

LATE TESTIMONY

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From: JoBear55@aol.com
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Committee on the Judiciary
Representative Tommy Waters, Chair
Representative Blake K. Oshiro, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 12, 2008
2:05 p.m., Conference Room 325

In Support of HB3176-Relating to Administrative Penalties for Damage to Stony Coral and Live Rock

I Georgette Jordan, support HB 3176.

The protection of coral reef resources is of high importance. The fragile environment that exists within the coral reef holds an important balance in the ocean ecosystem and it needs to be protected. Along the Waianae Coast, we have seen the pressured increase by users wanting to experience the near-shore waters which has slowly contributed to additional deterioration of our reefs over the years.

Damage to stony coral and live rock by non-attentive users can take years to recover, if ever. Activities such as anchoring in an area by boaters who are not aware of the underwater topography, damage caused by vessels that sink or go aground on our reef need to be better controlled. I strongly believe that increased fines should be put into place to deter reckless acts that could harm these environments.

Therefore, I urge the committee to support HB 3176.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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