 7. Adjournment.

SUMMARY:

ITEM 2, to approve minutes from the March 28, 2019 meeting, was approved. Commissioner Cremer moved to accept the minutes. Commissioner Timko seconded. Motion carried.

For ITEM 3, Commissioner Buchanan did not hand in the legislative report, but she wrote it. It is a summary of all the highlights of the six meetings held in 2018. While reviewing minutes for those meetings, Commissioner Buchanan noticed a pattern of things not getting done or falling through the cracks. She continued by reading the minutes from the August 20, 2018 meeting, including the intent and reason for the creation of the Commission. By the next legislative session, Commissioner Buchanan wants the Commission to go to legislators with two or three

bills that include the Commission's priorities. From experience, Commissioner Kohatsu believes the existing system is preferred, but wonders whether there would be more motivation and initiative if it was mandated. DOFAW staff mentioned that funding is needed to carry out these priorities. Commissioner Cremer asked why aren't plans written in house and why doesn't DOFAW have more staff to do the work? DOFAW staff reminded the Commission that the legislature determines the number of staff and funding. Commissioner Ruidas suggested creating a timeline that includes things that should be happening, whether it is going to the legislature or requesting funds. Commissioner Buchanan recommended identifying the top three priorities that the Commission wants to accomplish in the next couple of years and then work towards that.

Commissioner Buchanan opened up public testimony on any of the agenda items. Cathrina Cadiente with Sustainable Hunting of Hawaii reported that she is having trouble getting a permit to hunt in the Tripler and Moanalua area. Oahu Branch DOFAW staff were not present at the meeting to address her concerns. Commissioner Buchanan instructed Cathrina to provide her contact information to DOFAW staff at the meeting, so a solution can be figured out.

Staff from Representative DeCoite's office brought up two things: 1) the legislative report not being turned in on time; and 2) the uptick in guided tours on Molokai. Commissioner Masuda asked the DOFAW staff to put hunting guide issues on the next agenda.

ITEM 4 included discussion on:

- Lanai: Mouflon hunting season, aerial surveys, new Maui Commissioner, and management plan for the game management area.
- Molokai: Access issues and additional hunting areas on Maui. Fencing and concerns with outfitters, aka hunting guides on Molokai.
- Kauai: Goat hunting season, deer hunting season, Unit A lease, game management plans, and firing range.
- Oahu: Requested an update on the proposed missile defense radar station on Kuaokala at the next meeting.
- East Hawaii: Plan for Puu Waawaa, trespassing, and poaching

For ITEM 5, a future meeting will be set up through email, and hunting licenses and fees was identified as an agenda item.

No announcements were made for ITEM 6.