

**LATE
TESTIMONY
SB 3137**

testimony

From: Claire.S.Kodama@hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 4:35 PM
To: testimony
Cc: Michael.S.Yoshinaga@hawaii.gov
Subject: Testimony on SB 3137
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Attached is testimony on SB 3137 - Making an Appropriation to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for Akule Fish Monitoring to be heard before the Joint Senate Committees on Water and Land and Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs on Wednesday, February 13, 2008, 2:45 p.m. in Conference Room 414.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Thank you.

Claire Kodama, Secretary
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LATE TESTIMONY

Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair, Committee on Water and Land
Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair, Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

February 13, 2008
2:45 P.M. Room 414

Testimony in strong support of SB 3137.

Chair Hee, Chair Tokuda, 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 proposes to appropriate a reasonable sum of money to conduct an acoustic tagging study.

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.

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

LATE TESTIMONY

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land

LATE TESTIMONY

Wednesday, February 13, 2008
2:45 pm,
Conference Room 414

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

Chair Hee and Vice Chair Kokubun, 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 leeward and west coasts 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 habits of the akule and opelu within this bay.

As you have heard me testify in the past few years, I truly wish 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 report with recommendation to WAM to fund this great start. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Roy Morioka

testimony

From: JoBear55@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 3:03 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Committee on Water and Land; Wednesday, February 13, 2008

LATE TESTIMONY

Committee on Water and Land
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

2:45 p.m., Conference Room 414

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

I Georgette Jordan, support SB 3137.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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SB 3137
(END)**