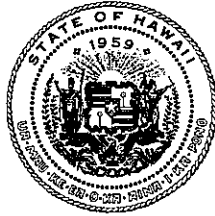
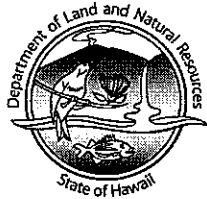


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
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LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
FIRST DEPUTY

KEN C. KAWAHARA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
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 1 – Relating To An Appropriation To The Department
Of Land And Natural Resources For Akule Fish Monitoring

Before the SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

February 25, 2008

Senate Bill 3137, Senate Draft 1 appropriates \$25,000 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) appreciates the intent of the measure, the Department nonetheless has concerns with the fiscal impacts it will have on the Executive Supplemental Budget request and 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 altering of the grid map will disrupt the long-term data set that the Commercial Marine License database provides not just for akule, but for all primarily inshore marine species currently harvested commercially. The data from the commercial fish catch reports, of which the current grid map is an integral part, are used by fishery scientists, federal fisheries agencies, and the university for research and management. As such, what initially may be considered to be a minor change has greater implications, as the Department's data bank provides the only long-term data set of its kind in the State of Hawaii, with data continuity going back over 50 years.

This provision also is incorrect as Area 402 is currently between Barbers Point and Maili Points (so no change needed there). Area 403 runs between Maili and Kaena Points. Thus in order to

preserve the integrity of the data set, it is preferred that a subzone modification be considered, i.e. Maili-Kepuhi Points as 403a, and Kepuhi-Kaena Points as 403b. The Legislature should also be made aware that the Department is currently reviewing its the entire system of commercial catch reporting grids for modification to determine how more precise data sets may be obtained for analysis of stock status, particularly in the bottomfishery. As such, the Department is willing to consider incorporation of the West Oahu subzones suggested above into this revision process.

testimony

From: carl [mjellings@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 23, 2008 2:24 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Fw: SB 3137,SD1

SB 3137, SD1

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR AKULE FISH MONITORING.

DATE: Monday, February 25, 2008
TIME: 10:30 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 211

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**Senator Rosalyn H. Baker,
Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui,
Vice Chair**

**Aloha Senator Chairperson of WAM Rosalyn H Baker Vice Chair
Shan S Tsutui and Honorable Committee Members**

My Name is Carl P Jellings Full Time Akule Lawai"ā From Waianae in **Strong SUPPORT of SB 3137,SD1 It is with regards to This Important Fishery that I send My Support, Over these last ten years We have observed Akule stocks at rare occasion come near shore at the center of the Waianae Coast , this resource just a decade ago Thrived the entire Waianae Coast ,**

With the ten"s of thousands of yearly Transits mostly from Commercial related Ocean Tourism We believe these valuable resources are being displaced , Mahalo and Aloha Carl P Jellings

testimony

From: William Aila Jr [ailaw001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 23, 2008 2:39 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SB 3137 SD1
Attachments: Sb 3137 SD1.doc

Please forward the attached testimony to the Ways and Means committee for its Feb 25, 2008 hearing at 10:30 am, in room 211. mahalo!

Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means

February 25, 2008

10:30 am. Room 211

Testimony in strong support of SB 3137SD1.

Chair Baker, 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.

In order to document the movement of Akule along the Wai'anae Coast and compare it to historical data, SB 3137 SD1 proposes to appropriate a reasonable sum of money to conduct an acoustic tagging study. Such a study could result in valuable knowledge, which could 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 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair
Ways and Means Committee

Monday, February 25, 2008
2:45 pm,
Conference Room 211

**In Strong Support of SB3137 SD1, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR AKULE FISH
MONITORING**

Chair Baker and Vice-Chair Tsutsui, and Honorable Committee Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. I am Roy Morioka of Waiialae-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 a long time resident of adjoining Maunalua Bay on the leeward coast of Oahu stretching from Portlock to Diamond Head I watched with dismay the disappearance of the great akule schools that once abounded in this bay. There are stories from days gone by about the konohiki'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 recreational activities that include para-sailing, jet-skis, speedboat rides, etc. have greatly affected the coastal ecosystem and the habits of the akule and opelu within this bay.

As you have heard me testify in the past few years, I truly wished that the DLNR would expand its monitoring of our precious aquatic resources and implement 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 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. Thank you again for allowing me this opportunity to testify and ask that you support this measure by funding this great start. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Roy Morioka