

Honolulu, Hawaii

Feb. 16

, 2006

RE: S.B. No. 2006
S.D. 1

Honorable Robert Bunda
President of the Senate
Twenty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2006
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture, to which was referred S.B. No. 2006 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT PROHIBITING SALES OF OPIHI,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to prohibit the commercial sale of three species of Hawaiian opihi.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR); a Maui County Council member; the Community Conservation Network; Conservation Council for Hawaii; Pa'a Pono Miloli'i, Inc.; and five individuals. Testimony in opposition to this measure was submitted by one individual.

Your Committee finds that, in recent years, the number of edible opihi found in Hawaii has declined. The popularity of opihi as a delicacy has led to overharvesting on the island of Oahu and has made opihi difficult to find on the neighbor islands. Thus, this measure prohibits the sale of three types of edible opihi.

Your Committee noted testimony from DLNR explaining that:

- (1) With an unlimited recreational harvest of opihi, enforcement of commercial opihi picking may be very difficult. Thus, DLNR suggested that a one-quart



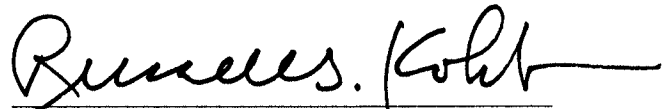
recreational bag limit of opihi with its shell on should be added to this measure; and

- (2) There is a fourth species of Hawaiian opihi, *cellana melanostoma*, that should also be protected.

Your Committee has amended this measure by adopting DLNR's suggestions and making technical, nonsubstantive changes for clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2006, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2006, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water, Land, and
Agriculture,



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN, Chair



