

HB2687  
TONY COSTA  
HAWAII NEARSHORE FISHERMEN

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**COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND USE & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

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**Representative John Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair**

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**Representative Roland D. Sagum, 111**

**Representative Scott K. Saiki**

**Representative Cynthia Thielen**

From: Tony Costa  
Hawaii Nearshore Fishermen  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
808-540-1308 Tel

Re.: Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB 2687  
Date: Friday, February 8, 2008  
Time: 8:30 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 312 State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Copies needed: 5

**TESTIMONY**

My name is Tony Costa and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaii Near Shore Fishermen, a loosely organized, tight-knit group of nearshore fishermen.

HB2687 would require the department of land and natural resources to review rules adopted through chapter 91 for effectiveness.

Hawaii Nearshore Fishermen are in SUPPORT OF HB2687

Last year, the fishermen were in support of a bill that asked that a scientific need be demonstrated before fishing restrictions are implemented – the current environmental trend being a “precautionary approach” promises to gradually move in a complete “no take” direction with respect to fisheries.

Fishermen felt, and continue to feel, that arbitrary regulations using this precautionary approach is not sustainable. More importantly, when this precautionary approach is singularly applied to fishing only, it could indeed be going way to far – and at stake, the baby goes out with the bath water. A sustainable life style and cultural practice deeply part of this community forever lost.

Each new <permanent> fishing restriction implemented moves us closer to a time of complete no fishing.

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Recent measures adopted through chapter 91-rule change that would not get reviewed subject to HB2687 include change to gill net fishing, and bottomfish closures.

In order to have an honest understanding of the effectiveness of rule change and so that we can determine if we have achieved the intended purpose of fishing rules and regulations adopted by chapter 91, we support the passage of HB2687

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Costa

THE HOUSE  
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, OCEAN RESOURCES & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
Rep. Ken Ito, Chair  
Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair

Friday, February 8, 2008  
8:30 a.m., Conference Room 312, State Capitol

HOUSE BILL NO. 2687  
Relating to Aquatic Resources

Representative Ito, Representative Karamatsu, members of the committee, my name is Linda Paul and I am testifying today in behalf of the Ocean Law & Policy Institute of the Pacific Forum CSIS. I am testifying against HB 2687, which is yet another poorly-disguised attempt by a particular ocean resources user group to undermine and undo DLNR's rule-making authority.

It also puts the Legislature back into the business of micro managing fisheries, a task that is impossible for it to do since it is only in session 60 very busy days of the year, and a task which it wisely turned over to DLNR in 1999 when it recognized that our aquatic resources need managing 365 days a year. The rule-making process, as opposed to the legislative process, provides far more opportunity for public input and comment and results in rules that reflect the needs and desires of a whole spectrum of aquatic resource user groups.

It is important to understand that even with a complete closure of a fishery, the stock may not recover within a three year time period. A good example of this is the lobster fishery in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. That fishery was closed eight years ago and it still has not recovered.



Linda Paul, Director  
262-6859

**carl**

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**From:** "carl" <mjellings@hawaii.rr.com>  
**To:** <WLH@capitol.hawaii.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 07, 2008 8:02 PM  
**Subject:** Support HB 2687

*WLH Committee Chair Ken Ito and Vice Chair Riki Karamatsu and committee members*

*Committee on Finance*

*Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair*

*Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair*

*Friday 2-8-08 at 8:30 am room 312 Support HB 2687*

*My name is Carl Paoo Jellings Waianae resident and expert fishermen I've noticed many rules that have been implimented over the last ten years that have had economic impacts on our livelihood, and has been done so for no good cause , Example Opelu Kala to 16 inches this may be the L50 for the species but these fish are one of the most strongest and prolific in numbers, they are very hard to catch. Too me many laws are being created that are uninforcable and are not in the best intrest of the overall ecosystem,, Mahalo for allowing me to testify ,,*

2/7/2008