

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND USE & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

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From: Tony Costa
Hawaii Nearshore Fishermen
Honolulu, Hawaii
808-540-1308 Tel

Re.: Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB 3391
Date: Friday, February 8, 2008
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 312 State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Copies needed: 5

TESTIMONY

My name is Tony Costa and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaii Near Shore Fishermen, a loosely organized, tight-knit group of nearshore fishermen. Hawaii Nearshore Fishermen are in SUPPORT OF HB3391.

HB3391 requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to provide a comprehensive status of the States Marine ecosystem.

Each year new fishing rules and regulations are proposed and promulgated, citing crisis level indicators of "resource decline" and trauma in our marine resource as good and just cause.

Moreover, in light of yet another "year of the reef" we certainly anticipate a new and ongoing round of further fishing restrictions and area closures – seemingly meant to address this continuing notion that fishing pressure, if eliminated, will solve our nearshore marine resource problems.

Yet, besides the feel good, anecdotal stories and solutions, followed by regulations specifically targeting only one ocean use, fishing – very little or no real data or science to support these claims are ever presented.

In fact, our fishermen's empirical evidence suggests many instances where fish populations are exploding. Examples are Papio and Ulua stocks – the huge explosion of

papio, ulua catches and school sightings as well as tagging data proves this. Oio schools in massive migration, the return of the Omaka to Kaneohe Bay. And the continuing health and strength of the Akule fishery to name a few.

Scientists tell us that an ocean water temperature change of just 2 degrees can kill off an entire species of coral on the reef. We also know that sunlight is necessary for coral to continue its symbiotic relationship with photosynthetic algae that live within the tissues of the coral polyp – the living reef. In other words, silt, runoff, and pollution are starving the life out of our reefs.

In addition, alien fish and algae species, a relatively new threat to our reef, is presently contributing greatly to native fish habitat destruction.

These are the impacts that fishermen see first hand and are directly threatened by.

HB3391 asks for a comprehensive status report on the marine ecosystem and that these impacts are investigated.

Moreover, without first knowing the condition of the resource, the management community would be shooting in the dark and will not be able to gauge any success or failure of ongoing regulations.

The fishermen see a dynamic and ever changing marine environment and fish population and feel management measures should change along with this changing environment and fish population. It is for this reason we feel that an important marine ecosystem barometer is taken such as what is suggested by HB3391

HNF therefore are in support of HB3391

Thank you for allowing me to testify on HB3391

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Costa
Hawaii Nearshore Fishermen



Protecting Native Hawaiian Traditional and Customary Rights
and Our Fragile Environment

www.KAHEA.org

P.O. BOX 270112 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96827

February 8, 2008, 8:30 a.m.

Aloha Chair Ito and Representatives of the Water, Land, Ocean Resources, and Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

We oppose H.B. 3391 because it is duplicative. We urge the Legislature to seek enforcement of Hawai'i Revised Statutes §187A-2, which currently requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to investigate and report on the impacts of non-fishing activities on our aquatic resources.

The Legislature is correct, Hawai'i's marine ecosystem is in serious danger. It is well accepted that harmful shore-based activities, like badly planned developments, coastal armament, poor waste management, and uncontrolled fishing, are killing our oceans and undermining our unique culture.

Thankfully, the Department of Land and Natural Resources has begun to address the harms of over-fishing by establishing limits on catch and fishing locations. However, more must be done to fully understand and address all of the many threats to Hawai'i's delicate and dynamic marine ecosystem.

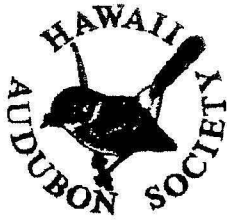
Thus, we support every effort to empower the DLNR with additional staff, expertise, and resources to find the solutions necessary to ensure our oceans are healthy well into the future. This includes recommendations for removing seawalls, restoring natural streambeds, and prohibiting coastal development.

KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance is an islands-wide network of Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners, conservationists, and concerned community members that work to protect Hawai'i's unique natural and cultural resources. We have over 2,000 members in the islands and 3,000 total around the world.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marti Townsend". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marti Townsend
Program Director



For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife
HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

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**TO: Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs
Representative Ken Ito, Chair & Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair**

HEARING: Friday, February 8, 2008; 8:30 A.M., Conference Rm. 312

Re: HB3391, Relating to Aquatic Resource

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Chair Ito and Vice Chair Karamatsu, and members of the Committee on Land, Water, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs. My name is George Massengale, I a member of the Hawai'i Audubon Society and during session I serve as their Legislative Analyst. Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony in support of HB3391, which would require DLNR to provide a comprehensive report on the status of the State's Marine ecosystems.

The Hawaii Audubon Society (HAS) was founded in 1939, and is Hawaii's oldest conservation group, with over 1,500 dedicated members statewide. The Society's primary mission is the protection of Hawaii's native wildlife and habitats. This includes protecting our aquatic resources. The Society has an established and active partnership with the Pacific Fisheries Coalition, together they've advocated for various measure that would further protect our near coastal ocean resources, including studies that accurately document impacts on our aquatic resources.

Mandating a comprehensive report from DLNR that properly analyzes and makes balanced and well thought our recommendations to mitigate impacts can only have a positive effect on various coastal fish species and marine birds. We strongly urge the committee to move this measure forward. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony here today.

Respectfully,

George Massengale, 5D
Legislative Analyst