



**Committee on WLH**

Date: Monday February 4, 2008

Time: 9:00 am

Place: Conference Room 312

**Speaking in Conditional Support to HB 3176 with Amendments**

My name is Jeff Strahn, President of Hawaii Islands Recreational Scuba Association (HIRSA). We represent recreation Scuba through the state. We speak in **conditional support of HB 3176 with amendments:**

We agree with the intent of this bill and protecting the reef, but we would like to see a more scientific formula for determining the per meter values of various coral reefs – not just one blanket value. Areas of coral have different values based on the amount of use an area sees by the public. For example Hanauma Bay is the most valuable reef in Hawaii because it has up to 3000 people per day use it. The next most valuable reef in Hawaii is Molokini Crater with 1000 people per day. It would seem appropriate to take the study by DAR which is based on Cesar et al.'s study of the economics of Hawaii's coral reefs Cesar et al 2002.

We propose to make the Hanauma Bay economic values the base line in determining the value of any specific reef damage. Economists and Ecologist can then determine the number of years that an area will be out of service and apply the appropriate yearly recovery rate based on the estimated amount of use an area sees on a daily basis.

(e) In addition to subsection (c), a fine of up to \$5000 per square meter of area damaged may be levied for damaging or breaking stony coral or live rock based on the methodology of economic values of Hawaii's coral reefs by Cesar et al 2002.

(h) "Damaging" means causing extensive injury resulting in irreparable harm or death including silting by improper grading and lack of control of run off.

If you pass this bill, please amend it to reflect a more scientific basis to establish reef value.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey S. Strahn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffrey S. Strahn  
President

Hawaii Islands Recreational Scuba Association