

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 1793, S.D. 1, H.D. 1


March 28, 2008

RELATING TO THE NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY

Senate Bill No. 1793, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, would exempt the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority from certain provisions of Section 26-35, HRS, to enable the Authority to make direct communications with the Governor or the Legislature and to make all decisions regarding Authority employees and all purchase supplies, equipment, and furniture without the approval of the Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

We do not support this bill. Review and approval by the department head ensures that consistent policies are being implemented by the department, and that applicable rules and other provisions are being followed. Departmental review could preclude the need for additional staff for the Authority to conduct the reviews.

Further, to facilitate operations of the organization, the department heads may delegate functions and responsibilities to appropriate officers and employees where feasible.



**Hawaii  
Aquaculture  
Association**

To:

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

HEARING

DATE: Friday, March 28, 2008  
TIME: 2:00 PM  
PLACE: Conference Room 308, State Capitol  
415 South Beretania St

From: Ron Weidenbach, President, Hawaii Aquaculture Association  
Phone: 429-3147, Email: hawaiiifish@gmail.com

Re: **SB 1793 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO THE NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF  
HAWAII AUTHORITY**

Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Aquaculture Association (HAA) **strongly supports Senate Bill 1793 SD1 HD1**, which would grant the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) power to directly communicate with the governor and the legislature, and to make employment-related decisions and purchase supplies, equipment and furniture without approval from the Director of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

Aquaculture is one of the fastest growing segments of diversified agriculture in the State, reaching \$21.3M in wholesale product value in 2006. The aquaculture tenants at NELHA currently generate the largest portion of statewide aquaculture production. The success of NELHA depends on the success of its tenants, who all stand firmly behind this bill. Removing one level required for approval of important hiring and purchasing decisions will greatly enhance NELHA's efficacy to streamline operations and optimize productivity.

With these clear justifications, the HAA requests support of this legislation to ensure a more open line of communication among NEHLA, the governor and the legislature and greater independence in its decision making. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.