

**testimony**

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**From:** Simone Melo [simonemelo.brazil@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2008 2:15 PM

**To:** testimony

**Subject:** S.R. No. 11 and SCR No. 17

**LATE**

**Simone Melo**

**Volunteer with Reef Check Hawai'i on Oahu**

**2016 Clement st. B3**

**Honolulu, HI 96822**

**Support for S.R. No. 11 and SCR No. 17, Urging the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop and adopt administrative rules regarding the creation and enforcement of bag limits for ornamental reef fish.**

I am a volunteer with Reef Check Hawai'i, a non-profit community-based coral reef conservation and education program that conducts surveys of coral reefs in our local waters. I support Senate Resolution 11 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 17.

I believe that effective management of the marine aquarium trade is necessary, including the establishment of bag limits as required to reestablish the fish populations that are an essential component of a healthy reef ecosystem. Hawai'i's coral reefs are important resources that protect our shores from erosion, contribute millions of dollars to our economy, provide food and recreation for the people who live here, and serve as the foundation for our unique island lifestyle. We must protect these important natural resources.

Earlier this year, the legislature recognized that 2008 has been designated at the International Year of the Reef. Resolutions S.R. No. 11 and SCR No. 17 translate this recognition into action by helping our islands to sustainably manage important natural resources that are being overexploited to the detriment of the reef. I urge the committee to pass S.R. No. 11 and SCR No. 17.

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Vice Chair  
Committee on Water and Land  
Friday, March 28, 2008

**LATE TESTIMONY**

In opposition to SR 11 and SCR 17

As an aquarium fish collector on Oahu, I depend upon Hawaii's fish to earn a living. My fellow fishermen and I have no desire to see our resources depleted, and would welcome meaningful regulations to ensure that our fisheries are managed in a sustainable and responsible manner. Appropriate and reasonable regulations will not only help to sustain our business for the future, but ensure that others are able to enjoy our reef fish through ocean recreation and other activities.

However, SR 11 and SCR 17 do not propose appropriate measures for proper management of the aquarium fishery. The key problem with these resolutions is the adoption of bag limits, which have been shown to be an ineffective and inappropriate method of managing commercial fisheries. I would like to remind the committee that, after the hearing for SB 3225 earlier this year, the Water and Land Committee acted on the advice of the DLNR and voted unanimously to remove all mention of bag limits from the bill. A better solution can be found in HCR 347, which proposes a much better approach to creating regulations and has been endorsed by fishermen and environmental groups alike.

I urge the committee to defer SR 11 and SCR 17, and instead endorse HCR 347 when it is passed to the senate. If the committee feels that these resolutions should be passed, please remove the provisions for bag limits.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,



Matthew Ross  
Commercial Aquarium Permit #17653

# LATE TESTIMONY

**David A. Krupp, Ph.D.**  
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**Support for S.R. No. 11 and SCR No. 17, Urging the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop and adopt administrative rules regarding the creation and enforcement of bag limits for ornamental reef fish.**

I am a coral reef biologist teaching marine and biological sciences and coordinating the Pacific Center for Environmental Studies (PaCES) and Marine Option Program at Windward Community College. I also hold an Affiliate Faculty position at the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology where I study various aspects of the biology and ecology of coral reefs. As President of Reef Check Hawai'i, a non-profit coral reef monitoring organization, I am heavily engaged in promoting the conservation of Hawai'i's coral reefs. Finally, as Chair of the Kāne'ohe Bay Regional Council, I frequently hear from the community about the importance of protecting our reefs so that future generations of Hawai'i's people will have opportunities for partaking of the bounty these reefs have to offer.

My experiences tell me that Hawai'i's reefs are in trouble. From land-based pollution, to global environmental change, to invasive species, to destructive resource extraction practices (e.g., overfishing), Hawai'i's coral reefs need the additional help that legislative action can provide.

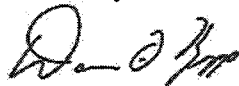
Therefore, I support S.R. No. 11 and SCR No. 17, which urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop and adopt administrative rules regarding the collection of ornamental reef fish for aquarium trade from the waters of Hawai'i, including creation and enforcement of bag limits.

I believe that effective management of the marine aquarium trade is necessary, including the establishment of bag limits as required to reestablish the fish populations that are an essential component of a healthy reef ecosystem. Hawai'i's coral reefs are important resources that protect our shores from erosion, contribute millions of dollars to our economy, provide food and recreation for the people who live here, and serve as the foundation for our unique island lifestyle. We must protect these important natural resources.

Earlier this year, the legislature recognized that 2008 has been designated as the International Year of the Reef. Resolutions S.R. No. 11 and SCR No. 17 translate this recognition into action by helping our islands to sustainably manage important natural resources that are being overexploited to the detriment of the reef. I urge the committee to pass S.R. No. 11 and SCR No. 17.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



David A. Krupp