



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 160 • 170 Whitetail Way • Bogart, GA 30622
PHONE: 800.209.3337 • FAX: 706.353.0223 • www.QDMA.com

Date: 18 October 2019
To: The Honorable Senator from Hawaii
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern
Re: Support for Senate Bill 927

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our support for Hawaii Senate Bill 927 and respectfully request that you support this vital piece of legislation, as well. The QDMA is a national nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ensuring the future of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and our hunting heritage. Founded in 1988, the QDMA has over 60,000 members nationwide and our membership includes hunters, landowners and natural resource professionals. Hunters are the cornerstone of conservation across the country. They contribute significant funds to conservation through license sales and excise taxes on hunting gear. Hunters in the state of Hawaii help contribute \$293 million to the state's economy while supporting 3,781 jobs within the state. Unfortunately, hunter numbers have dwindled and with this, so has the funding for conservation that so many individuals rely upon within your state. Currently, 80% of the funding for state fish and wildlife agencies come from sportsmen and women. An apprentice license program will help increase hunting opportunities in your state for the general public. This increase in opportunity provides for the potential increase in hunter numbers, increasing funding for conservation measures in the state.

With your support, SB 927 has the potential to pass into law. This is a crucial step in making a difference for hunter recruitment, retention, and reactivation in your state. This bill has the potential to help preserve the hunting tradition and the wild spaces we are fortunate enough to enjoy. Through the development of an apprentice license program under SB 927, this allows new hunters to have the opportunity to gain necessary experience from more seasoned hunters before going afield on their own. This valuable experience gained by the new hunters allows them to become more comfortable afield and develop safe, ethical hunting practices.

Implementing this apprentice license program allows for prospective hunters statewide to experience the indescribable joys the outdoors has to offer and learn valuable lessons that accompany time afield. This includes, but is certainly not limited to, the opportunity to harvest their own sustainable food source, experience the uniqueness of Hawaii's outdoor opportunities, the ethical obligations of fair chase and discovering the inherent value of conservation. We respectfully request you support this vital piece of legislation so that you may usher in the next generation of conservationists. The conservation of Hawaii's unique natural resources depends upon your leadership on this issue. On behalf of the QDMA, we would like to thank you for your time, consideration, and dedicated service to the state of Hawaii.

Respectfully,

Jacob Pries
Policy Intern
Quality Deer Management Association