



**To: The Honorable Chair Senator  
Lorraine Inouye, the Honorable Vice  
Chair Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran,  
and members of the Senate Water  
and Land Committee**

**Re: Support for HB1021**

**Date: March 18, 2021**

**From: Keely Hopkins, *Pacific States Assistant Manager*  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation**

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My name is Keely Hopkins, and I am the Pacific States Assistant Manager for the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF). I am writing today to urge your support of House Bill 1021 (HB1021), which will authorize the Department of Land and Natural Resources to enter the Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact.

Since 1989, CSF has dedicated itself to the mission of working with Congress, governors, and state legislatures to protect and advance hunting, angling, recreational shooting and trapping. The unique and collective force of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus, and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses, working closely with CSF, and with the support of major hunting, recreational fishing and shooting, and trapping organizations, serves as an unprecedented network of pro-sportsmen elected officials that advance the conservation interests of America's hunters and anglers.

The purpose of this letter is to explain the history, importance, and profound impact of the Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact (IWVC), and to urge your committee to support HB1021. HB1021 will allow Hawaii to join 48 other states as a participant in the IWVC to help ensure that wildlife violators are held accountable for their crimes.

Despite the strong traditions of ethics that the vast majority of sportsmen and women abide by, there are those that disregard the laws that regulate hunting and fishing and make the conscious decision to leave the ranks of hunters and anglers and become poachers. With increased sophistication of poachers and other wildlife violators, there is a need for increased levels of coordination between state fish and wildlife agencies. To assist in this coordination and to help stop poachers and other violators from moving their illegal activity from state to state, the IWVC was created to allow state wildlife agencies to share information about fish and wildlife violations with their colleagues across state lines and throughout the nation. The IWVC began in 1985, after Colorado and Nevada drafted an interstate agreement on combatting wildlife violators. The IWVC expanded in 1989, after being passed into law by Colorado, Nevada, and Oregon, which collectively formed the core of the compact. Today, there are 48 states participating in the Compact leaving Hawaii as one of only two states (the

other being Massachusetts) that are presently not members.

The Compact is overseen by a board comprised of representatives from the wildlife law enforcement or licensing authority divisions from participating states. In associated states, the IWVC does the following for the fish and wildlife agencies:

- Allows conservation officers to devote more time to the patrolling, surveillance, and apprehension of wildlife violators.
- Reduces the burden on courts and jail facilities by decreasing caseloads.
- Reduces the number of “Failure to Appear” cases because non-residents cannot ignore a citation from a participating state without facing the suspension of their wildlife license privileges in their home state.
- Serves as a notice to wildlife violators that their activities in one state can affect their privileges, or rights, to recreate in all participating states, possibly including their home state.

Most importantly, however, this bill will protect wildlife from illegal harvest and will strengthen the Compact (through Hawaii’s participation therein) by revoking the hunting and/or fishing privileges of all persons who have committed serious wildlife offenses in other member states. Through HB1021, Hawaii will be sending a message to all poachers and wildlife violators that they will not be able to enjoy sporting privileges in the state of Hawaii.

In closing, I urge you to support the passage of HB1021. HB1021, if enacted, will be a crucial step forward in Hawaii’s participation in the IWVC and will help prevent wildlife violators from escaping accountability for their crimes. Should you require any additional information on this, or any other sportsmen-related topic, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



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