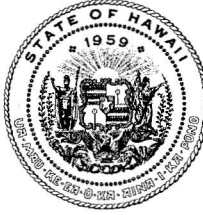


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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KEN C. KAWAHARA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
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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 – Relating To An Appropriation To The Department
Of Land And Natural Resources For Akule Fish Monitoring**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
WATER, LAND, OCEAN RESOURCES AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

March 17, 2008

Senate Bill 3137, Senate Draft 2 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 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 of Hawaii, with data continuity going back over 50 years.

In addition, this proposal to amend the current grid map is incorrect as Area 402 is currently between Barbers Point and Maili Points (so no change is needed there). Area 403 runs between Maili and Kaena Points. Thus in order to preserve the integrity of the data set, the Department requests that an alternate subzone modification be considered, i.e. Maili-Kepuhi Points as Area 403a, and Kepuhi-Kaena Points as Area 403b.

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.

From: Makaala Kaaumoana [mailto:makaala@hawaiian.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2008 7:32 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Cc: Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. James Tokioka; Rep. Roland Sagum
Subject: SB3137 SD2 SCR2837 testimony in support

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, March 17, 2008
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 312
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

A G E N D A

Status

SB 3137, SD2
(SSCR2837)

Status

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

Makes an appropriation to the department of land and natural resources for the purpose of monitoring akule fish from Pearl harbor to Ka'ena point. (SD2)

Aloha Chair Ito, Vice Chair Karamatsu and Honorable Committee Members,
The Hanalei Watershed Hui supports this legislation because it is a beginning step in work we need in Hanalei.

Two years ago the akule never came into Hanalei Bay and last year they came in from the East, a very unusual situation.

The akule remain a key fish in our subsistence fishery and we need to better understand the factors that affect their behavior.

Please pass this bill.
Me ka pono, Makaala

Maka'ala Ka'aumoana
Executive Director
Hanalei Watershed Hui
P.O.Box 1285
Hanalei, HI 96714
808-826-1985

The Hanalei Watershed Hui mission is to support and protect the ecology, cultures and sustainable economies of Hanalei.

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

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, OCEAN RESOURCES & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair

Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair

Rep. Mele Carroll

Rep. Roland D. Sagum, III

Rep. Michael Y. Magaoay

Rep. Scott K. Saiki

Rep. Hermina M. Morita

Rep. Cynthia Thielen

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, March 17, 2008

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 312

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

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

Chair Ito, Vice Chair Karamatsu, and honorable committee members. 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 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 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 proper 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 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. The addressing of further segmenting the data collection by another region between areas 402 and 403 improves the needed science when fishery dependent data is utilized in analysis of catch and effort data. Thank you again for allowing me this opportunity to testify and ask that you support this report with a recommendation to the committee on Finance to fund this great start. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Roy Morioka

Representative Ken Ito, Chair Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources and
Hawaiian Affairs
Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair

Monday, March 17, 2008
9:00 a.m., Conference Room 312

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

Chair Ito and members of the committee:

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

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 and opportunities for harvest in the area.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.