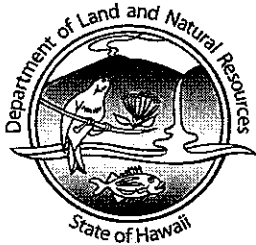
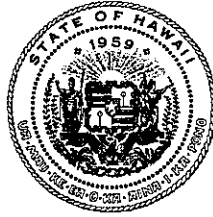


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

On Senate Bill 2871, Senate Draft 1 – RELATING TO AQUATIC RESOURCES

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS**

February 25, 2008

Senate Bill 2871, Senate Draft 1 proposes to create a Makai O Ke Kai program to promote community based marine stewardship in collaboration with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), appropriates unspecified amounts to support the program and an advisory committee, and sets an effective date of July 1, 2050. While the Department appreciates the intent of this measure, the Department nonetheless has concerns with the fiscal impacts it will have on the Executive Supplemental Budget request.

The Department would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution of locally coordinated coastal stewardship programs that provide communities concerned with the health of our nearshore marine resources the opportunity to become directly involved in their protection. We recognize that for these types of stewardship activities to grow and be better coordinated there needs to be a framework set in place.

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.

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.



Conservation Council for Hawai'i

Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hearing: Monday, February 25, 2008
10:30 am Room 211


Support for SB 2871 SD 1 Relating to Aquatic Resources

Aloha. Mahalo nui for hearing this bill. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 2871 SD 1, which encourages and supports the Maka'i O Ke Kai Program. Community-based management should be encouraged and supported: active communities, traditional knowledge, the best scientific and technological information, and agency/government support. Clearly, the State cannot manage all of our ocean areas by itself. Communities are willing to take responsibility, but they need support and funding.

In addition to this bill, we ask you to consider, this session or next, funding volunteer coordinators at DLNR to work with community groups and harness the energy and enthusiasm of other community volunteers. This would be good for the resource and a good investment of taxpayers' dollars.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Marjorie Ziegler



Working Today for the Nature of Tomorrow!

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P.O. Box 2923 • Honolulu, HI 96802 • Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 212 • Honolulu, HI 96814

Hawai'i Affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation

President: Julie Lelaioha • Vice-President: Nelson Ho • Secretary/Treasurer: Kim Ramos • Directors: Fred Kraus, Ph.D. • Douglas Lamerson, George Robertson • Claire Shimabukuro • Helene Takemoto • Mashuri Waite • Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler



Ocean Tourism Coalition

The Voice for Hawaii's Ocean Tourism Industry
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February 25, 2008

Testimony To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Presented By: James E. Coon, President
Ocean Tourism Coalition

Tim Lyons, CAE
Executive Director

Subject: S.B. 2871, SD 1 - RELATING TO AQUATIC RESOURCES

**Suggesting
Amendments**

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

I am James E. Coon, President of the Ocean Tourism Coalition (OTC), Hawaii's statewide organization representing the Ocean Tourism Industry for the past 25 years. We represent the 300 small commercial passenger vessels operation out of state harbor and launch ram facilities. We speak in conditional support of S.B. 2871, SD 1 with proposed amendments.

We agree with the intent of this bill and wish to participate on the board level. Many of the areas which may be considered are also primary destinations for Ocean Tourism. These are important stakeholders who livelihoods depend on access to these areas and should have representation on this Committee. We would like to add one more seat representing the Ocean Tourism Industry. We would suggest that OTC would be the appropriate organization to fill this seat.

If you pass S.B. 2871, SD 1, we humbly request a SD 2 with an amendment to reflect the addition of one (1) Ocean Tourism Coalition seat.

Thank you.



**Testimony of Mālama Hawai'i
Supporting S.B. 2871 Relating to Aquatic Resources
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Monday, February 25, 2008, 10:30AM, Room 211**

Mālama Hawai'i, a hui of organizations and individuals, whose shared mission is to inspire the people of Hawai'i to care for their island home, supports S.B. 2871 Relating to Aquatic Resources.

For the past three years, we have been actively involved in developing a community-based program at Maunalua Bay, O'ahu (Mālama Maunalua) and have helped start a "makai watch" program there consisting of approximately 25 volunteers and a part-time coordinator. While the Maunalua Makai Watch program is less than a year old, it is showing great potential to develop into a sustained program involving residents from students to senior citizens, fishers, surfers, and anyone who loves and respects the ocean.

But without a strong partnership with the State DLNR and grant funding, programs such as this could become ineffective and short-lived. S.B. 2871 wisely offers a grant program to registered maka'i o ke kai community programs and a direct connection to the DLNR.

The community-based marine management advisory committee could be an effective tool in engaging ocean stakeholders in marine resource and fisheries management throughout the state. Mālama Hawai'i, which specializes in social marketing and effective communications, has experience in stakeholder outreach and would be honored to assist in this effort.

The quality of our lives clearly depends on the health of our living reefs. In this International Year of the Reef, let us do all we can to demonstrate that we ALL are stewards of the ocean and reefs.

Aloha,

**Pauline M. Sato
Acting Coordinator**

Barbara and Carl Pick
4981 Kalaniananole Highway
Honolulu, HI 96821
808-373-4480

Testimony of Residents of Maunalua Bay
Supporting S.B. 2871 SD 1 Relating to Aquatic Resources
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Monday, February 25, 2008, 10:30AM, Room 211

As residents of East Honolulu, we are concerned with the degradation in the health of local reefs and fisheries. The variety and numbers of fish and corals in the near shore waters have visibly declined in the last ten years. We and many of our neighbors firmly believe that community based action in caring for the watershed and waters will make the difference in slowing and reversing this degradation. We actively support the maka'i o ke kai program. We encourage the department of land and natural resources to work with communities through this program providing funding and other support for managing, restoring, and monitoring these precious resources.