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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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LAND
STATE PARKS

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

On House Bill 3301 – RELATING TO FISHING

**Before the HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
WATER, LAND, OCEAN RESOURCES AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

February 13, 2008

House Bill 3301 proposes to create a set of community-based subsistence fishing areas at the communities of Hookena and Honaunau in the South Kona District, Island of Hawaii. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following for consideration.

The Department notes that a common framework is preferable to advancing numerous smaller measures independently, which might result in significant inconsistencies, and thus a confusingly disparate web of local regulations along the State's coastlines. Such a framework is being proposed in Senate Bill 2871 which would create a Makai O Ke Kai program to promote community based marine stewardship in collaboration with the Department. The Department notes that while it supports the common framework approach, the Department nonetheless has concerns with the impacts any appropriation will have on the Executive Supplement Budget request.

The Department also notes that the adoption of this program would significantly increase the workload of the Department's Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR). Specifically, much of the DAR's existing expertise available for such efforts is already devoted to developing similar community-based fishing areas at Milolii on Hawaii Island and Haena on Kauai, which were mandated in previous legislative sessions. The Department therefore requests that the Legislature should recognize the fact that it will take a considerable period of time for the DAR to properly address all of these community-based management mandates in an effective fashion, and that expectations for action should be structured accordingly. If, however, actions on the part of the Department were coordinated with those of non-governmental organizations that have in the past provided useful interface between coastal communities and the State, then implementation of the goals set forth above could be facilitated in a more timely fashion.



HB 3301, RELATING TO FISHING

House Committee on Water, Land, Ocean & Hawaiian Affairs
February 13, 2008 9:00 a.m.
Room: 312

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB 3301, which would designate Honaunau and Ho'okena, Hawai'i Island, as community-based, subsistence fishing areas within State marine waters and would require the Department of Land and Natural Resources to consult with the respective area residents to create rules for the fishing areas.

OHA agrees that traditional, community-based fisheries management can only improve current nearshore fisheries management policies. Only local communities that have lived off of the sea, have properly studied her, her cycles and all related natural and unnatural impacts upon her to know when is the proper time to harvest, to kapu, to heal, to monitor, to inspect, and to take accountings. Native Hawaiians have centuries of knowledge upon which to draw, and generations to feed and to educate. Not only must they preserve the ecosystem of their nearshore fishery, but the health and culture of their people.

They must be the ones to enforce their knowledge, whether or not the Hawaiian moon calendar and the regular species counts meet with the State's fisheries calendars. The connection of rain runoff to limu to honu to migrating and generational fish species, for example, must be understood area by area, and must be taught to upcoming generations of Hawaiians and other community members. Knowledge, education and enforcement must come from the place and the people who know that place, who live on and because of that place. This measure empowers a community, which will provide further information to other administrators of Hawai'i's nearshore fisheries - all of which can only benefit from more study and better, area-specific, knowledge.

In this particular area, however, the West Hawai'i Fisheries Rules are in place, via several years' worth of local community-based work that OHA would hate to see undone. Should this Legislation be passed, therefore, OHA urges that the Legislature take this previous community work into account.

Please note the elements of the Hawai'i Constitution upheld by this measure:

Article XII, Section 4:

The State reaffirms and shall protect all rights, customarily and traditionally exercised for subsistence, cultural and religious purposes and possessed by ahupua'a tenants who are

descendants of Native Hawaiians who inhabited the Hawaiian Islands prior to 1778, subject to the right of the State to regulate such rights.

Article XII, Section 7:

Every agency that has jurisdiction over the ocean must consider Hawaiian rights to access the ocean for traditional, cultural and subsistence activities.

OHA urges the Committee to PASS HB 3301. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 3301 Relating to Fishing
House Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, February 13, 2008, 9:00AM, Room 312

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of Hawaii's native plants, animals, and ecosystems. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands for native species in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 32,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on O'ahu, Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.

The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 3301 to establish two community based subsistence fishing areas in the shoreline and near shore waters of the communities of Honaunau and Ho'okena.

Healthy reefs and fisheries have many economic, environmental and cultural benefits. We all have a stake in their future. Furthermore, fishing is integral to our cultural heritage and our island way of life. However, as anyone who has spent time in Hawaiian waters knows, many of our reefs and fisheries are at serious risk from a variety of threats and a precipitous decline in near shore populations of fishes. In fact, scientists estimate that our near shore fisheries are merely one-quarter of what they were a century ago—that is a decline of 75% over 100 years.

Coastal Communities throughout Hawai'i are concerned about the decline in their near shore habitat, fisheries, and other resources. They are organizing themselves and taking action to reverse that decline. The communities of Honaunau and Ho'okena, along with others like Ha'ena, Miloli'i and Mo'omomi, can serve as models for local management, in partnership with government and science, of important fishery, coral reef and other marine resources for the benefit present and future generations.

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Community Conservation Network

Working with People to Sustain their Natural Surroundings

February 11, 2008

TO: THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, OCEAN
RESOURCES AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

RE: Hearing Wednesday, February 13, 2008, 9 a.m., Room 312

FULL SUPPORT OF HB3301

Dear Chair Ito, Vice Chair Karamatsu, and Committee Members:

Board Members:

*Alan White, Ph.D.
Kem Lowry, Ph.D.
William Tam, Esq
Kevin Weng, Ph.D.
Sheila McKenna, Ph.D.
Kitty Courtney, Ph.D.
John Parks*

The Community Conservation Network (CCN) supports coastal communities to improve marine resources management and fishing across the Hawaiian Islands. We have been assisting the community of Ho'okena for five years and the community of Honaunau for two years in their efforts to better manage the marine resources that sustain them culturally, spiritually, and physically. We are also working with the community of Hā'ena, Kaua'i, on a multi-stakeholder process to develop a management plan for the Hā'ena Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area, **which was designated by many of you through this same process in 2006.**

Ho'okena and Honaunau are home to fishermen and other gatherers who utilize traditional cultural practices as a way of life. They interact with the marine environment daily, have become intimately familiar with the rhythms of the natural environment through years of observation, and have a wealth of experience and knowledge that can improve management strategies for these communities. Research and experience in Hawai'i and around the Pacific have demonstrated that when a community is directly involved in caring for natural resources, both the community and the resources benefit. Further, when stakeholders are engaged in recommending regulations for resources management, they are much more likely to obey them.

CCN applauds the Department of Land and Natural Resources for its openness to community-based management. I am aware that the DLNR is concerned about a degree of community interest that will overwhelm its limited resources, but CCN is willing, able, and ready to continue to assist the communities of Honaunau and Ho'okena for as long as they request it, reducing the work load for DLNR as much as possible. Over time, the cost to the DLNR should be minimal due to continued community participation in management activities.

CCN also applauds the Legislature for supporting a variety of community-based resource management initiatives. We believe that these efforts complement each other and provide the best way forward to a future in which the natural and cultural resources of Hawai'i provide abundantly for our children and our children's children.

CCN fully supports HB3301 and urges the committee to pass the bill.

Sincerely,
Debbie Gowensmith, Hawai'i Program Director
808-528-3700

From: Makaala Kaaumoana [mailto:makaala@hawaiian.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 8:26 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: Testimony HB 3301

TO: THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, OCEAN RESOURCES AND
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

RE: Hearing Wednesday, February 13, 2008, 9 a.m., Room 312

STRONG SUPPORT OF HB3301

Dear Chair Ito, Vice Chair Karamatsu, and Committee Members,

Our organization worked with and continues to support the Ha'ena Community Based Subsistence Fishery Management Area which was designated in 2006. Their efforts have been supported by a collaboration with DLNR that is working.

This experience is encouraging other communities to *accept their kuleana* and develop place based plans and projects to restore, protect and preserve the natural resources of their respective ahupua'a.

This bill provides the opportunity for community kuleana and collaboration to continue. These communities are asking for your kokua. This is a good bill with a pono purpose.

Please pass HB 3301 and continue the living legacy of community based resource management.

Me ka pono,
Makaala

Maka'ala Ka'aumoana
Executive Director
Hanalei Watershed Hui
P.O.Box 1285
Hanalei, HI 96714
808-826-1985

The Hanalei Watershed Hui mission is to support and protect the ecology, cultures and sustainable economies of Hanalei.

11 FEB 2008

Committee on WLH

Date: Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Time: 9:00AM

Place: Conference Room 312

Speaking in the Strong Opposition to HB 3301

1. This testimony is to express my strong objections to certain provisions against commercial activity in Honaunau Bay, outlined in HB 3301.

2. My name is Kyle Fields. My wife and I own Sea Quest Rafting Adventures in Kailua-Kona. We are a small business that has been providing snorkeling and rafting tours to small groups in Kealakekua Bay and Honaunau Bay since 1989. As a commercial operator, we work hard to minimize our impact on the reef by coordinating our tour times with our competitors, minimizing the use of our engines while in the snorkel sites, and educating our guests that they are not to stand on or touch any part of the reef. We pride ourselves that our guests leave with a greater appreciation of Hawaii's natural resources as well its history.

3. While there are many areas along the Kona coast that have beautiful reefs and outstanding scuba diving, snorkeling requires a safe, protected cove with shallow reefs. Besides Kealakekua Bay, Honaunau Bay is one of the very few areas along the south Kona coast that provide a safe yet beautiful snorkeling experience to tourists and residents.

4. My company, along with Dolphin Discoveries, which also offers snorkel tours in Honaunau Bay, works hard to minimize our impact on the local community of Honaunau.

- We coordinate our times to limit the number of rafts and snorkelers in the bay at any one time.
- We do not anchor - we drift with our engines turned off.
- We keep our guests confined to the south half of the bay - out of the boat channel and view plane of the residents.
- We only snorkel at Honaunau Bay on our morning tour.
- We limit our time in Honaunau Bay to just 60 minutes per day.
- We do not allow our guests to stand or touch the reef.
- We do not allow our guests to take or disturb any wildlife.
- We do not allow our guests to swim with the dolphins in Honaunau Bay.

4. Below is an excerpt from our employee handbook that depicts our allowable snorkel area in Honaunau Bay.

As you can see, our snorkel area is a relatively small zone within Honaunau Bay and an even smaller area when you consider the entire coastline. It is also an area that is not used for fishing; however, fishermen do transit the bay in their motorboats when departing from and returning to the boat ramp in Honaunau Bay. A chief complaint we have heard from these fishermen is that snorkelers sometimes crowd the very narrow and shallow channel between an opening in the reef. We work hard to keep our guests out of this channel; however, we have no control over the larger number of uncontrolled snorkelers who enter the water at "Two Step"-a shoreline entry point near the narrow boat channel. I have heard that our local DLNR personnel are working on a plan to place buoys along the boat channel to keep unguided snorkelers out of danger and away from this "No Swim Zone." We applaud this idea and believe it will make for a better experience for both visiting snorkelers and local fishermen.

5. The wording of HB 3301 could effectively ban us from snorkeling in Honaunau Bay and force us to spend more time in Kealakekua Bay or find an alternate site - a site that is both unsafe and uninteresting to our guests. In testimony in opposition to HB 3389 last week, which would have banned us from Kealakekua Bay, I mentioned that we were forced to find alternate snorkel sites in October 2006 after the large earthquake placed Kealakekua Bay off limits for about a week. It was a very bad experience for our employees and our guests as they were dropped off in waves up to five feet high to snorkel over a reef that was thirty to forty feet deep - that was the best that we could find. HB 3301 will have a similar and very negative impact on my company, my employees, and the economic base of the Kona District.

6. Commercial as well as recreational use of such a valuable resource as Honaunau Bay should be regulated and monitored by the DLNR in order to preserve this precious resource for all the people of Hawaii; however, HB 3301 would become a model where large swaths of the state's coasts and near-shore waters are controlled by small interest groups that could then begin limiting coastal access as guaranteed by the state constitution. The decline in the take of subsistence fishing is due to over-fishing and over growth in the human population. There is no scientific study that links a decline in fish population with snorkeling.

7. I implore you to eliminate this bill in favor of a more balanced approach to preserving subsistence fishing for the communities of Honaunau and Ho`okena. A better approach to this bill would be to limit commercial ocean tourism activities to licensed operators that provide guided tours only. This way the DLNR could better regulate these activities and require that guides educate their guests on the fragility of the reef and its ecosystem. It would also provide the tax dollars needed to preserve the resource and enforce the regulations. We must work better, smarter, harder, and together to find a way of preserving Hawaiian cultural practices while at the same time providing jobs and a solid economic base for all the people of Hawaii.

With Aloha,

Kyle Fields
President,
Sea Quest LTD.

From: Danny DeLaTorre [mailto:konadan3@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 7:10 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: Honaunau Bill

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
Rep. Jon Karamatsu, Vice-Chair
Comittee on water, land, ocean resources, Hawaiian Affairs Comittee

Feb. 12, 2008

Opposition to HB3301/ Honaunau and Ho'okena Community-Based Substinance Fishing Areas

1.) I am giving my testimony to strongly express my opposition to HB3301.

2.)I am a captain for Sea Quest Rafting located in Kona. Honaunau is one of our snorkeling destinations and I cannot stress enough of how conscience that all of our captains are at protecting the integrity of Honaunau below and above the water. We make it very clear to our passengers the negative impact we can have on the eco-system of Honaunau if do not take certain measures on protecting the reef from human impact.

It is in all of our best interest to keep Honaunau a beautiful and pristine destination. I think closing the bay to commercial activity is not the solution to do so. It is awareness. We do our part on informing our passengers on the do's and dont's of snorkeling. I feel an awareness program should be set up to educate visitors coming from land. Much like they do in Haunama Bay.

Mahalo for taking the time to read my testimony.

Aloha, Capt. Danny DeLaTorre

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From: BAMBOO REEF HAWAII [mailto:bambooreefhawaii@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 9:33 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 3301

Representative Ken Ito, Chair
Representative Jon Karamatsu, Vice-chair
Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources, Hawaiian Affairs Committee

Committee on WLH

Date: Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Time: 9 AM

Place: Conference Room 312

This is to testify in Strong Opposition to HB 3301

Description: Designates the Honaunau and Hookena Community-based Subsistence Fishing Areas in the South Kona District of the island of Hawaii. Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to consult with the inhabitants of the respective fishing areas.

My name is Geoff Hand and I live with my wife and son on the Big Island, where we operate a small ocean recreation business that we depend on for our livelihood. We love the ocean and enjoy sharing it with friends and visitors. I operate permitted kayak tours periodically from Honaunau Bay and Hookena Beach and send visitors to these beautiful snorkel and swim areas every day. I am one of thousands of local businesses, residents and concierges that recommend Honaunau Bay & Hookena Beach to visitors seeking the best the Big Island has to offer. Consequently, Honaunau & Hookena are popular and critical destinations for tourism here and are essential to the Big Island's economy and the State's. *This Bill jeopardizes* the Big Island's ability to entice visitors to come and/or return to stay in our hotels, restaurants and hundreds of other tourist related businesses. These areas are as important to the Big Island economy as Hanauma Bay and Waikiki is to Oahu. You would not think to ban recreation from Hanauma Bay, please don't allow this to the Big Island! But what of the problems stated in HB 3301 caused by tourists coming to the Bay and beach to snorkel? Are their really problems and will the "local community" do a better job of protecting the area than the people of Hawaii?

HB3301 is very mistaken on key points upon which the Bill is based. The idea that recreational use (snorkeling) is damaging the reef is remarkable, since it is nearly impossible for the snorkelers to touch bottom in most of the Bay. Honaunau Bay is well known and popular due to the pristine and untouched reef fringing the Bay. At the perimeter of the Bay the water is deep providing a natural protection from snorkelers touching the reef with fins or by standing on the reef. It simply cannot be done! No one

who snorkels or studies this area could conclude that the coral reef is in any substantial danger of degradation or anticipated future degradation to the coral. Another incorrect idea forwarded in HB3301 is that recreational use has adversely impacted the ability of subsistence fisherman to access traditional fishing grounds is nonsense. The mornings and afternoons in both areas have little tourist activity. The dozen families that live at Honaunau Bay have a small boat ramp that accommodate small fishing boats. Typically there are 3-4 boat trailers parked at the site and since most fishermen are out early, they have no trouble launching their boats or finding trailer parking. It is difficult to understand how tourists are limiting this handful of fisherman access to the ocean? It is also notable that this is not a significant fishing area, subsistence or otherwise. The idea of designating a subsistence fishing area should include evidence that activity exists. In the many times that I have been to Hookena or Honaunau I have not seen anyone fishing. In review, since there has been no damage to the coral from visitors, nor do they pose a problem for fisherman's access to the fishing grounds. Where then is the irreparable harm to these very small communities economic, social, and cultural well being? The answer is: there is none. But HB3301 does suggest a concern from the residents along these two coastal areas.

While I appreciate that everyone wants their neighborhood and hometown to be the same as their memories from their childhoods, the fact is after 10 or 20 years; change happens. We would like to freeze in time the quieter, personal small town we grew up knowing. But with the growth in popularity of the Big Island, there are more and better job opportunities. There is more opportunity for everyone to buy a house, afford the important amenities like good health insurance and see children go to college. Trying to ban recreation is misguided for the health of our local and statewide economies. There is in place a National Historic Park on Honaunau Bay. It preserves the history, culture and a place to remember days gone by of this area. We don't need HB 3301 to preserve a lifestyle that is no more the mode in Honaunau Bay than on Kaneohe Bay or Kailua Bay on Oahu. Would the Representative for the Honolulu area be willing to give control of the Waikiki area or Hanauma Bay area to a half dozen families that are opposed to recreation and snorkeling? No.

This is a multicultural society on the islands and everyone should respect each others differences, not to institutionalize or favor one over another, except perhaps to living together and appreciating the unifying American Values. We are taking steps toward oligarchy and away from Democracy when special law-making rights are given to certain groups and excluding others from the lawmaking process. We need representative government – responsive government... not government based on race.

Please vote against this bill. It is mistaken in its facts. It is bad for our economy. It will eliminate two very important tourist destinations. It will bankrupt businesses and employees will lose jobs. It will set a precedent for disenfranchising the majority in favor of a minority. It does not set out what it purports to do. A good idea would be to stop the HB 3389 before it takes up valuable time that could be devoted to more worthy projects. Please oppose the HB 3301 and stop it in committee.

In anticipation of your thoughtful consideration, thank you.

Geoff Hand

81-6367 Mamalahoa Hwy. Kealahou, Hawaii 96750

From: Ron Tubbs [mailto:rtmb@hawaiiintel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 6:51 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: opposed to HB 3301 and HB 3175 Wed, 2-13-08 9AM Room 312 Ron Tubbs Hawaii Tropical Fish Association.

Greetings Representatives Please read the following.

From Ron Tubbs Hawaii Tropical Fish Association and RT Distributors live fish wholesale

*Re: HB 3301 DNLN has just spent millions doing fish counts and setting up FRA (fish replenishing areas along the Kailua Kona coast do we really need another study to tell us fish counts are way up? We support the rights of Hawaiians to fish for subsistence but are not in conflict with them or there fisheries! Tropical fish collectors have already lost 30% of the Kona Coast to FRA's and now you want to take South Point too. Many have already lost there jobs in our buisness please do not make it any worse. **WE DO NOT TAKE EATING FISH!!***

DNLN and West Hawaii Marine Fisheries Council have been working for decades on protecting Hawaii,s Marine Resources and one of there next step is Species Of Significant Interest. Bag limits would only eliminate an economically viable, sustainable, renewable resource business.

As a college graduate I hope you will see through the inaccuracies and lies of Snorkle Bobs, his website, and other biased ecology groups supporting this bill. They are good intentioned but uneducated in this area. This bill would basically close the Aquarium fish industry. Competition from abroad and costs would prohibit the business by potentially reducing more fishing grounds. I am an ecologist with 8 years of college from UH. I am also an aquarium fish collector. I am biased in favor of the aquarium fish Industry. For this reason I will stick only to some **important facts** regarding this bill. *INFORMATION TAKEN FROM NUMERIOUS RESEARCH STUDIES, MARINE BIOLOGY TEXTS, WEBSITE SOURCES ARE: DNLN, DAR, NOAA, HIMB AND NASA.*

The State of Hawaii has the **strictest laws of any State** in the US. Aquarium fish taking is highly regulated and they answer to Fish and Wildlife, DNLN enforcement, Department of Agriculture and the USDA. Tropical fish require Veterinarian inspections when shipped to certain areas. Health and quality of fish is everything. Size limits, preserves, Marine Protected Areas, and nearly 100 laws regulate Tropical fish collecting.

THE BIG QUESTION IS **SUSTAINABILITY?** **Marine fish are THE MOST RENEWABLE RESOURCE.** Marine fish are the most efficient breeders on the planet. Many species can spread or lay **several hundred thousand to half a million eggs at one breeding.** Most of Hawaii's fish are broadcast breeders repopulating wide areas. Most of Hawaii's fish species are found throughout the South Pacific. Fish breed once to twice a year and most can reach breeding size in one year. Large overpopulation fish blooms occur all the time –in 2003 very large population occurred in the Aweoweo, Yellow tang, Morish idols and Potters angels. Reports of this bloom were reported in the news and media. **Yellow Tang populations are out of control in preserve areas (FRA Fish Replenishment Areas of Kailua Kona) yellow tang counts are up %48 (DNLN'S NEW STATS REPORTED 90% IN FRA AND 75% OUTSIDE FRA COUNT INCREASES FOR YELLOOW TANGS!!!) causing the decline of other species due to food supply (www.CRAMP.com) and DNLN website.**

The ocean covers most of this planet with **fish out numbering any other species on earth.** **Hawaii has over 4508 square miles of diveable ocean.** **Hawaii's corals grow 3 to 5 inches a year-** growth dependant on sunlight and depth. . Only very near shore reefs in run off areas with little current are in decline; see (www.CRAMP.com) study of Kaneohe and Maui. Hawaii's reef fish do not eat seaweeds which grow as a result of **Eutrophication**-runoff. There is over 6 feet deep of new coral in many of Kaneohe Bays reefs that were dredged in the 1940's. Most of the Hawaiian Islands are untouched by Tropical fish collecting. Collecting is limited to patches on the Kailua Kona coast (30% of which is protected by MPA - Marine Protected Areas) and West and South shores of Oahu. Some patches of other areas are fished occasionally. **EIGHTY FIVE PERCENT OF THE BIG ISLAND, ALMOST ALL MAUI, ALL MOLOKAI, ALL KAHOO LAWE, ALL LANAI, ALL MOLOKAI, 50% OAHU, ALL KAUAI, ALL NIIHAU AND THE NORTHWEST HAWAIIAN ISLANDS ARE NOT FISHED BY TROPICAL FISH DIVERS.** 2001 and 2002 Great annual fish counts conducted on several islands (www.reef.org) showed an increase of fish in areas counted by 2% to 23% for most species showing **an overall increase in State's fish populations.** The DNLR 3 million MPA study showed an increase there as well (some species declined in counts there due to overpopulation-species crowding-ecosystems can only support a certain population). UH fish counts in Kaneohe Bay show fish increases and fish counts at all artificial reefs like the YO57 ship off Waikiki show increased fish counts. **THERE IS NO SCIENTIFIC DATA SHOWING POPULATION SCARCITY FROM TROPICAL FISH COLLECTING. NO FISH IN HAWAII HAS BECOME EXTINCT!**

One of DNLR's next steps is regulations based on data regarding species of significant interest. Tropical Fish Collectors support protecting species which have population declines or are in need of protection due to possible extinction. I am sure the DNLR will introduce legislation after their scientific studies. THIS WOULD SOLVE ANY PROBLEMS REGARDING BAG LIMITS WHICH HAVE BEEN PROPOSED. DNLR website for more info.

There are at most 60 divers in all Hawaii who collect tropical fish. The 60 divers are split about evenly between Oahu and Kailua Kona. More are licensed but dive rarely if at all. There are far more ex tropical fish diver permits than current divers. Most of these 60 have side jobs or cannot dive full time due to weather restrictions. Collectors rotate their spots and have been in business for as long as 40 years. Tropical fish collectors make money long term diving the same rotated areas. Due to decompression limits a diver can cover at most 50 square feet per dive at 60 feet with a 2-4 dives a day limit. Divers go out just a few days a week. Fish are smart and run from the divers. Hiding spaces, coral, artificial reefs, rocks ect. prevent the capture of most fish in any area. Big breeders take up too much space in the catch bucket so abundant smaller fish are caught. Most small fish do not reach adulthood due to predators and food supply. In the long run overall populations are not impacted. It would be impossible to catch all fish from one area. Divers have an interest to leave breeders to increase populations. Rotating spots insures future money from diving. **HAWAII HAS 28 MILLION SQUARE FEET OF DIVE ABLE OCEAN.**

THE POOR LITTLE FISH. Aquarium fish hobbyists spend a lot of money to keep the fish they buy healthy and happy. Enriched foods, controlled environments, medications and lack of predators greatly increase the lifespan of fish. Breeders are successfully breeding many species caught in Hawaii and may become future main suppliers for Hawaiian indigenous fish. Local fish have been kept alive for 12 years. This same fish normally could only survive in the wild for a couple years. Tropical fish divers only get paid for live healthy fish so care and health is the only way to make money in the business.

THE INDUSTRY IS DECLINEING IN DEMAND FOR TROPICAL FISH. THE SAME FISH THAT COME FROM HAWAII ARE SOLD FROM INDONESIA AND THE PHILIPINES FOR .25 CENT TO JUST ONE DOLLAR. COMPUTERS AND ADVANCES IN MEDIA HAVE DRASTICALLY REDUCED THE MARKET FOR TROPICAL FISH. MOST OF THE YEAR DIVERS ARE TOLD NOT TO DIVE AS THERE IS NOT ENOUGH DEMAND FOR THE FISH. DNLR FISH COUNTS HAVE SHOWN INCREASED FISH COUNTS DUE TO MANDATORY FILING OF FISH CATCH REPORTS (A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO RULES ENACTED STATE: IF YOU DO NOT FILE-

PERMITS ARE NOT RENEWED). **In actuality fish catches have declined and demand has declined. The industry has seen many divers and wholesalers leave the business.** Increased laws have also played a role in the decline of the industry. The second largest wholesaler has seen a loss of %90 in business and is on the way out right now. He represents one fourth of all our business.

THERE IS SO MUCH MISINFORMATION REGARDING TROPICAL FISH COLLECTING THAT IT WOULD TAKE PAGES MORE TO COVER IT ALL. PLEASE RESPOND TO THIS EMAIL WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS. FISH COUNTS AND PAPERS CAN BE SUPPLIED TO BACK UP THE ABOVE FACTS UPON REQUEST. ***THE SYNOPSIS IS WE CAN HAVE A SUSTAINABLE TROPICAL FISH INDUSTRY WITH NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND THIS POTENTIAL LAW WOULD KILL ANY FUTURE OF THIS BUSINESS.***

Scientific based laws are needed to protect certain fish and Hawaii's oceans. HTFA (Hawaii Tropical Fish Association) supports species of significant interest and laws protecting Hawaii's reefs. THIS LAW WAS INTRODUCED TO ELIMINATE ALL TROPICAL FISH COLLECTORS. THE TROPICAL FISH INDUSTRY CAN CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO HAWAII FOREVER WITH NO MAJOR IMPACT ON FISH POPULATION. WE NEED WISDOM AND YOUR SUPPORT.

**Ron Tubbs 808-259-9997
rtmb@hawaiiantel.net
Hawaii Tropical Fish Association**

From: Mendy Dant [mailto:mendy@fair-wind.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 9:11 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: Testimony

February 12, 2008

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair

Rep. Mele Carroll
Rep. Roland D. Sagum, III
Rep. Michael Y. Magaoay
Rep. Scott K. Saiki
Rep. Hermina M. Morita
Rep. Cynthia Thielen,

RE: Opposition of HB 3301

I am writing against this bill because it is leaving too much up to be decided upon by too few. The few beaches we have on the Big Island need to be legally accessible by our residents and visitors alike. The people that use the beach are not taking the fish from the areas, but just looking, these are excellent snorkeling and scuba diving areas. To protect the marine life, coral reefs as well as the traditional and cultural fishing we simply need to have the DLNR begin a permit process to limit the commercial boats and passengers using the areas.

Our family business, Fair Wind Cruises started in 1971 and has continuously been good stewards of the pristine Kealakekua Bay area. Our vessel Fair Wind II is the only vessel using Kealakekua Bay holding a commercial permit and pays an extra fee for this privilege. We strongly believe in protecting our environment and respecting the marine life, and this is how we have conducted ourselves throughout our 37 years of business.

There are very few commercial vessels that go this far south to Honaunau, fewer to the south of Ho'okena area. Our 2nd vessel, Hula Kai is only in the Pali Kaholo area for an hour on any day that we go there. There may be fishing boats out in that area but rarely is there another commercial boat. This area is a 1 1/2 to 2 hours boat ride for most vessels from the Kona area. Our vessel travels quickly and can alleviate the more heavily visited Kealakekua, by continuing down the coast to Pali Kaholo, which is south of Ho'okena beach by about 3 miles.

These beaches and offshore ocean waters are not owned by any one person or group and should not be governed differently than other shoreline and offshore ocean waters. To suggest that the residents of Ho'okena should decide what uses and who can come to the beaches is not in line with public shoreline access laws. Even the privately owned expensive ocean front homes off of Oahu, or the Kohala Coast have vessels coming into their view, and people hiking to their

shorelines. Why should we give away public rights to only a few individuals?

We do not need legislation to give the DLNR more tasks and responsibilities on the Big Island without giving them more money to hire more staff. The DLNR has very limited staff to cover ocean and land issues on the largest island in the chain. They are so understaffed it is unrealistic and unreasonable to make them add another program to oversee. The need to hold meetings and make sure the community-based groups are running a fair and democratic management program would take human resources they do not have.

So in closing I would like to ask that you vote against this bill and allow the DLNR to put a permit process in place to control the users in these areas. The beaches and offshore ocean waters are for all Hawaii residents to have access, not just a chosen few. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my opinion on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Mendy Dant
Vice President
Fair Wind Cruises

--

Vice President
78-6775 Box "A" Makenawai St.
Kailua Kona, Hi 96740
Wk; 808-322-2644 ext#2
Fax:808-322-2913
Cell:808-345-6211
www:fair-wind.com

Fair Wind celebrates 37 years of being Big Island Ocean Guides and announces the new Hula Kai catamaran for luxury cruises along the pristine Kona Coast

-----Original Message-----

From: Betsy Morrigan [mailto:kayaklady@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 9:15 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: Testimony Against HB 3301

Representative Ken Ito, Chair
Representative Jon Karamatsu, Vice-chair
Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources, Hawaiian Affairs Committee
11 FEB 2008

Opposition to HB3301/Honaunau and Ho`okena Community-Based Subsistence
Fishing Areas

I am very much in favor of local fishery management and control and many of the provisions of this bill are excellent. However, I am testifying against this bill because of the provisions that the subsistence councils in Ho`okena and Honaunau can regulate all commercial activity in their areas.

My name is Betsy Morrigan. I own and operate a small business called Hawaii Pack and Paddle that provides guided kayak and snorkeling and hiking trips to Honaunau and Ho`okena Bays since 1992. I have six guides working for me and we go all over the island, but we concentrate our kayaking and snorkeling in these bays at Ho`okena and Honaunau. Each paddler learns about the importance of the reef and the area as a whole. These guidelines are taught to each guest and followed on every trip:

1. No chasing, harassing, or swimming with dolphins
2. No touching or standing in coral
3. No sunscreen<wear a rash guard or T-shirt
4. Use the bathroom before our trip
5. No touching/taking of cultural artifacts/sites
6. Learn about the area and its people and culture
and try to find a way to give back to them.

I am also an environmentalist, and belong to the Sierra Club, the Coral Reef Alliance, Malama Kai, and the Nature Conservancy. I am the president of KAI<Kayak Alliance of the Islands, a non-profit organization which provides educational programs to all visitors to Kealahou Bay at Napo`opo`o landing to inform them how they personally need to act to protect the reef, the dolphins, and the cultural heritage of the area.

One of the major premises of this bill is that commercial recreational activity in these two areas has harmed the reef and reduced the fishery. At its present levels, I do not believe there is any scientific evidence for this. There are many causes for the sad depletion of fish in Hawaii and globally. Years of over-fishing is the greatest culprit, followed by pollution, run-off, overdevelopment, loss of habitat, and loss of smaller fish. To prohibit and ban all commercial marine tourism activity without any scientific proof that these tours reduce the fish population would put hundreds of people out of work in this industry, deprive the state of Hawaii<DLNR<of much needed permit revenue, and close off a major snorkeling and recreational area to tourists to Hawaii forever, plus set a very ominous precedent.

It seems to be the case that some of the people in Ho`okena and not want to see any commercial marine activity. They simply do not like it. I understand how some of the people may feel that way; it is also true that not all the people there see it this same way. However, to link poor fishing - a worldwide problem<with our small snorkeling and paddling businesses -- is prejudicial and antagonistic towards a group they simply do not like to see or acknowledge. Let's not make this attitude into law.

I believe that there does definitely need to be some assessment of commercial recreational tour carrying capacity here. I welcome meetings with these subsistence fishery councils, the commercial marine tourism operators involved, and the Department of Aquatics/DLNR to determine this carrying capacity, and to act accordingly from there. Otherwise, if this bill stands as is, what will likely happen is that the councils will ban and prohibit all present commercial marine tourism outright, as this measure allows. That I would not want to see. This would not be healthy for the economy and would not restore the missing fish here either.

Thank you for taking your time with this. Please vote against HB 3301.

-----Original Message-----

From: liam powers [mailto:liampowers@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 8:21 AM

To: WLHtestimony

Cc: kyle fields

Subject:

Representative Ken Ito, Chair

Representative Jon Karamatsu, Vice-Chair

Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources, Hawaiian Affairs Committee

11 Feb 2008

Opposition to HB3301/Honaunau and Ho'okena Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Areas

My name is Liam Powers and I was born in the district of South Kona where Honaunau and Ho'okena are located. I have worked as a boat Captain for Sea Quest Rafting for Seven Years. I take great pride in my position as a guide and source of information about the waters of the Kona Coast. I feel my respect for Hawaiian Culture and people is genuine and from the heart. Our snorkel tours are thorough and informative, and although our time in Honaunau is brief, it is a crucial component of the unique experience we present to our guests and an opportunity to educate and inform them on the fishing traditions and cultural heritage of the Hawaiian people. This in turn allows our guests to enjoy the natural beauty of Honaunau Bay while simultaneously honoring the historical significance, the fisherman that utilize the waters, the marine life and the bay itself. Each tour provides me an opportunity to educate my guests on the fragile ecosystem they are experiencing. As a company we make every effort to minimize our impact on the natural resources. Having been raised on the Big Island of Hawaii my employment with Sea Quest provides me with both the means to support my family and the peace of mind that although we are entering Honaunau bay our impact is nominal. Our respectful use of Honaunau sets this company apart from the others. Restricting use of the bay will lump us in with a number of different companies and therefor adversely effect business and my ability to provide for my family.

Sea Quest has provided the committee with a list of company rules that are designed to protect the bay. It is company policy that these rules as outlined in our employee manual are followed without exception.

Aloha,

Liam Powers,

Captain, Sea Quest Rafting Adventures

PO Box 390292

Keauhou HI 96739

808-329-7238

From: George & Joan Prater [mailto:gprater@bainbridge.net]

Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 8:59 AM

To: WLHtestimony

Subject: Testimony for HB 3301

Date: February 12, 2008

To: The House Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources and Hawaiian Affairs

Re: Hearing Wednesday, February 13, 2008, 9am, Room 312

Subj: FULL SUPPORT OF HB3301

Aloha Chair Ito, Vice Chair Karamatsu and Committee Members,

My name is Dona J. Lavorin. I have lived on the Big Island of Hawaii for thirty-five (35) years. My adult children were born in the Ahupua'a of Honaunau Bay.

I am very concerned with the future of Honaunau Bay both environmentally and culturally. I am an active member of Ka O'hana o Kona Hema since its beginning. I am committed to the preservation and protection of Honaunau Bay and all of its cultural, spiritual and environmental significance for present and future generations.

I fully support HB3301 and urge the Committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo

Dona J. Lavorin

808.640-6588

P.O. Box 6781

Ocean View, HI 96737

-----Original Message-----

From: Luna Aloha [mailto:sur4_boy@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 7:28 AM

To: WLHtestimony

Subject: SUPPORT HB3301

To the representatives who will hear HB 3301, i am in
SUPPORT OF HB 3301. Mahalo for your time.

Luna Kekoa

Be a better friend, newshound, and

know-it-all with Yahoo! Mobile. Try it now.

http://mobile.yahoo.com/;_ylt=Ahu06i62sR8HDtDypao8Wcj9tAcJ

-----Original Message-----

From: Lions Gate Farms [mailto:liongte@aloha.net]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 8:19 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: HB3301 Testimony

TO: THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, OCEAN RESOURCES & HAWAIIAN
AFFAIRS

RE: Hearing Wednesday, February 13, 2008, 9 a.m., Room 312

SUPPORT OF HB3301
HONAUNAU AND HOOKENA COMMUNITY-BASED SUBSISTENCE FISHING AREAS

Aloha Chair Ito, Vice Chair Karamatsu, and Committee Members,

Please support this Bill. It is important to our families that DLNR and the community be able to manage and protect the fishing grounds. Honaunau has always been a fishing village and many of us still rely on the catches to feed our families.

I understand that similar designations were enacted for Miloli'i (Big Island) and Ha'ena, Maui. Please let us take responsibility as they did.

Mahalo nui loa,
Diane and Bill Shriner
Honaunau Residents

From: George & Joan Prater [mailto:gprater@bainbridge.net]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 8:24 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: HB3301

Date: February 11, 2008

To: The House Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources and Hawai'ian Affairs

Re: Hearing Wednesday, February 13, 2008, 9am, Room 312

Subj: HB3301 is a very important bill protecting marine resources in South Kona

Aloha Chair Ito, Vice Chair Karamatsu and Committee Members,

My name is George Prater, I live in the ahupua'a of Kealakekua, mauka of Kealakekua Bay on Hawai'i Island and just a few miles north of Honaunau Bay. We raises coffee, citrus and our own vegetables.

I am extremely concerned about the future of our local fishermen facing a continuing decline of available fish. Important conservaton activities must begin at the shoreline and on the nearby reefs. I strongly believe improved marine management is needed for Honaunau as part of the solution to this problem.

I strongly believe Honaunau should be designated a Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area so the Community can work together with the Department of Land and Natural Resources and other stakeholders to determine the best strategies to ensure that Honaunau residents and their children can continue practicing their important fishing culture.

I fully support HB3301 and urge the Committee to pass HB3301.
Mahalo Nui Loa,

George Prater
808.323.3366
82-986 Pa'ikapahu Street
Captain Cook, HI 96704

-----Original Message-----

From: paeai@hawaiiintel.net [mailto:paeai@hawaiiintel.net]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 10:25 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: full support for HB 3301

February 11, 2008

To; The House Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources and Hawaiian
Affairs

RE: Hearing Wednesday 2/13/2008, 9:00am RM312

Full Support of HB3301

Aloha Chair Ito, Vicechair Karamatsu, and committee members,
My name is Eddie Navas my Ohana originates from Honaunau South Kona. I
have raised my Children and grandchildren here in this ahupua'a. Over
the years i've seen to much impact, too much tourists! People swimming
with the dolphins is very annoying! Parking is a mess! Emergency
vehicles cannot get to the patients in need of help because of this
impact. There used to be many and all kinds of fish, Oama opelu,
paku'iku'i, kala, humuhumulei, la'ipala, uhu, moili'i, aha, miko,
manini, wana, haukeuke, limu , opihi, turtle limu, lobster, etc., and
now either its dissappeared or no longer heard of because of
progress.... laws... Fines..... The Lua's are a disgrace but I guess
better than nothing. I am in full support of HB3301, I feel that our
community has the right to be able to take care of our place for our
future.

Thankyou

Eddie Navas

84-5108 Painted Church Rd.

Kona, HI. 96704

(808)328-8572

-----Original Message-----

From: paeai@hawaiiantel.net [mailto:paeai@hawaiiantel.net]

Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 10:45 PM

To: WLHtestimony

Subject: full support for HB 3301

February 11, 2008

To: The House Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources, and Hawaiian Affairs

RE: Hearing on Wednesday 2/13/08 9:00 am RM 312

FULL SUPPORT OF BILL 3301

Aloha Chair Ito, Vice Chair Karamatsu, And Committee members,

I Have been living in Honaunau for the last 12 years my wife and her family are from the Honaunau Ahupu'aa and have been living there for many many generatons. I have participated for the last 2 years going on my third year with the community group. We have spent many hours volunteering our time to educate people and most importantly teaching our children about their rich cultural heritage. We have one of the last hawaiian Fishing villages in the state and it needs to be protected for our children and the future generations. We need to continue to the job that was left for us by our ancestors. By giving us the oppurtunity to become designated as a Community Based subsistence fishing area This gives us a chance to keep our culture living. Please support HB3301. Mahalo for your time

David Loa

(808) 938-3064

84-5108 Painted Church Rd.

Captain Cook, Hi. 96704

From: Andrea Gutierrez [mailto:fire9tstar@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 11:50 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: HB 3301
Importance: High

Representative Ken Ito, Chair
Representative Jon Karamatsu, Vice-chair
Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources, Hawaiian Affairs Committee

11 FEB 2008

Opposition to HB3301/Honaunau and Ho`okena Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Areas

1. This testimony is to express my objections to a selection of provisions against commercial activity in Honaunau Bay, outlined in HB 3301.
2. My name is Andrea Gutierrez, and I live in a town based on tourism. Working with Sea Quest Rafting Adventures, my job is to take guest on supervised snorkeling tours of the Kona coast. The two protected bays we operate in are Kealakekua Bay and Pu'uhonua o Honaunau. In having strict company policies on our boundaries and allowed tour time. We have minimized the impact our boats and customers have on natural resources.
3. There are beautiful reefs along the whole Kona coast but most don't provide safe snorkeling. Where snorkeling requires a protective bay and shallow reefs, besides Kealakekua only Pu'uhonua o Honaunau can provide that. Its northernmost and southernmost points act as a natural barrier from the surf. This allows us to snorkel in an area secure from harm, danger, or risk of injury from year round swells.
4. As part of my job I help educate people on Hawaiian history as well as the pride we have in the land we live on. The rules we share with the guest prior to entering the water aren't said lightly. We make them understand the importance of what they came to see. That coral is a living organism and that the animals in the bay are protected. Even though Pu'uhonua o Honaunau is not a marine sanctuary, we always treat it like one. That means no standing on the reef, no touching it, taking it with you or feeding the fish. The turtles in the bay are protected by law give them about 10 feet of space. Don't crowd them. Don't touch them. We repeat these rules to all the guests prior to entering the water at each snorkel spot.
5. Kona is a town based on tourism. My job is solely based on tourism. It's based on the facts that we go to two different snorkel spots that are the best in Hawai'i. The wording of HB 3301 could effectively ban us from snorkeling in Honaunau Bay. We

help educate the guest on the importance of maintaining the oceans ecosystem. If we didn't have the best protected snorkel spots then we wouldn't have a tour to run. Since Pu'uhonua o Honaunau is accessible by land and there's no program in effect to establish rules or increase public awareness. Then limiting the boats that do promote educated snorkeling is not the answer.

6. I implore you to eliminate this bill in favor of a more balanced approach to preserving subsistence fishing for the communities of Honaunau and Ho`okena. There is no scientific study that proves snorkeling is the cause for a decline in the fish population. What has been studied is the fact that the decline in the take of subsistence fishing is due to over-fishing and over growth in the human population. This was stated in the West Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council that *"NMFS found that the Hawaiian resource as a whole (archipelago-wide) is not overfished. However, it has been determined that "overfishing" is occurring due to excessive fishing efforts in the main Hawaiian Islands."* If this bill HB 3301 was eliminating commercial fishing vessels in or around their ancient Hawaiian fishing areas then by all means, but that is not what is stated in the bill.

Aloha,

Andrea Gutierrez,

Captain/crew, Sea Quest Rafting Adventures

75-6081 Alii Drive AA204

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

(808) 756-6663

Climb to the top of the charts! Play the word scramble challenge with star power. [Play now!](#)

From: Suzanne Shriner [mailto:sshriner1@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 8:07 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB3301

TO: THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, OCEAN RESOURCES &
HAWAIIAN
AFFAIRS

RE: Hearing Wednesday, February 13, 2008, 9 a.m., Room 312

FULL SUPPORT OF HB3301

Aloha Chair Ito, Vice Chair Karamatsu, and Committee Members,

Please support this Bill. My family has three generations living in Honaunau and we all fish. In the last ten years we have seen a huge increase in tourists, commercial snorkel boats, and dolphin tours. This has placed great pressure on the inshore ecosystem, and is reducing fish numbers.

This Bill would allow DLNR to craft regulations to better protect our beautiful bay. We don't want to ban commercial activity, but just to manage it so that it does not overwhelm our ability to feed our families and enjoy the sacred place that is Pu'u honua o Honaunau.

Mahalo nui loa,
Suzanne Shriner

~~~~~  
PO Box 761 Honaunau HI 96726

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Be a better friend, newshound, and know-it-all with Yahoo! Mobile. [Try it now.](#)

-----Original Message-----

From: clare loprinzi [mailto:clareloprinzi@hawaii.rr.com]

Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 8:08 PM

To: WLHtestimony

Subject: testimony

> February 11, 2008

>

> TO: THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, OCEAN RESOURCES & HAWAIIAN  
> AFFAIRS

>

> RE: Hearing Wednesday, February 13, 2008, 9 a.m., Room 312

>

> FULL SUPPORT OF HB3301

>

> Aloha Chair Ito, Vice Chair Karamatsu, and Committee Members,

>

> My name is Joseph Kassel, and I am a Naturopathic Physician that  
> works with many families that come from the ahupua'a of Honaunau.  
> Some families have lived here for more than 600 years, and still  
> hunt and fish according to the traditions handed down from their  
> kupuna.

>

> I have become more and more concerned about the future of their  
> community as they catch fewer and fewer fish. To reverse this  
> downward trend, improved marine management is needed for Honaunau.  
> This is why our community has been actively helping to  
> manage the area for many years now through outreach and monitoring.  
> The people who live in our community and interact with the ocean  
> every day are in the best position to recommend sound management  
> strategies. I would like Honaunau to be designated a Community-  
> Based Subsistence/Fishing Area so that our community can work with  
> the Department of Land and Natural Resources and other stakeholders  
> to determine the very best strategies to ensure that their children  
> and their children's children can practice their fishing culture  
> forever.

>

> I fully support HB3301 and urge the committee to pass the bill.

>

> Mahalo nui,

> Dr. Joseph Kassel, ND, LAc.

> 329-6

> 442

> Holualoa, Hi 96725

>

>

> ----- End forwarded message -----

>

>

>

-----Original Message-----

From: paeai@hawaiiantel.net [mailto:paeai@hawaiiantel.net]  
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 7:45 PM  
To: WLHtestimony  
Subject: Full support for HB 3301

2/11/08

To: The House Committee on Water, Land , Ocean Resources and Hawaiian  
Affairs  
Re: Hearing Wednesday 2/13/2008, 9:00 am, RM 312  
Full Support of HB3301

Aloha Chair Ito, Vice chair Karmatsu and committee members,

My Name is Leinani Loa I am born and raised in the ahupua'a of Honaunau South Kona. My ancestors trace back many generations. Growing up in Honaunau we were taught the importance of love and respect to everything above, below, and around us. We knew that our ocean and land was one of the most important part of our lives. I come from an ohana that were lawai'a and also farmers. Our subsistence is very important to our people. These things feed us nurture us and has taught us that we can live off the land and the sea and is important part of being a hawaiian. Over the last two years our community has come together and has put a lot of time and energy to the preservation of our shoreline. We have conducted many differnt activities such as Human use and Biological monitoring, Out reach and education, participated in the MBT network, Pono Practices presentation to different entities, collaborate with several stakeholders in our community, we have attended public hearings to testify about nai'a and formed a partnership with Community Conservation Network. Our community has worked very hard. Please help us. Our community has committed our lives to preserve our costal shoreline in perpetuity for our future. Support HB 3301 KU"E

Aloha,

Leinani Loa  
(808)936-7466  
84-5108 Painted Church Rd.  
Captain Cook, Hi. 96704

-----Original Message-----

From: clare loprinzi [mailto:clareloprinzi@hawaii.rr.com]

Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 7:55 PM

To: WLHtestimony

Subject: Fwd: testimony wlhtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov fax to: 1800-535-3859

>

> February 11, 2008

>

> TO: THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, OCEAN RESOURCES & HAWAIIAN  
> AFFAIRS

>

> RE: Hearing Wednesday, February 13, 2008, 9 a.m., Room 312

>

> FULL SUPPORT OF HB3301

>

> Aloha Chair Ito, Vice Chair Karamatsu, and Committee Members,

>

> My name is Clare Loprinzi, and I work at Ehunuikaimalino with many  
> families that come from the ahupua'a of Honaunau. Their families  
> have lived here for more than 600 years/generations, and we still  
> hunt and fish according to the traditions handed down to us from our  
> kupuna.]

>

> I have become more and more concerned about the future of their  
> community as they catch fewer and fewer fish. [Describe primary impact  
> you are concerned about that has to do with fisheries management.] To  
> reverse this downward trend, improved marine management is needed  
> for Honaunau. This is why our community has been actively helping to  
> manage the area for xx years now through outreach and monitoring.  
> The people who live in our community and interact with the ocean  
> every day are in the best position to recommend sound management  
> strategies. I would like Honaunau to be designated a Community-  
> Based Subsistence/Fishing Area so that our community can work with  
> the Department of Land and Natural Resources and other stakeholders  
> to determine the very best strategies to ensure that my children  
> and their children can practice our fishing culture forever.

>

> I fully support HB3301 and urge the committee to pass the bill.

>

> Mahalo nui,

> Clare Loprinzi

> 329-8442

> Holualoa, Hi 96725

>

>

>

> ----- End forwarded message -----

>

>

>

>

February 12, 2008

I am writing and faxing this testimony in Support of HB No. 3301, as a community individual and resident of South Kona on Hawaii Island.

I am an active Advocate for our shoreline and near shore resources. In spite of efforts to protect and preserve our resources, they continue to decline at an alarming rate, due to a general lack of education, greed, abusive practices and over population of human usage in areas such as South Kona that are not sustainable for the numbers of recreational activities that have populated these delicate ecosystems that are along our shorelines.

This bill would help to give autonomy back to the communities of South Kona (Honaunau and Hookena) so they could again, join together and ensure that rules and regulations would be put into place to sustain our near and shoreline resources for our children and grand children for generations to come.

Mahalo for your consideration of this testimony in Support of HB No. 3301. Aloha 'oe no Kona,

Healani Cahill  
Kona Hema

Fax # 1-800-535-3859

-----Original Message-----

From: paeai@hawaiiantel.net [mailto:paeai@hawaiiantel.net]  
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 5:59 PM  
To: WLHtestimony  
Subject: Full support for HB 3301

February 11, 2008

To: The House Committee On Water, Land, Ocean Resources and Hawaiian  
Affairs  
RE: Hearing on wednesday 2/13/08, 9:00 am, Rm 312  
Full support of HB 3301

Aloha Chair Ito, Vice Chair Karamatsu, and Committee members,

My name is Jerry Navas I am born and raised here in Honaunau south  
Kona. My ohana has been here for more than a thousand years. I am a  
free fisherman and have been diving in these waters all my life. I  
have noticed a huge decrease in fish at honaunau. I am in support of  
HB3301. I believe that this bill is very important to our subsistence  
as hawaiian people and it needs to be managed by its own community.  
We know our ahupua'a and this opportunity will help us set the path for  
our future. We need this designation.

Mahalo and Aloha

Jerry Navas  
808 854-5434  
74-5614 Palani Rd. Apt G8  
Kailua Kona, Hi. 96740

-----Original Message-----

From: paeai@hawaiiantel.net [mailto:paeai@hawaiiantel.net]

Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 7:02 PM

To: WLHtestimony

Subject: SUPPORT FOR HB3301

February 11, 2008

TO: The House Committee on Water , Land, Ocean Resources, and Hawaiian Affairs

RE: Hearing on wednesday 2/13/2008, RM 312

Full Support of HB3301

Aloha Chair Ito, vice Chair Karamatsu'-

My name is Barbara J. Navas for 62 years I have seen the destruction being done at honaunau beach and it is very disturbing. The enjoyment we once had where everybody was one big ohana going openaku, wana, fish, and limu is no longer seen. I feel that HB3301 is necessary in our community. Subsistence is how we survived and everybody used to share fish. Back in the day everybody would feed the Ko'a for the opelu and when fish was caught every family would get fish. This tradition needs to continue for the future generations. The only way to continue this, is to have the people from this ahupua'a take care of it. Please support and pass HB3301

Mahalo,

Mrs. Barbara Akau Navas

84-5108 Painted church Rd

Captain Cook, Hi. 96704

808 328-8572

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**From:** George & Joan Prater [mailto:gprater@bainbridge.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2008 6:02 PM  
**To:** WLHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB 3301

Date: February 11, 2008

To: The House Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources and Hawai'ian Affairs

Re: Hearing Wednesday, February 13, 2008, 9am, Room 312

Subj: FULL SUPPORT OF HB3301

Aloha Chair Ito, Vice Chair Karamatsu and Committee Members,

My name is Joan E. Prater, I live in the ahupua'a of Kealakekua, Hawai'i Island, a few miles north of Honaunau Bay. My family raises coffee, citrus and our own vegetables.

I am extremely concerned about the future of our local fishermen. There are less fish for them to catch. I strongly believe improved marine management is needed for Honaunau to counteract this problem. I have helped Honaunau community members by surveying numbers and species of reef fish.

I strongly believe Honaunau should be designated a Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area so the Community can work together with the Department of Land and Natural Resources and other stakeholders to determine the best strategies to ensure that Honaunau residents and their children can continue practicing their important fishing culture.

I fully support HB3301 and urge the Committee to pass HB3301.  
Mahalo Nui Loa,

Joan E. Prater  
808.323-3366  
82-986 Pa'ikapahu Street  
Captain Cook, HI 96704

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**From:** Victoria Aoki [mailto:moanamama@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 12, 2008 5:38 PM  
**To:** WLHtestimony  
**Subject:** HB3301

February 12, 2008

TO: THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, OCEAN RESOURCES &  
HAWAIIAN  
AFFAIRS

RE: Hearing Wednesday, February 13, 2008, 9 a.m., Room 312

FULL SUPPORT OF HB3301

Aloha Chair Ito, Vice Chair Karamatsu, and Committee Members,

My name is Sidney Aoki and I was born and raised in Captain Cook right at the top of Napo'opo'o Road and above Kealakekua Bay. My family has lived here for four generations and my family and I, including my sons and nephews, fish according to the traditions handed down to us from our kupuna. We respect and honor the ocean and its gift of life. We connect with the fish and ask permission from the Spirit for the giving of life and we are full of gratitude when we are fed as a family. We feel a kinship with all the creatures of the ocean and know that we support each other fully in the circle of life.

I have become more and more concerned about the future of our community as I catch fewer and fewer fish. The waters of Honaunau Bay are extremely overused. To reverse this downward trend, improved marine management is needed for Honaunau. This is why our community has been actively helping to manage the area for several years now through outreach and monitoring. The people who live in our community and interact with the ocean every day are in the best position to recommend sound management strategies. I would like Honaunau to be designated a Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area so that our community can work with the Department of Land and Natural Resources and other stakeholders to determine the very best strategies to ensure that my children and their children can practice our fishing culture forever.

I fully support HB3301 and urge the committee to pass the bill.

Mahalo nui,  
Sidney Aoki  
808-328-1717  
88-1605 Moana Drive  
Captain Cook, HI 96704