



Ocean Tourism Coalition

Shining Light on Ocean Tourism Concerns
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Committee on WLH

Date: Monday February 04, 2008

Time: 9:00 AM

Place: Conference Room 312

Speaking in Conditional Support to HB 3173 with proposed Amendments

Chair Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair Jon Riki Karamatsu and members of the WLH Committee:

My name is James E. Coon, President of the Ocean Tourism Coalition (OTC) Hawaii's State-wide organization. We represent the 300 Small Commercial Passenger Vessels operating out of State Harbor facilities. We speak in **conditional support of HB 3173 with proposed amendments:**

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.

If you pass this bill HB 3173, please amend it to reflect the rights of the vessel owner to be the primary agent in the salvaging of his vessel.

Sincerely,

James E. Coon, President OTC