

**TESTIMONY**  
**HCR 347**  
**LATE**



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Legislative Testimony  
**HCR 347, URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY WITH THE ADOPTION OF RULES  
TO REGULATE THE ORNAMENTAL REEF FISHERY INDUSTRY  
IN SOUTH MAUI AND KANEOHE BAY**  
Senate Committee on Water and Land

April 9, 2008  
Room: 414

2:45 p.m.

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS, with amendments**, H.C.R. 347, which urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to immediately adopt rules to regulate the ornamental reef fish industry in south Maui and Kāneʻohe Bay.

One of the threats currently endangering the health of Hawaiʻi's marine ecosystems is the unregulated collection of reef fish for aquariums. OHA realizes that this problematic practice is not effectively regulated or enforced. Thus, there is a dire need to address this problem, and OHA sees this bill as a step in the right direction.

OHA requests that this resolution be amended to increase the geographic limitations of south Maui and Kāneʻohe Bay that are proposed. OHA suggests that if rules are to be promulgated, then it would be prudent to do them on a more statewide basis. This would also be more efficient in terms of time and money. The issue of collecting species for aquariums is an important one (as demonstrated by the barrage of requests for the Legislature to take action) for the entire State, and these reef species are not solely affected in the two areas that this bill addresses.

In addition, we ask that the resolution be amended to include language that states that the proposed rules will not conflict with the West Hawaiʻi Fisheries Council's rules, which were created, with much effort and good faith, by that community to protect the area's marine resources. These rules have been a shining example of effective resource management created through healthy community collaboration and mutual respect for and among competing

users of the nearshore resource. Moreover, we suggest that the proposed ornamental reef fish industry rules actually reflect the West Hawai'i Fisheries Council's rules. We encourage the DLNR to reach out to the public and encourage community participation in the adoption of these rules.

As such, OHA urges the Committee to PASS H.C.R. 347, taking the above requests into account. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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**(END)**