

Testimony for Senator Clayton Hee, Chair of the Senate Water & Land Committee,
Presented by Robert Wintner, representing Snorkel Bob's, Hawaii. Contact: Joan Lloyd (808) 879-8575 or
(808) 269-0102

Monday, February 11, 2008, IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 3225:

Aloha Senator Hee and Members of the Hawaii State Senate Water & Land Committee,

My name is Robert Wintner. I represent Snorkel Bob's Hawaii, and I support Senate Bill 3225, to establish bag limits on the aquarium trade for the first time ever.

Our reefs are dying. Nobody knows how many fish are collected from our reefs. The Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources admits that accurate data does not exist. Dan Polhemus is DAR State Administrator. He estimates the take at 2 to 5 times the reported catch. **That's 2 to 10 million fish per year.** 56% of those fish are herbivores. Many are sold in secret, with no tax revenue to the state.

The aquarium collectors began at 20', then they went to 40' and 60'. Now they're at 80', often beating the finger coral with Billy clubs to herd the fish into barrier nets. Finger coral is found only in Hawaii.

Yellow tangs graze in shallow water all day and sleep deep at night. At dusk they school tightly. The collectors often drop a net down one side of the school and up the other, bagging 400 yellow tangs in minutes. Many reefs abundant with tangs a few years ago are now empty.

Mortality ranges to 65% between capture and sale. A yellow tang retails on the mainland for \$40-50. That yellow tang leaves \$3 in Hawaii.

Hawaii has never allowed collectors to use cyanide. Aquarium fish from every ocean and sea near Asia now show trace elements of cyanide. That means compromised liver function. Those fish survive in an aquarium for a few months, while a Hawaii fish can go a few years in a perfect tank. Our fish are in high demand.

A yellow tang left on our reef can live 40 years.

Aquarium catch reports show low take on our rare and endemic species. Frogfish, boxfish, Hawaii lionfish, flame wrasse and others, yet these fish are disappearing. This catch is not reported. While yellow tangs reproduce early, most rare and endemic species do not. Their genetic and reproductive pools are now compromised. The food web on our reefs has been interrupted.

A cleaner wrasse needs 30-40 fish to clean, in order to survive. A reef without cleaner wrasses will be subject to parasites and disease.

Cleaner wrasses are among the top 10 fish in demand from Hawaii. Two more are the ornate butterflyfish and the Moorish idol—both coral feeders that begin the process of

starvation at the point of capture. Starvation takes about 30 days. These 3 speices are sold and shipped every day with a 15-day guarantee.

Aquarium bag limits are critical to reef recovery. Unlimited extraction is an assault on Hawaii's economy, the Hawaiian way, and plain common sense.

I own Snorkel Bob's, with shops all over Hawaii, so I have a vested interest in our reefs. I employ 53 people across Hawaii whose livelihoods depend on our reefs.

The merits and downsides of 2 industries are being weighed. The aquarium industry generates about \$20 million annually for about 300-500 people in Hawaii. The industry catch has never been accurately reported. The catch is unlimited. Our reefs can be emptied, legally. If this aquarium bag limit bill passes, it could pose a hardship to aquarium collectors. Their opposition is understandable, and it is principled, yet we must balance that principle with reasonable regulation.

Reef-based tourism generates 500 times the money—\$1 billion dollars per year. That revenue supports thousands of people and their families, providing a huge tax base for the state. If aquarium bag limits fail, that revenue and those people are at risk.

On any given day, Snorkel Bob's puts more people in the water across Hawaii than any other business. Our most frequently asked question is: Where are all the fish?

All jobs are important—and that includes our reef fish, working so hard to support us. We want all Hawaii reefs to teem once again with an abundance of fish.

With reefs restored to the fish populations they were designed by God to support, Hawaii's reputation as a premier reef attraction may be restored as well.

I've talked to scientists, Kupunas and tourism people all over Hawaii. Consensus is overwhelming. Our reef fish are leaving home. We've seen vigorous opposition to this bill, from all over the mainland, Europe, Australia and Asia.

These locations all over the world have received millions of our reef fish. The opposition will need more aquarium fish in the future to replace the fish they already have, because fish don't live too long in a tank, and this bill will make the price go up.

A current internet posting from the "Ultimate Reef Rapist" (his chosen name). offers 2 Hawaiian Bandit Angelfish for sale, for \$300 and \$400 (smaller). These fish are found nowhere else in the world and sell for \$1,500 each in Japan. He sells them cheaper, with no middlemen. He claims a secret place and plans to catch 10 more, so if any of you want to make a group purchase to save on shipping, he'll sell them for \$325 each if they're under 3", and only \$250 if they're bigger.

Bandit angels are expensive, because they're rare.

This is not a healthy market but is driven by severe depletion of supply. Any reasonable governing body—even the State of Florida—would regulate this market and protect this resource. It's now a free-for-all. Our rare and endemic species must stop leaving our reefs. 3 of the top 10 species collected in Hawaii are not guaranteed to arrive alive or stay alive for 5 days. They are the Achilles tang, Potter's angelfish and the Moorish idol. They are all target species. Besides that, we have non-target species—the spotted boxfish, cleaner wrasse and yellowtail coris—that are also shipping out daily, excluded from the arrive-alive guarantee. It's time for some sanity on our reefs?

Those of us in support of Senate Bill 3225 to limit the aquarium catch for the first time ever, are willing to work with DAR in amending this bill. Unfortunately, DAR efforts have failed to facilitate reef recovery—many of our reefs are vestiges of their former beauty only 10 years ago. The Kona coast is unique. Its extensive size is like no other. It has attracted the majority of aquarium collectors. Thousands of “ornamental reef fish are collected there daily. Reef fish management on the Kona coast has spawned many studies and much scientific research.

The Fish Replenishment Area system on the Kona Coast does not yet have bag limits in unprotected areas, nor has it been able to finalize limited entry. We support both of these endeavors. The Kona system will not mitigate continuing damage on other islands, however. No other shoreline is similar. All the other islands have more invertebrates and more rare endemics. Or rather they once had—350,000 hermit crabs left Oahu reefs 11 cents each. That's \$39,000 to wipe out a species. How many hearings, studies and arguments would it take to re-introduce a species? Featherdusters are now gone from Pearl Harbor and Kaneohe Bay, because aquarium collectors smashed their rocky habitat to get at them.

We will work with DAR to amend this bill, but we will not be held hostage by a bureaucracy seeking process instead of results. Here's an example: Many people in the reef community are friends. When this bill was first released, some of our friends in government service pressed for the “science” behind the no-take species listed, like pufferfish. Puffers are a non-target species—not integral to the aquarium revenue stream. So why should they be taken? I recently visited a warehouse recently of a major aquarium exporter, who told me that nobody really takes puffers. But then I saw four big tanks full of puffers. I said, “I thought you didn't take puffers.”

He said, “We don't.”

I asked, “What are those, lawn furniture?”

He said, “Those are nothing. We don't take more than 10,000 puffers a year. Maybe 15.”

Now, here's where common sense comes in. We have 7 ½ million visitors every year. Over half of them get in the water. One of those visitors might see a puffer. Or maybe a dozen, or a hundred, or a thousand visitors might see that puffer, and each person seeing that puffer may also see what a wondrous place this is, this Hawaii.

Or, that puffer could be caught and sold for a dollar.

Much opposition to this bill is from aquarium hobbyists. A wholesaler in Utah urged a chat room in Utah to clog the email & phone lines of Hawaii legislators.

coralplanet.com will refer you to a fish reseller. If you want to be a reseller, you'll be told: "We currently have more customers than we can handle. Be patient and we'll get back to you as soon as possible." The opposition fears a price rise.

Obviously, we're not here to safeguard the economy of Utah—or of France or Australia. We're here for Hawaii.

We don't want to outlaw aquarium extraction but to lower the take from millions and millions of fish, down to a nominal number. We support amendments to exempt aquarium fish collection for scientific and educational purposes, including public aquariums, like the Waikiki Aquarium and the Maui Ocean Center, as well as University of Hawaii and the Division of Aquatic Resources scientific research. We also support a Hawaiian sustenance exemption, with care, to ensure that the spirit and intent of the exemptions are observed.

A few weeks ago, we saw a festive event here, hailing the International Year of the Reef, because we love our reefs. We cherish the living reef. We defend our reefs from exploitation. We recognize our reefs with Aloha, as the place where life began. Now let's put some meaning on that sentiment, and let the recovery begin.

Thank you for your work, and aloha.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Hello Senator Clayton Hee,

I understand you are presenting a bill, SB 3225, that will limit the over-fishing of reef fish for commercial purposes. I am a Maui resident, and an avid snorkeler and kayaker and have personally witnessed the effects of the "reef rapers" on some of my favorite snorkeling spots. I watch them as they come back to the boat ramps with their stunned looking "catches" in garbage cans and I am sickened by their greed and lack of care for the future of the area that they have harvested from. The number and variety of the fish in these areas has diminished SIGNIFICANTLY, and has not recovered over the years that I have been enjoying these areas.

I wholeheartedly support this bill and hope that you do also, for us now, and for future generations of humans, fish and other organisms that interact with the reef fish.

Thank you,
Monica Williams
Kihei, Maui, Hawaii
808 281-3346

To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice-Chair & Members of the
Committee on Water and Land

From: **Darrell Tanaka,**
Haiku, Maui, Hi, 96708

Re. **Hearing on SB3225---Relating to fishing**

February 11, 2008 at 2:30pm.

Conference Room 414, State Capitol

Testimony in Support, with recommendation for amendment.

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for hearing my testimony regarding aquarium collecting. Please consider my recommendations for amendment to this bill.

“The purpose of this Act is to require a bag limit for the taking of ornamental fish and aquatic life for any person in possession of a combination of an aquarium fish permit and commercial marine license, to no more than twenty specimens, inclusive of no more than five yellow tangs, and creates a no-take category for certain species and again limits the commercial take of yellow tangs dead or alive to five specimens.. The species in the no-take category are recognized as being either, at risk, rare or having a high death rate when in captivity or in transport. The no-take category does not apply to non-commercial aquarium collectors who are limited to a combined total of only five specimens and does not apply to persons harvesting these species for home consumption.

This Act also provides for exemptions, such as for educational purposes, and mandates the department of land and natural resources to conduct an annual stock assessment of the yellow tang. The Kona coast of the island of Hawaii between Upolu Point and South Point is exempted from this act in recognition of the on going regulatory measures and scientific studies in West Hawaii that were implemented by the department of land and natural resources in cooperation with residents of that area and the commercial aquarium industry. The legislature finds that the over harvesting of ornamental fish and aquatic life from the reefs of the main Hawaiian islands is a matter of statewide concern.”

S188- Ornamental fish and aquatic life; bag limit; prohibition; yellow tang stock assessment. (a) As used in this section:

“Take” means to fish for, catch, capture, confine, or harvest, or to attempt to fish for, catch, capture, confine, or harvest, aquatic life. The use of any gear, equipment, tool, or any means to fish for, catch, capture, confine, or harvest, aquatic life, by any person who is in the water, or in a vessel on the water, or on or about the shore where aquatic life can be fished for, caught, captured, confined, or harvested, shall be construed as taking.

“Sell” means, with respect to ornamental fish and aquatic life, to:

- (1) Solicit and receive an order for;
- (2) Have, keep, offer or expose for sale;
- (3) Deliver for value or in any other way than purely gratuitously;
- (4) Peddle;
- (5) Keep with the intent to sell; or
- (6) Traffic-in the sale of.

“Commercial marine license” means a person who has been issued a commercial marine license pursuant to section 13-74-20 and section 189-2, HRS.

“Aquarium fish permit” means any person who has been issued an aquarium fish permit pursuant to section 188-31, HRS.

“Ornamental fish” means any saltwater fish that is usually found in or around reefs, that are commonly kept in aquariums.

“Aquatic life” means any type of species of mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, mollusk, crustacean, arthropod, invertebrate, coral, or other animal that inhabits the freshwater or marine environment and includes any part, product, egg, or offspring thereof; or freshwater or marine plants, including seeds, roots, products, and other parts thereof.

“Commercial marine dealer” means any person who sells or exchanges, or who is an agent in the transfer of marine life obtained directly from a commercial marine licensee, or any commercial marine licensee who sells or exchanges marine life at retail.

"Yellow tang" means the fish known as *Zebrasoma flavescens* or any recognized synonym.

“Bandit Angelfish” means the fish known as *Apolectichthys arcuatus* or any recognized synonym.

“Flame Angelfish” means the fish known as *Centropyge loriculus* or any recognized synonym.

“Masked Angelfish” means the fish known as *Genicanthus personatus* or any recognized synonym.

“Hawaiian Longfin Anthias” means the fish known as *Pseudanthias hawaiiensis* or any recognized synonym.

“Tinker’s Butterflyfish” means the fish known as *Cheatodon tinkeri* or any recognized synonym.

“Bluestripe Butterflyfish” means the fish known as *Chaetodon fremblii* or any recognized synonym.

“Multiband Butterflyfish” means the fish known as *Chaetodon multinctus* or any recognized synonym.

“Fourspot Butterflyfish” means the fish known as *Chaetodon quadrimaculatus* or any recognized synonym.

“Ornate Butterflyfish” means the fish known as *Chaetodon ornatissimus* or any recognized synonym.

“Oval Butterflyfish” means the fish known as *Chaetodon lunlatus* or any recognized synonym.

“Dragon Moray” means the fish known as *Enchelycore pardalis* or any recognized synonym.

“Dwarf Moray” means the fish known as *Gymnothorax melatremus* or any recognized synonym.

“Longnose Hawkfish” means the fish known as *Oxycirrhites typus* or any recognized synonym.

“Flame Wrasse” means the fish known as *Cirrhilabrus jordani* or any recognized synonym.

“Hawaiian Cleaner Wrasse” means the fish known as *Labroides phthirophagus* or any recognized synonym.

“Psychedelic Wrasse” means the fish known as the Redtail Wrasse or *Anampses chrysocephalus* or any recognized synonym.

“Shortnose Wrasse” means the fish known as *Macropharyngodon geoffroy* or any recognized synonym.

“Longnose Hawkfish” means the fish known as *Oxycirrhites typus* or any recognized synonym.

“Elegant Anthias” means the fish known as *Caprodon unicolor* or any recognized synonym.

“Moorish Idol” means the fish known as *Zanclus cornutus* or any recognized synonym.

“Hawaiian Lionfish” means the fish known as *Pterois sphex* or any recognized synonym.

“Hawaiian Yellow Anthias” means the fish known as *Odontanthias fuscipinnis* or any recognized synonym.

“Elizabeth’s Anthias” means the fish known as *Odontanthias elizabethae* or any recognized synonym.

“Sunrise Basslet” means the fish known as *Liopropoma aurora* or any recognized synonym.

“Sunrise Wrasse” means the fish known as *Bodianus sanguineus* or any recognized synonym.

“Orangemargin Butterflyfish” means the fish known as *Prognathodes basabei* or any recognized synonym.

“Brownbarred Butterfly” means the fish known as *Roa excelsa* or any recognized synonym.

“Maui” means the entire island of Maui including its state marine waters.

“Lanai” means the entire island of Lanai including its state marine waters.

“Molokai” means the entire island of Molokai including its state marine waters.

“Oahu” means the entire island of Oahu including its state marine waters.

“Kauai” means the entire island of Kauai including its state marine waters.

“Hawaii” means the east coast of the island of Hawaii between Upolu Point and South Point and its state marine waters.

“Kona coast” means the west coast of the island of Hawaii between Upolu Point and South Point and its state marine waters or otherwise known as the west Hawaii regional fisheries management area.

(b) There shall be a combined bag limit of twenty ornamental fish and aquatic life per person per day, including but not limited to , yellow tang; provided that the combined bag limit may include a maximum of only five yellow tang. It shall be unlawful for any person in possession of both an aquarium fish permit and commercial marine license, in combination, to take, possess, or sell more than the bag limit on Maui, Hawaii, Lanai, Molokai, Oahu and Kauai; provided that any person in possession of an aquarium fish permit only, may take or possess not more than a combined total of five fish or aquatic life specimens per person per day; provided that a commercial marine dealer may possess and sell more than twenty ornamental fish and aquatic life with receipts issued for the purchase pursuant to section 189-11. The department of land and natural resources shall formulate an annual stock assessment of the yellow tang, beginning September 1, 2008 based upon data existing as of that date to provide an estimated inventory for preservation purposes; provided that the assessment shall be made publicly available.

- (c) It shall be unlawful for any person in possession of a commercial marine license to take, possess, or sell certain ornamental fish and aquatic life in a no-take category, including but not limited to, bandit angelfish, flame angelfish, masked angelfish, Hawaiian longfin anthias, Tinkers butterflyfish, bluestripe butterflyfish, multiband butterflyfish, fourspot butterflyfish, ornate butterflyfish, oval butterflyfish, dragon moray, dwarf moray, longnose hawkfish, flame wrasse, Hawaiian cleaner wrasse, psychedelic wrasse, shortnose wrasse, longnose hawkfish, elegant anthias, moorish idol, Hawaiian lionfish, Hawaiian yellow anthias, Elizabeth's anthias, sunrise basslet, sunrise wrasse, orangemargin butterflyfish, brownbarred butterflyfish on Maui, Hawaii, Lanai, Molokai, Oahu and Kauai; provided that no person in possession of a commercial marine license may take, possess or sell not more than five yellow tang.
- (d) It shall be exempted from this act the Kona coast of the island of Hawaii.
- (e) The department of land and natural resources shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 for purposes of this section, including adding other types of ornamental fish and aquatic life.
- (f) The department of land and natural resources may issue permits to engage in activities otherwise prohibited by law, in accordance with section 187A-6, or as may be otherwise authorized by law.

Section 2.....Leave as is.

Sincerely,
Darrell Tanaka

OPPOSED TO SB 3225 HEARING 2-11-08, 2:30PM, ROOM 414
FROM RON TUBBS
Dear Senators,

DNLR and West Hawaii Marine Fisheries Council have been working for decades on protecting Hawaii's Marine Resources and their next step is Species Of Significant Interest. Bag limits would only eliminate an economically viable, sustainable, renewable resource business.

I would like to share some information with you regarding Bag Limits on Aquarium fish. As a college graduate I hope you will see through the inaccuracies and lies of Snorkle Bobs, his website, and other biased ecology groups supporting this bill. They are good intentioned but uneducated in this area. This bill would basically close the Aquarium fish industry. Competition from abroad and costs would prohibit the business with such a small catch limit. I am an ecologist with 8 years of college from UH. I am also an aquarium fish collector. I am biased in favor of the aquarium fish industry. For this reason I will stick only to some **important facts** regarding this bill.

The State of Hawaii has the **strictest laws of any State** in the US. Aquarium fish taking is highly regulated and they answer to Fish and Wildlife, DNLR enforcement, Department of Agriculture and the USDA. Tropical fish require Veterinarian inspections when shipped to certain areas. Health and quality of fish is everything. Size limits, preserves, Marine Protected Areas, and nearly 100 laws regulate Tropical fish collecting.

THE BIG QUESTION IS SUSTAINABILITY? Marine fish are THE MOST RENEWABLE RESOURCE. Marine fish are the most efficient breeders on the planet. Many species can spread or lay **several hundred thousand to half a million eggs at one breeding**. Most of Hawaii's fish are broadcast breeders repopulating wide areas. Most of Hawaii's fish species are found throughout the South Pacific. Fish breed once to twice a year and most can reach breeding size in one year. Large overpopulation fish blooms occur all the time –in 2003 very large population occurred in the Aweoweo, Yellow tang, Morish idols and Potters angels. Reports of this bloom were reported in the news and media. **Yellow Tang populations are out of control in preserve areas (MPA Marine Protected Areas of Kailua Kona) yellow tang counts are up %48 causing the decline of other species due to food supply (www.CRAMP.com) and DNLR website.**

The ocean covers most of this planet with **fish out numbering any other species on earth.** **Hawaii has over 4508 square miles of diveable ocean.** **Hawaii's corals grow 3 to 5 inches a year-** growth dependant on sunlight and depth. . Only very near shore reefs in run off areas with little current are in decline; see (www.CRAMP.com) study of Kaneohe and Maui. Hawaii's reef fish do not eat seaweeds which grow as a result of **Eutrophication**-runoff. There is over 6 feet deep of new coral in many of Kaneohe Bays reefs that were dredged in the 1940's. Most of the Hawaiian Islands are untouched by Tropical fish collecting. Collecting is limited to patches on the Kailua Kona coast (30% of which is protected by MPA - Marine Protected Areas) and West and South shores of Oahu. Some patches of other areas are fished occasionally. **EIGHTY FIVE PERCENT OF THE BIG ISLAND, ALMOST ALL MAUI, ALL MOLOKAI, ALL KAHOO LAWE, ALL LANAI, ALL MOLOKAI, 50% OAHU, ALL KAUAI, ALL NIIHAU AND THE NORTHWEST HAWAIIAN ISLANDS ARE NOT FISHED BY TROPICAL FISH DIVERS.** 2001 and 2002 Great annual fish counts conducted on several islands (www.reef.org) showed an increase of fish in areas counted by 2% to 23% for most species showing **an overall increase in State's fish populations.** The DNLR 3 million MPA study showed an increase there as well (some species declined in counts there due to overpopulation-species crowding-ecosystems can only support a certain population). UH fish counts in Kaneohe Bay show fish increases and fish counts at all artificial reefs like the YO57 ship off Waikiki show increased fish counts. **THERE IS NO SCIENTIFIC DATA SHOWING POPULATION SCARCITY FROM TROPICAL FISH COLLECTING. NO FISH IN HAWAII HAS BECOME EXTINCT!**

One of DNLR's next steps is regulations based on data regarding species of significant interest. Tropical Fish Collectors support protecting species which have population declines or are in need of protection due to possible extinction. I am sure the DNLR will introduce legislation after their scientific studies. THIS WOULD SOLVE ANY PROBLEMS REGARDING BAG LIMITS WHICH HAVE BEEN PROPOSED. DNLR website for more info.

There are at most 60 divers in all Hawaii who collect tropical fish. The 60 divers are split about evenly between Oahu and Kailua Kona. More are licensed but dive rarely if at all. There are far more ex tropical fish diver permits than current divers. Most of these 60 have side jobs or cannot dive full time due to weather restrictions. Collectors rotate their spots and have been in business for as long as 40 years. Tropical fish collectors make money long term diving the same rotated areas. Due to decompression limits a diver can cover at most 50 square feet per dive at 60 feet with a 2-4 dives a day limit. Divers go out just a few days a week. Fish are smart and run from the divers. Hiding spaces, coral, artificial reefs, rocks ect. prevent the capture of most fish in any area. Big breeders take up too much space in the catch bucket so abundant smaller fish are caught. Most small fish do not reach adulthood due to predators and food supply. In the long run overall populations are not impacted. It would be impossible to catch all fish from one area. Divers have an interest to leave breeders to increase populations. Rotating spots insures future money from diving. HAWAII HAS 28 MILLION SQUARE FEET OF DIVE ABLE OCEAN.

THE POOR LITTLE FISH. Aquarium fish hobbyists spend a lot of money to keep the fish they buy healthy and happy. Enriched foods, controlled environments, medications and lack of predators greatly increase the lifespan of fish. Breeders are successfully breeding many species caught in Hawaii and may become future main suppliers for Hawaiian indigenous fish. Local fish have been kept alive for 12 years. This same fish normally could only survive in the wild for a couple years. Tropical fish divers only get paid for live healthy fish so care and health is the only way to make money in the business.

THE INDUSTRY IS DECLINEING IN DEMAND FOR TROPICAL FISH. THE SAME FISH THAT COME FROM HAWAII ARE SOLD FROM INDONESIA AND THE PHILIPINES FOR .25 CENT TO JUST ONE DOLLAR. COMPUTERS AND ADVANCES IN MEDIA HAVE DRASTICALLY REDUCED THE MARKET FOR TROPICAL FISH. MOST OF THE YEAR DIVERS ARE TOLD NOT TO DIVE AS THERE IS NOT ENOUGH DEMAND FOR THE FISH. DNLR FISH COUNTS HAVE SHOWN INCREASED FISH COUNTS DUE TO MANDITORY FILING OF FISH CATCH REPORTS (A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO RULES ENACTED STATE: IF YOU DO NOT FILE-PERMITS ARE NOT RENEWED). **In actuality fish catches have declined and demand has declined. The industry has seen many divers and wholesalers leave the business.** Increased laws have also played a role in the decline of the industry. The second largest wholesaler has see a loss of %90 in business and is on the way out right now. He represents one fourth of all our business.

THERE IS SO MUCH MISINFORMATION REGARDING TROPICAL FISH COLLECTING THAT IT WOULD TAKE PAGES MORE TO COVER IT ALL. PLEASE RESPOND TO THIS EMAIL WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS. FISH COUNTS AND PAPPERS CAN BE SUPPLIED TO BACK UP THE ABOVE FACTS UPON REQUEST. **THE SYNOPSIS IS WE CAN HAVE A SUSTAINABLE TROPICAL FISH INDUSTRY WITH NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND THIS POTENTIAL LAW WOULD KILL ANY FUTURE OF THIS BISNESS.**

Scientific based laws are needed to protect certian fish and Hawaii's oceans. HTFA (Hawaii Tropical Fish Association) supports species of significant interest and laws protecting Hawaii's reefs. THIS LAW WAS INTRODUCED TO ELIMINATE ALL TROPICAL FISH COLLECTORS. THE TROPICAL FISH INDUSTRY CAN CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC BENIFIT TO HAWAII FOREVER WITH NO MAJOR IMPACT ON FISH POPULATION. WE NEED WISDOM AND YOUR SUPPORT.

**Ron Tubbs 808-259-9997
Hawaii Tropical Fish Association**

OPPOSED TO SB 3225, MON. 2-11-08, 2:30PM, CONFERENCE ROOM
414, FROM MARY TUBBS

To the Honorable Committee Members:

In staunch opposition to bill 3225, I state my viewpoint as an elementary teacher born and raised in Hawaii, and as the wife of a tropical fish distributor:

1. Why you would approve a bill to limit diver's fish catch (to 20) while in the next breath ask for a Yellow Tang study to support this action? This bill puts "the cart before the horse."
2. This bill asks for a costly, redundant action. The person proposing this bill appears uninformed and does not appear to have visited the DLNR website where several fish count studies have already been conducted. Why waste taxpayer's money with another study?
3. Why is it assumed the puffers are somehow endangered? If what is caught is any indication of fish counts in the ocean, then let it be known that in (7) years of my observation, spotted and saddleback puffers are amongst the most commonly caught fish. They are always in abundant supply, and sell for very little money.
4. And speaking of money, let's realize the proponent of this bill is not an ecologist. He is a businessman in the tourist industry trying to ensure the future of his snorkel business, in an industry which was just fined \$650,000 for tearing up the coral at Molokini. Of course there is a reduction in fish when one's industry recklessly tears up the coral and disturbs the reef! Is he trying now to point the finger at "ornamental" fish divers to divert attention away from his own industry's negligence?
5. And by the way, the bill's reference to tropical fish as "ornamental," is a gross misnomer. The fish are not "ornaments" hung on some kind of underwater Christmas Tree for Snorkel Bob to stash his financial proceeds under.
6. Hawaii's beautiful tropical fish must be made available in pet stores and aquariums. Children too young to snorkel, can learn about marine life, to appreciate nature, and develop observation skills. Aquariums do this and are proven to relieve stress. The tropical fish industry helps those in the land-locked central USA, and those

in the dreary desert, or those in wintery snow/storm laden areas of the world, to experience just a little paradise in their own home. Don't you think this daily reminder of Hawaii would in turn contribute to our state's tourism? These fish are not just Hawaii's. They belong to our global citizenry, who have just as much right to see them as anyone of Snorkel Bob's customers. Those in the tropical fish industry are stewards of ocean life, upon which their livelihoods depends. Please vote no on SB3225

 **KAMIHATA FISH IND. LTD. HEAD OFFICE**

FISH IMPORT DIVISION, E-mail:himeji@kamihata.jp
TEL: +81-(79)-297-8100 FAX: +81-(79)-293-7888
9 Minami-machi, Himeji city, 670-0912 Japan.

Jan 31st, 2008

To whom it may concern:

Dear Sir,

We are an importer of marine aquarium fish "KAMIHATA FISH IND. LTD."

We heard the new bill of ornamental fish have been introduced and it puzzled us very much. We are importing variety of attractive reef fish from Hawaii now, and our business depends on Hawaiian reef fish. If SB3225 is enforced, it makes a big damage in our business. The amount of the supply from Hawaii will surely not fill the amount of our demand. This is a very keen problem for our business.

Therefore, we are opposed to SB3225. Please review SB3225.

Sincerely yours,

KAMIHATA FISH IND. LTD.



Yukitoshi Yamanaka

STRONGLY OPPOSED TO SB 3225

Respectfully Submitted by Adam Snodgrass, Diver/Fisherman

AS A HAWAIIAN FOR HB 1848

To the Water Land Committee,

I am strongly against this bill because I believe that this is the wrong way to take action against the supposed depletion of the fish. As a diver and fisherman for ten years I have seen an increase in the fish population on the Waianae coast and now on the Kailua Kona coast. Every year I see an abundance of species blooming. In 2006 Potters bloomed on the west coast of Oahu. They are still very abundant more than I have seen in ten years.

I also see tourism using more of the ocean resources, like with the Dolphin Excursions, and dive charters, etc... Waianae has (4) 100ft. ships that go out daily full of tourists between Waianae and Koalina! You don't hear any complaints from them about not seeing any fish, do you? No, what you hear is complaints about how much rubbish is in the ocean, from all the runoff from the canals and developments. I believe a major driving force behind this bill is the tourist industry, which has hired ecologists to propose this bill. The need for this bill, is unfounded.

I do not understand what this bill is going to accomplish other than hurting everybody. My livelihood depends on the natural resources from the ocean, as did my father's. If this bill does go into effect it will hurt me and my children's children. I am strongly against this bill because my life is based on the ocean, and I know nothing else, being born and raised Hawaiian, and currently residing in Kailua, Kona but originally from the Waianae Coast, where jobs are scarce. I am diversified by aquarium fish diving and commercial (eating) fishing, but this bill would hurt both of these occupations, leaving me with no choice but to collect assistance from the state, an option which I have worked hard to avoid.

In the Big Island, 80% of the island was not left for open usage, with only 20% of one area left in preserve. Instead, they tricked the people, and took 20% of the coastline on each side of each harbor, leaving fishermen to have to travel generally 20 miles on the water before they can fish. What was once a day trip, now has to generally be an overnight trip, motoring or diving to an available area. This is such a hardship. If this bill goes through, I can't see myself being able to survive – what with paying for the gas, expenses, and being away from my family for so long. Please shelf SB 3225.

testimony

From: Ron Tubbs [rtmb@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 1:39 AM
To: testimony
Subject: OPPOSED TO SB 3225, MON. 2-11-08, 2:30pm ROOM 414

OPPOSED TO SB 3225 MON.2-11-08, 2:30PM, ROOM 414
FROM FREDRIC AMBLARD
Please do not pass bill #3225

There are further concerns and more studies should be done before you kill a viable, sustainable, environmentally sound industry. At least speak face to face with those whose livelihoods depend on harvesting fish.

I've met Mr Ron TUBBS (Hawaiian Tropical Fish Collectors Society) in Honolulu and was impressed by his care and concern for the ocean and fish populations. He has more hands on experience in the waters than any I know.

Please do not pass this bill but look further into the real causes of the environmental problems.

Yours sincerely,

Frédéric AMBLARD
frederic@amblard.fr

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testimony

From: Reeflections [robertsc017@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 8:32 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Support of S.B. No. 3225

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

Mike Roberts - Reeflections Underwater Photography

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Support of S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Aloha,

My name is Mike Roberts and I 1st came to Maui in 1950. As an underwater photographer I have watched the disappearance of reef fish over the years. I am appalled that Hawaii, a State that is so dependant on the reef, still has no laws protecting it from ornamental fish collectors. These people are profiting by literally destroying the reef, not only by the fish they take but the methods they use. I have seen sales on eBay of animals that cannot possibly be collected without destroying live coral in the process. The entire balance of the ecosystem is thrown out of whack when certain species of are taken from the equation.

I strongly support S.B. #3225 as a positive 1st step to curbing the presently uncontrolled collection of ornamental fish in Hawaii. The loss of a small profit by a few individuals is a small price to pay for the protection of Hawaii's most important resource.

I hope the committee does what is right by passing S.B. #3225.

Mahalo for this opportunity to be heard.

Mike Roberts

Kihei



PETS PACIFICA, INCORPORATED

94-486 UKEE STREET • WAIKAPU, HAWAII 96797 • (808) 677-7749 • (808) 677-7387

1-26-08

Dear Legislator,


I am writing to testify against Senate Bill 3225. The bill would cripple a source of jobs, and would not solve basic problems of pollution and environmental change that changes saltwater ecosystem balance.

Hawaii needs to maintain a responsible diversified economy. Since Hawaii is going through a downturn reducing jobs and related green renewable income and thus becoming more dependent on just military and tourism is not good. Live fish exporting generates lots of free publicity for Hawaii as saltwater tourism paradise. Most price lists and books list Hawaii as a valuable source of these species. Many hotels and restaurants use live local fish to showcase our natural beauty such as Kahala Hotel, Pacific Beach Hotel, John Dominis, Nick's fishmarket, Zippys Kahala, and Hilton Hawaiian Village. Even the Governor's office had a saltwater aquarium. Watching fish has been shown to lower blood pressure and relax people. Hence the hobby has health benefits as well as economic benefits.

Many live fish such as yellow tangs are algae eaters that will reexport carbon and fertilizers that would otherwise further imbalance our environment.

I am chief executive of Petland Inc, a pet shop and Pets Pacifica Inc. a pet supply wholesaler. I also serve on state of Hawaii senior advisory committee plants and animals. I previously served on the Cayetano economic revitalization tax committee. My opinion stated herein are my own and my companys' opinions and do not reflect the opinion of the senior advisory committee.

Most local fish collectors responsibly capture fish without harming the environment. The local collectors recognize their livelihood depends on future supply. Most local collectors only have a market for the smaller juvenile stages and do not generally collect the adult stages. Hence populations are generally not endangered by collectors since breeders are not captured, captured specimens are small percentage of available population, and corals are not damaged. Because local collectors only collect juveniles their export quantities vary based on seasonal availability. The situation is similar to Oama fisherman who also have similar seasonal and yearly changes in fish catch. Local fish collectors do not collect oama since most food fish are illegal to collect for aquarium use.



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Hawaii's basic problem is a saltwater environment changing because of human overpopulation and related pollution. For instance look at the Ala Wai Canal. There is a shortage of ornamental fishes there. The corals there died decades ago. They were not killed by collectors. They were obviously killed by pollution. The pollution does not stay in the canal. It flows daily into the Pacific Ocean after killing most corals and ornamental fish in the Ala Wai. When it accumulates in the canal the state of Hawaii dredges the pollution out and dumps into the Pacific. The pollution that kills in the Ala Wai is thus spread throughout the saltwater environment. Hawaii government dumped heavy metals and other contaminants from the Ala Wai off Oahu about 5 years ago. Since that time City government added millions of gallons of untreated effluent to the Ala Wai. The story is similar for most urban streams.

Please study the attached aquarium fish harvest report. Fish population is greatest on big island which has the lowest human population per square mile. You will also notice high quantity of feather dusters taken from Oahu. Feather dusters thrive in muck and runoff such as found around Oahu shorelines and streams. Big Island also has had the lower average income than Oahu and Maui. Hence job opportunities are where the need is greatest.

The state further complicates the problem by dumping with city cooperation partially treated sewage directly into the Pacific or indirectly into Lake Wilson which in turn is discharged into Waialua Stream and in turn into Pacific Ocean by Haleiwa. Recently the state DLNR has irresponsibly been dumping substantial quantities of sewage water into Waialua to save money. The sewage has a high fertilizer content which changes the balance in saltwater encouraging seaweed growth and discouraging coral growth. Since many fish depend on coral for food there is a problem. Algae eaters such nenuue, yellow tang and manini increase in population while coral eaters starve. Please note the salvinia molesta problem in Lake Wilson could not be replicated in a state lab because tap water was too clean and lacked sufficient nutrients. Salvinia was the floating plant that grew aggressively in Lake Wilson about 5 years ago until government agencies irradiated plant. Ironically the Lake was probably cleaner and better suited for discharge with salvinia in it than with salvinia gone. Salvinia probably converted human waste into green foliage and reduced fertilizer content similar to the experiment in the Ala Wai canal with floating plants.

Oahu sewer treatment plants are being forced by the federal epa to clean up discharge to reduce pollution content. Currently direct discharge water has been showed to kill sea urchins which indicate invertebrate toxicity. Since invertebrate include corals this is a serious problem. Before blaming a few fisherman perhaps the state should shoulder more of the responsibility.

The military has not helped matters by admitting to dropping hundreds of tons of pollutants including chemical weapons and ammunition into our waters and adjacent waters such as Johnson Island. These chemicals have undesirable effect on saltwater



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environment.

The state further complicates matters by encouraging Hawaiian Electric to advertise switch to compact fluorescent bulbs. While these bulbs use less electricity they have mercury which is shown to be toxic to fish and humans. The problem has gotten so bad that the usfda and epa have issued warnings about humans eating too much tuna since it includes too much mercury. It stands to logic if we are poisoned by fish with too much mercury than it is probably hurting fish population as well.

Our population generates significant co2 emissions. Co2 readings on Hawaii mountaintops indicate a 1% rise in air content annually. While the main news has been about global warming the less well known fact is that most of the c02 has been absorbed into the oceans where it has been converted into algae and acidified water. Research indicates small co2 increases generate significant rises in plant and algal growth. Algae and seaweed population increases have been found in many Hawaiian waters of both alien and local species. Research also indicates many fish species such as flame angels do not reproduce well when the water is acidified by c02. The solution would therefore be to reduce c02 emissions and increase exports of carbon such as aquarium fishes.

Our waters were a phosphorus desert. Now human pollution adds significant quantities of phosphorus to the saltwater environment. That phosphorus is crucial to supporting algal growth. Phosphorus comes from human effluent and fertilizers as well as colas and detergents. Exporting algae eaters tends to reduce environmental phosphorus.

The fish conservation districts and military off limits areas already create significant areas where fishing is limited. Limited state tax resources also make fish conservation areas more easily enforceable by DLNR. Fish conservation areas put more stress on other areas. Perhaps fish conservation areas should be reduced to allow less intensive harvesting. Last year 284182 yellow tangs were caught. State waters have 4500 square miles. Just over 63 yellow tangs were caught per square mile. Last year 39413 assorted kole, yelloweye, and goldring were caught. That was just over 8.75 per square mile. The state's own figures confirm the conclusion of the United Nations study on Ocean to Aquarium as follows. "Most traders argue that the collection of marine ornamentals for the aquarium trade has no negative impact on reef fish populations. This is likely to be true for fisheries that are fairly small in comparison to the available resource base (fish population)." If you include federal fisheries conservation zone Hawaii has 800,000 square miles of ocean to collect from diluting catch density still further.

The aquarium ornamental fish are generally from 1 to 3 inches when caught. Several dozens would make a pound. The small size also tends to indicate the small ecological impact brought about by their capture. If we assume a dozen per pound than 23,681 pounds were captured of yellow tangs. In contrast according to the Hawaii state data book over 26 million pounds of human consumption fish were captured in 2000. Although they weigh less they do generate more revenue per pound than most human



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consumption fish. Since it takes about 10 pounds of food to produce a pound of human consumption fish than the 26 million pounds of human consumption fish probably consumed 260 million pounds of food which generally included a lot of aquarium fish such as yellow tangs. In comparison 23,681 pounds of aquarium fish pales against 260 million pounds of fish, algae and corals consumed.

Our fathers were smarter than we are. They used effluent in Lake Wilson to irrigate pineapple and sugar cane which was exported with nutrients to mainland partially offsetting imports of nutrients. Water was also cleaned and recycled through ag process. We similarly need to encourage tropical fish collection to partially offset the imbalance caused by human overpopulation. Simply allowing CO₂, phosphorus and mercury to accumulate worsens the problem.

Thanks for your attention,



Kenneth J. Matsui

Senator Hee....

I support the passage of SB 3225 to preserve the fish and coral of our beautiful Hawaiian Islands. I have been swimming in our waters for 23 years, and have noticed how few fish are here compared to twenty years ago. It is such a shame that collectors and net fishing have decimated our fish populations. Please pass SB3225 while we have a few fish left!

Thank you, Milly Boren, Paia, Maui, Hawaii

Shed those extra pounds with MSN and The Biggest Loser!
<http://biggestloser.msn.com/>

testimony

From: KERSTIN JONKE [jonke@hawaiiintel.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2008 10:09 PM
To: testimony
Subject: committee on water and land monday feb 11, 2008 2:30 pm

>
> My name is Scott Jonke and I make my living diving for Yellow
> Tangs in Maui. I have been here for seventeen years and have
> collected the majority of the time. My first job here was working for
> International Seaboard in Wailuku packing and shipping over 3000
> Yellow Tangs weekly. There were four teams of divers and four boats
> that worked for ISC. After 911 the company went bankrupt and i was
> able to buy ISC. I have watched a few other companies come and go. I
> now collect 600-800 every two weeks, often less and have had the
> pleasure of watching maui reefs repopulate like never before. I have
> one boat and one dive partner. I would love to show you the fish. I
> disagree with any collector that takes fish from a Tourist spots in.
> I have always considered myself an Environmentally Responsible
> Businessman and actually worked with Steve Robinson when i was
> younger. He is the man that shut down Cyanide fishing in the
> Philippines. If you have time, please Goggle his name as you will
> find great material about the Ornamental trade. He is my mentor and
> will hopefully be able to fly him in for the meeting and share forty
> plus years of experience to us. I am willing to answer any questions
> you have regarding the industry. I am willing to share 100% of my
> knowledge with you, and highly recommend you come dive with me and
> see what it is i do. I feel the industry should not be shut done
> without the proper study. I feel if any study can find evidence
> that the Fish Industry is hurting another industry or depleting the
> reefs of any fish then it should be supervised and restricted. I Have
> seen the Yellow Tang population fluctuate over the years and it just
> happens that right now there are more than ever. They are deeper than
> ever but that is where the clean water is. I will show you that all
> the fish are moving away from the shallow waters. I do not notice
> fish in the tide pools anymore. i remember when they put out the spot
> lights up in front of Stoupher's in Maui. I could not find a fish. I
> was able to go there twice a month for years and harvest Racoon
> Butterfly fish and Eels at night with a flashlight. So i experienced
> first hand that spotlights lights effect the tide pools and near shore
> fish as well. After this last storm in Dec. we were hesitant to dive
> because the water was so murky we did not know if it was safe. We
> tried to dive shallow near shore and could not find ANY fish of any
> species. Our eyes were burning so bad i figured there was real
> pollution in the water. Two weeks later and once the water was just
> clear enough to see the bottom at 80FT. We tried to go to the drop
> and there was every fish from inside. There were hundreds of fish
> swimming in schools like i have never seen. slower than normal as if
> there was a lack of oxygen. I thought to myself what if their gills
> are burning as bad as my eyes? Lesson learned. I did not know
> that after a good storm all the fish go to the outside reef. If you
> do come dive with me i will show you the difference from shallow to
> deep. We will wait a few months and you will see the fish coming back
> into the shallow water. There are hundreds of really interesting
> facts that the average person does not know about the fish.
> Please do not go forward with this Bill. It may be written with
> good intentions but it is not fair or scientifically justified. I can
> prove that this Industry can be sustainable, financially rewarding
> and very exciting if you give me the chance. When done properly it
> can provide a great lifestyle and could actually be a great cross over
> career for the youth that may have interests in other things than
> schooling. Part of the reason the other companies do not advertise
> for workers is they prefer to stay low key but imagine if the Local

> Kids actually went through a training course in collection, care and
> release of Tropical Fish in School. The world would benefit from
> that. I am excited because I know change is coming. Please keep me
> in mind for any ideas you have. I can even take you to Kona and
> together we can look at the Fishery there and compare attitudes,
> viability and future goals.

>
>

> IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE/ NEW BILL

>
> restrictions

>
> follow Alaska's guidelines. they know what they are doing from over
> fishing crab.

> set a quota. maybe each diver. maybe each company. to work with
> current owners needs limit commercial entry grandfather permits like
> California Urchin Trade

> have Environmental group work with and observe collectors report
> problems.

> DLNR diver needs to occasionally witness techniques of each team for
> insurance of proper handling.

> start Tourist Industry tag and release Tropical Fish vacations No
> collecting 500 yards either direction from Restricted or popular
> tourist spots.

> GPS tracking. call in and give numbers to DLNR daily and do not fish
> same area more than three times per year. And it is safe for the diver
> to give location at the same time in case of emergency. plus DLNR
> can go look at the spot later! THAT IS THE KEY.

> give grants to the people with experience in the industry and watch
> their passion invent new revenue insist on classes for collection just
> as in firearms when a new permit is issued. I WILL INSTRUCT FREE!!

> set limits per species annually

> limit night lights and neon near shore.

> restrict collecting coral feeding fish or Cleaner Wrasses as per
> Snorkel BOBS request (i kept one for three years..) allow dive shops
> to request a limit if they see a certain species declining find a way
> to start a peacock grouper eradication program. (this will be my
> contribution in the future) allow current fish collectors to start
> growing coral like in florida.

> you rent square footage on the sea floor and put rock you get from the
> quarry and let the organisms grow on it for six months. It then
> becomes homes and food for the fish

> No collecting Larger than 7 inch fish twice a year while breeding
> season is on.

> Research the Dive and Snorkel Industry as well for direct impact.

> Lotions, Human waste, Trash. Just like our favorite spots. There
> are now Tourists at all of them. That in the ocean translates to less
> fish to be seen. Fish move just like a stray dog being approached.
> They speed up and swim just past the point of danger.

>
>

> MOST IMPORTANT FROM MY PERSPECTIVE...WATER IS POLLUTED. new laws to
> restrict run off. It has to be done. For the first time last month i
> had the childhood memory of Santa Monica Bay smell right here in
> kihei.

> I see human waste almost daily. The water is never clear anymore in
> kihei. I have been out at 1:00 am fishing and started to smell
> pollution in the water and i swear the Plant is pumping waste out by
> Kihei Cove somewhere. That needs to be looked into. I live near the
> ocean and see the human waste on the sand in front of my house. i
> will document it.

>
>

> This may represent a small portion of my ideas and input but i will
> keep thinking and will come prepared to the meeting. It is important
> for us all to be open minded during this process and necessary to come
> up with a fair a scientific based solution. It is important for us
> to work together. I wonder why Snorkel Bob never did call me again

testimony

From: Anita Wintner [anitabanana@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 9:41 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Fw: testimony in support SB 3225, HB 3330


To: Senate Water and Land for Monday 2:30 Room 414
Att: Senator Hee, Kokubun, Fukunaga, Tokuda, Whalen

Testimony of Anita Wintner from Makena, Maui, in support of SB # 3225 and HB # 3330 to establish bag limits on the aquarium trade.

I have been an avid snorkeler for 30 years here in Hawaii. I have witnessed extreme declines in the reef fish, healthy coral areas without fish and some areas where the seaweed has taken over. Our reefs are in trouble. The majority of fish taken by the aquarium collector are herbivores (surgeonfish) that keep the algae in check. These fish are usually taken young, before they have had a chance to reproduce, there is NO limit on how many fish can be taken, NO limit on how many licenses are sold, and NO limits on taking of endemic fish, found only in Hawaii, and very little documentation on how many fish are being taken. If the fish taken aren't reported, they don't pay tax on them. The aquarium collectors admit that many die before the fish are shipped out. It is rare to see a yellow tang, except in marine protected areas, I have only seen two Potter's Angel in the past ten years, and had to go to Tahiti to see a Flame Angel. Tourism is what keeps these islands going. The majority comes to get in the water. Changes need to be made before it is too late. Already some reefs are so overrun with seaweed, you wouldn't want to swim there. Other reefs are dying with no fish. Numerous fish counts have been done over the last decade. The numbers show we have a problem. How much more science do you need? Why should we be endangering our reef so someone can put our fish in an aquarium? If it weren't for the aquarium collectors, the Hawaiians would have more fish. I also support amendments to exempt reef fish collecting for scientific and educational purposes, public aquariums, University of Hawaii, and DAR research. I feel strongly that no more aquarium licenses be sold be included in the amendments. Our reefs will take

time to recover. Start now so the future generations can enjoy the reefs as I once did.

Mahalo,
Anita Wintner

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testimony

From: MMMMahalo2000@aol.com
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 9:39 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Sen Water & Land; SB 3225 2/11/8 2:30PM Rm 414



SB 3225 testimony, Senate Water & Land Committee

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land
Mike Moran (808) 891-9176
Kihei Community Association (808) 879-5390
Maui, HI
Monday February 11, 2008 2:30 PM in conference room 414.

Support of SB 3225, Relating to Fishing

The Kihei Community Association (KCA) on Maui strongly supports SB 3225. The coral reefs in Hawaii are dying & the fish that support the ecosystems are quickly disappearing. Without immediate action, we will reach a point from which this vital component of Hawaii may best be lost forever. A root cause of this problem is caused by actions outside of Hawaii, as we have seen so many times, by unscrupulous aquarium fish "collectors" worldwide who harvest millions of our reef fish each year, strictly for their financial gain. In addition to the natural loss, this action is detrimental to the state's economy, as it reduces the appeal of Hawaii's visitor industry, as so much of it is based on our ocean life quality. The ocean-based portion of this industry generates about \$1 billion each year.

This bill's bag limits will go a long way to begin the process of restoring the ornamental fish species that are vital to the well being of our coral reefs. The KCA respectfully urges your committee to pass SB 3225. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Moran
VP, Kihei Community Association

Who's never won? [Biggest Grammy Award surprises of all time on AOL Music.](#)

2/8/2008

testimony

From: David Amack [sharkville@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 12:00 PM
To: testimony
Subject: I SUPPORT SB 3225

I understand there was a flood of phone calls, faxes, and emails from all over the U.S. and the world in opposition to SB 3225. Now, let's put 2 and 2 together. We know our reefs have almost no fish (go for a snorkel and see for yourself) and that people are coming out of the woodwork to oppose a bag limit for aquarium collecting. WHY SHOULD THEY CARE? Because that's where all the fish are going. This is not about subsistence or tradition or anything except MONEY. I have news for our elected representatives, the residents of Hawaii, and the fish collectors. THOSE FISH BELONG TO ME, TOO! What gives anybody the right to take MY fish, without my say-so?

Look at it another way:

If our fish collectors decided to start taking Nene, would that be ok? Even if they took them to eat, would that be ok? OF COURSE NOT.

If I went to South America, would I be allowed to take parrots out of the jungle and ship them around the world? OF COURSE NOT.

If aquarium collectors whine that you are taking away their livelihood, tell them THEY ARE IN THE WRONG BUSINESS.

David A.
Kihei, Maui

testimony

From: Scuba Gods [Jay@scubagods.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 11:59 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony: Bag limits for aquarium collector's

To: Senate Water & Land Committee,

Time: Monday Feb. 11th, 2:30, room 414

Will you please do something about fish collector's?.....I understand people need to make a living, but fish populations on state reefs are being wiped out by the aquarium trade.....Please legislate strict limits on fish collection, or ban it entirely.

Mahalo,

Scuba Gods....*/"Dive Into The Real Hawaii"/* *Toll Free:* *(866) 224-4159*
E-Mail: *Jay@Scubagods.com*
URL: *www.Scubagods.com*

testimony

From: TOM CAREY [tmcfarms@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 11:42 AM

To: testimony

I wish to support this bill. Senate Bill 3225 to establish bag limits on the aquarium trade. Do not let others take fish from our ocean for profit only..no way! Thanks, Tom Carey 77-440 Hoomaluhia Dr. Kailua-Kona, Hi. 96740 tmcfarms@yahoo.com OCEAN PLANET IMAGES
<http://oceanplanetimages.smugmug.com/>

testimony

From: Judy Barnes [rj_brns@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 12:19 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for Senate Bill 3225

As a resident of the Hawaiian Islands for fifteen years (first on Maui & now on Kauai) and a snorkeler, I would like to pledge my support of this bill. Future generations have a right to enjoy the reef life that we have enjoyed for so long. As a casual observer, the numbers of fish that you see in the ocean have lessened since I arrived here in 1988.

Thanks,
Judy Barnes

Never miss a thing. [Make Yahoo your homepage.](#)

testimony

From: Rob Phillips [mauibb@clearwire.net]

Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 9:45 AM

To: testimony

Subject: restricting aquarium taking

I strongly support a bill that will restrict aquarium taking of reef fish on Maui.

Aloha,

Rob Phillips
Kihei, Maui

testimony

From: FloB2@aol.com
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 5:10 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SB 3225 testimony

SB 3225 testimony, Senate Water & Land Committee

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land
Florence Bahr, 2728 Kauhale St., Kihei, HI 96753
Monday February 11, 2008 2:30 PM in conference room 414.

Support of SB 3225, Relating to Fishing

I hopefully and respectfully request the committees support SB 3225. I work with the Hawaii Wildlife Fund and have a very keen interest in the preservation of our reefs. They are vital to our economy and our lives. We need them to survive well on this island. Please be pono and help save our reefs by passing this bill and limiting the take.

Sincerely,

Florence Bahr

Who's never won? Biggest Grammy Award surprises of all time on AOL Music.



SB 3225 RELATING TO FISHING
Senate Committee on Water and Land

February 11, 2008
Room: 414

2:30 p.m.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS, with amendments,** S.B. 3225, which would establish a combined bag limit of 20 fish per person per day of ornamental fish. The bill would also prohibit the taking of certain ornamental fish, including puffer fish, all box fish, potter's angel, cleaner wrasse, all coralvores and all eels.

OHA understands and appreciates that the intent of this bill is to protect the marine resources of our state. However, we ask that the bill be amended to include language that states that the proposed section of Hawaii Revised Statutes will not conflict with the West Hawai'i Fisheries Council's rules, which were created, with much effort and good faith, by that community to protect the area's marine resources. These rules have been a shining example of effective resource management created through healthy community collaboration and mutual respect of competing users of the nearshore resource.

Because of that successful model, we suggest that the language of the bill, if it moves forward, should reflect the rules of the West Hawai'i Fisheries Council, which have proven to be a successful tool created for and by the West Hawai'i community.

OHA also encourages the Legislature to include language in the bill to protect Native Hawaiian traditional and cultural practices relating to subsistence fishing. As the bill now stands, fishing for eels may be prevented because they are listed in the "no-take category" of this bill. Eels have long been a regular part of the Native Hawaiian diet in certain sections of Hawai'i.

Furthermore, we are concerned about the prohibition on coralvores, which could include uhu. If such were the case, this would be an unconstitutional taking of Native Hawaiian

gathering rights and an irresponsible law against the public's legitimate use of ample public trust resources. Also, there are already fishing rules and regulations relating to uhu. Thus, a better definition of coralvores is required.

OHA hopes that the Committee will take these concerns into account. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

testimony

From: Two Mermaids [kawaiola@maui.net]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 1:54 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support of S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair

Committee on Water and Land

Date: Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Re: Support of S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Aloha,

We are Juddee and Miranda, owners of a licensed Bed and Breakfast on Maui;

We strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Juddee and Miranda Kawaiola

2/8/2008

testimony

From: earthsurge@gmail.com on behalf of Earth Surge . [es@earthsurge.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 1:25 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SUPPORT Senate Bill 3225

Aloha Senator Hee and the members of the Senate Water and Land Committee;

Please SUPPORT Senate Bill 3225 to establish statewide bag limits on the aquarium trade.

Fish species are dwindling and this is evident statewide in research I do with the University of Hawaii.

The fish thank you.

Paul Clark; President -SOS

Save Our Seas - PO BOX 813; Hanalei, HI 96714

Earth Surge - PO BOX 117; Hanalei, HI 96714
808-651-3452
www.earthsurge.com
www.saveourseas.org

testimony

From: Keith Christie [keithc@snorkelbob.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 12:40 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony for Senate Bill 3225

Testimony:

Senate Bill 3225

Senate Water & Land Committee

Clayton Hee, Chair

Monday, February 11-2:30pm

As a concerned citizen of the State of Hawaii, avid diver and snorkeler, father, & business leader I am writing to express my overwhelming support of Senate Bill 3225 which establishes restrictions on collection of ornamental reef fish.

The wholesale exportation of Hawaii's most precious resources must stop. **STOP.** It's not right and must be ended immediately before the reefs are laid barren. The fish being collected and removed only to die in aquariums are part of a vital ecosystem that must be protected for the future.

It is our job to protect our place.

Thank you,

Keith Christie, Maui Resident

testimony

From: HST [info@hstwindsurfing.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 12:19 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Committee on Water and Land;S.B. No. 3225

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land
Patricia Cadiz
Support of S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Aloha Senators,

My name is Patricia Cadiz; I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system. Coral reefs and reef fish also contribute to Hawaii's carbonate sand source. One parrot fish can produce up to one ton of sand in a year. No one needs to explain that our tourism driven economy depends on healthy beaches and reefs.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Patricia Cadiz

808-871-2526

February 8, 2008

To the Committee on Water and Land,

I am a commercial fisherman and oppose SB 3225. This bill, as written is arbitrary and inaccurate, and I cannot, in any way support it.

There is a wealth of data concerning ornamental fish taken over the past twenty or so years. All commercial ornamental fish collectors are licensed by the State of Hawaii. These fishermen are required by Hawaii State law to submit monthly fish catch reports to the Department of Aquatic Resources as a provision of holding our licenses. This has been going on since the mid 1970's.

Other studies have also been done over the years by the University of Hawaii, and other state and private agencies.

None of these studies to date have indicated a fishery in decline.

It is said that data can be used to bolster any one group's personal agendas. Even fishermen. So I will leave you with one final thought. This will be my thirty-fourth season as a full time commercial fisherman of ornamental fish.

In the past there have been good years when fish were plentiful, and bad years, when fish were scarce. Every year was different. It is all on file at DAR. You are welcome to use it to make an informed decision.

Please do not pass SB 3225.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Dennis T. Yamaguchi

testimony

From: Joan [joanl@snorkelbob.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 2:16 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB3225 for Hearing on Mon., Feb. 11th, 2:30 PM
Attachments: SBOvalLogo.jpg

February 8, 2008

Dear Senator Hee, Senator Kokubun, and Members of the Water and Land Committee,

I support SB3225 to establish bag limits for aquarium collectors.

Ornamental fish are leaving our reefs at alarming rates. Scuba diving and snorkeling the same reefs (today) that I enjoyed 16 years ago now reveals barren, algae ridden, and empty wasteland, save a handful of lone stragglers (fish) who escaped the net.

The most common question we hear from visitors at Snorkel Bob's is, "Hey, where are all the fish?"

A colleague from *This Week Magazine* recently called me exclaiming, "On Saturday I saw a yellow tang in front of Ulua Reef—I was so excited!" Yes, she was excited to see (1) yellow tang.

Please pass Bill 3225 so we can preserve and restore Hawaii's reefs to their rightful balance.

Thanks and Aloha,
Joan Lloyd
Marketing Director
Snorkel Bob's
Ph: (808)879-8575
Cell: (808)269-0102
Fax: (240)384-4277

testimony

From: Gavin Baer [surfinbaer@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 3:33 PM
To: testimony
Subject: senate bill 3225 Attn: Senator Hee and the members of the Senate Water and Land Committee

Aloha,

I would like to add my support for Senate Bill 3225 to establish bag limits on the aquarium trade.

In my 20 years of snorkeling in Hawaii I have noticed a decline in the number of fish on the reefs around Hawaii where I frequently snorkel.

I thank you for your work on this issue.

Regards,

--

Gavin Baer
2916 Date St.
Honolulu, HI 96816
surfinbaer@gmail.com

testimony

From: Lisa Raymond [lraymond@maui.net]

Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 3:37 PM

To: testimony

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

Lisa Schattenburg-Raymond Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Support of S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Aloha,

I am a life long resident of Maui, and I have personally witness the destruction and rape of our ocean resources. I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Lisa Schattenburg-Raymond
740 Copp Road
Kula, HI 96790
>

testimony

From: Maui Dreams Dive Company [mauidreams@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 2:19 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SB 3225

SB 3225 testimony, Senate Water & Land Committee

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land
Teri Leonard Kihei, Maui, HI

Monday February 11, 2008 2:30 PM in conference room 414.

Support of SB 3225, Relating to Fishing

I respectfully request the committees support SB 3225.

Teri Leonard

testimony

From: Marc Walske [marcw@snorkelbob.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 2:22 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Senate bill 3225

Aloha,

My name is Marc Walske.

My mailing address is PO BOX 205 Lahaina, Hi. 96767-0205 I am in support of Senate bill 3225, to establish bag limits on the aquarium trade.

Aloha, Marc Walske

testimony

From: Karen Chun [karen@karenchun.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 12:16 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 3225

SB 3225 testimony, Senate Water & Land Committee

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land
Monday February 11, 2008 2:30 PM in conference room 414.
>From Karen Chun 87 Lae St. Paia HI 96779

I support restricting the taking of aquarium fish...in fact the bill should go further and ban the taking of ALL aquarium fish. It's heartbreaking the decline in the number of fish in the last years.

Aloha,

When attempting to manage natural resources—like Hawaiian coral reefs—that exhibit a high degree of environmental complexity and equally are influenced by multiple human activities, difficulty can rapidly arise. Often, incapacity to discern environmental variability from the effects of human activities like fishing can lead to disagreement and controversy over fishery regulation. The latest product of such controversy is Hawai‘i Senate Bill No. 3225, which imposes bag limits on certain species of ornamental fish and completely prohibits the collection of others. Although current regulations specific to the collection of aquarium fish are negligible and restrictions may be warranted to limit the individual size, number, season, or particular species collected, the mandates outlined by this hastily-proposed legislation are clearly intended to destabilize the Hawaiian aquarium fishery and the livelihoods of associated stakeholders rather than to produce helpful resource management solutions. The passing of this bill in its current form would haphazardly abandon decades of legislative progress in Hawai‘i and, without considering the latest scientific evidence, carelessly undermine the most economically significant inshore fishery in the state [valued at \$3.2 million in FY2002 (DAR 2002)].

The following points must be considered when evaluating the efficacy of S.B. 3225, as it is currently structured:

1.) Restricting the commercial collection of marine ornamental fishes to such numbers would effectively bring the fishery to a standstill, undermining over a decade of labor-intensive, sustainable resource legislation and related progress [i.e. the passing of House Bill 3457 (Act 306), subsequent enforcement provisions, and the establishment of the West Hawai‘i Regional Fisheries Management Area with its network of Fish Replenishment Areas (FRAs)].

2.) By distinguishing aquarium fishing as the sole cause of adverse fluctuations in coral reef fish populations, S.B. 3225 discounts the inherent complexity of coral reef environments that must be understood in order effectively manage associated resources. Areas of ecological uncertainty associated with coral reef environments include overall productivity, life cycles of targeted species, spawning seasonality, larval dispersal, patterns of recruitment, species interactions, species abundance, and historic conditions. These environmental and ecological influences are capable of generating effects similar to those produced by fishing. Furthermore, nearshore human activities other than aquarium collection—such as destructive gear and by-catch from other nearshore fisheries, alien species, coastal development, tourism, and pollution—can ultimately impact the abundance of species more adversely than the temporary effects of aquarium fishing. For those making decisions on resource allocation or investments that influence marine aquarium fisheries, it is critical to consider all nearshore human activities capable of causing adverse fluctuations in the abundance of species captured for the aquarium trade.

*3.) S.B. 3225 restrictions on the collection of specific ornamental species lack scientific substantiation and undercut DAR initiatives to manage coastal resources based on the best scientific information available. For specific ornamental fishes mentioned in S.B. 3225, section (a), such as yellow tang (*Zebrasoma flavescens*), flame angelfish (*Centropyge loriculus*), and “butterfly” (which we assume refers to butterflyfishes, or the family *Chaetodontidae*) existing and newly-gathered data must be more rigorously analyzed by DAR in order to discern whether bag limitations on those particular species should be recommended.*

4.) No criteria are provided for fishes identified as “no-take” species, and current efforts by the West Hawai‘i Fishery Council Species of Special Concern Subcommittee to identify these criteria are not acknowledged. The West Hawai‘i Fisheries Council Species of Special Concern Subcommittee (SSCS), chartered in late 2006, is presently engaged in outlining concerns for West Hawai‘i reef species impacted by aquarium fishing and other marine activities, and is now considering whether to recommend restrictions on the extractive use of certain ‘species of special concern’ in West Hawai‘i. Species may be identified based upon criteria such as rarity, specialized habitat, poor aquarium survivorship, declining trends in abundance, ecosystem importance and ecological services, and value to tourism and recreation. S.B. 3225 prevents further progress by the SSCS to solicit the involvement of resource users and other

industry participants to develop official criteria and subsequent management recommendations based on those criteria. No specific reasons are offered for “no-take” species identified in the bill, such as pufferfishes (*Tetraodontidae*, *Canthigasterinae*), boxfishes (*Ostraciidae*), eels (*Muraeninae*), and coral-eating species (such as butterflyfishes and parrotfishes). For explicit species mentioned, such as Potter’s angelfish (*Centropyge potteri*) and the Hawaiian cleaner wrasse (*Labroides phthirophagus*), further research may be warranted before policies prohibit their capture. Case in point, new information being prepared in a University of Hawai‘i at Hilo thesis study for Potter’s angelfish, a 2007 rebound in mean abundance of this species in West Hawai‘i to numbers greater than those seen in 1999, and seven years of data showing a *greater* abundance of *C. potteri* in areas *open* to aquarium fishing on the Big Island illustrate the need for further investigation.

5.) This bill presumes that bag limits are the most effective means of managing ornamental reef fishes, and does not take into consideration other fishery management tools—such as limited entry or an extension of the current system of fish replenishment areas—which may be more effective in addressing overall fishery concerns. Almost a decade of scientific evidence collected by the DLNR now suggests that the network of FRAs mandated by Act 306 has been effective in promoting the recovery of heavily-exploited fish stocks in Hawai‘i. In 2004, DAR reported that, from baseline assessments, the established FRAs had proven effective in yielding increased abundance for several targeted fishes. Some species have even experienced increases outside the FRAs, indicating possible ‘spill-over’ effects. The creation of a limited-entry fishery is currently under investigation by the West Hawai‘i Fisheries Council. Overall management of aquarium species throughout the Main Hawaiian Islands should be based on what has been previously proven effective. West Hawai‘i’s existing system of FRAs, in conjunction with a limited-entry system and species-specific regulations (when necessary) may well surpass bag limits as an effective systematic solution.

6.) S.B. 3225 does not anticipate the probable limitations in enforcement capacity by DOCARE. Bag limits on reef fishes collected commercially for the marine aquarium industry would only be effective if they could be very strictly enforced. The Hawai‘i Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE)—whose agents are currently taxed with enforcing various other state laws and rules involving historic sites, forest reserves, aquatic life and wildlife areas, coastal zones, conservation districts, and county parks—would be required to take on this additional responsibility for which they may lack the necessary manpower and resources to implement.

We must consider that, if we continue to ensure the sustainable use of our coastal resources through appropriate management action, the marine aquarium fishery in the Hawaiian Islands will serve as a model to the greater Pacific region where collection of ornamental species is practiced. Since Hawaiian aquarium fishes are captured using small-mesh fence and hand nets rather than harmful explosives or chemicals, a high survival rate is generally ensured for the collected animals when compared with tropical fisheries that employ destructive methods such as cyanide fishing. If years of progress were dismissed and a complete shut down of the fishery were to occur, a great shift in demand would follow, supporting Indo-Pacific nations whose policies continue to allow the employment of unsustainable fishing practices. This would only accelerate the destruction of coral reefs worldwide.

I would urge all resource users, industry participants, scientists, conservationists, and concerned citizens to voice their opposition to this bill, as it would be an irresponsible and ineffective policy.

Mahalo,

Brandon C. Chapin



Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science Graduate Student
University of Hawai‘i at Hilo

testimony

From: Jill Clay [pariusjill@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 7:30 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Senate bill 3225

To: Senator Hee and the members of the Senate Water and Land Committee.

I would like to express my support for Senate bill 3225, which limits the number of fish people can take for aquarium use. The current unlimited take is obviously detrimental to some species, such as the yellow tang.

On land, hunters face limits on their take of deer and other animals. It's absurd to believe that every species of fish has an unlimited population and cannot be decimated.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Jill Halloran

testimony

From: Krystal Welch [konakrystal@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 6:27 PM

To: testimony

Subject: SUPPORT for Senate Bill 3225 to establish bag limits on the aquarium trade.

Aloha,

Our names are Krystal Welch and David Ross, we live in Kona, Hawaii. We would like to send our support for the senate bill 3225 to establish bag limits on the aquarium trade. We have both been working in the diving industry here in kona and several other places around the world for many years. It is so obvious to people like us who see these reefs every day just how special and amazing they are. It is a mistake to allow people to continue to take as many fish as they want from the reefs. Wiping out a species is permanent and tragic. Please help save our reefs! Mahalo.

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SB 3225 RELATING TO FISHING
Senate Committee on Water and Land

February 11, 2008
Room: 414

2:30 p.m.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS, with amendments,** S.B. 3225, which would establish a combined bag limit of 20 fish per person per day of ornamental fish. The bill would also prohibit the taking of certain ornamental fish, including puffer fish, all box fish, potter's angel, cleaner wrasse, all coralvores and all eels.

OHA understands and appreciates that the intent of this bill is to protect the marine resources of our state. However, we ask that the bill be amended to include language that states that the proposed section of Hawaii Revised Statutes will not conflict with the West Hawai'i Fisheries Council's rules, which were created, with much effort and good faith, by that community to protect the area's marine resources. These rules have been a shining example of effective resource management created through healthy community collaboration and mutual respect of competing users of the nearshore resource.

Because of that successful model, we suggest that the language of the bill, if it moves forward, should reflect the rules of the West Hawai'i Fisheries Council, which have proven to be a successful tool created for and by the West Hawai'i community.

OHA also encourages the Legislature to include language in the bill to protect Native Hawaiian traditional and cultural practices relating to subsistence fishing. As the bill now stands, fishing for eels may be prevented because they are listed in the "no-take category" of this bill. Eels have long been a regular part of the Native Hawaiian diet in certain sections of Hawai'i.

Furthermore, we are concerned about the prohibition on coralvores, which could include uhu. If such were the case, this would be an unconstitutional taking of Native Hawaiian

gathering rights and an irresponsible law against the public's legitimate use of ample public trust resources. Also, there are already fishing rules and regulations relating to uhu. Thus, a better definition of coralvores is required.

OHA hopes that the Committee will take these concerns into account. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Dear Senator Hee:

I write to submit testimony against SB 3225/HB 3330 (*Fishing; Ornamental Fish; Bag Limits; No Take Category; Appropriation*). The bills, as written, do not make sense from a management standpoint. They target one fishery, while ignoring others like commercial/recreational spearing and recreational hand line fishing. Furthermore, no data are presented to justify the proposed draconian bag limits and other restrictions.

I support fisheries management, but only if it makes biological sense. The legislature has made wise decisions in the past in that regard. In 1998, it passed Act 306 pertaining to the West Hawaii Regional Fisheries Management Area. The FRA structure on the west side of the Island of Hawaii has worked well to increase fish stocks (supported by data), right along side of collecting areas which support a healthy aquarium fish industry. The Big Island FRA delineation has made it evident that healthy reefs and fisheries can coexist.

This sort of approach for other islands makes far more sense than passing new restrictive regulations that appear to have been drafted in the absence of supporting biological data. Thank you for considering my testimony. Leon E. Hallacher, Ph.D., University of Hawaii at Hilo. This testimony represents my personal professional opinion and is not the official policy or position of the University of Hawaii.

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

James D. Pike, I Kai Photography Ltd.
13 Kuapapa Pl.
Kihei, HI. 96753

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM
Support of S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Aloha,

My name is James Pike, owner/photographer, I Kai Photography Ltd., an underwater photography company on Maui; I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

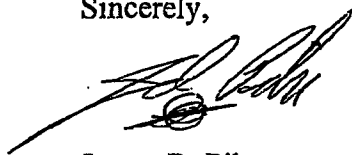
- Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



James D. Pike

February 11, 2008

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair and Committee Members
Hawaii State Senate Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
senhee@capitol.hawaii.gov
February 11, 2008 W&L Committee Hearing

Testimony in support of SB 3225

Relating to Bag Limits of Ornamental Fish

Aloha Senator Hee and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

My name is Keiko Bonk, and I am the Program Director for the Marine Conservation Biology Institute, Hawaii. MCBI is a non-profit conservation organization that protects ocean life through science and policy development. In this capacity I work the aquatic farming, fishing, and conservation communities, leading scientific experts and policy makers developing coalitions to support and defend the oceans.

Thank you very much for hearing SB 3225, introduced by Senator Hee, relating to bag limits of ornamental or aquarium fish. I come here today to ask you to support this initiative. Bag limits are not a ban, they are universally recognized as the first step in any long range resource stewardship program. There is certainly a rational basis on which to debate what the bag limits should be, but there is no scientific or moral debate about the fact that we must limit what we take if we are to avoid yet another ecological disaster.

As most of you know the United Nations has declared 2008 the "International Year of the Reef" in recognition of the fact that reefs around the world, and the ecosystems and human economies, that they support, are in decline. This global decline is a tragedy, and we lack the power to stop it by ourselves, but we can stop it in our backyard. It's time that all of Hawaii's elected officials stand up, as Senator Hee has done, and act like leaders. As a state we have too often ignored the scientists until a disaster took place and then pointed fingers at each other for not having done anything sooner. This is a chance to stop that pattern of self-destruction. It is time to acknowledge the simple common sense fact that our oceans are limited, and pretending otherwise only makes disaster inevitable.

Please support Senator Hee's effort to limit the taking of our reef fish for non-subsistence ornamental fishing. We cannot afford to furnish the aquariums of the world, at the expense of our reefs.

Keiko Bonk
734-4234
keiko.bonk@mcbi.org

February 1, 2008

FAX: 808-586-7334

Re: Senate Bill 3225 SB3225

Dear SENATOR HEE:

I understand that the Hawaii Legislature is considering passing a bill that will limit aquarium fish collection in Hawaii. I am adamantly opposed to this bill and urge you to vote against this bill.

From what I have read, the limit will be 20 fish per collector per person with a maximum of 5 yellow tangs per day. The bill also will put a no-take cap on angels, butterflies, boxfish, puffers, eels and many other species. The passage of this bill will essentially shut down the tropical fish industry in Hawaii, as well as Christmas Island and Marshall Islands.

If this bill is passed, supply will be drastically reduced for all of us in the aquatics industry. Prices will no doubt rise at an alarming rate.

Please Senator Hee, I urge you to vote against this bill.

Sincerely,



Bill Schlunz
President
Global Aquatics Importers, Inc.
787 N. Edgewood Ave
Wood Dale, IL 60191
630-787-0277

RECEIVED FEB 04 2008

RYAN LAW GROUP

Lawyers/ Notaries

500-5900 No. 3 Road

Richmond, B.C.

V6X3P7

(604) 271-8078

FAX (604) 271-8073

WAYNE RYAN, B.A. LL.B.

wayneryan@telus.net

Reply to: WAYNE RYAN

January 29, 2008

The Honourable Clayton Hee, Senator
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228
415 South Beretania Street,
Honolulu, Hawaii,
U. S. A.
96813

Dear Senator Hee:

Re: Bill SB 3225 A Bill to protect the Future of Hawaiian Marine Fish

I am not a constituent, nor am I a U.S. citizen, but I have had the pleasure in visiting your State and viewed the outstanding beauty of your reefs, and the fish, coral and critters that live therein on a number of vacations.

I, like most hobbyists, fully support the Bill as it guarantees to us future supplies of fish from your waters.

HAWAIIAN YELLOW TANG

Sadly, the marine fish industry has used Hawaiian yellow tangs as a 'cheap entry to the marine hobby lost leader' resulting in the documented overexploitation of that fish.

As a result they commonly arrive in marine fish stores emaciated and infected with the black ich parasite as a result of poor shipping and holding practices.

HAWAIIAN CLEANER WRASSE

Hobbyists, marine fish experts and industry itself, know that this species is virtually impossible to keep alive in hobbyists tanks. Notwithstanding that fact, they are collected and shipped by the thousands to be sold to unsuspecting new hobbyists who are enthralled with 'cleaning behavior' of this wrasse.

All cleaner wrasse are best left in the reefs to do the beneficial cleaning job God gave them to do

CORALIVORES

These beautiful fish are by definition, obligate coral eaters. Notwithstanding that fact they are shipped to unsuspecting hobbyists with little chance of survival in hobbyist tanks.

I wish you quick passage of your Bill through the Senate. Please distribute this letter to your Committee Members.

Thank you.

Yours very truly,



Wayne Ryan

2/1/08

Dear Mr. Hec and Committee members:

My name is Doreen Vail and I own Salty Waters in Kona on the island of Hawaii. I am very concerned about two bills that are trying to be introduced into the House and the Senate. They are SB 3225 and HB 3330. Please do not pass these bills as they will adversely affect many peoples lives and livelihoods here in Hawaii.

Robert Wintner of Snorkle Bob's is misinformed and has been misleading you and the members of your committee. It seems to me that Robert Wintner has his own agenda and that agenda includes trying to dismantle the Aquarium Fish Industry in Hawaii that has been thriving and very well managed for many decades.

I reiterate, please do not pass these bills. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Regards,

Doreen Vail
Salty Waters
77-6451 Pualani St.
Kailua-Kona, Hi. 96740
Ph 329-4694
Fx 329-0104

February 1, 2008

FAX: 808-586-7334

Re: Senate Bill 3225 SB3225

Dear SENATOR HEE:

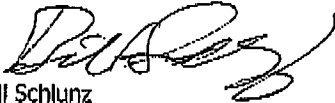
I understand that the Hawaii Legislature is considering passing a bill that will limit aquarium fish collection in Hawaii. I am adamantly opposed to this bill and urge you to vote against this bill.

From what I have read, the limit will be 20 fish per collector per person with a maximum of 5 yellow tangs per day. The bill also will put a no-take cap on angels, butterflies, boxfish, puffers, eels and many other species. The passage of this bill will essentially shut down the tropical fish industry in Hawaii, as well as Christmas Island and Marshall Islands.

If this bill is passed, supply will be drastically reduced for all of us in the aquatics industry. Prices will no doubt rise at an alarming rate.

Please Senator Hee, I urge you to vote against this bill.

Sincerely,



Bill Schlunz
President
Global Aquatics Importers, Inc.
787 N. Edgewood Ave
Wood Dale, IL 60191
630-787-0277

Subj: Opposed to SB3225
Date: 1/31/2008 1:24:30 P.M. Hawaiian Standard Time
From: Ocean Fish HI
To: 'senhee@capitol.hawaii.gov

Dear Senator Hee,

I am a tropical fish collector of 14 years. I have been on the West Hawaii Fisheries Council going on five years. I was active in Act 306 putting certain areas off limit to tropical fishing and the start of the West Hawaii Fisheries Council here on the big Island. We are now in the process of making a draft for a Limited Entry Fishery on the West coast of the Big Island. If you talk with Dr. Bill Walsh of the DLNR you will find that things are going great and there is no need to shut the Aquarium fish industry down, which is what this bill SB3225 would do. I feel that you should talk with Dr. Bill Walsh and other fishermen so you can make a more aware decision on this subject. There is so much more to this. There have been people in the past and now that would like to see the industry closed and they will say and do almost anything to get there way. They put out misinformation and out right lies. But if you look at the numbers and the studies you will find that the industry is sustainable. We are working to keep it sustainable in many ways. Like I mention before the Limited entry we are working on at the West Hawaii Fisheries Council. We also have a sub committee on Species of Special Concern and one on User Conflict. Please look into the West Hawaii Fisheries Council and see the work and progress we are making. It is sometimes a slow process as you know how it works. But finding out the true facts is so important before decisions are made. Please contact Dr. Bill for he has a five year study to back this up. If you have any questions or need any help with this matter please contact me. Again I strongly Oppose SB3225

Thank you
Paul Masterjohn
(808) 929-8294
Fax same

Start the year off right. Easy ways to stay in shape in the new year.

Thursday, January 31, 2008 AOL: Ocean Fish HI

I AM OPPOSED TO THE
BILL
SB 3225

Charles Mann
297 WORTH ST
BRICK TOWNSHIP
732-840-1656

TO SENDER Clayton Kees

re strongly oppose Senate Bill SB3225.
Please do not pass this!

Thank you,

Gary B. Parker
804-647-2547
Richmond, VA.

FAX MESSAGE

The Aquatic Critter

5009 NOLENSVILLE ROAD
NASHVILLE, TN 37211
(615) 832-4541
FAX (615) 832-0913

DATE: 1/30/08
NO. OF PAGES 1
REPLY REQUESTED yes

TO: Sen. Clayton

SUBJECT: SB 3225

FROM: Ken Stevens
1-615-542-7993

MESSAGE:

Dear Sir,

This is to voice my opposition to SB 3225.
You will severely damage pet stores and hobbyist
lively hoods Nation wide.

Ken Stevens

TO Senator Clayton Bless

I am aware of Senate Bill 3225. It would be devastating to pass such a bill. I oppose this bill. Please do not pass it.

Sincerely,

Joseph Genero

Fountain, VA.

804-647-2548

LUCIANO PERINO
73-1264 AKINA PL.
KAILUA-KONA, HI 96740

KONA, JAN.30/08

TO: CLAYTON HEE
FAX 808-586 7334

REF. SENATE BILL NO. 3225

AS DECADES OLD STAKEHOLDER IN WEST HAWAII FISHERIES I DO
OPPOSE SB NO. 3225 AS DLNR ALREADY MANDATED MANAGMENT PRACTICES.

RESPECTFULLY,



LUCIANO PERINO

CPY: JOE BERTRAM FAX 808-586 8529

RE: HB 3330

OPPOSE FOR ABOVE REASON.

WWW. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ .COM

ESTABLISHED 1961

WE ARE OPPOSED TO

Bill 3225
SB 3225

Tropiquarium
Ocean Plaza Shopping Center
Rt. 35 & Sunset Ave.
Ocean, NJ 07712



10:00am - 8:00pm Mon. - Sat.
10:00am - 6:00pm Sunday
Tel: 732-922-2300

D.R.Imports
5220 nw 72 ave # 10
Miami Fl. 33166
305-593-6005

2/4/08

Dear Snorkel Bob

I enjoyed our conversation the other day. I came across a letter you had purportedly written. Some of the claims and numbers I have grave misgivings about. First you claim that a flame angel sells for \$40.00 wholesale. This is a \$10 to 11 dollar fish when purchased wholesale from Hawaii at best.

This leads me to question your next point that you make in the letter and related to me on the phone about someone going to Christmas Island by boat. I would like to point out that according to Google Earth Christmas is some 7000 miles from Hawaii. This would make a round trip some 14000 miles. Who would make such a trip by boat to collect a fish that can be landed for around \$5.00 by air directly to Hawaii?

I think someone has misinformed you on this matter.

I am not sure where you get your other numbers on the value of the fish exported from Hawaii but they also seem inflated.

During our conversation you referred to SOME of the collectors in Kona as crack heads and drug dealers.

While I am sure that fish collectors on Kona are an eclectic collection of people, I am sure that most are hard working family people. I am also sure that the number of undesirables in the fish business are roughly equal to any other profession like for instance the snorkel tour business. Since the letter as posted on the Internet identifies you in two places as being on the advisory board of Sea Shepherd I called and spoke to a Mr. Alex Earl. **He advised me that as of now Sea Shepherd dose not have an opinion on the aquarium trade and that you don't speak for them on this matter.** I hope that no one is confused and please clear this up.

I also find very offensive your reference to pedophiles in the same breath as my chosen profession. This kind of slash and burn tactic is very counterproductive. Is anyone that looks at an aquarium guilty of viewing porn? I think not!

In closing I hope that the collectors of Hawaii and you can reach some sort of accommodation that will allow both party's to coexist.

Bob Kelton
D.R.Imports
Miami Fl
305-593-6005

Attached below

cc Sen. Kokubun, Tokuda, Whalen

Enslaving the World's Reef Fish

Commentary by Sea Shepherd Advisory Board Member Robert Wintner

A Brief History of Some Efforts to Date (August, '07) to Stop the Grab-Ass, Free-For-All Extraction Now Decimating World Reefs.

Here's where we've been & where we might go:

The Main Hawaiian Islands now have "ghost" reefs off many leeward shores, with healthy coral but very few fish-not a single yellow tang can be found on most reefs, where they schooled by the hundreds 10 years ago-by the thousands 30-50 years ago. Water degradation & siltation from development account for some decline in fish populations, but the biggest cause is massive extraction by aquarium collectors (& gill netters). Aquarium collectors take 8-10 million "ornamental" fish from Hawaii reefs annually with no regulation and no limit to their take.

For years the state's official number was 1/2 million fish taken per year, including 300,000 yellow tangs. Dan Poihemus, State Administrator of the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), sat down in early August with a key panel, including the biggest aquarium fish exporter in Hawaii, who provided accurate catch state. The "official" take now reflects the grim reality.

Miloli'i is the last working fishing village in Hawaii-electricity by generator, water by catchments-way south on the Kona coast, and a steady target for collectors from Kailua Kona, some of whom say that they collect with care, but once they get to a reef, they collect all the fish, because "less scrupulous" collectors would only gather them tomorrow anyway. This is the grab-ass, free-for-all & crime against nature now prevailing in Hawaii. The Miloli'i community feels violated by aquarium collectors strip-mining reefs after generations of balanced management by Hawaiians. Miloli'i supports any campaign to rid the near shore of this mad extraction. Their voice is Hawaiian, with significant influence.

The Kona Coast (about 150 miles) does have an FRA (Fish Replenishment Area) system that has facilitated some recovery of more than half the 15 or so heavily collected species. New fads and appetites in Asia & the U.S. may pre-empt this marginal recovery. I.e. the Beijing government now promotes home aquaria to its growing class of rich people: wall-to-wall-to-wall aquaria for mature adult "ornamental" reef fish-brood stock. The trend values volume and custom made tanks of leaded crystal glass. Sumner Redstone, CEO of Viacom, told a PBS interviewer last year that he went out on one of those boats they have there in Hawaii where you can look at the fish, and by God his home aquarium wrapping 3 walls has "more fish than they got in all Hawaii." This old man out of touch with nature is more the rule than the exception and illustrates this pathetic trend. Consider Michael Dell's monster fish tank on the Big Island, along with support techs named Steve or Elaine who speak Hindi, next time you ponder a Dell computer.

Worse yet is the growing appetite in Asia for big yellow tangs-to EAT!

The FRA system on the Kona coast alternates no-collecting zones with plunder zones. Plunder zone populations are up as result of overflow from FRA zones. But FRA constraints apply only to aquarium collectors-bag netters can still catch the 40-year-old brood tangs for export to Asia, where ogres under bridges pay top dollar for this latest "delicacy." Waning supply spurs demand. Eating the last of a species appears to be a particular honor in Asia. A single consolation is that ciguatera toxin is present in most reef organisms & transmitted by ingestion up the food chain. Ciguatera doesn't hurt sea creatures but will disabuse humans of their reefy appetite with 2 years of itching & then death. Have a nice day. Ciguatera incidence in humans is up dramatically on all islands, especially Kauai. FYI, ulua (jack crevalle) is a popular food fish that is also an apex predator & primary carrier.

Of greater concern on the Kona coast is the continuing disappearance of 8 species of reef fish, collected to invisibility. Are they endangered? Who knows? Official status would take years and millions of dollars to establish. We who visit the reefs often see no more anthias, flame angel, bandit angel, dragon moray, Hawaiian turkeyfish, blue stripe butterfly or Tinker's butterfly. Quickly going is the teardrop butterfly.

Most hateful is that 3 of the 10 reef fish most demanded by aquarists are the ornate butterfly, Moorish Idol and cleaner wrasse. A cleaner wrasse needs 35-40 fish to clean, in order to survive. They die in aquaria. Ornate butterfly and Moorish Idol are coralivores who will starve to death in 30 days, who are sold & shipped out with a 15-day live guarantee. Meanwhile, a reef with no cleaner wrasse will soon suffer parasites and disease. Yet demand is on the rise.

Economically speaking, a yellow tang lives to 45 years on the reef with repeated revenue by amusing those tourists who like to stare at the colorful fish while sucking air through a plastic tube. The same yellow tang will die in a tank at 2 years max-if the tank is perfectly maintained, and if the tang or other fish came from Hawaii. All reef fish from Indonesia, the Philippines, Andaman Sea, South China Sea et al now have compromised liver function from residual cyanide used over the years in fish collection. Any fish coming from those waters will die in a few months to 2 years in captivity. Veteran collectors in those areas have yellow eyes, jaundiced from exposure to cyanide.

The economic disjunction is staggering. Aquarium collectors here generate \$20 million. Water-based tourism generates a billion dollars annual, or 500 to 1. Worse yet, a yellow tang wholesales to the mainland for \$3, where it retails at \$45-60. Hawaii gets the chump change, which, historically, is for chumps. 1-2 more adult tangs will die en route for each surviving tang.

At the Hawaii Aquatics Conference in December, 2008, Dr. Ivor Williams delivered DAR's official line on FRA success, beginning

with the "official" stats, that 500,000 "ornamental" fish are sold annual though "we can't be certain of accuracy on these numbers." He went on to discuss the 6 or 8 "species of concern," those species still MIA, though not officially extinct till Federal moolah can pay for scientific studies. He closed by saying "we don't really know where these species of concern are going or why, but we're happy to report that we still have trophic balance on our reefs." Trophic balance means distribution and balance of species.

But yellow tangs are herbivores, and Hawaii reefs are choking with limu, both native and invasive. It's tough to call **** on a good guy who is a good scientist, but the moment was of record, so I called: "Rather than saying that we can't be certain of accuracy on the stats, would we not be more precise in saying that we can be certain of inaccuracy on the stats?"

"Well, er, uh, yeah We could say that."

"We now have evidence that 8-10 million aquarium fish are shipping out of Hawaii every year, mostly herbivores. It doesn't take a rocket or marine scientist to get in the water & see how badly our reefs are decimated."

No comment.

"Which means that we do know where these species of concern went. They went away in Styrofoam coolers with little air stones inside."

This diatribe was not a victory but illustrates the difficult process of changing public perception-from what special interests want it to be, to the truth based in reality. Dr. Williams & I had a nice chat after, & he is now far more apprised of the reality we perceive.

NO LOCAL or State government currently regulates species export outside the CITES list or the Endangered Species act. All species are fair game for unlimited trade if they don't appear on those lists-exotic reptiles or primates from Indonesia or a casual container of parrots from South America. Besides Endangered Species & CITES, local, regional or state constraints on wildlife export are virtually non-existent around the world.

In recent years the collectors wiped out the hermit crab population around Oahu, taking & selling 300,000 hermits @ 11 cents! For gross revenue of \$33,000 a species was eliminated. Reintroduction would cost about \$40 million & a few decades of studies. Then they went for feather duster worms to meet aquarium demand. Feather dusters live in the rocks; catching them is easy, once you smash the rocks.

Meanwhile, the biggest "ornamental" fish exporter in Hawaii sees the writing on the wall-that his successful business will soon founder for lack of inventory. He now sends 3 boats regular to Christmas Island for flame angelfish-electric red with 4 black bars. None are left in Hawaii, though world demand for flame angels is 10,000 fish per day. Flame angels wholesale @ \$40, though this exporter says his most valuable asset is his reputation for selling fish handled with care, from reefs never exposed to cyanide. He said would-be competitors in Honolulu saw his success and went to Christmas Island to bag thousands of fish that all died on the way home or in poorly managed garage tanks. All the dead fish were shipped out to aquarists, who were then told that the loss was theirs, who then had no recourse but to order new fish elsewhere.

The 25 exporters operating in Hawaii are invisible, buying and shipping from unmarked warehouses. The 8-10 million "ornamentals" taken from Hawaii are annual. Collectors began at 20', then went to 40' and then 60'. Now they dive to 80'-at night everywhere but Kona.

The challenge upon us is to expose the crime and the devastation. It has gone unreported for years and now threatens reefs worldwide. Aquarium hobbyists in the U.S. are mostly male, 30-50. We are told that most are indifferent to reef death or alternatives. They want wild-caught fish, not captive bred, knowing that the wild fish will only survive 6-24 months. The movie Finding Nemo spawned crushing demand for clownfish, the marine species most easily bred in captivity, yet captive-bred clownfish don't swim as excitedly as wild-caught. So pet shops now promote new shipments of wild-caught clownfish, swimming excitedly. The Indonesia government last year increased its aquarium research budget 5-fold in the captive breeding of fancy goldfish, the bright orange guys with the gin gut, bug eyes & 3 tails. Freshwater tanks allow a new dimension to hobbyists in the many beautiful plants that support other tank creatures too, like algae eaters and scavengers with no effect on reefs. Public exposure of the facts will be a vital component in deconstructing the aquarium collecting industry.

We must 1) stay on point, avoiding rhetoric or emotion & 2) keep a soft touch-no hostility. We want to convert home hobbyists, not get them pissed off in a name-calling exchange. We want to shame them gently. I think of the internet pedophiles lured into the kitchen where the MSNBC cameras are rolling so the world can see them-they hang their heads, knowing their appetite is so wicked. Aquarium keeping is similarly shameful, but the perpetrators must be treated with understanding and help toward rehabilitation.

The current tsunami of green reverence is tricky, with every money monger showing a pulse calling himself green-including the aquarium industrialists in their multi-billion dollar pursuit, stripping every reef in the world while calling for "appropriate" or "sustainable" techniques. The next big show is the Marine Aquarium Council National Association (MACNA) in Pittsburg, September 14-18, 2007, where presenters with credentials will make hobbyists feel good about what they're doing. Can you be there to express a sentiment of a different nature?

Let us know if you can help otherwise by sending your name, address, email & area of expertise or willingness to reefdefense@snorkelbob.com

All ideas, insights, connections, commitments and comments are welcome. Thank you for jumping in. Please talk this up, especially when you see reef fish in tanks anywhere. I'm not okay. You're not okay. This is not okay.

Hall Atlantis!

Robert Wintner is the nom de plume (et la guerre) of Snorkel Bob, Himself. He is on the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society Board of Advisors and also serves as Executive Director of The Snorkel Bob Foundation

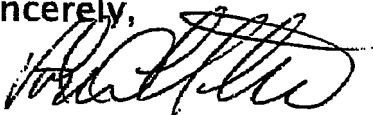
Presently, there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



Victoria Martocci
Operations Manager
Extended Horizons Scuba
Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII
FAMILY SERVICES (808) 536-1794 FAX (808) 535-0888
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TRY WAIT! (808) 535-0882 FAX (808) 535-0888
200 N. VINEYARD BLVD SUITE 200, HONOLULU, HI 96817-3938

FAX TRANSMITTAL

To: Hawaii State Capitol (Senate)

FAX #: 586-6659

From: Danny Morishige
Phone: 535-0110

Date: February 10, 2008

Total Pages: 4 pages

RE: Testimony in opposition to SB 2775. The hearing is scheduled for the Senate Education Committee on February 11, 2008 at 3 pm in Room 225.



200 N. Vineyard Blvd, Suite 200 • Honolulu, HI 96817-3938 • Phone (808) 536-1794 • Fax (808) 535-0888
www.CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org



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To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Lehaina, HI
David Raw

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is David Raw, of Napili, Hawaii;

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:


- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To:
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From:
Dan Groover
228 Cooks Court
Brentwood, TN 37027

Re:
Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Dan Groover, a concerned citizen and frequent visitor to the beautiful state of Hawaii; I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

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I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,
Dan Groover

To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Arthur Nascarella
26 KAVANA RD Labaina HI 96761

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is Arthur Nascarella, of PACIFIC DIVE.
I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

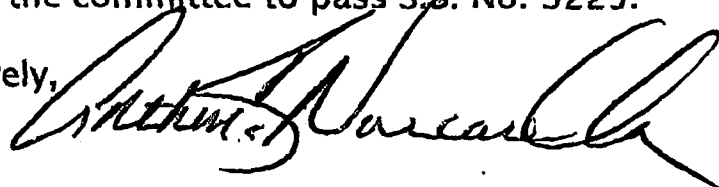
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Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: PIPER NASCARELLA

210 KAUAAULA ROAD, LAHAINA, HI 96761

Re: Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is

PIPER NASCARELLA, of PACIFIC DIVE;

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

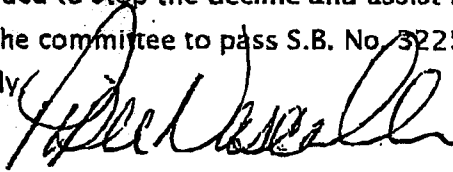
- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
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In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



MARC MORRIS
3045 Edgewick Road
Glendale, CA 91206

The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

Re: Support of S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing -
Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Aloha,

My name is Marc Morris and I am not associated with any organization. Although I am not a citizen of the State of Hawaii, I spend a considerable amount of time there. I am an avid scuba diver, a lawyer and biologist.

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits), which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Given the importance of Hawaii's reef ecology, I was surprised to learn that there are presently no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from the reefs. It is of little surprise that this unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in over harvesting of targeted fish species with predictable negative impacts. That is, a substantial reduction in fish populations and effect on the health of the reef in general. If this situation continues as it has in so many other places, it will no doubt affect your tourism industry as well. I direct your attention to places, such as Florida and even the small island of Saba, that have recognized the importance of protecting their reefs and taken appropriate action. It is hard to imagine that Hawaii could be less enlightened than Saba.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



**To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land**

**From: Chris Millen
Kihei, HI 96753**

Re: Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Chris Millen, and as a former SCUBA instructor & charter boat owner - relying on reef-based tourism to support my family here on Maui - I'm very concerned about the vast amount of ornamental reef fish that are taken from their natural habitats. I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found**
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In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

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I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

Chris Millen

To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Kathy Cesere
Lahaina, Hawaii

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is Kathy Cesere, of C3 Submerged / Hawaii Digital Fishing

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely, Kathleen A. Cesere

To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Dan Cesere
Lahaina, HI 96761

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is Dan Cesere, of C3 Submerged;

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

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I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Carmen Cesere

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is Carmen Cesere, of Kahala, HI;

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
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Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Mike Cesere
Lahaina, HI 96761

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony is Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is Mike Cesere, of C3 Submerged:

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

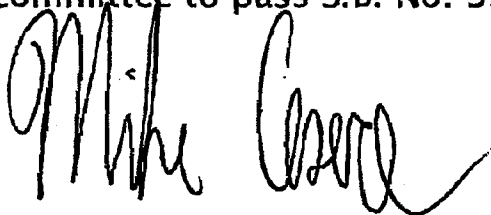
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I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Jim Amidon
Lahaina HI 96741

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is Jim Amidon, of Mau's Dive Shop;

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

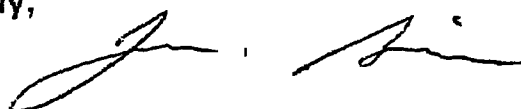
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Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Jennifer Quilliam
Laie, HI 96761

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is Jennifer Quilliam, of Maui Dive Shop; I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

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I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Quilliam

To: Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Shannon Cunningham
Laie, HI 90761

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Shannon Cunningham, of Laie, HI. I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

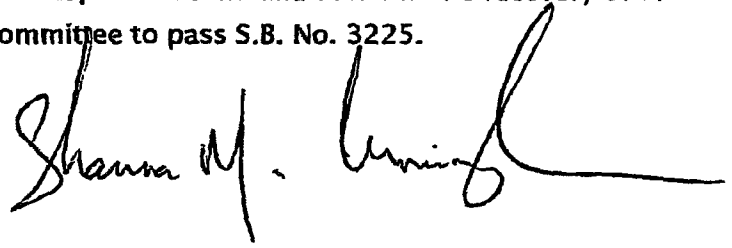
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Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Skye Kelly
Lahaina, HI

Re: Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM
Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Skye Kelly, of Lahaina, HI; I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

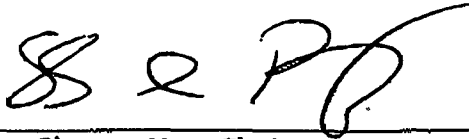
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Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Matthew Gewald
Lahaina, Hawaii

Re: Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM
Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Matthew Gewald, of Lahaina, Hawaii; I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

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Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



02/09/08

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Gary & Cinde Nelson
417 Monroe St, Iowa City, IA 52246

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM
Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Gary & Cinde Nelson, of Iowa City, IA; I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:


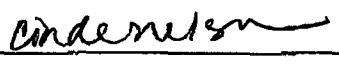
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Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: DARRELL GAMBLE
BOTHELL, WA

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM
Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is DARRELL GAMBLE, of BOTHELL, WA; I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

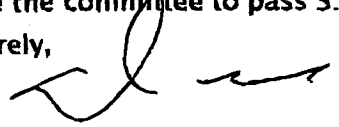
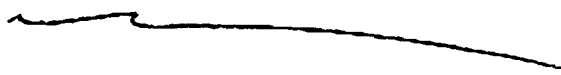
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Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Christine and Patrick Solich

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. I have lived in Maui for over 16 years; I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

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I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

Christine Solich
Patrick Solich

To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Scott Livingstone
napili HT. 96761

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is Scott Livingstone, of extended Horizons;

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

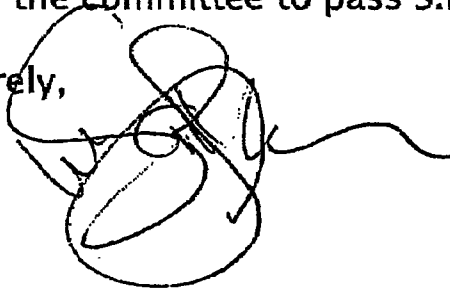
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I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



FAX COVER SHEET

TO: Senate Sergeant-At-Arms Office (fax: 1-800-586-6659)
ATTN.: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair (Committee on Water and Land)
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair (Committee on
Water and Land)
RE: SUPPORT OF S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing -
Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Committee: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Hearing date & time: Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM
Conference Room 414, State Capitol

From: Linda Jerome
Kihei (Maui), Hawaii

**To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice-Chair & Members of the
Committee on Water and Land**

From: Linda Jerome, Kihei, HI 96753

**Re: Hearing on S.B. No. 3225--Relating to fishing
February 11, 2008 at 2:30 P.M.
Conference Room 414, State Capitol
Support of S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing--Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**

Dear Chairperson Hee and Committee Members:

My name is Linda Jerome and I am an avid scuba diver. I passionately support S.B. No. 3225 regulating the fish aquarium trade.

I am speaking here today to help educate and raise everyone's awareness of the horrendous impact the fish aquarium trade has on Hawaii's reefs. 2008 is the International Year of the Reef and there is an abundance of worldwide interest in this area. Yet how can we talk about protecting our reefs without first discussing the rapidly diminishing supply of reef fish that inhabit them?

Before I started scuba diving, I had never heard of the saltwater fish aquarium trade. My family had never heard of it, my friends didn't know about it and I suspect the average citizen of Hawaii doesn't know about it. I'm also very confident that the millions of tourists that visit annually don't know about it either. I have no doubt they are completely unaware that the very fish they squeal with delight about when snorkeling and diving, are being indiscriminately captured by the millions every year.

The Division of Aquatic Resources reports show 1 to 2 million fish are captured annually, yet underreporting is rampant. DAR estimates that the ACTUAL catch is 2 to 5 times higher; that's 2 to 10 million--yes, that's right--2 to 10 million--ornamental reef fish captured annually. Armed with an easily obtained \$50 permit, a net, and a bucket, collectors enjoy a free-for-all taking as many of a species as they want, whenever they want, for as long as they want. I find this practice repulsive, short sighted, and completely unacceptable.

You may believe that once these fish are removed from their island home and sold on the worldwide market, that they go on to live happily ever after in some child's home aquarium. But this is not a popular children's movie like Finding Nemo, and nothing could be further from the truth. From the point of capture, millions of these fish are doomed to die. High mortality is an aquarium industry secret. They are generally guaranteed to survive from 5 to 30 days, yet many of them are so fragile they don't even survive capture or shipping. But it gets worse. Two highly sought after species, the Hawaiian cleaner wrasse and the Moorish idol ultimately starve to death because their

natural food source is not available in captivity. All this so that some average aquarium hobbyist half-way around the world can display his beautiful, albeit short-lived, fish.

Now, according to aquarium catch reports, the aquarium trade industry generates only 1 to 3 million dollars annually, yet the reef-related tourism industry generates 1 billion annually for Hawaii's economy. Clearly it is not in Hawaii's economic best interest to allow the rape of Hawaii's reefs to continue unregulated.

However, more important, is the damage to the fragile coral reef system. Indiscriminate capture of reef fish interrupts food chains, causes reproductive failure and alters habitat. 81% of the ornamental reef fish collected are algae eaters. It's a known fact that these herbivores keep coral alive. Removal of such a large number of these herbivores, such as the highly sought after yellow tang, can cause reef areas to be overrun and smothered with algae causing irreparable damage.

It is up to ALL of us to expose the devastation caused by the massive extraction of ornamental reef fish. We need to preserve one of Hawaii's most precious natural resources--our coral reefs; and we do that by protecting our coral reef fish. They are a vital part of our tourism industry. The time to regulate the fish aquarium trade is NOW.

I passionately urge you to support S.B. No. 3225. Thank you.

Aloha,



Linda Jerome
Kihei, Hawaii

FAX COVER SHEET

TO: Senate Sergeant-At-Arms Office (fax: 1-800-586-6659)
ATTN.: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair (Committee on Water and Land)
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair (Committee on
Water and Land)
RE: SUPPORT OF S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing -
Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Committee: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Hearing date & time: Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

From: Philip Thomas
Kihei (Maui), Hawaii

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Senate

Philip Thomas
Kihei (Maui), Hawaii

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Support of S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Dear Honorable Senators,

I am a long-time resident of Maui and a scuba diver who enjoys the nondestructive observation of Hawaii's unique assemblage of near-shore marine life, and **I strongly support S.B. No. 3225**, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits which would put no-take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors

With few exceptions, ALL MARINE FISH IN AQUARIA AROUND THE WORLD are taken directly from coral reefs. Many of these fish are taken from HAWAII. The vast majority of marine fishes cannot be propagated in captivity, so they're taken from reefs for the amusement of aquarists--and then taken again and again and again, as fish in these aquaria inevitably die and "require" replacement--again, from OUR reefs.

One-fourth of all the reef fish species on Hawaii's reefs are UNIQUE (endemic) to Hawaii. This ratio is the highest rate of endemism of any near-shore fishes anywhere in the world. It means that Hawaii is special. It also means that these endemic species are in great demand from aquarists worldwide: undoubtedly, many of the letters you may have received in opposition to this bill come from the tens or hundreds of thousands of aquarists around the world who want to continue to have unlimited access to OUR limited resources. We are attempting to feed a worldwide market for a finite resource. Let's stop this pillage before it's too late.

Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- Algae-covered reefs (most of the catch are algae eaters)
- Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's fragile marine ecosystems

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant, and diverse reef system.

Removing these presumably public resources for the financial benefit of a few individuals shows gross disrespect for Hawaii's unique ecosystems, and cannot continue indefinitely. These fish will either be protected (by enforcement of legislation such as SB3225), or--in a few short years--they will be decimated by indiscriminate collectors.

This bill in itself will not adequately protect our reefs; however, it is a critical first step in the process of the protection and eventual recovery of our near-shore ecosystems.

I urge you to please do the right thing and help protect that which truly makes Hawaii unique and special: pass S.B. No. 3225.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Philip Thomas', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Philip Thomas (Kihei [Maui], Hawaii)

FAX COVER SHEET

TO: Senate Sergeant-At-Arms Office (fax: 1-800-586-6659)
ATTN.: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair (Committee on Water and Land)
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair (Committee on
Water and Land)
RE: SUPPORT OF S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing -
Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Committee: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Hearing date & time: Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

From: Philip Thomas
Kihei (Maui), Hawaii

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Senate

Philip Thomas
Kihei (Maui), Hawaii

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Support of S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Dear Honorable Senators,

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With few exceptions, ALL MARINE FISH IN AQUARIA AROUND THE WORLD ~~are taken directly from coral reefs. Many of these fish are taken from HAWAII. The vast majority of marine fishes cannot be propagated in captivity, so they're taken from reefs for the amusement of aquarists and then taken again and again and again, as fish in these aquaria inevitably die and "require" replacement--~~ again, from OUR reefs.

One-fourth of all the reef fish species on Hawaii's reefs are UNIQUE (endemic) to Hawaii. This ratio is the highest rate of endemism of any near-shore fishes anywhere in the world. It means that Hawaii is special. It also means that these endemic species are in great demand from aquarists worldwide: undoubtedly, many of the letters you may have received in opposition to this bill come from the tens or hundreds of thousands of aquarists around the world who want to continue to have unlimited access to OUR limited resources. We are attempting to feed a worldwide market for a finite resource. ~~Let's stop this pillage before it's~~ too late.

Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- Algae-covered reefs (most of the catch are algae eaters)
- Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's fragile marine ecosystems

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which

~~contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy abundant~~

Cover Sheet & 2 pages for

Committee on Water and Land

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair Committee on Water and Land
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Support of S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Aloha,

My wife and I have been vacationing on Maui for many years. The excellent scuba diving and snorkeling are what attracted us to Maui and keeps us coming back, bringing more friends with us each trip. My wife and I also owned an aquarium shop for over 17 years so we are very familiar with the Ornamental fish trade.

Wild caught marine fish do not do well in captivity. There is a growing industry supplying tank raised marine fish to the aquarium trade. Hawaii needs to develop this industry and greatly reduce the number of wild caught marine fish for the aquarium trade.

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to its economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida,

02/19/2000 10:11

which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael P. Goldsmith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael P Goldsmith
Northwood, NH

To:
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From:
Laura Brandon
Franklin, Tennessee 37067

Re:
Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing – Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Laura Brandon I am a travel agent and accomplished diver; I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,
Laura Brandon

FAX COVER SHEET

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: Senate Sergeant-At-Arms Office

FROM:

COMPANY:

DATE:

2/9/08

FAX NUMBER:

1-800-586-6659

TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:

PHONE NUMBER:

SENDER'S PHONE NUMBER:

RE:

Hearing on SB 3225, Monday 2/11/08

YOUR FAX NUMBER:

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

Re: Hearing on S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing – Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30pm

Testimony in Support.

Please see attached testimony.

To:
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From:
Rhonda A. Martocci
Franklin, Tennessee 37064

Re:
Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing – Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Rhonda A Martocci and I have lived in Hawaii and still have family there; I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits, which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,
Rhonda A. Martocci

To:
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From:
Amy Watson
Lahaina, HI 96761

Re:
Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Amy Watson and I have been a member of the boating community and tourism industry in Hawaii for the past 5 years. I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits, which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,
Amy Watson

To:
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From:
Jarett Fry
Lahaina, HI 96761

Re:
Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Jarett Fry and I have been a member of the dive community here in Hawaii for the past five years; I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,
Jarett Fry

To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: FILBERT J. MARTOCCI, JR

BRENTWOOD, TN 37027 & MAUI, HI 96753

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is FILBERT MARTOCCI, of BRENTWOOD TN & MAUI

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

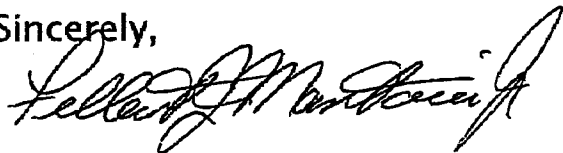
- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: DEBORAH SAUTTER
BALTIMORE, MD 21214

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is DEBORAH SAUTTER, of BALTIMORE, MD 21214. I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
 Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
 Committee on Water and Land

From: Teak McAfee

270 Akia Pl., Lahaina, HI 96761

Re: Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is

Teak McAfee, of Lahaina;

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

Teak McAfee

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
 Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
 Committee on Water and Land

From: FINN McAfee

270 Akia Place, Lahaina, HI 96761

Re: Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is

Finn McAfee, of Lahaina;

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

Finn McAfee

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Mark Springer
619 Vistamont
Berkeley, Ca. 94708

Re: Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing – Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am Mark Springer and I am very concerned about all of the fish being taken from Hawaii.

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing – Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

Mark Springer

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Karen Michalka-Springer
619 Vistamont
Berkeley, Ca. 94708

Re: Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing – Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am Karen Michalka-Springer and am very concerned about the fish being taken from Hawaii.

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing – Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

Karen Michalka-Springer

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: KEVIN MCAFEE

270 AKIA PLACE, LAHAINA, HI. 96761

Re: Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is

KEVIN MCAFEE, of LAHAINA, HAWAII;

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

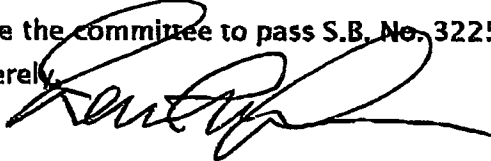
- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: ~~KEVIN MCAFEE~~

EDEN
270 AKIA PL., LAHAINA, HI. 96761

Re: Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony In Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is

Eden McAfee, of LAHAINA, HAWAII;

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Marissa Morris
Lahaina

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM
Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Marissa Morris, of Maui Dive Shop;

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

Marissa Morris

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
 Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
 Committee on Water and Land

From: WAYNE IBERS
337 A'ALII WAY, LAHAINA, HI 96761

Re: Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits
 Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM
 Testimony In Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is WAYNE IBERS, of LAHAINA, HI; I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely, Wayne Ibers

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
 Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
 Committee on Water and Land

From: CAROL IBERS
337 A'ALII WAY, LAHAINA, HI 96761

Re: Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits
 Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM
 Testimony In Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is CAROL IBERS, of LAHAINA, HI; I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely, Carol Ibers

To:

**Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land**

From:

Kelly Ledford
Kihei, HI 96753

Re:

Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing -- Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Kelly Ledford. I am a marine biologist, and teacher, as well as the wife of a USCG boat captain. Not only do I feel a deep connection to Hawaii's reefs, but my family's livelihood depends on reef-based tourism industry. That industry is hinged on the beauty and health of the reef & its inhabitants.

Therefore, I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits, which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,
Kelly Ledford

To:
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From:
Christopher Ledford
Kihei, HI 96753

Re:
Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing – Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Christopher Ledford. I am a USCG boat captain and SCUBA instructor whose livelihood depends on reef-based tourism industry. Our industry is hinged on the beauty and health of the reef & its inhabitants.

Therefore, I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits, which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,
Christopher Ledford

To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: KEVIN HACKETT
LAHAINA, HI

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is KEVIN HACKETT, of LAHAINA, HI;

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:


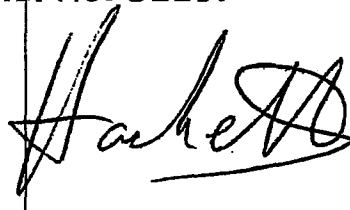
- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Juan Biondes
P.O. Box 11812 Lahaina HI 96761

Re: Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM
Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Juan Biondes of Lahaina, HI;

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Pete Wattles

480 Keolu Rd. 13-204 Kalaheo, HI

Re: Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM
Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is

Pete Wattles

of Kalaheo, HI

; I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
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In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Elliott Gardner

P.O. Box 1680 LAHAINA HI 96761

Re: Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is

Elliott Gardner, of LAHAINA

strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
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In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Tammy Livingstone
Lahaina, HI 96753

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is Tammy Livingstone, of Lahaina/Trilogy;
I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

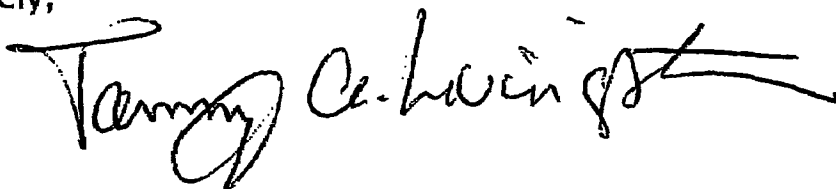
- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
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In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Debi Mead

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony is Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is Debi Mead, of Pukalani, HI;

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

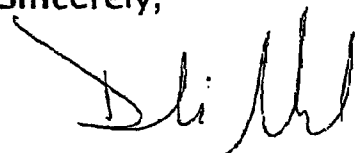
- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
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In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Michael K. Hamada
LAHAINA HI 96761

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Michael K. Hamada, of PREMIERE VIDEO LLC; I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

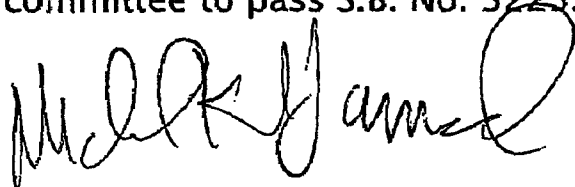
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I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Maren Springer
Extended Horizons SCUBA, Lahaina

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing – Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am lucky enough to be a Divemaster who frequents Lana'i daily. Ornamental reef fish play a pivotal role in guiding divers and teaching them about the unique reef that defines Hawai'ian diving. I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing – Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
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Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



Maren Springer
SCUBA instructor/divemaster

To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Katie Kelley
22 Aea Place, Lahaina, HI, 96761

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is Katie Kelley, of Lahaina;
I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
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Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: 
PO BOX 12949
LOHONA HI 96761


Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is , of LOHONA, HI;


I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

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Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely, 

To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Melodie Deafrick
Lohaina

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is Melodie, of Guesthouse;

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

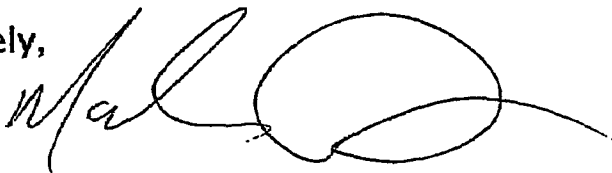
- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
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In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: TANNA SWANSON
LAHAINA

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is Tanna Swanson, of Lahaina;

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
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In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

Tanna Swanson

**To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land**

**From: Todd Winn VP North Shore Explorers
786 Alua St. Wailuku, HI 96793**

Re: Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am the VP at North Shore Explorers on Maui and a long time avid diver who once held a commercial permit for collecting aquarium fish. I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found**
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters**
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish**

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

**Todd Winn
Vice President / Owner
Todd@NorthShoreExplorers.com**

To:
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From:
Diane Dooley,
a concerned citizen,
residing in Kihei Maui 96753

Re:
Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing – Ornamental Fish Bag Limits
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM
Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Diane Dooley and I am a concerned citizen from Maui; I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing – Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
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In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,
Diane Dooley

**To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land**

**From: Peter Stein
2652 Killarney Road
Victoria, British Columbia V8P3G8
Canada**

Re: Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am writing as a diver who, during my numerous holidays in Hawaii, has had the opportunity to see and be moved by the exquisite tropical fish living in coral reef dive spots in and around Maui and Lanai.

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found**
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I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

Peter Stein

To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: *Paul Grigsby*
Laneia, HI

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is *Paul Grigsby*, of *Laneia, HI*; I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

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I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Ashley Schaefer
Lahaina, HI 96761

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is Ashley Schaefer, of Mauī Dive shop;

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

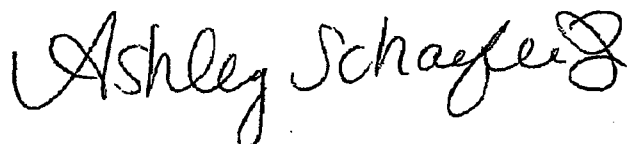
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I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From:

John Cesare
Laie, HI 96761

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is John Cesare, of CS Submerged.

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

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I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

John Cesare

**To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land**

**From: Paul Anka
Kapalua Dive Company, Maui**

Re: Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. I have been a SCUBA instructor on Maui for the last 18 years and I'm very concerned about the vast amount of ornamental reef fish that are taken from their natural habitats. I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

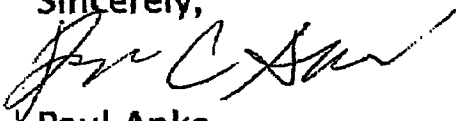
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I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



**Paul Anka
Operations Manager- Master SCUBA Instructor
Kapalua Dive Company, Maui**

**To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land**

**From: Leslie Millen
Kihei, HI 96753**

**Re: Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM**

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Leslie Millen, of Kihei, Maui. As an avid ocean enthusiast, certified SCUBA diver, and responsible Maui resident, I'm very concerned about the vast amount of ornamental reef fish that are taken from their natural habitats. I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

Leslie Millen

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: MATT BRYANT
2-9-08

Re: Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM
Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is

MATT BRYANT, of Central Point, HI; I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
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In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Danelle N. Brown

29.2008

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is

Danelle N. Brown, of Phoenix, Oregon; I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
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In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: CHRISTOPH BEST
Bavaria Ar. 12d, 80336 Munich, Germany

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM
Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is CHRISTOPH BEST, of MUNICH, GERMANY; I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

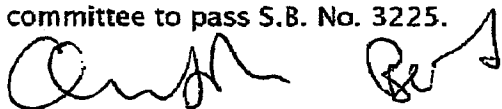
- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Suzanne Wit

Re: Devarash - 12D 80336 Maui, Hawaii
Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is

Suzanne Wit, of Maui, Hawaii;
strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

S. Wit

To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Jacqueline Wiley
315 1st Ave NE Osseo, MN 55369

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is

Jacqueline Wiley, of Mpls, MN; I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely, Jacqueline Wiley

To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Bruce Wiley
315 1st Ave. N, E Osoyo MN, 55369

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM
Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is

Bruce Wiley, of Osoyo MN;
I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

Bruce Wiley

To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Terresa Bryant
2-9-08

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Terresa Bryant, of Central Point, Oregon; I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
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In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Matt J. Talbot
Lahaina, HI 96761

Re: Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM
Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Matt J. Talbot of Lahaina, HI; I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
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In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely, 

To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Jennifer Paul
2-9-08

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM
Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Jennifer Paul, of Calgary, Alberta Canada. I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental/Fish/Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Chris Carson
Lahaina HI

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is Chris Carson, of Mauie Dive Shop. I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

Chris Carson

**To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land**

**From: Victoria Martocci
Lahaina, HI 96761**

Re: Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Aloha,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Victoria Martocci, of Extended Horizons Scuba on Maui. I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors.

I have been diving Maui's reefs for the past 20 years, and have seen a notable decrease in the amount and diversity of rare and endemic species found around the main Hawaiian Islands. As a SCUBA instructor and underwater photographer, I - along with thousands of others - depend on reef-based tourism for my livelihood. I'm very concerned about the vast amount of ornamental reef fish that are taken from their natural habitats. After a dive, I often hear visitor divers comment, 'there weren't many fish down there.' Unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system. At this time in history, where many Americans are choosing to travel within the United States, Hawaii cannot risk losing this valuable resource - our tropical reefs - by exporting its inhabitants, the reef fish.

Furthermore, over the years, I have witnessed a decrease in juvenile herbivorous reef fish. Herbivores, such as the yellow tang - often considered a keystone species of reef ecology - are vital to maintaining the health of the reef, by feeding on and keeping algae populations in check. It is widely known that aquarium collectors target juvenile fish, especially the herbivorous yellow tang, for their convenient size. What this means on the reef, is that without enough juveniles left in the wild to reach reproductive maturity, herbivore populations will crash as the mature fish die, leaving the ecosystem out of balance. Enough of our reefs are suffering from the strangling hold of algae blooms, while areas where fish are protected have no algae problems. Small protected areas are not enough to reverse the damage that years of overharvesting has caused. It is imperative that limits be placed on the amount of fish that can be taken, so that enough fish will be left on our reefs to maintain this delicate balance.

February 6, 2008

The Honorable Clayton Hee
Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 967813

RE: SB 3225 – RELATING TO FISHING

Dear Senator Hee and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 3225. This legislation sets important limits on the collection of Hawaii's ornamental fish and identifies specific species that will belong to a "No-take" category. For many years, the commercial fish collection industry has gone unchecked and this practice must be brought under control in order to maintain healthy and diverse populations of yellow tangs, angel fish, and other highly desired reef species that are necessary for stabilizing our declining reefs.

I fully support this measure to place a bag limit on ornamental fish species and appropriate funds out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii to support the yellow tang fish stock assessment. I would like to recommend that the State Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) be consulted and empowered with the tools they will require to enforce this new law.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of this critical measure.

Sincerely,

CHARMAINE TAVARES
Mayor, County of Maui

February 6, 2008

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: SB 3225 – RELATING TO FISHING

Dear Senator Hee and Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 3225, which places a bag limit and prohibition on specific species of ornamental reef fish, including yellow tangs, flame angels, and butterflyfish.

The aquarium fish collection industry harvests over two hundred types of fish and invertebrates from Hawaii's waters annually, providing a major source of ornamental marine species for the international aquarium market. Some of the most highly desired species include the Achilles Tang, Feather Duster Worms, Orangespine Unicornfish, Moorish Idols, and Butterflyfish. Yellow Tangs, however, make up over 75% of the collection.

This industry has gone on too long without any checks and balances in place. Senate Bill 3225 proposes to place reasonable bag limits on the collection of ornamental reef fish and provide funds for a stock assessment of Yellow Tangs. Protecting Hawaii's reef species is critical to ensuring the present and future health of our reef ecosystems. Coral reef decline in Hawaii and around the world has garnered a lot of attention recently and it is absolutely imperative that we do everything we can to protect all components of our interdependent reef ecosystems, including ornamental fish species.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of this critical measure.

Sincerely,

Kuheia Paracuelles
Maui County Environmental Coordinator

testimony

From: Paul Jardin [paulj@snorkelbob.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 5:48 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SUPPORT Senate Bill 3225 and House Bill 3330

To: Senate Water & Land Committee
Re: bill hearing **Senate Bill 3225 and House Bill 3330**
Time and place: Monday, February 11, 2008
2:30PM, room 414.

The Legislature's Public Access Room

I support Senate Bill 3225 to establish bag limits for the aquarium trade. Massive extraction for commercial gain and the resulting barren reefs are an affront to the Hawaiian way. Aquarium collecting leaves many of our fragile reefs picked clean. Clearly, our reef systems should *not* be considered 'fisheries'.

Paul Jardin
Kauai

testimony

From: Lynn Allen [octopus@maui.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 2:17 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support of S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM, Rm. 414

From: Rene Umberger, Dive Tour Operator, Kihei, HI

Support of S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Aloha Committee Members,

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. This bill is urgently needed to regulate an industry that has no limits on how much of a precious, and as currently regulated, non-renewable resource it can take from Hawaii's reefs and ship to the mainland.

The aquarium industry in Hawaii is very small, generating only a few million dollars annually and benefiting only a few hundred people. However, it's adverse effects on many of Hawaii's reefs are devastating – potentially affecting millions of people. With such a substantial discrepancy, it seems hard to justify such a huge cost for such a small return, and this bill will be a good step toward curbing the destructive practices of this industry.

As currently practiced, the Hawaii aquarium trade is not sustainable because it targets wild caught fish. This stresses our reefs and diminishes their health in several key ways: fish are taken from the reefs before reaching reproductive age; targeted species include fish native to Hawaii and species critical to reef health such as herbivores; and, there is an unacceptably high mortality rate.

These issues parallel those of wild caught birds which after 1992 were prohibited from being imported into the U.S. because of similar destructive issues/practices:

While the United States prohibits the export of all birds native to the United States that are caught in the wild, almost 50% of the top 20 collected species in Hawaii are native (endemic).

The Wild Caught Bird Act states repeatedly that high mortality rates are unacceptable, and suspends the commercial trade for birds that have significantly high mortality rates in transport. Yet, in Hawaii's wild caught fish trade: 35 – 65% of the fish die in transport; 30% of top 10 are so fragile they aren't even guaranteed to arrive alive from virtually all mainland web sites that sell them; and shops that sell them rarely guarantee that they'll live beyond 14 days.

In addition, the Act acknowledges that, "the [wild caught] pet trade is contributing to the decline of species in the wild." And, "Utilization..... that is not sustainable should not be allowed."

One of my dive clients, a previous aquarium store owner, recently told me that responsible retail outlets don't sell wild caught fish because they are widely known to die quickly in captivity.

The reasons why our once healthy reefs are in trouble is certainly complicated . We all know about the contributions from global warming, run off and shoreline development. Aquarium fish harvesting also

contributes significantly to the decline, but unlike the other issues, this one is easy to address, and bag limits are a good start.

To not put bag limits on this industry benefits only a small handful of people in the industry and diminishes a valuable resource in much need of protection. To adopt bag limits benefits the entire population of Hawaii and protects the resource. For instance:

A yellow tang can live for a week in someone's fish tank on the mainland as a nice ornament in an office or living room of someone who has little respect or concern for Hawaii's people and reefs. When it dies, it is flushed down the toilet or thrown in the trash and a quick trip to the aquarium store or "click of the mouse" replaces it in a matter of minutes.

Or...

A yellow tang can live for 20 years on a Hawaiian reef, consuming algae that might otherwise smother the coral, and contributing to the health, beauty and abundance of the reef for Hawaii's residents and visitors, alike. When it dies on the reef, it's loss feed's another fish, but at least it had a chance to perpetuate the species first..

On a professional note, I've been diving on Maui's reefs for 25 years as a guide and instructor, and while I've witnessed the successful comeback of the Green Sea Turtle and Humpback whales because of their protected status, the fish and coral have only continued to decline. On many reefs in So. Maui, I can swim for several minutes and encounter only 10 – 20 fish total. The top 10 targeted species are almost completely gone. In Reef fish surveys I've conducted, yellow tangs go from being at the very top of the abundance list in MLCD's to the very bottom outside of them.

Our reef systems are in need of protections from the unlimited take now allowed the aquarium industry. For those who argue that it's a substantial industry, with a highly skilled workforce that would loose their jobs, I would say that, no doubt aquarium collectors have developed a refined skill set and knowledge of our reef fish, but that skill set can readily be adapted to suit the reef tourism industry which is always in need of skilled workers.

Please keep Hawaii's fish here for Hawaii's people by passing SB 3225.

Mahalo,

Rene Umberger

Octopus Reef

testimony

From: Lynn Allen [octopus@maui.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 2:19 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support of S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM, RM. 414

From: Lynn Allen, Octopus Reef Dive Tours, Kihei, HI

Support of S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Aloha Water and Land Committee Members:

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Lynn Allen

testimony

From: Dale B. Bonar [dale@mauicoastallandtrust.org]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 2:31 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SUPPORT for SENATE BILL 3225

RE: SB3225 relating to Ornamental Aquarium Fish

Mr. Clayton Hee, Chair

WLO Committee

Dear Senator Hee,

I am writing in **Strong Support** of Senate Bill 3225 to regulate the devastating overharvesting of ornamental reef fish in Hawaiian waters.

The reefs of Hawaii have suffered a dramatic loss of ornamental ("aquarium preferred") fish and it has become painfully noticeable in the last 5-10 years. These fish are, for the most part, being sold in the aquarium trade outside of Hawaii, particularly in Europe, Australia and the continental US.

I realize you are receiving a flood of testimony from folks outside of the Islands, and those primarily represent the non-Hawaii commercial buyers and aquarium end-users. Frankly their interest is financial and they have very little interest in the health of Hawaiian Reefs.

It is hardly surprising Australian purveyors are anxious for our fish. Australia has banned the taking and export of marine aquarium fish for good reason. They are very sensitive to the fact that the Great Barrier Reef is a national treasure and brings in an enormous amount of money from people who travel from around the world to enjoy their marine resources *in situ*. This is exactly what Hawaii should be doing!

The marine reefs of Hawaii are part of the State's natural resources. Would the State allow un-regulating takings of Koa or Ohi`a from our forests? Marine ornamental fish are in the same category of native, treasured resources.

I grew up in Hawaii, became a marine biologist (Ph.D. at UH in Marine Science, Professor of Zoology at U Maryland), and have seen first-hand during my lifetime what has happened to fish populations here. As Chairman of the Natural Areas Reserve System, my focus has been on Ahihi Kinau, where there are still reserve populations of fish, but even those are being impacted by the takings in adjacent areas and by the flood of visitors (mostly tourists) who come there because there are so few fish in other areas.

Please pass this bill and allow us a chance to rebuild our depleted marine resources.

Sincerely,

Dale B. Bonar

Dale B. Bonar, Ph.D. Make No Small Plans

Maui Coastal Land Trust For they have no Magic

POB 965 To stir men's souls.

2/10/2008

Wailuku, Maui, HI 96793 (Daniel Burnham)

808-244-5263

808-357-7740 (cell)

dale@mauicoastallandtrust.org

www.mauicoastallandtrust.org

testimony

From: Lucienne DeNaie [laluz@maui.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 1:55 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SUPPORT for SENATE BILL 3225

From : Lucienne de Naie
PO Box 610, Haiku HI 96708
808 572-8331

To: Hon. Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, and members of the Senate Water & Land Committee

Re: SUPPORT for Senate Bill 3225.

Aloha Senator Hee

Thanks to you and your committee members for enacting this sensible bill to responsibly manage the many demands being placed upon our native fish populations. On behalf of those who rely upon the ocean for a subsistence lifestyle and those who appreciate the beauty of the natural reefs and their inhabitants we support you in passing this bill out of committee in its strongest form. I am an East maui resident and many of my neighbors fish locally and along the South and west coast where the aquarium trade seeks their supply of tropical fish. No one I have talked to wants to see this practice continue with virtually no regulation. Perhaps if limits are set, the aquarium collectors will invest more efforts in keeping a higher percentage of the fish they do catch alive. Mahalo for helping Maui.

Lucienne de Naie

testimony

From: Robin Newbold [robin@mauirobin.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 7:53 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SB 3225 Bag Limits on Aquarium Fish

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice-Chair &
Members of the Committee on Water and Land

From: Robin Newbold, Marine Biologist

Re: Hearing on SB 3225, relating to a pilot community conservation program.
February 11, 2008 at 2:30pm.
Conference Room 414, State Capitol
Testimony in Support

Dear Chair Hee and Committee Members,

No fishery should be unlimited, particularly the practice of harvesting Hawaii's precious reef fish for export to aquarium collectors world wide.

Many of the target species are not even guaranteed to arrive alive. Others are known to starve to death in aquariums as they normally feed on coral. Others typically school and need that interaction to survive. So given the high death rate, the wholesale taking of millions of Hawaii's fish is unethical, at best.

Our culture, economy and future depends on our reefs. When 5,000,000 to 6,000,000 beautiful, colorful and endemic reef fish are captured alive, stuck in styrofoam cartons and shipped around the world our reefs, economy and culture suffer -- as do the fish.

We need our fish in Hawaii. This is not a traditional fishing method, but one used by new-comers to make a few dollars while living in their vans and smoking dope. Yes, the exporters make good money at it -- as do importers from New York to Hong Kong. But the State of Hawaii isn't benefiting from that income. Most sales are not even reported.

The reef fish of Hawaii are a precious resource that attract visitors, keep the reefs free of seaweed, allow the coral to survive and the reefs to do their job of protecting our shores from storm waves. And left on the reef, these fish attract visitors to Hawaii and thus sustain our economy.

We need you to do the right thing and limit the number of reef fish that may be shipped to aquariums around the world. Ideally we would prohibit the taking of any fish for the aquarium trade, as countries like Costa Rica prohibit the taking of tropical birds from their jungles. But a bag limit will at least be a step in the right direction.

2/10/2008

The Maui Nui Marine Resource Council voted overwhelmingly in favor of this bill. We ask for your support.

Please vote in favor of SB 3225.

Mahalo nui,

Robin Newbold

testimony

From: Lance Holter [holter@maui.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 1:54 PM
To: testimony
Cc: Sen. Clayton Hee
Subject: Sierra Club Hawaii Chapter and Maui Group supports SB3225

Importance: High

SUPPORT for SENATE BILL 3225 by 2:30 to testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, and members of the Senate Water & Land Committee

The Sierra Club Hawaii Chapter representing over 6,500 members in Hawaii supports SB3225 and regarding bag limits and the prohibition on the taking of certain ornamental fish in Hawaii.

Lance Holter, Sierra Club Hawaii Conservation Chair and Maui Group Chair PO Box 790656
Paia, HI 96779 Tele 808-579-9442

testimony

From: Annabel Briseno [divebel2@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 4:33 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Senator Hee re: Bill 3225

Senator Hee and members of the Land and Water Division

PLEASE SUPPORT SENATE BILL 3225 to ESTABLISH BAG LIMITS ON THE AQUARIUM TRADE. No fishery should be unlimited.

Tropical collectors are ruining the reef environment which in turn ruins the game fishing fishing industry and the tourism industry.

Tank fish are best raised in tanks. I support fish farming.

Thank You,
Annabel Edwards
87-3190 Ea Road
Captain Cook, HI, 96704

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[_ylt=Ahu06i62sR8HDTDypao8Wcj9tAcJ](http://mobile.yahoo.com/?_ylt=Ahu06i62sR8HDTDypao8Wcj9tAcJ)

testimony

From: abegalan@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 6:21 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Senator Clayton Hee RE Committee on Water and Land

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land
Abe Galan
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Support of S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Aloha,

My name is Abe Galan, I am a resident on the island of Maui Hawaii. I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Abe Galan

More new features than ever. Check out the new [AOL Mail!](#)

testimony

From: Paul Kohman [hebepako@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 3:18 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Senate Bill 3225

Attn; Senator Clayton Hee and Members of the Senate Water and Land Committee

I am a Hawaii resident and I support the passage of Senate Bill 3225. It is vitally important for the future of marine wildlife and their habitat that any species not be harvested simply for purposes of the amusement of humans in their homes. The natural balance of living organisms must be maintained to preserve the health of our reefs.

--

Aloha, y mahalo tambien
Paul Kohman
Kihei, Hawaii
808-891-8872

testimony

From: ellynt@lava.net
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 2:08 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SB3225 Monday 2:30

Committee on Water & Land
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Vice Chair
Testimony for 2:30 p.m. Monday, February 11, 2008 Conference Room 414
SB3225

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice Chair Kokubun, and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Ellyn Tong and I am writing testimony in support of the regulation of the aquarium-fish trade. The food-fish trade is regulated to ensure that enough spawning individuals are left to reproduce fish for our future. Although many aquarium fish are not sought for consumption, they are *kaukau* for the fish that we do eat. Their role in keeping Hawaii's reefs healthy is an essential one, many of them eat reef-smothering algae. You can make sure their populations are sustained by regulating their fishery.

Mahalo,

Ellyn Tong
Pacific Fisheries Coalition

testimony

From: Mr. D [sdxn12ga@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 5:17 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SB3225 - Ornamental Reef Fish Bill

Without scientific studies of reef fish populations it is premature to limit or ban the harvesting of certain reef fish. Many rely on this activity for their livelihood. There are many contributing factors to the rise and fall of fish populations. Among them is the runoff into the ocean of raw sewage, as well as various chemicals used in agriculture and domestic uses. Please do not act in haste hurting and/or eliminating this essential livelihood. The impact of the few fishermen hand catching fish on the populations of reef fish is negligible compared to the other lethal runoffs damaging not just fish populations but reefs as well. This bill is a knee-jerk reaction to imput from special interests without the true scientific study or first hand knowlege of "hands on" ocean users.

Mahalo for your patient and honest consideration of this complex situation.

Mr Steve Dixon

91-1457 Halahinano St, Kapolei, HI 96707.

Phone: 808-676-5336.

steved@honsador.com.

testimony

From: David Dart [alpineairhawaii@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 7:30 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SB3225

To All Concerned,

I support substituting the DAR amendments in lieu of the current provisions of SB3225. It is imperative that Hawaii moves towards fishery management based on science rather than emotion. I support the West Hawaii model as implemented by DAR as a working situation that addresses both sustainability and the continuation of fisheries in a business like manner. As a past member of the West Hawaii Fisheries Council and current member of two of the councils subcommittees, the species of special concern, and the limited entry committee, I favor adopting such councils on all islands. Over the last twenty years I have been one of the leading aquarium fisherman in the state. I have also export valuable Hawaiian reef fish world wide. Let DAR be heard!

David Dart
PO Box 5065
Kailua, Kona Hi 96745
Cell 936-5821

My Background

1971 Graduate - University of Hawaii
30 years as a commercial diver and fisherman.
Holder of commercial fishing license in nine separate fisheries both past and present.
I currently own commercial fishing operations in Hawaii and Alaska.
20 years as a commercial aquarium fish collector

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testimony

From: Mr. D [sdxn12ga@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 5:13 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Ornamental Reef fishing limitations

Without scientific studies of reef fish populations it is premature to limit or ban the harvesting of certain reef fish. Many rely on this activity for their livelihood. There are many contributing factors to the rise and fall of fish populations. Among them is the runoff into the ocean of raw sewage, as well as various chemicals used in agriculture and domestic uses. Please do not act in haste hurting and/or eliminating this essential livelihood. The impact of the few fishermen hand catching fish on the populations of reef fish is negligible compared to the other lethal runoffs damaging not just fish populations but reefs as well. This bill is a knee-jerk reaction to imput from special interests without the true scientific study or first hand knowlege of "hands on" ocean users.

Mahalo for your patient and honest consideration of this complex situation.

Mr Steve Dixon

91-1457 Halahinano St, Kapolei, HI 96707.

Phone: 808-676-5336.

steved@honsador.com.

testimony

From: David Amack [sharkville@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 12:14 PM
To: testimony
Subject: I SUPPORT SB 3225

I understand there was a flood of phone calls, faxes, and emails from all over the U.S. and the world in opposition to SB 3225. Now, let's put 2 and 2 together. We know our reefs have almost no fish (go for a snorkel and see for yourself) and that people are coming out of the woodwork to oppose a bag limit for aquarium collecting. WHY SHOULD THEY CARE? Because that's where all the fish are going. This is not about subsistence or tradition or anything except MONEY. I have news for our elected representatives, the residents of Hawaii, and the fish collectors. THOSE FISH BELONG TO ME, TOO! What gives anybody the right to take MY fish, without my say-so?

Look at it another way:

If our fish collectors decided to start taking Nene, would that be ok? Even if they took them to eat, would that be ok? OF COURSE NOT.

If a group of loggers started cutting down koa trees for export, would that be ok? OF COURSE NOT.

If I went to South America, would I be allowed to take parrots out of the jungle and ship them around the world? OF COURSE NOT.

If aquarium collectors whine that you are taking away their livelihood, tell them THEY ARE IN THE WRONG BUSINESS.

David Amack
Kihei
808-250-9980

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land
Monday, February 11, 2008

In opposition to SB 3225, relating to fishing

I work as a commercial aquarium fish collector on Oahu. I also have a Bachelors of Science degree in Marine Biology from the University of Hawaii, am an active scientific diver for the university, and have participated in a number of research projects concerning coral reef conservation, fisheries monitoring, and marine exploration. I am proud of the job that I do, and I believe that, if properly managed, the aquarium fishery is a very sustainable resource and a valuable asset to the state of Hawaii. I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 3225, which has no scientific justification, would needlessly destroy the livelihoods of the people who depend on the fishery, and would ultimately fail to provide real protection for the fish that need it most.

I depend upon aquarium fish for 90% of my income, and for many fishermen it is our only source of employment. Many of us have invested thousands of dollars into our businesses, and have families to support. Our livelihoods depend on maintaining healthy fish stocks in Hawaii, and we have no desire to see our resources depleted. I strive to fish in a responsible and sustainable manner, taking only the fish that I need and rotating my collection sites to ensure that they are able to recover before I visit them again. I do not use destructive fishing methods or collect species that are unsuitable for captivity, and I am careful to avoid collecting fish in areas frequented by snorkelers and dive tour operators. I have submitted full and accurate catch reports to the DLNR every month. Most collectors, including myself, would welcome meaningful legislation to protect the resource upon which we depend for a living. However, this needs to come from people with a real knowledge of the fishery, rather than private individuals who may harbor personal agendas against our industry.

As written, SB 3225 would effectively close the aquarium fishery in Hawaii, rather than provide proper resource management solutions. No scientists, fishermen, or anybody else involved with our industry were consulted before this bill was written, and it is apparent that its author either has no knowledge of how our fishery operates or has personal motives for harming our business. The bag limit of 20 fish per day specified in section 1(a) would make it impossible for any of us to earn a living. I earn, on average, four dollars per fish; after expenses such as fuel, boat maintenance, and scuba tank fills, I would be left with 20-30 dollars in profit each day. It is unreasonable to impose such punishing limitations upon any fisherman without proper justification.

From a conservation standpoint, the proposed bag limit is fundamentally flawed. We target over a hundred species of fish; for some of these catching 20 fish per day would be excessive, while others are abundant and can be collected in much greater numbers without harm. An all-inclusive bag limit such as this would force us to target only the rare and valuable species, many of which could not stand the pressure. Also,

individual species differ in abundance between islands. Collectors in Kona are able to catch far more yellow tangs than on Oahu, while Potter's angels are plentiful on Oahu but uncommon in Kona. Without taking these factors into account, poorly designed bag limits allow certain species to flourish while promoting the depletion of others.

Moreover, no justification is provided for prohibiting collection of species listed in section 1(b) of SB 3225. While the Hawaiian Cleaner Wrasse (*Labroides pthiophagus*) and certain species of corallivorous butterflies (*Chaetodon* spp.) are poorly suited to captivity and probably should not be collected, Potter's Angelfish and many species of boxfish, pufferfish, and eel are all excellent aquarium fish that are abundant in Hawaii; there should be no reason to restrict these fish. The provisions in this section would also adversely affect recreational and subsistence fishing in Hawaii; eels are a traditional bait for ulua fishermen, and the broad term "corallivores" includes fish such as uhu (parrotfish) that are important food fish for many Hawaiians.

Although SB 3225 is a flawed and harmful bill, it should be possible to create regulations that would work for everyone, including aquarium collectors, other fishermen, snorkelers, and recreational divers. Since 1999, the Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources has been working to regulate and monitor the aquarium fishery in West Hawaii. DLNR has good data to show that the current system of marine protected areas is working to ensure healthy fish stocks, and that a productive aquarium fishery can coexist with the tourist industry. As written, SB 3225 ignores nearly a decade of progress that has produced meaningful results and should be used as the basis for creating regulations in the rest of the state.

In the interests of responsible fisheries management, I urge the committee to reject SB 3225 and instead work with DLNR to create real solutions to benefit all the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,



Matthew Ross

Commercial Aquarium Permit #17653

testimony

From: Jeannine Johnson [jeannine@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 5:45 PM
To: testimony
Cc: Rep. Barbara Marumoto; Rep. Lyla B. Berg; Rep. Gene Ward; Sen. Fred Hemmings; Sen. Sam Slom; 'Alyssa Miller'; 'Donna Wong HTF'
Subject: Testimony in strong support of SB1368 (land use), SB2871 (aquatic resources) and SB3225 (fishing)

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Vice Chair

SB 1368 RELATING TO LAND USESB 2871 RELATING TO AQUATIC RESOURCESSB 3225 RELATING TO FISHING

DATE: Monday, February 11, 2008

TIME: 2:30 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 414

Aloha Chair Hee and Vice Chair Kokubun:

I wanted to express my strong support for each of the above-stated bills.

- SB1368 would establish a much-needed process for determining when land use classifications should be rescinded because they have not been exercised. The City's Department of Planning and Permitting has allowed projects like Kuilima Resort Company's massive expansion project on Kawela Bay based on a 20 year old agreement and land use permit. This bill would provide for a use-it-or-lose-it mechanism to ensure more effective timing of development of planned or approved urban or rural capacity.
- SB2871 encourages the DLNR to work with local communities to manage near shore reef resources through the maka'i o ke kai program based on the Miloli'i community's efforts.
- SB3225 imposes bag limits on certain ornamental fish and prohibits catching of certain ornamental fish.

My father was a fisherman from Miloli'i and he took me along on several fishing trips during the summers I spent growing up at our ahupua'a in the 70s. The beauty of the fish and reefs near Miloli'i were incomparable then. It's my understanding that the aquarium fish collectors caused significant reductions in the abundance of fish and their destructive fishing practices destroyed the reefs all along the Kona coast. On O'ahu, Mālama Maunalua, a community-based alliance dedicated to creating a more culturally and ecologically healthy Maunalua Bay, has worked for several years to mitigate the pollution and sedimentation of our storm water run-off into the Bay. Communities familiar with their resources should be given the opportunity to kuleana them.

E ola ke kai, e ola kakou (as the ocean thrives, so do we.) Please kōkua and help protect and preserve our valuable resources that we have left so that our keiki and mo'opuna will be able to fish like our kupuna.

Mahalo piha,

Jeannine

2/10/2008

Jeannine Johnson
5648 Pia Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96821
Ph: 373-2874 / 523-5030 (w)
Email: jeannine@hawaii.rr.com
"PUPUKAHI I HOLOMUA"
(Unite in Order to Progress)

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land
Monday, February 11, 2008

In opposition to SB 3225, relating to fishing

I work as a commercial aquarium fish collector on Oahu. I also have a Bachelors of Science degree in Marine Biology from the University of Hawaii, am an active scientific diver for the university, and have participated in a number of research projects concerning coral reef conservation, fisheries monitoring, and marine exploration. I am proud of the job that I do, and I believe that, if properly managed, the aquarium fishery is a very sustainable resource and a valuable asset to the state of Hawaii. I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 3225, which has no scientific justification, would needlessly destroy the livelihoods of the people who depend on the fishery, and would ultimately fail to provide real protection for the fish that need it most.

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individual species differ in abundance between islands. Collectors in Kona are able to catch far more yellow tangs than on Oahu, while Potter's angels are plentiful on Oahu but uncommon in Kona. Without taking these factors into account, poorly designed bag limits allow certain species to flourish while promoting the depletion of others.

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Although SB 3225 is a flawed and harmful bill, it should be possible to create regulations that would work for everyone, including aquarium collectors, other fishermen, snorkelers, and recreational divers. Since 1999, the Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources has been working to regulate and monitor the aquarium fishery in West Hawaii. DLNR has good data to show that the current system of marine protected areas is working to ensure healthy fish stocks, and that a productive aquarium fishery can coexist with the tourist industry. As written, SB 3225 ignores nearly a decade of progress that has produced meaningful results and should be used as the basis for creating regulations in the rest of the state.

In the interests of responsible fisheries management, I urge the committee to reject SB 3225 and instead work with DLNR to create real solutions to benefit all the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,



Matthew Ross
Commercial Aquarium Permit #17653

Testimony for SB 3225 – RELATING TO FISHING
Committee on Land and Water
February 11, 2008 – 2:45 p.m.
Kuheia Paracuelles, Maui County Environmental Coordinator

Aloha Chair Hee and committee members. My name is Kuheia Paracuelles and I am the Environmental Coordinator for the County of Maui. Thank you for this opportunity to testify before you on Senate Bill 3225, which places a bag limit on ornamental fish species and provides funding for a stock assessment of Yellow Tangs.

I first became aware of the fish collection industry while doing research for a radio spot on Hawaii Island, which is also when the fisheries council there was just getting started. I was absolutely shocked and angered to find out how many of our fish species are collected and sold to the international aquarium market. In 2000, it was estimated that 214 different types of fish and invertebrate species were collected annually, valuing between eight to nine hundred thousand dollars. I can only assume that these figures have gone up since then. Some of the most desirable species include Yellow Tang, Achilles Tang, Feather Duster Worms, Longnose Butterflyfish, and Moorish Idols. It was estimated then that Yellow Tangs represented over seventy-five percent of the collection.

One does not need to be a marine biologist to figure out that this level of take is not healthy for the ecosystem, especially when there is no good-faith effort to help re-stock the population. Furthermore, it is my understanding that as fish populations became scarce in near-shore waters, the collectors began harvesting in deeper waters where their nursery grounds are located.

I thank you for introducing this bill because measures need to be implemented to preserve the remaining populations of these fish. The aquarium fish collecting industry has been conducting business in Hawaii waters for many years with little or no oversight. It is time for this to change. Many of Hawaii's reefs are in serious trouble and need better stewardship, including protecting the fish and invertebrate species that they need to survive.

One recommendation I would like to offer is to insert a mechanism into this bill that would allow DOCARE officers to enforce this law. DOCARE officers have several mandates that are diverse in nature yet they have limited staffing. To successfully enforce this law, DOCARE will need more officers and the proper tools (i.e. Jet skis, boats, authority) to do the job. Without this, the intent of this very important law will never be realized.

I fully support SB 3225 and will do what I can within my scope as Maui County Environmental Coordinator to help it succeed. Thank you very much for your time.

testimony

From: Tom Croly [tcroly@maui.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 1:17 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony for SB 3225

Aloha Senator Hee and the members of the Senate Water and Land Committee, My name is Thomas Croly and I live in South Maui. I SUPPORT for Senate Bill 3225 to establish bag limits on the aquarium trade.

I am a naturalist volunteer at Ahihi Kinau Natural area reserve and have witnessed poaching taking place even within the Reserve area. The reason that fish collectors poach from the Natural area reserve is because the fish in other areas are severely depleted. We must end the industry of taking aquarium fish from anywhere in the Hawaiian waters. These fish are vital to the health of our reef system and our reefs are vital to Hawaii's tourism.

We must protect our valuable natural resources and they must not be treated as a commodity.

Thomas Croly
3259 Akala Drive
Kihei, HI 96753

February 10, 2008

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
And Members
Senate Committee on Water and Land

Hearing Date: Monday, February 11, 2008
Time: 2:30 pm

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 3225, Relating to Fishing; Ornamental Fish, Bag Limits, No Take

Aloha Mr. Clayton Hee and Members,

My name is Randy Awo. I am currently employed by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement, Maui nui. I am submitting testimony as a private citizen in support of SB 3225.

The fish populations identified for protection in this bill continues to decline throughout Hawaii's near shore reefs. This Bill proposes to impose regulations that will serve to better manage and protect Hawaiian reef fish that are highly prized and sought after for captivity in salt water aquariums.

To further protect this fish, I ask that you consider amending the Bill to grant the Division of Conservation and Resources Officers the ability to conduct inspections of any container capable of containing or concealing marine life as a condition of receiving an Aquarium Fish permit.

I urge this committee to support SB 3225 as it will serve to better protect an important segment of our Hawaii's near shore fisheries. Mahalo for allowing me the opportunity to comment on this Bill.

Aloha – Randy Awo

testimony

From: Robert Wintner [robertw@snorkelbob.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 11:20 AM
To: The Karrs
Cc: testimony; banderson@oceanicinstitute.org; eharper@oceanicinstitute.org
Subject: Re: Testimony in support of SB 3225

Thank you Bruce & Gary for this great testimony.
On Feb 10, 2008, at 1:00 PM, The Karrs wrote:

Please find attached testimony from Dr. Bruce S. Anderson on behalf of the Oceanic Institute supporting the intent of Senate Bill 3225 Relating to Fishing. SB 3225 will be heard by the Senate Committee on Water and Land on Monday, February 11 at 2:30 p.m. in Senate Conference Room 414. Please provide the committee with the appropriate number of copies of our written testimony.

Mahalolo!

Gary E. Karr
Director of Communications and Education
41-202 Kalaniana'ole Highway
Waimanalo, HI 96795
Phone: (808) 259-3146
Fax: (808) 259-3126
Website: www.oceanicinstitute.org
<Testimony in Support of SB 3225 02-10-08 FINAL.doc>



February 11, 2008

SUPPORTING THE INTENT OF SB 3225 RELATING TO FISHING

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2008, 2:30 P.M.
SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 414

TO: Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Russell Kokubun, and Committees Members

Aloha, my name is Bruce Anderson and I am the President of the Oceanic Institute (OI). I appreciate the opportunity to express our support of the intent of SB 13225, which imposes bag limits on certain marine ornamental fish; prohibits catching of specific certain ornamental fish; and appropriates funds for assessing standing stocks of yellow tang.

Oceanic Institute, an affiliate of Hawai'i Pacific University, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to research, development and transfer of oceanographic, marine environmental, and aquaculture technologies. Research on the effectiveness of marine resource management measures constitutes a significant portion of the Oceanic Institute's work through its fisheries restoration and enhancement program.

In addition, OI is developing the techniques for culturing several marine "ornamental" fish including the yellow tang. This research has the potential to help alleviate some of the pressures put on our natural resources while producing fish for the aquarium industry. In the course of this effort, it has been determined that yellow tang are particularly long-lived and reproduce for many years. This long reproductive life indicates that recruitment (the number of fish surviving each year to enter the standing stocks) is probably very low. Thus, this species is particularly vulnerable to overfishing and it will take a long period of time to replenish stocks once depleted.

The need for better information on the yellow tang has never been more critical; especially considering the number of fish harvested every year and their importance to the visitor industry. They are the "signature fish" for the aquarium industry and for the millions of visitors who have the opportunity to snorkel and dive in Hawaii every year. This information will be key to developing appropriate management strategies. Considering their importance, a cautious approach should be taken to preserve and protect this species. Restrictions on taking these species as outlined in Senate Bill 3225 have the potential to help protect these resources.

Although we commend the legislature for considering legislation specifying the limitations on taking these species, we respectfully suggest that you assure that DLNR has clear authority to limit the taking of marine species, including ornamental marine species, and urge DLNR to develop rules for this purpose through a resolution or other appropriate means. State financial support for obtaining the information necessary to protect our marine resources is also strongly encouraged.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

February 9, 2008

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, and members
Senate Water and Land Committee
Monday, Feb. 10, 2008, Room #414

**TESTIMONY OF ROB PARSONS, MAUI RESIDENT
IN SUPPORT OF BAG LIMITS, SB 3225 and SB 3260**

Aloha Chair Hee and members,

I strongly support the measures in Senate Bill 3225 and 3260 for vitally-needed conservation measures to preserve Hawaii's reef eco-systems. Frankly, I believe these measures are too late in coming, and not stringent enough. I do not believe there should be ANY aquarium gathering of Hawa's reef fish.

I may also attest to the severe strains on our coastal eco-systems from a variety of sources, including storm runoff. As an avid snorkeler, I have witnessed this first-hand. Additionally, while serving as Maui County's Environmental Coordinator from 2003-2007, I worked with many marine biologists who confirmed the dire situation of our coral reefs.

Please act with great haste to ensure the health of Hawaii's dwindling reef resources before it is too late.

Mahalo nui loa,

Rob Parsons
540 Kaiapa Place
Haiku, HI 96708
(808) 280-1369

testimony

From: Pat Nakao [kulasings@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 3:02 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony: S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

February 10, 2008,

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

re: S.B. No. 3225

Aloha,

I am a lifelong resident of Hawaii and have been a recreational snorkeler on Maui for more than 30 years. It is dismaying to see how the reefs surrounding our island have changed. Where once there were many reef fish in a dazzling array of diversity, the reefs outside the protected areas have become barren.

I have expected the decline of game and edible fish, but have been discouraged to learn that the loss of the colorful tangs and small herbivores are due in large part to collectors who sell fish for aquaria.

I strongly urge you to support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits, which would limit the number of ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. I think the bill should go further, with a total ban of fish collection for commercial purposes.

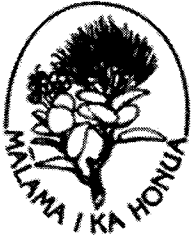
I have recently been surveying the reefs from a paddle board, particularly in the Kihei and Lahaina areas, and I rarely see reef fish. There was one small coral head in Kihei that had a number of small herbivores just a few weeks ago, but I was disheartened to see that even this small oasis of life has recently been stripped.

This is too much. Besides the loss of beauty and the damage to the health of the reef, I believe the loss of biodiversity will have economic impacts. Many tourists look forward to snorkeling in our islands. How disappointing it is for them to find reefs populated only with invasive seaweed.

Please take action to protect our reefs from commercial collectors.

Mahalo for your consideration of my comments,

Patty Nakao
15665 Haleakala Hwy.
Kula, HI 96790
ph 878 2635
email: kulasings@gmail.com



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803
808.537.9019 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

February 11th, 2008, 2:30 P.M.

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3225

Chair Hee and members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with over 5500 dues paying members statewide, supports the intent of SB 3225, restricting the collection of certain ornamental fish.

Hawaii's nearshore and reef fisheries are in decline. Part of the reason for their decline is the behavior of individuals and businesses who have little regard for Hawaii's precious natural resources. Hawaii's reef fish are being poached in record numbers with millions being exported and sold annually to European, Australian, and U.S. mainland collectors. Aquarium collecting leaves many of our fragile reefs picked clean and our reef systems should not be considered 'fisheries.' Hawaii's ornamental fish are worth far more in our waters—as synergistic components of the ecosystem and as attractive items for water-based tourism—than out of our water.

Senate Bill 3225 is particularly timely, as 2008 is being hailed as the International Year of the Reef.

Please forward this measure in some form to restrict unsustainable commercial aquarium collection.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

testimony

From: Marv Paularena [mpaularena@yahoo.com]

Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 4:38 PM

To: testimony

Subject: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 3225 to ESTABLISH BAG LIMITS ON THE AQUARIUM TRADE

We urge you to please support the setting of bag limits on fish taken for the aquarium trade. Those fish are essential to a healthy reef ecosystem and are one of the big reasons that tourists come to Hawai'i. There are already many places where our beautiful Yellow Tangs have become rare due to extensive "taking." Please, lets work together to preserve our reef fish for the next generation.

Mahalo nui loa,
Marv and Michele Paularena
190 S. Wakea Ave., #CC5
Kahalui, HI 96732
(808) 264-0300

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testimony

From: Martin Shepard [shepard@thepermanentpress.com]

Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 1:28 PM

To: testimony

Subject: Asking Senator Hee to support Senate Bill 3225

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, and members of
the Senate Water & Land Committee

As an concerned citizen and a book publisher, I would urge you to support Senate Bill 3225 to protect reef fish. Depleting them for commercial purposes is in conflict with the pleasures that so many of us get from snorkeling or diving with these amazing creatures.

Protecting reef fish is also protects the rights of citizens over those of businesses that endanger natural wildlife. Just as we have national parks for the enjoyment of Americans, so must we preserve these sea creatures.

Sincerely

Martin Shepard
The Permanent Press
4170 Noyac Road
Sag Harbor, NY 11963
phone: 631-725-1101/fax: 631-725-8215
www.thepermanentpress.com

testimony

From: Edwin Lindsey [lindsey005@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 6:51 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SB3225 SUPPORT

LAND WATER COMMITTEE, SEN . CLAYTON HEE RM 414

As Chairperson for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council whose mission statement simply to keep our near shore waters in a healthy state so we may have an abundance of fishes and marine life for the future generations. We support the efforts to pass this important legislation. Mahalo, Ed Lindsey

testimony

From: Shelley Harmer [shelleyh@snorkelbob.com]

Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 4:16 PM

To: testimony

Subject: Senate Bill 3225

Shelley Gillian Harmer
1246 Ainakea Street
Lahaina, HI 96761

808-645-7104

I strongly SUPPORT Senate Bill 3225 in order to protect Hawaii's marine life and therefore protect the livelihoods of many people living and working on the islands.

testimony

From: oceanwndows2@yahoo.com
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 6:12 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SB 3225

Committee on Water and Land
SB 3225
Hearing on Monday 2/11/08 at 2:30pm

I strongly oppose this bill. I have been a collector for 8 years and in that time I have only seen a significant INCREASE in the overall number of tropical fish that we target for catch. There is ample proof to support this fact in our monthly fish catch reports that we are required to submit to DLNR. In addition, there is already 35% of western Hawaii's coastline closed to tropical fishing. There are FRA's and FMA's in place where the fish population is so dense now that I believe it becomes a challenge for the fish to survive due to lack of enough food. The beauty of this industry is that it is self-regulating and has proved to be an incredibly renewable resource.

Thank you very much,
Luci Price

Be a better friend, newshound, and know-it-all with Yahoo! Mobile. [Try it now.](#)

testimony

From: OceanFishHI@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 7:01 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony Opposed to SB 3225

Committee on Water and Land
Monday February 11 2008
2:30 PM
Opposed to SB 3225
Dear Senators,

I am a tropical fish collector of 14 years. I have been on the West Hawaii Fisheries Council going on five years. I was active in Act 306 that put certain areas off limit to tropical fishing and the start of the West Hawaii Fisheries Council here on the big Island. We are now in the process of making a draft for a Limited Entry Fishery on the West coast of the big Island. If you talk with Dr. Bill Walsh of the DAR you will find that things are going great and there is no need to shut the Aquarium fish industry down, which is what this bill SB 3225 would do. I feel that you should talk with Dr. Bill Walsh and other fishermen so you can make a more aware decision on this subject. There is so much more to this. There have been people in the past and now that would like to see the industry closed and they will say and do almost anything to get there way. They put out misinformation and out right lies. But if you look at the studies you will find that the industry is sustainable. We are working to keep it sustainable in many ways. Like I mention before the Limited entry we are working on at the West Hawaii Fisheries Council. We also have a sub committee on Species of Special Concern and one on User Conflict. Please look into the West Hawaii Fisheries Council and see the work and progress we are making. It is sometimes a slow process as you know how it works. But finding out the true facts is so important before decisions are made. Please contact Dr. Bill for he has a five year study to back this up. If you have any questions or need any help with this matter please contact me. Again I strongly Oppose SB 3225.

Thank you
Paul Masterjohn
(808) 929-8294

Who's never won? Biggest Grammy Award surprises of all time on AOL Music.

To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice-Chair & Members of the
Committee on Water and Land

From: **Darrell Tanaka,**
Kihei, Maui, Hi, 96753

Re. **Hearing on SB3225---Relating to fishing**

February 11, 2008 at 2:30pm.

Conference Room 414, State Capitol

Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members,

Thank you for hearing my testimony regarding aquarium collecting.

“The purpose of this Act is to require a bag limit for the taking of ornamental fish and aquatic life for any person in possession of a combination of an aquarium fish permit and commercial marine license, to no more than twenty specimens, inclusive of no more than five yellow tangs, and creates a no-take category for certain species and again limits the commercial take of yellow tangs dead or alive to five specimens.. The species in the no-take category are recognized as being either, at risk, rare or having a high death rate when in captivity or in transport. The no-take category does not apply to non-commercial aquarium collectors who are limited to a combined total of only five specimens and does not apply to persons harvesting these species for home consumption.

This Act also provides for exemptions, such as for educational purposes, and mandates the department of land and natural resources to conduct an annual stock assessment of the yellow tang. The Kona coast of the island of Hawaii between Upolu Point and South Point is exempted from this act in recognition of the on going regulatory measures and scientific studies in West Hawaii that were implemented by the department of land and natural resources in cooperation with residents of that area and the commercial aquarium industry. The legislature finds that the over harvesting of ornamental fish and aquatic life from the reefs of the main Hawaiian islands is a matter of statewide concern.”

I am a captain in Maui County on snorkel boats. I am very concerned about the health of the reefs. I have seen a dramatic decline in the reef populations over the last 10 years. I feel we are way overdue in implementing a bag limit on the amount of ornamental fish that leave the state.

I am in support of this bill.

Thank you, Amy Miller

testimony

From: Veradalia@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 8:32 AM
To: testimony
Subject: SB 3225 support

SB 3225 testimony, Senate Water & Land Committee

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

Vera Dalia, Ph.D.

Support of SB 3225, Relating to Fishing

I respectfully request the committees support SB 3225

Thank you
Vera Dalia

Biggest Grammy Award surprises of all time on AOL Music.
([http://music.aol.com/grammys/pictures/never-won-a-grammy?
NCID=aolcmp00300000002548](http://music.aol.com/grammys/pictures/never-won-a-grammy?NCID=aolcmp00300000002548))

testimony

From: Michael Duberstein [iliwai34@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 8:29 AM
To: testimony
Subject: SB 3225

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senate Water & Land Committee
And
Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee
Senate Water & Land Committee hearing
Monday, February 11, 2008 2:30pm

Re: Support for SB 3225 pertaining to limits on aquarium fish catch

From: M. J. Duberstein
34 Iliwai Loop, Kihei 96753

I strongly support SB 3225 and urge you to move it out of your Committee. Our state faces a significant loss in both our delicate ecology and our tourism economy if we continue to allow unlimited taking of aquarium fish.

Mahalo and malama pono for your consideration of this request.

M. J. Duberstein
Kihei 96753

testimony

From: jcblueeyes@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 1:11 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SB 3325: Committee on Water and Land, Hearing 2:30 PM, 2/11/08

To: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Vice Chair

<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->

Hearing Date: Monday, February 11th

Hearing Time: 2:30 PM

<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->

Sunday, February 10, 2008

<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->

Dear Senator Hee,

<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->

I am writing you today to explain my reasons for opposing **State Bill 3325**. My name is J. Charles Delbeck; I am a professional aquarist and marine biologist, and have lived, worked and dove in the Hawaiian Islands since 1995. With over 400 dives throughout Hawaii and the South Pacific I have seen literally 100's of reefs in various states from pristine, to severely impacted. I have written over 50 articles, published three books and given over 40 presentations and workshops on live coral propagation, husbandry and exhibit design at conferences and publications around the world.

<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->

While I am opposed to **State Bill 3325** I do agree that the state of Hawaii needs to do a much better job of regulating its marine resources, particularly, the collection of marinelife for export; unfortunately, **State Bill 3325** is not a bill that I can support for the following reasons.

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1) The bag limits stated do not appear to be based on any scientifically derived rationale and I do not believe that bag limits are an effective means to achieve what is needed in the industry.

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2) The species listed appear to be a list of someone's favorite fishes or ones that would be of interest primarily to companies who take people snorkeling, again with no scientific rationale.

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3) **State Bill 3325** is simply unenforceable given the present state and size of Hawaii's DAR enforcement force. To enforce the measures in this bill is logistically impossible and would be prohibitively expensive.

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4) A one-year study of yellow tangs at \$100,000 would be a waste of taxpayer money. Only a study carried out over several years would even begin to give a picture of the population status of yellow tangs given the natural fluctuations in the population from year to year, as has been already shown is true for many of the tropical fish populations in Hawaii by studies conducted in FRA's in West Hawaii by DAR.

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5) Anyone can obtain a commercial collecting permit, regardless of their experience, expertise or knowledge of fish collection, transport and handling.

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6) There are no limits on how many commercial collecting permits can be active at any one time.

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State Bill 3325 does nothing to address the root of the problems in Hawaii's tropical fish collecting community, which are as follows:

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1) There are simply too many collectors and more specifically, too many commercial permits issued and in active use. Hawaii would do well to closely study the commercial collecting permit regulations in the state of Florida and in Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Similar problems of too many collectors being allowed to operate were faced in both instances and addressed by amending the requirements and process of issuing commercial collecting permits.

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2) There needs to be more limited use zones, such as those off West Hawaii, on the other islands in the state. The bottom line is that marine protected areas work; this has been shown time and time again throughout the world, but to truly be effective ALL activity needs to be stopped including spearing, netting and line fishing, not just tropical fish collecting.

<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->

While tropical fish are an attraction, many divers and snorkelers are also thrilled to see larger fish such as jacks, surgeonfish, goatfish and parrotfish, sadly these are becoming a rare sight in the main Hawaiian Islands and this will greatly affect our tourism industry as well. Why does the State of Hawaii continue to allow night spearfishing using SCUBA? Where is the sport in this? These fish are not being fished to feed families but are exported en masse from Kona to Japan and the rest of Asia each morning. American Samoa has seen the light and banned this practice, isn't time that Hawaii followed suit?

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I fully support the regulation of Hawaii's commercial tropical fish collecting industry but ONLY if based upon sound scientific data that allows for the industry to be managed in an effective and meaningful way, **State Bill 3325** clearly does not meet these criteria and would effectively shutdown the industry based only on emotional arguments. The State of Hawaii's mandate is to manage its resources in the best interests of ALL its residents, not just a vocal special interest group.

<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->

Most Sincerely,

<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->

<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->

J. Charles Delbeek M.Sc.

Honolulu, HI

<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->

Note: The opinions stated in this email are my own personal opinions based on my experience and knowledge, they do not reflect those of my employer or any other agencies associated with my employer.

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<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--> <!--[endif]-->

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testimony

From: Edwin Lindsey [lindsey005@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 6:51 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SB3225 SUPPORT

LAND WATER COMMITTEE, SEN . CLAYTON HEE RM 414

As Chairperson for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council whose mission statement simply to keep our near shore waters in a healthy state so we may have an abundance of fishes and marine life for the future generations. We support the efforts to pass this important legislation. Mahalo, Ed Lindsey

testimony

From: Shelley Harmer [shelleyh@snorkelbob.com] ...
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 4:16 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Senate Bill 3225

Shelley Gillian Harmer
1246 Ainakea Street
Lahaina, HI 96761

808-645-7104

I strongly SUPPORT Senate Bill 3225 in order to protect Hawaii's marine life and therefore protect the livelihoods of many people living and working on the islands.

testimony

From: HawaiiTropicalFishCompany [HawaiiTropicalFishCo@hawaii.rr.com]

Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 7:33 PM

To: testimony

Subject: Land And Water Committee regarding SB3225 Monday 2:30

Aloha Land and Water Committee,

I am opposed to Senate Bill 3225. I am a tropical fish collector, and have recently opened a small tropical fish wholesale business this year. If this bill were to pass it would put not only financial hardness on my family, but more importantly many other families that rely on this industry. These include to some extent local airlines cargo workers, packaging wholesalers, fuel suppliers, our own family members that we employ, this list could go on for miles.

SB 3225 to me seems like it was written with little to no knowledge of factual information on the sustainability of our fishery available thru our states "DAR" office. To my knowledge their should be about 19 years of statistics available thru catch reports, and various other studies. Also available is information from the Big Islands West Hawaii Fishing Console. They have been monitoring and have been instrumental in constructing regulations within our local coastline. Knowledge is key!! Please get educated on the local tropical fish industry before making a decision on SB3225!!

Thank You for your time,
Hawaii Tropical Fish Company
Todd Shiraki

testimony

From: Keith Turner [kturner@kgt.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 7:16 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Senate Water & Land Committee, Senate Bill 3225

Senate Water & Land Committee, Senator Clayton Hee, Chair on Monday, 2:30, room 414

I SUPPORT Senate Bill 3225 to establish bag limits on the aquarium trade.

We see fish being taken across the street from where we live. The fish population is being depleted.



Keith Turner
140 Uwapo Road #38-104
Kihei, HI 96753
808-891-8395

SUBMISSION IN SUPPORT OF SB 3225 RELATING TO FISHING

February 10, 2007

Honourable Senators

I am in full support of Bill SB 3225 and would ask the Committee to do its best to have this Bill enacted at the earliest opportunity in its present form.

I have visited the Hawaiian Islands a number of times and viewed with fascination the varied fish found in the beautiful reefs surrounding your Islands.

Subsequent to one of these visits I set up a marine tank in 1985 and have been a hobbyist since that date.

Within a few years I learned about the dark side of the hobby.

I am aware of the organized effort by the Marine Ornamental Fish Industry by fax, email and phone calls to the Honourable Senator Clayton Hee, the proponent of the Bill. But, you need to know that the Marine Ornamental Fish Industry has no concern for the reefs and the fish, coral and other critters that dwell therein.

I joined www.reefs.org, a marine fish/reef hobbyist website and in late 2001 I was one of the 'founding members' of the Industry Forum on that board.

Since 2001, I have done my best to try to convince the Industry through that forum that we were dealing with a precious resource and that it's unsustainable and unethical practices could not continue. Industry simply didn't care.

The Marine Ornamental Industry are only concerned about the cost of fish, their continued availability and the availability of rare or large adult species that attract high prices from wealthy hobbyists. The Industry is not concerned about the state of the reefs or the declining numbers of marine fish stock.

Here are some examples that you need to be aware of.

1. Juvenile Hawaiian yellow tang sold by the tens of thousands arrive at local fish stores in an emaciated condition often infected with black ich parasite. These juvenile fish should not be collected and minimum and maximum size limits should be adopted. Because of the volume of yellow tang collected these beautiful fish are inexpensive and are used as lost leaders to attract new people into the hobby.
2. Hawaiian cleaner wrasse are collected and sold to unsuspecting new hobbyists even though there is not one industry person who could truthfully say that cleaner wrasse have any chance whatsoever of survival in a hobbyist tank. The cleaning

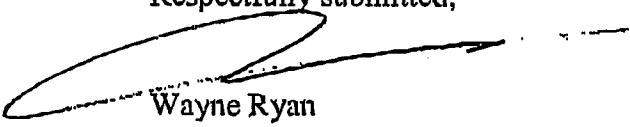
habit of cleaner wrasse is exciting to see and therefore attractive to new entrants to the hobby as well. The collection of this species should be prohibited with the added benefit that they remain in the ocean doing the cleaning job God gave them on other fish.

3. Most butterfly fish and some angelfish are obligate feeders which are almost impossible to keep in hobbyist tanks. The collection of obligate feeders should be severely restricted. A collector should only be able to collect same when an order is placed by a hobbyist. Presently these fish are commonly available and sold to unsuspecting hobbyists who have no idea of the extreme care necessary to ensure their survival. A moratorium on their collection should be considered until a Unsuitable Species List (USL) is developed by professionals.
4. Similarly, large adult species should not be collected. These large species frequently simply stop eating once collected and cannot be made to eat again with the result that they starve to death.
5. Increasingly many species are now available through aqua-culture yet industry refuses to support the aqua-culture as the cost to them per fish exceeds the price of wild caught fish. Where aqua-cultured species are available, the collection of the wild species should be prohibited except for 'brood stock' purchased by the aqua-culture industry.

I am not a scientist; I am a hobbyist who knows the damage done by our hobby.

I would urge your full support of this Bill.

Respectfully submitted,



Wayne Ryan
500-5900 No. 3 Road
Richmond, British Columbia,
Canada V5X3P7

To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Andrew Young
Lahaina HI 96761

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM
Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is

Andrew Young, of Lahaina HI;
strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

Andrew Young

To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: *David Neville*
Lahaina HI 96761

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is

David Neville, of *Lahaina HI*;

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- * Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- * Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: MIKE BERNHEIMER
P.O. Box 1212 WAILUKU, HI 96793

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM
Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is

MIKE BERNHEIMER, of WAILUKU

strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

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- * Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

Mike Bernheimer

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Therese Flores

LAHAINA HI 96761

Re: Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Therese Flores of LAHAINA, HI;

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

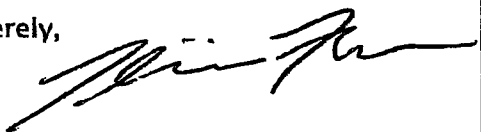
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I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From:

TIM MITCHELL

LAHAINA HI 96761

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM
Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is

TIM MITCHELL

, of LAHAINA HAWAII

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I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

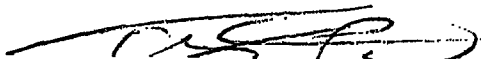
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I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Kathleen Wunderlich

208 Carnoustie Dr. Trophy Club #10 76262

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is

Kathleen Wunderlich of Trophy Club #10. I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

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Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Wunderlich

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From:

BRAD ADAMS

1809 Laurel Ln. Leander, Tx. 78041

Re: Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is

BRAD ADAMS of LEANDER, TEXAS strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

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Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

To: ~~Senator Clayton Hee, Chair~~
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: Emily Black
22 Aea Place, Lahaina, HI, 96761

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM
Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Emily Black, of Lahaina, HI;

I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

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Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource, as evidence in Florida. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

 Emily Black

To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: *Jarah Savidge*
22 Aiea Place, Lahaione, HI 96761

Re: **Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM
Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is

Jarah Savidge of *Lahaione*

strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

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I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

Jarah Savidge

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: ~~TERESA MAUI~~
Z30 KAUAI PAGE, HAWAII 96708

Re: Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM
Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is

~~TERESA MAUI~~ of ~~HAWAII~~
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I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

From: AKIYO MURATA
Wailuku HI

Re: Hearing on SB 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM
Testimony in Support,

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is

AKIYO MURATA, of Wailuku HI;
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I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225.

Sincerely,



RE: OPPOSITION TO BILL SB3225

Testimony submitted in opposition to bill SB3225 by Jerry Isham

Hearing 2/11/08 @ 2:30

Room 414

Before the Committee on Water and Land

LATE TESTIMONY

Aloha,

My name is Jerry Isham, owner of Fishy Business. I have been a tropical fish collector on Oahu for 19 years. I am strongly opposed to bill SB 3225. The passing of this bill would bring the Hawaiian tropical fish industry to its knees. Such a drastic measure is unreasonable, unfeasible and unfounded.

1) The “no take” provisions of this bill are unfounded and debilitating to fish collection.

The “no take” species *cleverly* selected for this bill are the fish that are abundant and highly exported. For example the *potter’s angel*(centopyge potteri) is the 2nd most exported Hawaiian fish, which is the most abundant angelfish found on the Hawaiian reefs.

2) The “bag limit” is crippling to Hawaii’s ability to compete in the worldwide market in this industry.

Even at three times the bag limit imposed by this bill, one would not be able to meet the business expenses incurred and profit enough to make a living. For example, a Big Island fish collector may catch 600 yellow tangs during the week at this time. If the suggested bag limit of 5 yellow tangs per day is imposed, this diver’s gross income would be drastically reduced from approximately \$1800 to \$75 in local wholesale for the week. Assuming there may be some market adjustment in price considering the demand, the inflation would never approach a reasonable profit margin. I am a diver on Oahu, and the fish selected for both “no take” and 20-fish “bag limit” would be just as devastating to my profit margin. My measly 20 less desired species of fish per day would push me out of competition with the Philippine, Indonesian, and Red Sea ornamental fish wholesalers.

3) The Hawaiian tropical fish industry is an important part of our economy.

A huge revenue would be lost to the state should this bill be passed. It would be irresponsible to make such a damaging blow to the local economy. With today’s cost of living, this would undoubtedly contribute to our already problematic homelessness and unemployment rate. It makes no sense to pass such a financially destructive bill while the Federal government is trying to stimulate the economy.

In closing, I urge you to consider that this bill is not in the best interest of our economy, local businessmen and local communities. I strongly urge you not to pass the bill as a quick means to manage ornamental fish. In the future, I could see better solutions being created when ideas are contributed by all parties involved and affected. Ultimately, this bill does not offer feasible or reasonable means to manage our reefs.

Thank you for your time.

testimony

From: Donna Werner [djwerner@ix.netcom.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 9:07 AM
To: testimony
Subject: (no subject)

LATE TESTIMONY

SB 3225 testimony, Senate Water & Land Committee

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

inset your name & location here

Monday February 11, 2008 2:30 PM in conference room 414.

Support of SB 3225, Relating to Fishing

I respectively request the committees support SB 3225.

February 10, 2008

Senator Clayton Hee, Chairman
Committee on Water and Land

LATE TESTIMONY

Re: SB3225 Relating to Fishing. Ornamental fish; bag limit; prohibition; yellow tang; stack assessment

Chairman Hee and members of the WTL committee. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill. My name is Frank Farm Jr. Relative to SB3225, my fishing experience includes previously collecting ornamentals mostly to maintain and stock a salt water aquarium at home. Although I am currently inactive, I also commercially trapped and netted fish for quite a few years.

SB3225 as worded indicates no person shall catch, net or trap certain ornamental fish. Although the intent may be to have this legislation applied to aquarium fish collectors who are targeting ornamentals, it may be interpreted to include other types of fishers, i.e. fish trappers or netters, etc. that are primarily harvesting other fish species for consumption as food rather than to display. Some of the ornamental fish listed may be unintentionally caught in the mix when trapping or a lesser quantity when netting. These ornamentals would normally be released. However, and perhaps infrequently, some ornamentals may be mixed with the overall catch, unnoticed and deposited from the trap to the boats chilled compartment. Sometimes eels are caught in the mix and may be released or kept by trappers. These are usually large eels and not those that are the target of aquarium collectors. What action will enforcement officers take?

Paragraph (d) indicates the DLNR adopt rules via chapter 91 for purposes of this section, including adding other types of ornamental fish. Does this mean fish identified in this bill is controlled by legislation and the proposed rule action by DLNR is to add more? Can a "rule" by Chapter 91 overturn what is cited by legislation in the bill or does any desired changes to limits/restrictions in the bill have to go back for legislative action?

Request that this bill be redrafted and have any bag limits or ornamental fish restrictions go through Chapter 91. Appropriate consideration should give wider consideration to other fishing methods or gear types that will be in conflict with the intent of the proposed bill.. Chapter 91's process will allow an opportunity for all interested stakeholders to provide input and ,if needed should develop a more effective management product.

Sincerely,

Frank P. Farm Jr.

LATE TESTIMONY

Legislative Staff.

Request forward my attached testimony re: SB3225 to the Senate Committee on Water and Land (WTL).

The committee(on WTL has scheduled a public hearing on 02-11-08 at 2:30 pm in conference room 414

Thank you

William J. Aila Jr.
86-630 Lualualei Homestead Road
Wai'anae, Hawai'i 96792
PH# 330-0376

February 10, 2008

Honorable Sen. Clayton Hee
Chair, Committee on Water and Land

Re: Opposition to SB 3225

Aloha Chair and members of the committee!

I am an employee of the DLNR, however my testimony presented is that of an individual who has participated in the fishery in the past and presently possesses a commercial fishing license and an aquarium fish license.

I oppose SB 3225 because the Aquarium fishery in Hawaii is fished at a sustainable rate.

If there are aquarium fishermen in Kaneohe, and on Maui and Hawaii Island that are causing problems, then deal with them through enforcement. If DLNR has data gaps and underestimates the number of fish shipped out of Hawaii then bust the dealers on the basis of under reporting on their dealer reports or bills of ladings, DLNR requires or should require a paper trail.

The limits as proposed in this bill would make it almost impossible for aquarium fishermen to continue in this profession, and it is a profession that takes skill to be successful. These fishermen are not the poachers described in others testimony. In order to be a poacher one must violate a law, currently the fishermen that I know are not violating any laws.

The goal of this bill appears to prohibiting aquarium fish collecting on a commercial level. If this is accomplished an unintended consequence will almost certainly be an increase effort directed at reef fish that is sold for consumption at the markets. I don't think that the proponents of this bill are considering this probable impact.

WILLIAM J. AILA JR.
STATE TESTIMONY

Page two
Testimony SB 3225

An alternative action would be for DLNR to implement a cap on the number of Aquarium collectors and institute a limited entry fishery. This would result in limited core of professional fishermen with less of an impact to the resource. It is the new entrants to the fishery that have the highest impact on the resource as they “learn the ropes”.

Should DLNR manage this fishery correctly and enforce the existing rules and regulations, institute a limited entry mechanism, and collect real time data, there is no reason for this fishery not to continue.

Please hold SB 3225, Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

William J. Aila Jr.

testimony

From: Rachel [chell30_99@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 8:32 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Committee on Water and Land, Monday February 11, 2008, 2:30 pm

LATE TESTIMONY

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land
Rachel Bianco

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, 2:30 PM

Support of S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits

Aloha,

My name is Rachel Bianco and I strongly support S.B. No. 3225, Relating to Fishing - Ornamental Fish Bag Limits) which would put no take and bag limits on ornamental fish caught by commercial aquarium collectors. Presently there are no limits on how many aquarium fish can be collected from Hawaii's reefs. This unlimited take on aquarium fish has resulted in overharvesting of targeted species with the following negative impacts:

- Empty reefs and altered habitats where few fish are found
- Algae covered reefs because 81% of the catch are algae eaters
- Interrupted food chains that support Hawaii's food fish

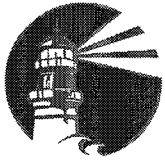
In addition, unlimited take threatens Hawaii's reef related tourism industry which contributes significantly to our economy and depends on a healthy, abundant and diverse reef system.

Bag limits are a proven method for managing this resource. Florida, which also has a commercial aquarium fish trade, has had bag (and size) limits in place for almost 20 years. The bag limits in this bill are needed to stop the decline and assist in the recovery of one of Hawaii's most precious resources.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3225. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Rachel Bianco

Never miss a thing. [Make Yahoo your homepage.](#)



Ocean Tourism Coalition

The Voice for Hawaii's Ocean Tourism Industry
820 Mililani Street, #810
(808) 205-1745 Phone (808) 533-2739 Fax
office@oceantourism.org

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

DATE: Monday, February 11, 2008

TIME: 2:30 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 414

LATE FEBRUARY 2008

Speaking in Strong Support of SB 3225

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair; Senator Russell S. Kokubun. Vice Chair and Members of the WTL Committee:

My Name is James E. Coon, President of the Ocean Tourism Coalition (OTC) Hawaii's State wide organization representing the Ocean Tourism Industry for the past 25 years. We represent the 300 small commercial passenger vessels operation out of State Harbor and Launch Ramp facilities. We speak in **Strong Support of SB 3225.**

We agree with the intent of this bill and wish to support its passage. We are an industry that is non consumptive by design and are stewards of our environment. When a fish is taken in the aquarium trade it is gone forever. When it is left it can be enjoyed by people for its entire life. This not only brings great enjoyment to the viewer but provides a livelihood for the provider. We feel this bill is very appropriate and long overdue.

Please pass SB 3225

Sincerely,

James E. Coon, President
OTC

O P P O S E D

LATE TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**FEB. 11, 2008****2:30 P.M.**

February 8, 2008

Dear Senator Hee,

My name is Wayne Sugiyama, and I have a small export business of marine tropical fish. I am extremely opposed to SB3225. I will suffer financial hardship, and be forced into bankruptcy due to this illogical bill.

I was shocked when I saw SB3225, as it represented an immediate shutdown of the aquarium industry. I am a local boy, born and raised in Honolulu. I'm a Public school graduate, some college and trying to survive in Hawaii. Many of us in this industry are locals, from teenagers to grandmothers - either employed or connected to some aspect in the business. My best estimate is that there are about 190 - 200 people in this industry that would be directly affected by this bill - they will become unemployed. For those of us who have warehouse facilities, it means immediate bankruptcy. It is not financially possible for an exporter to survive, based on the limit of 20 animals per day per collector as stated in SB3225. I think statewide there may only be about 50 active collectors, most of them in Kona, one on Maui and the rest on Oahu.

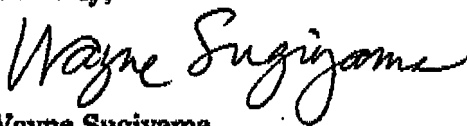
I believe that SB3225 represents a user conflict rather than a problem of over fishing. There is no logic to this bill. DLNR records - that divers and exporters must report monthly, show very little change in fish populations in Hawaii. There are three special interest groups that would like to see this industry closed - Lost Fish Coalition in Kona, now - Snorkel Bob, and I do not know who the third group is, but every year we have fought to stay in business. SB3225 is a bill that is a war of attrition. It is to wear us down physically, mentally and financially so that we give up and go away.

Like you, we are local people, and we don't want to move away from Hawaii. This is our home. Are special interest groups rich mainlanders coming to Hawaii and telling local people how to live and what to do?

My suggestion is to shelve SB3225, and give us - the exporters and divers a year to be proactive in this issue by trying to determine what would be a fair quota on fish collecting. This way we can still be in business, divers can collect in areas away from the snorkeling tours, and hopefully there will be no user-conflict with anti-fishing groups.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,



Wayne Sugiyama
Wayne's Ocean World

GLENN T. FUKUDA LIC # 1738

LATE TESTIMONY
2/10/08

CLAYTON HEE / COMMITTEE MEM. FAX 808-586-7334

I've been collecting hawaiian marine fish since the late 70's in which became a full-time job. I have put many years in developing this career which could now be in jeopardy. If taken away at my juncture in life would be terrible. I oppose any restriction put on Oahu tropical fish collecting.

Ubiquitous deduction of the marine ecosystem is not reasonable because of the vast amount of factors. In my opinion, most species populations are cyclic and beyond our comprehension. Most collectors conserve and leave adults species. Nature adapts if need be, and it also destroys as with major storms Iwa and Iniki.

Glenn Fukuda

testimony

From: Amala Codling [naturalfamilyadvocate@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 11:07 PM
To: testimony
Cc: marie@zeroimpactproductions.com
Subject: Please SUPPORT Senate Bill 3225 preserve the balance of the ocean life

LATE TESTIMONY

Amala Codling
HCR 3, Box 13100
Keaau, Hawaii 96749
808-982-3646

Dear Senate House,

It is with great hope for the future for my own children and all of the children that I pledge my SUPPORT for Senate Bill 3225 to establish bag limits on the aquarium trade. I sincerely hope that you understand the importance of this bill and the impact that your decision could make for our and the worlds oceans.

I have been snorkling and living in Hawaii for the past 8 years and it is shocking how much the fish have diminished in this short time. I am honestly quite concerned that my own children may not every get to see wild fish swimming around the reefs the way we have all been so blessed to enjoy during our lives and up until the very recent past. This is an urgent issue that must be dealt with now while there is still time to turn the tides and save the delicate balance of the ocean life.

I write to you for all of the 25 children in my class that would personally be writing you letters if I had received this information sooner. Please consider all of the children and help protect our oceans for future generations.

Mahalo for your support and service to our state & communities;

Sincerely,

Amala Codling
MS Education
Keaau, Big Island, Hawaii
Please support Senate Bill 3225! I

Never miss a thing. [Make Yahoo your homepage.](#)

testimony

From: Tyron Terazono [terazonot002@hawaii.rr.com]

Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 6:27 PM

To: testimony

Cc: Hawaii Tropical Fish Company

LATE TESTIMONY

**To committee on Water and Land,
Regarding SB3225 to be heard Mon. Feb.11, 2008 @
2:30PM**

I want to appose SB3225. The tropical fish industry is sustainable industry. Please refure to Doc. Bill Walsh w/ DAR five year study.

Here in West Hawaii the tropical fish industry already have good regulations in place. Other regulation are still being worked on by our West Hawaii Fishing console.

This bill will shut do an entire industry and put a lot fo people out of busness.

Thank you

Tyron Terazono