

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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FIRST DEPUTY

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

**On Senate Bill 3137, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1 – Relating To An Appropriation To
The Department Of Land And Natural Resources For Akule Fish Monitoring**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE**

March 31, 2008

Senate Bill 3137, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1 appropriates an unspecified amount for an akule tagging study along the western and southwestern shores of Oahu, and requires a change in the grid map for commercial fish reporting. While the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) recognizes the intent of the measure, the Department cannot support the bill due to the fiscal impacts it will have, if funded, on the Executive Supplemental Budget request. In addition, the Department opposes the change in the grid map.

The Department notes that it prepared a report in 1973 analyzing akule data from 1960–1970. The tagging portion of the study looked at movement along the southwestern and western shores of Oahu from 1965–1967. Tagging stations were set up at Waikiki, Honolulu Harbor, Ewa Beach, Pokai Bay, and Haleiwa Bay. From over 10,000 fish tagged with over 800 recoveries, the data indicated that there was little along-shore movement with the majority of fish staying within the area where they were tagged and released. Fishers report to us that the fish will normally move inshore during the day and offshore during the night.

While the Department recognizes that changes have occurred in the nearshore environment over the past 40 years, the Department feels that the basic behavior patterns of akule as indicated in the above study are still likely to prevail. Therefore, the Department feels the Legislature should carefully consider whether such work needs to be repeated as proposed in the current measure.

The alteration of the grid map will disrupt the long-term data set that the Commercial Marine License database provides. This data set is used not only for akule, but also for all other primary inshore marine species currently subject to commercial harvest. The data from the commercial fish catch reports linked to the current grid map are used by state fishery scientists, federal fisheries agencies, and the University of Hawaii for research and management activities. As such, what initially might be considered to be a minor change has greater implications, as the Department's data base provides the only long-term data set of its kind in the State, with data continuity going back over 50 years.

The Department notes that it is currently reviewing its the entire system of commercial catch reporting grids to determine how more precise data sets may be obtained for analysis of stock status. As such, the Department is willing to consider incorporation of the West Oahu subzones suggested above into this revision process.

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

March 30, 2008

RE: SB3137, SD2, HD1 scheduled to be heard by FIN on Monday,
3/31/08 at 2:30 pm in conference room 308.

**My name is Brian F. Funai and I am testifying in support of HB3137,
SD2, HD1.**

I am in support of the legislature's proposed appropriation to monitor one of Hawaii's most important food fish, the akule. Including areas 402 and 403 and the areas between them will greatly improve the effort.

**I support this bill for these reasons and ask that you please pass
HB3137, SD2, HD1.**

Thank you for your time and allowing me to testify.

Brian F. Funai
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair, Committee on Finance

March 31, 2008

2:00 pm. Room 308

Testimony in strong support of SB 3137 SD2 HD1.

Chair Oshiro, and members of the committees:

I am an employee of DLNR however the testimony that follows is my own as an individual.

There is a great quantity of antidotal evidence that vessels traveling at high speeds, over a long period of time, will drive akule schools out of an area.

Large schools of Akule used to be found in Maunalua Bay on O'ahu, and the Na Pali coast of Kaua'i. but due to the high levels of commercial activity, including high speed transits of the area, they are no longer found there, except on an infrequent basis.

It appears that the akule found from Kaena Point to Pearl Harbor are beginning to show a pattern of staying at either end of the coastline due to increasing high speed transits by commercial operations starting several years ago. The current method of reporting catch data in only two reporting areas will not document this change in akule behavior.

In order to document the movement of Akule along the Wai'anae Coast and compare it to historical data, SB 3137 SD2 HD1 proposes to appropriate a reasonable sum of money to conduct an acoustic tagging study. Such a study should result in valuable knowledge, which would be applied to managing a growing ocean tourism sector while balancing traditional and customary fishing practices.

The Hawaii Institute of Biology has successfully conducted these type of tagging studies with Weke in the past, and with larger fish such as sharks and Ulua.

Please pass SB 3137 SD2 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Cynthia K.L. Rezendes

87-149 Maipela Street
Wai`anae, HI 96792-3154
(808) 696-0131
email: rezentesc@aol.com

March 18, 2008

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Committee on Finance

**In Support of SB 3137 SD 2 HD1 Making an Appropriation to the Department of
Land and Natural Resources for Akule Fish Monitoring**

Chair Oshiro and members of the committee:

I am Cynthia K.L. Rezendes, a resident of the Wai`anae Coast, and I am in support of SB 3137 SD2 HD1.

For generations the fishermen of Wai`anae have relied upon the *akule* as a source of subsistence living, whether to directly feed their families or to provide a commercial fishing livelihood.

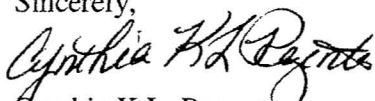
Over the years near-shore activities have placed pressure on areas once depended upon for harvesting the fish. Some of the fishing grounds have been given up to be able to live, work and play in harmony with one another, e.g. Makaha Surfing Beach area.

Today, we are seeing increasingly more pressures being placed upon traditional harvesting grounds like Makua, Nanakuli, and Kahe Point. These areas are seeing increases in wild-life viewing (i.e. dolphins, snorkeling, diving, etc.) and other activities, e.g. sailing, overnight anchoring, etc. The commercial fishermen who rely upon these areas to harvest the *akule* have noticed declines in catch sizes, opportunities for harvest in the historic areas, and a suspected movement away from historic areas of gathering thereby changing the behavior of the fish.

Since a significant amount of the commercially available *akule* in state markets are harvested from the Ka`ena Point to Pearl Harbor region, it is imperative that we understand the current behavior of the fish to better understand how to better manage these resources for today and the future.

Therefore, I urge the committee to support SB 3137 SD2.

Sincerely,


Cynthia K.L. Rezendes
Wai`anae Resident

FINTestimony

From: carl [mjellings@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 30, 2008 11:46 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: 1 Correction SB 3137, SD2, HD1

SB 3137, SD2, HD1

DATE: Monday, March 31, 2008
TIME: 2:00 P.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 308

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Honorable Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Honorable Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

Honorable Rep. Karen Leinani Awana

Honorable Members

	Rep. Sharon E. Har	Rep. Bob Nakasone	Rep. Kymberly Marcos Pine
Rep. Della Au Belatti	Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu	Rep. Karl Rhoads	Rep. Gene Ward, Ph.D.
Rep. Tom Brower	Rep. Michael Y. Magaoay	Rep. Roland D. Sagum, III	
Rep. Mele Carroll	Rep. Joey Manahan	Rep. James Kunane Tokioka	
Rep. Faye P. Hanohano	Rep. John Mizuno	Rep. Colleen Rose Meyer	

**Aloha My Name Is Carl P Jellings Sr, Waianae
Fishermen In Strong Support of SB 3137, SD2, HD1**

**Mahalo and Aloha for allowing me
to testify on behalf of Our fisheries , Carl P Jellings Sr**

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair

Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, March 31, 2008

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: Conference Room 308

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Tony Costa
Hawaii Nearshore Fishermen
Honolulu, Hawaii

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB3137 SD2 HD1

Hawaii Nearshore Fishermen support SB3137 SD2Hd1.

To better understand the Akule fish activity this bill proposes to divide the catch reporting grids thereby pinpointing Akule behavior and migration between the points of Pearl Harbor to Ka'ena Point.

We are in strong support of this bill as it will improve information regarding one of our most valuable nearshore commercially caught fish species.

The Akule species resource has proven to be in strong health – providing Honolulu Markets and overseas markets with a plentiful supply of low cost fish protein source high in Omega 3 oil, sustainably for many decades - any additional information regarding this resource would be greatly helpful in continuing this Time honored trend.

We urge you to pass this bill as written.

Thank you so much for allowing me to testify on this measure.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Costa
Hawaii Nearshore Fishermen

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair

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NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, March 31, 2008
TIME: 2:00 P.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

In Strong Support of SB3137 SD2, HD1 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR AKULE FISH MONITORING

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Honorable committee members of the Committee on Finance. I am Roy Morioka of Waialae-Iki, Oahu, a retiree and fisherman and I thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of making an appropriation for the monitoring of akule on the west coast of Oahu. As stated in my earlier testimony on SB2196, SD2, HD1, as a long time resident of adjoining Maunaloa Bay on the leeward coast of Oahu stretching from Portlock to Diamond Head I watched with despair the disappearance of the great akule schools that once abounded in this bay. There are stories from days gone by about the ahupuaa's fisherman Mr. Joe Lukela and his zeal to protect his fishing rights for akule in particular within the confines of this bay. Development and new ocean recreation activities that include para-sailing, jet-skis, speedboat rides, etc. have greatly affected the coastal ecosystem and the habitat and habits of the akule and opelu within this bay.

As you have heard me testify over the past few years, I truly hope that the DLNR would do its job by properly monitoring and managing our precious aquatic resources by implementing management measures that effectively address the source problems affecting the resource. You have also heard me state that curtailing fishing may NOT be the correct management measure, and that the use of the precautionary principle simply defers (sometimes at the cost of the resource) the need to perform the needed science to effectively insure the sustainability of our aquatic resources.

As such, I applaud the legislature's proposed appropriation in this year when fiscal resources are tight, to begin monitoring one of the most precious ocean resources in Hawaii, the akule, along one of the last remaining coastal areas where these species can still be found in schooling aggregations. Refining the data collection between areas 402 and 403 improves the science data. Thank you again for allowing me this opportunity to testify in support of this great start.

Sincerely,
Roy Morioka