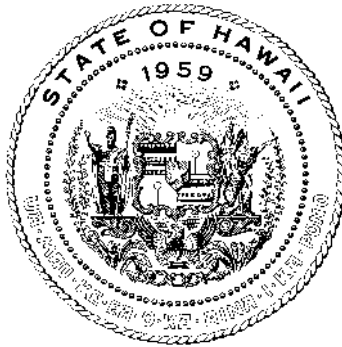


**REPORT TO THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
STATE OF HAWAII
2023 REGULAR SESSION**

RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY

FISCAL YEAR 2022



Prepared by

THE STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE

In response to Act 315, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022

Honolulu, Hawai'i
October 2022

RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY

PURPOSE

The Legislature finds that Hawaii's reliance on imported food makes the State particularly vulnerable to supply chain disruptions, which can leave many residents of Hawaii without access to affordable food; and that it's essential for the State's food self-sufficiency strategies to be sustainable. The Legislature also finds that the greater recognition of game mammals and birds as a food source would greatly benefit the State's food self-sufficiency and sustainability goals. In the Act, it is requested that the State recognize that game mammals and birds provide a sustainable food source provide those negative impacts to the environment are sufficiently minimized or off set through native ecosystem protections that merit quality habitat with sufficient food, water, and refuge to support viable game mammal and game bird populations sufficient for hunting.

Act 315, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, implemented under the Senate Thirty-Second Legislature, 2022, requires an annual report to be submitted by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) on its progress of the Department on incorporating local hunting and fishing industries in its food security and sustainability strategies, including any findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation.

The Department has been and will continue to advocate for increased hunting opportunities throughout the state. With proper wildlife management this will allow for a sustainable hunting program. Through wildlife monitoring, negative impacts caused by game animals will be mitigated and managed in order to continue to provide a reliable program. The Department provides many resources for hunters. This year the Department implemented an online hunting license and tag purchasing program that includes convenient electronic hunter check in and harvest reporting through a new mobile application. Current laws under Chapter 183D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, provide direction to the Department to administer a sustainable hunting program and to promote public hunting. The hunting program supplies a sustainable food supply opportunity to public hunters, and some hunters supply a significant portion of their meat through hunting. The current increased food security and food self-sufficiency strategy created by the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture does not reference game mammal and game birds as a self-sufficient food source and this plan can be updated to incorporate and promote the hunting harvest.