

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair, Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs

March 17, 2008

9:00 am. Room 312

Testimony in strong support of SB 3137SD2.

Chair Ito, 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 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. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

From: carl [mailto:mjellings@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 16, 2008 5:37 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: SB 3137, SD2

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2008/Bills/SB3137_SD2_.pdf

SB 3137 , SD 2

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

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

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, OCEAN RESOURCES & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Honorable Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
Honorable Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair

Honorable Committee Members

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2008/Bills/SB3137_SD2_.pdf

Aloha Honorable Chair

Representative Ken Ito

*My Name is Carl P Jellings Sr. In Conditional Support of SB
3137 , SD 2 This Bill allocates monies to study the movement of Akule off the Waianae
Coast,*

opportunity to Testify

Mahalo for Allowing me the

Representative Ken Ito, Chair Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs

Monday, March 17, 2008

9:00a.m., Conference Room 312

In Support of SB 3137, SD2 Making an Appropriation to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for Akule Fish Monitoring

Chair Ito and members of the committee:

I Georgette Jordan, strongly support SB 3137, SD2.

As a resident of the Waianae Coast community I have watched the increase in near-shore activities such as group kayaking tours, whale & dolphin tours and diving or snorkeling tours to name a few. The increased pressure by these activities within traditional harvesting grounds for akule, warrant a monitoring program for the akule.

Commercial fishermen who rely upon areas such as Makua, Nanakuli and Kahe Point to harvest the akule have noticed declines in catch sizes and the opportunity to harvest within these areas. For generations these fishermen have relied upon the akule to feed their families as well as many local families by providing a commercial fishing livelihood for the fishermen to sustain.

It is important that we understand the behavior of the fish to better understand how we are to manage the resources for current activity and future levels. A large amount of the commercially available akule within state markets are harvested from the Ka`ena Point to Pearl Harbor region.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.