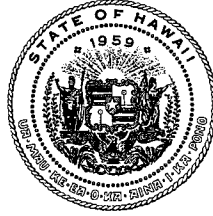
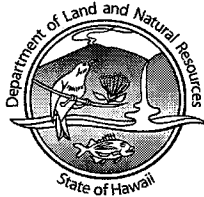


**TESTIMONY**  
**HB 3173 HD1**

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**TESTIMONY OF THE CHAIRPERSON  
OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**On House Bill 3173, House Draft 1 – Relating To Grounded Vessels**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
WATER AND LAND**

**March 12, 2008**

House Bill 3173, House Draft 1 proposes to clarify that, upon assuming control over a grounded vessel, the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) shall remove the vessel by any means necessary in order to minimize damages to the natural resources and not become a hazard to navigation. The Department is in strong support of this Administration legislation.

Presently, when the Department assumes control of a vessel that has been grounded on a coral reef or in imminent danger of breaking up and that cannot be removed immediately by the owner in a manner that is reasonably safe, the statutes require the Department to direct the vessel to a safer location. When encountering situations where the vessel is breaking up or damaged beyond repair and becomes a threat to the natural resource, or a hazard to navigation, total removal of the vessel may not always be practical. As an example, there are vessels aground at the Kure Atoll and off the Honolulu International Airport reef runway that need to be removed in pieces because it has been determined that to remove them whole would cause extensive damage to the natural resources.

This bill would allow the Department to take immediate action and reduce the cost to remove a grounded vessel that has been determined to be a threat to natural resources or a hazard to navigation.

The Department strongly recommends passage of this Administration bill.



# Ocean Tourism Coalition

*The Voice for Hawaii's Ocean Tourism Industry*  
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March 12, 2008

Testimony To: Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Presented By: James E. Coon, President  
Ocean Tourism Coalition

Tim Lyons, CAE  
Executive Director

Subject: H.B. 3173, HD 1 – RELATING TO GROUNDED VESSELS.

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

The Ocean Tourism Coalition (OTC) represents the 300 small commercial passenger vessels operating out of state harbor facilities. We speak in support of H.B. 3173 as amended.

We agree with the intent of this bill and protecting the reef from abandoned or derelict vessels. We want to see language that would protect the rights of the vessel owner to have the first right to coordinate the salvage of his own vessel. This is especially important for the commercial operators whose vessels may be worth well over a million dollars. We are highly motivated to save our vessels and do as little damage to the reef or environment as possible.

The amendment in HD 1 reflects the rights of the vessel owner to be the primary agent in the salvaging of his vessel.

Thank you.

**TESTIMONY**

**HB 3173 HD1**

**(END)**