

TESTIMONY
SCR 17 & SR 11

March 25, 2008

Testimony in Support of the Intent of SCR17/SR11 With Cautions

Senate Committee on Water and Land
Room 414 on Friday, 28 March 2008

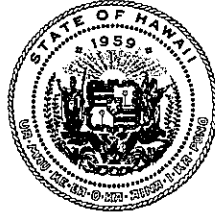
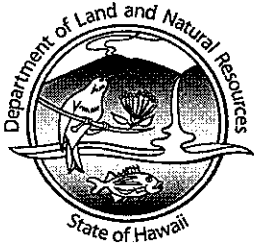
Chair Hee and Respected Members of the Committee;

My name is Reg White. I live work and play in our local marine environment. I truly support the intent of this resolution to explore the establishment of bag limits for ornamental reef fish as a way to preserve and perpetuate the resource, but I have serious concerns that this is an unfunded mandate for DLNR as they are already taxed to the hilt in so far as enforcement resources are concerned. We have posted no fishing areas now that are not enforced just because of a lack of sufficient manpower to do the job. Please work with the department to see what is needed to accomplish this goal and then support them in going forward.

Sincerely,

Reg White
1540 S. King St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826-1919
(808) 222-9794
RawcoHI@cs.com

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
FIRST DEPUTY
KEN C. KAWAHARA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER
AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAIHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**TESTIMONY OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**On Senate Concurrent Resolution 17/Senate Resolution 11– 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.**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WATER AND LAND**

March 28, 2008

Senate Concurrent Resolution 17/Senate Resolution 11 urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to develop and adopt administrative rules for the creation and enforcement of bag limits for ornamental reef fish. The Department provides qualified support for the intent of these resolutions and offers the following comments.

The current legislative session has witnessed wide ranging and constructive dialogue regarding the ornamental fish industry, and various means by which it might be further regulated. Based on this, the Department expects to initiate discussions with the public in regard to the issue, and to investigate options such as area-based management, limited entry for commercial fishers, and full protection for species considered to be at risk or of particular concern. These discussions are also expected to include the subject of catch restrictions or bag limits. The Department perceives that there is a clear need to move forward with some additional regulation of this fishery, but notes that the wide range of opinions regarding the proper course of action also necessitates considerable consultation with all stakeholders prior to such rulemaking, in order to ensure fairness and transparency.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

testimony

From: MMMMahalo2000@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2008 8:17 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony for WTL in support SCR 17/ SR 11



SR 11 and SCR 17 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
Friday March 28, 2008 2:45 PM in conference room 414.

Support of SR 11 and SCR 17 Relating to Fishing

The Kihei Community Association (KCA) on Maui strongly supports SR 11 and SCR 17. The coral reefs in Hawaii are dying & the fish that support the ecosystem are quickly disappearing. Without immediate action, we will reach a point from which this vital component of Hawaii may be lost forever. A root cause of this problem is originated 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.

The KCA respectfully urges your committee to pass both resolutions SR 11 and SCR 17. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Moran
VP, Kihei Community Association

Create a Home Theater Like the Pros. [Watch the video on AOL Home.](#)

testimony

From: rhymingdesigner@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2008 10:46 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SR 11 & SCR 17

Committee: Senate Water & Land Committee

Committee-Chair: Senator Hee

Hearing-Date: Friday, March 28, at 2:45pm

My_Testimony_is: Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee, I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on a ornamental reef fish.

It is no more acceptable to steal reef fish than it is to fly down to South America to steal parrots from their native habitat. Or to drive up to Haleakala and start rounding up nene.

Please urge DLNR/DAR to begin responsible protection of these species and habitats.

Thank you.

Name: David Amack

Name-of-my-island: Maui

Phone: 250-9980

SendTestimony: Send Testimony

email: rhymingdesigner@yahoo.com

This e-mail was generated from a form submission on your website:
savehawaiianreefs.org

testimony

From: marcw@snorkelbob.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2008 5:01 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SR 11 & SCR 17

Committee: Senate Water & Land Committee

Committee-Chair: Senator Hee

Hearing-Date: Friday, March 28, at 2:45pm

My_Testimony_is: Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee, I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on â€œornamentalâ€œ reef fish.

Aquarium collectors are now unlimited on Hawaii reefs. Neither the number of collectors nor the number of fish they can take is regulated or limited in Hawaii. Reefs around the world are in peril. No reef extraction should continue without limits and enforcement.

Please urge DLNR/DAR to begin responsible protection of these species and habitats.

Thank you. Marc Walske

Name: Marc Walske

Name-of-my-island: Maui

Phone: 808-669-4017

SendTestimony: Send Testimony

email: marcw@snorkelbob.com

This e-mail was generated from a form submission on your website:
savehawaiianreefs.org

testimony

From: grd001@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2008 4:01 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SR 11 & SCR 17

Committee: Senate Water & Land Committee

Committee-Chair: Senator Hee

Hearing-Date: Friday, March 28, at 2:45pm

My_Testimony_is: Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee, I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on â€œornamentalâ€œ reef fish.

Aquarium collectors are now unlimited on Hawaii reefs. Neither the number of collectors nor the number of fish they can take is regulated or limited in Hawaii. Reefs around the world are in peril. No reef extraction should continue without limits and enforcement.

Please urge DLNR/DAR to begin responsible protection of these species and habitats.

Thank you.

Name: David Jerome

Name-of-my-island: Maui

Phone: 808-283-3822

SendTestimony: Send Testimony

email: grd001@hawaii.rr.com

This e-mail was generated from a form submission on your website:
savehawaiianreefs.org

testimony

From: patti@halealii.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2008 4:31 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SR 11 & SCR 17

Committee: Senate Water & Land Committee

Committee-Chair: Senator Hee

Hearing-Date: Friday, March 28, at 2:45pm

My Testimony is: Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee, I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on â€œornamentalâ€œ reef fish.

Aquarium collectors are now unlimited on Hawaii reefs. Neither the number of collectors nor the number of fish they can take is regulated or limited in Hawaii. Reefs around the world are in peril. No reef extraction should continue without limits and enforcement.

Please urge DLNR/DAR to begin responsible protection of these species and habitats.

Thank you.

Name: Patti Hawkins

Name-of-my-island: Maui

Phone: 808-870-8707

SendTestimony: Send Testimony

email: patti@halealii.com

This e-mail was generated from a form submission on your website:
savehawaiianreefs.org

testimony

From: annf@maui.net
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2008 4:46 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SR 11 & SCR 17

Committee: Senate Water & Land Committee

Committee-Chair: Senator Hee

Hearing-Date: Friday, March 28, at 2:45pm

My_Testimony_is: Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee, I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on â€œornamentalâ€œ reef fish.

Aquarium collectors are now unlimited on Hawaii reefs. Neither the number of collectors nor the number of fish they can take is regulated or limited in Hawaii. Reefs around the world are in peril. No reef extraction should continue without limits and enforcement.

Please urge DLNR/DAR to begin responsible protection of these species and habitats.

Thank you.

Name: Ann Fielding

Name-of-my-island: Maui

Phone: 572-8437

SendTestimony: Send Testimony

email: annf@maui.net

This e-mail was generated from a form submission on your website:
savehawaiianreefs.org

testimony

From: ririelsa@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2008 3:01 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SR 11 & SCR 17

Committee: Senate Water & Land Committee

Committee-Chair: Senator Hee

Hearing-Date: Friday, March 28, at 2:45pm

My_Testimony_is: Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee, I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on â€œornamentalâ€œ reef fish.

Aquarium collectors are now unlimited on Hawaii reefs. Neither the number of collectors nor the number of fish they can take is regulated or limited in Hawaii. Reefs around the world are in peril. No reef extraction should continue without limits and enforcement.

Please urge DLNR/DAR to begin responsible protection of these species and habitats.

Thank you.

Name: Diane Allen

Name-of-my-island:

Phone: 786.276.8493

SendTestimony: Send Testimony

email: ririelsa@yahoo.com

This e-mail was generated from a form submission on your website:
savehawaiianreefs.org

testimony

From: Rene Umberger [octopus@maui.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2008 3:23 PM
To: testimony
Subject: WTL Committee, March 28, 2008, 2:45; SR 11 & SCR 17 in Support

Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee,

I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on "ornamental" reef fish.

Current aquarium trade practices, as allowed and promoted by the DLNR/DAR are detrimental to Hawaii's reefs, fish and people.

The unlimited catch, collection permits and locations that the DLNR has been allowing for decades has been proven by their own studies to have significant negative impacts.

Please urge DLNR/DAR to begin responsible protection of these species and habitats, and support the restoration of thriving, healthy and beautiful Hawaiian reef systems.

Thank you.

Rene Umberger
Kihei, 96753

testimony

From: duberstem001@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2008 4:01 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SR 11 & SCR 17

Committee: Senate Water & Land Committee

Committee-Chair: Senator Hee

Hearing-Date: Friday, March 28, at 2:45pm

My_Testimony_is: Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee, I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on â€œornamentalâ€œ reef fish.

Aquarium collectors are now unlimited on Hawaii reefs. Neither the number of collectors nor the number of fish they can take is regulated or limited in Hawaii. Reefs around the world are in peril. No reef extraction should continue without limits and enforcement.

Please urge DLNR/DAR to begin responsible protection of these species and habitats.

Thank you.

Name: Jeanne Duberstein

Name-of-my-island:

Phone: 808-891-0597

SendTestimony: Send Testimony

email: duberstem001@hawaii.rr.com

This e-mail was generated from a form submission on your website:
savehawaiianreefs.org

testimony

From: tako-belle@hotmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2008 4:01 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SR 11 & SCR 17

Committee: Senate Water & Land Committee

Committee-Chair: Senator Hee

Hearing-Date: Friday, March 28, at 2:45pm

My Testimony is: Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee, I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on â€œornamentalâ€œ reef fish.

Aquarium collectors are now unlimited on Hawaii reefs. Neither the number of collectors nor the number of fish they can take is regulated or limited in Hawaii. Reefs around the world are in peril. No reef extraction should continue without limits and enforcement.

Please urge DLNR/DAR to begin responsible protection of these species and habitats.

Thank you.

Name: Linda Jerome

Name-of-my-island: Maui

Phone: 808-280-8625

SendTestimony: Send Testimony

email: tako-belle@hotmail.com

This e-mail was generated from a form submission on your website:
savehawaiianreefs.org



KO`OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

March 27, 2008

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
And Members
Senate Committee on Water & Land
Hawai'i State Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

SUBJECT: SCR 17 and SR 11, 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

On behalf of the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, we offer our strong support for these two resolutions, Senate Resolution 11 and Concurrent Resolution 17, calling upon the DLNR to develop and adopt rules establishing bag limits and enforcement to protect ornamental reef fish.

The Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club represents nine ahupua`a around Kane`ohe Bay. Our members monitor the bay closely, and we are deeply concerned about the health and sustainability of this important community resource. We have become increasingly alarmed at the decreasing numbers of native species, particularly native fish, over the past few years. Some that used to be plentiful in the past are now seen more infrequently and in smaller numbers.

We commend and applaud the author of these resolutions and all of you who care about our `aina and our ocean resources. As stewards of these areas, we are all responsible for protecting and preserving those things which are endangered or threatened, and which are valuable to all of us.

Testimony on SR11 and SCR 17 – Hearing Mar 28 2008

Page 2

Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

These resolutions will provide DLNR with the legislative encouragement needed to do what is pono for the protection of our native species in Kane`ohe Bay.

Please support these resolutions and pass them out of committee.

Mahalo nui loa.

Me kealoha pumehana,

/s/ MAHEALANI CYPHER

President

**P. O. Box 664
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Ph. (808) 235-8111
koolaupokohcc.org**

testimony

From: teridiver@earthlink.net
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2008 2:46 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SR 11 & SCR 17

Committee: Senate Water & Land Committee

Committee-Chair: Senator Hee

Hearing-Date: Friday, March 28, at 2:45pm

My_Testimony_is: Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee, I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on a "ornamental" reef fish.

Aquarium collectors are now unlimited on Hawaii reefs. Neither the number of collectors nor the number of fish they can take is regulated or limited in Hawaii. Reefs around the world are in peril. No reef extraction should continue without limits and enforcement.

Please urge DLNR/DAR to begin responsible protection of these species and habitats.

Thank you.

Name: Teri Leonard

Name-of-my-island: Maui

Phone: 808-268-2628

SendTestimony: Send Testimony

email: teridiver@earthlink.net

This e-mail was generated from a form submission on your website:
savehawaiianreefs.org

testimony

From: makalea@honualani.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2008 6:16 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SR 11 & SCR 17

Committee: Senate Water & Land Committee
Committee-Chair: Senator Hee
Hearing-Date: Friday, March 28, at 2:45pm
My_Testimony_is: Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee,

I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on a
œornamentalâ€ reef fish.

Aquarium collectors are now unlimited on Hawaii reefs. Neither the number of collectors nor the number of fish they can take is regulated or limited in Hawaii. Reefs around the world are in peril. The health of our reefs depends partly on reef fish who feed on algae. As you know invasive algae is becoming a very serious problem in Hawaii. On the island of Kauai sea turtles now have algae growing on their shells, and are dying of various diseases. We no longer see shore fishermen as there are so few fish to catch. The reef fish populations need to be rebuilt for the health of our reefs and for our fishermen to be able to catch fish again. No reef extraction should continue without limits and enforcement.

I am dismayed by the lack of action by DLNR/DAR in managing reef fish stocks and healthy reefs. Please urge DLNR/DAR to begin responsible protection of these species and habitats.

Thank you.

M. Victor Cloutier
Kauai
Name: M. Victor Cloutier
Name-of-my-island: Kauai
Phone: 808-822-4982
SendTestimony: Send Testimony
email: makalea@honualani.com

This e-mail was generated from a form submission on your website:
savehawaiianreefs.org



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**



**HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**

March 27, 2008

To: Senate Water & Land Committee
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Friday, March 28, 2008, 2:45pm

From: The Humane Society of the United States / Humane Society International
2100 L Street NW
Washington, DC 20037

**SR 11 & SCR 17: In Support -Urging the department of land and natural resources to
adopt administrative rules regarding bag limits for ornamental reef fish.**

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS/HSI), this nation's largest animal protection organization, with more than 10.8 million members and constituents, including 46,243 in Hawaii, and The HSUS/HSI's international arm, Humane Society International (HSI), support SR 11 and SCR 17.

The global trade in live wild animals as pets—including live fish for display in home aquaria— involves hundreds of millions of animals every year. The trade threatens the survival of wild populations and causes unacceptable treatment of the animals. This thriving industry feeds on consumer demand for rare and beautiful animals. From monkeys, tigers, and small carnivores, to exotic birds such as parrots, to reptiles and amphibians, to fish, few species are safe from this demand.

The global trade in marine fish involves between 20 and 24 million individual animals, 99 percent of whom are wild-caught (Wabnitz et al. 2003). The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force has recognized that U.S. demand for aquarium species can threaten the sustainability of coral reef species and ecosystems (U.S. Coral Reef Task Force 2000). In this, the International Year of the Coral Reef, established by the International Coral Reef Initiative, it is fitting that Hawaii is re-examining its control over this destructive trade.

The HSUS/HSI opposes the keeping of wild animals as pets. By “wild” we mean any species that has not been domesticated by selective breeding for certain traits that make them appropriate companion animals, whether they are bred in captivity or taken directly from the wild.

Keeping wild animals as pets is inhumane. For wild-caught animals, one concern is that the means by which they are captured and transported to consumers cause unacceptable levels of injury and mortality. Those animals who survive the journey from the wild to the living room may fare no better. Wild animals are difficult to care for in a home environment. In many cases, the husbandry needs are unknown or impossible to meet. Many wild animals are sold as newborns or juveniles; as they grow to maturity they become difficult and dangerous to keep. As a result, wild animals suffer and die from malnourishment, neglect, and abuse in captivity.

High levels of mortality of marine fish in the aquaria trade, associated with inadequate handling and transport, have been widely recognized as a problem (Wabnitz et al 2003). One study demonstrated mortality rates of fish from Sri Lanka to the United Kingdom of 15 percent during and immediately after collection, 10 percent during transit, and 5 percent in holding facilities (Wood 1985). This means that 30 percent of the fish collected died before reaching the market. Once in a home aquarium, mortality rates continue to climb due to inadequate husbandry. The industry treats fish like cut flowers to be displayed until they die (often of starvation), then discarded and replaced.

The wild-caught fish trade is cruel, wasteful, and destructive to Hawaii's biological diversity. The husbandry needs of some of the most popular fish exported from Hawaii—such as butterflyfish (*Chaetodon* spp.) who must eat coral or the cleaner wrasses (*Labroides* spp.) who must eat ectoparasites and other materials such as mucous from the bodies of other fish—simply cannot be met in captivity. Experts on captive husbandry of marine fish have created lists of commonly traded species categorized by their suitability for maintenance in aquaria, such as one that created five categories ranging from species that are “almost impossible to keep and should be left on the reef” to those that are “very hardy with almost all individuals readily acclimatizing to aquarium conditions” (Michael 1999 in Wabnitz et al. 2003). Among the species that are most commonly exported from Hawaii, the Hawaiian cleaner wrasse (*Labroides phthiophagus*) and the ornate butterflyfish (*Chaetodon ornatissimus*) are considered to be “almost impossible to keep and should be left on the reef” due to their restricted diets. The fourspot butterflyfish (*Chaetodon quadrimaculatus*) and the multiband butterflyfish (*Chaetodon multicinctus*) are also among the top ten species collected in Hawaii, and as coral feeding specialists are unlikely to be suitable for long-term maintenance in home aquaria. Indeed, another author's list of species for “the beginner [hobbyist] to avoid” includes many taxa that are among the most commonly exported species from Hawaii: all butterflyfishes (Family Chaetodontidae), Achilles tang (*Acanthurus achilles*), and Moorish idol (*Zanclus cornutus*) (Paletta 2001). Collection and export of specimens that have virtually no chance of survival in the home aquaria should cease.

Collection of animals from the wild for the pet trade is harmful to wild populations. There are many examples of wild populations that have been decimated by over-collection to supply the exotic pet trade including the slow lorises of Southeast Asia (*Nycticebus* spp.), the hyacinth macaw of South America (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*) of Central and South America, and the radiated tortoise of Madagascar (*Geochelone radiata*). Among marine fish species that are threatened by collection for the aquaria trade are the Banggai cardinalfish of Indonesia (*Pterapogon kauderni*), the scribbled angelfish of Australia and Papua New Guinea (*Chaetodontoplus duboulayi*), and the mandarinfish of The Phillipines (*Synchiropus splendidus*). In Hawaii, researchers have raised concerns about the collection of uncommon or rare species for the trade including Tinker's butterflyfish (*Chaetodon tinkeri*), the Hawaiian turkeyfish (*Pterois sphex*) and the flame angelfish (*Centropyge loricula*).

There are many problems with the current management of collection of fish for export from Hawaii. The number of fish exported from Hawaii annually is unknown. In 1995 the official export figure was 422,823 according to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). However, this figure was based on reports filed by only 40 percent of people permitted or licensed to export fish, and therefore is believed to significantly underestimate the actual number of fish exported (Boggiatto et al. 2004). The fact that 60 percent of permit and license holders

disregard the requirement to provide monthly catch reports to DLNR apparently without consequence is of concern. The lack of such basic information as the number of fish exported on a species-specific basis does not allow effective management.

Although allowed by law, Hawaii's DLNR has not adopted regulations that limit the number of fish collected by each permit holder (a bag limit), size limits, open and closed seasons, or other common management tools adopted by other jurisdictions that export marine fish for the aquaria trade, such as Florida. The DLNR requires collectors to have permits, and commercial collectors to have licenses, but the nearly 200 permit holders can collect any number of fish of any species. They can also collect fish anywhere with the exception of Marine Life Conservation Districts, and Fish Replenishment Areas established in 2000 on the west coast of Hawaii island. As a result, although the industry is regulated in the sense that permits are issued, except as noted in the previous sentence, there is no management system being applied that would ensure that wild populations are not harmed by levels of collection. This is troubling given the apparent high level of trade.

There is ample scientific and anecdotal evidence that the level of collection of marine fish for the home aquaria trade has had significant detrimental impacts on wild fish populations in Hawaii. Research has established that collection of fish for the aquarium trade is a major source of over-fishing on the island of Hawaii (Tissot 1999; Tissot and Hallacher 2003); in one study, seven of ten fish species targeted by collectors were found to be significantly reduced in abundance (*ibid*). Anecdotally, independent divers and dive tour operators have been reporting declines in fish abundance for at least the past decade. Although every area where collection occurs has not been studied in order to scientifically determine the impact of collection on the abundance of species, this should not be used as an excuse for inaction. When it comes to extractive wildlife use, precaution should be applied in cases of scientific uncertainty in order to protect species from over-exploitation.

In addition to concerns about the sustainability of collection and the survival of collected species, current aquarium collection practices in Hawaii raise significant concerns about the effects of aquarium collection on Hawaii's valuable coral reef ecosystems. Among the top Hawaiian exports are the yellow tang (*Zebrasoma flavescens*), kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*), chevron tang (*Ctenochaetus hawaiiensis*), Achilles tang (*Acanthurus achilles*), and clown tang (*Naso lituratus*), all of which are important herbivorous species that have experienced significant population declines in areas where fish are collected for export. Herbivorous fish play a crucial role in reef ecosystems by preventing algae to outcompete living corals. On other reefs around the world, overfishing of herbivores has resulted in ecosystem shifts in which corals and other important reef-dwelling benthic invertebrates become smothered by overabundant fleshy algae.

Destructive collection techniques are also of concern. Collectors in Hawaii have been observed breaking coral to capture fish and even using bleach, both of which are illegal (Tissot and Hallacher 2003).

Given these serious concerns, The HSUS/HSI strongly supports SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge the DLNR to establish and enforce bag limits on the collection of ornamental reef fish. This is critical first step in addressing the problems associated with the wild-caught fish trade. Thank you for the opportunity to support written testimony in support of SR 11 and SCR 17.

References Cited:

- Boggiatto, K, Rieser, A., Moffie, K. and L. Paul. 2004. *The Marine Aquarium Trade in the Western Hemisphere and the Indo-Pacific Region: Impacts on Coral Reef Ecosystems and a Summary of Governing Legal Instruments and Policy Options*. Hawaii Audubon Society, Honolulu, Hawaii.
- Michael, C. 1999. *Marine Fishes. 500+ Essential-to-Know Aquarium Species*. Microcosm Ltd.
- Paletta, M.S. 2001. *The New Marine Aquarium: Step-by-Step Setup and Stocking Guide*. T.F.H. Publications, Inc., Neptune City, New Jersey.
- Tissot, B., 1999. Adaptive management of aquarium fish collection in Hawaii. *SPC Live Reef Fish Information Bulletin* 6: 16-19.
- Tissot, B.N. and L.E. Hallacher. 2003 Effects of aquarium collectors on coral reef fishes in Kona, Hawaii. *Conservation Biology* 17:1759-1768
- U.S. Coral Reef Task Force 2000. *The National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs*.
- Wabnitz, C., Taylor, M., Green, E. and T. Razak. 2003. *From Ocean to Aquarium: The Global Trade in Marine Ornamental Species*. UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Center.
- Wood, E. 1985. *Exploitation of Coral Reef Fishes for the Aquarium Trade*. Marine Conservation Society, Ross-on-Wye, UK. (cited in Wabnitz 2003)

testimony

From: shreyagetter@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2008 8:01 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SR 11 & SCR 17

Committee: Senate Water & Land Committee

Committee-Chair: Senator Hee

Hearing-Date: Friday, March 28, at 2:45pm

My_Testimony_is: Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee, I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on a ornamental reef fish.

Aquarium collectors are now unlimited on Hawaii reefs. Neither the number of collectors nor the number of fish they can take is regulated or limited in Hawaii. Reefs around the world are in peril. No reef extraction should continue without limits and enforcement.

Please urge DLNR/DAR to begin responsible protection of these species and habitats.

Thank you.

Name: Jo Getter

Name-of-my-island:

Phone: (916) 567-0555

SendTestimony: Send Testimony

email: shreyagetter@comcast.net

This e-mail was generated from a form submission on your website:
savehawaiianreefs.org

testimony

From: monachus@hawaiiantel.net
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2008 1:01 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SR 11 & SCR 17

Committee: Senate Water & Land Committee

Committee-Chair: Senator Hee

Hearing-Date: Friday, March 28, at 2:45pm

My Testimony is: Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee, I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on â€œornamentalâ€œ reef fish.

Aquarium collectors are now unlimited on Hawaii reefs. Neither the number of collectors nor the number of fish they can take is regulated or limited in Hawaii. Reefs around the world are in peril. No reef extraction should continue without limits and enforcement.

Please urge DLNR/DAR to begin responsible protection of these species and habitats.

Do this for your children and all the future generations who will be able to marvel at Hawaii's spactular reefs and their inhabitants.

Mahalo

Thank you.

Name: David H. Leopold

Name-of-my-island: Kauai

Phone: 335-8505

SendTestimony: Send Testimony

email: monachus@hawaiiantel.net

This e-mail was generated from a form submission on your website:
savehawaiianreefs.org

testimony

From: zitoon1@cox.net
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2008 3:45 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SR 11 & SCR 17

Committee: Senate Water & Land Committee

Committee-Chair: Senator Hee

Hearing-Date: Friday, March 28, at 2:45pm

My Testimony is: Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee, I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on â€œornamentalâ€ reef fish.

Aquarium collectors are now unlimited on Hawaii reefs. Neither the number of collectors nor the number of fish they can take is regulated or limited in Hawaii. Reefs around the world are in peril. No reef extraction should continue without limits and enforcement.

Please urge DLNR/DAR to begin responsible protection of these species and habitats.

Thank you.

Name: Linda Anderson

Name-of-my-island: Maui

Phone:

SendTestimony: Send Testimony

email: zitoon1@cox.net

This e-mail was generated from a form submission on your website:
savehawaiianreefs.org

testimony

From: scubaphotos@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2008 4:46 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SR 11 & SCR 17

Committee: Senate Water & Land Committee

Committee-Chair: Senator Hee

Hearing-Date: Friday, March 28, at 2:45pm

My Testimony is: Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee, I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on â€œornamentalâ€œ reef fish.

Aquarium collectors are now unlimited on Hawaii reefs. Neither the number of collectors nor the number of fish they can take is regulated or limited in Hawaii. Reefs around the world are in peril. No reef extraction should continue without limits and enforcement.

Please urge DLNR/DAR to begin responsible protection of these species and habitats.

Thank you.

Name: maren r. springer

Name-of-my-island: maui

Phone: 808.573.3210

SendTestimony: Send Testimony

email: scubaphotos@gmail.com

This e-mail was generated from a form submission on your website:
savehawaiianreefs.org

testimony

From: salgard@ix.netcom.com
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2008 6:46 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SR 11 & SCR 17

Committee: Senate Water & Land Committee

Committee-Chair: Senator Hee

Hearing-Date: Friday, March 28, at 2:45pm

My Testimony is: Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee, I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on â€œornamentalâ€œ reef fish.

Aquarium collectors are now unlimited on Hawaii reefs. Neither the number of collectors nor the number of fish they can take is regulated or limited in Hawaii. Reefs around the world are in peril. No reef extraction should continue without limits and enforcement.

Please urge DLNR/DAR to begin responsible protection of these species and habitats.

Thank you.

Name: Sylvia Gardner

Name-of-my-island: Maui lover from Rochester NY

Phone: 585-342-4791

SendTestimony: Send Testimony

email: salgard@ix.netcom.com

This e-mail was generated from a form submission on your website:
savehawaiianreefs.org

testimony

From: jmercer@halealii.com
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2008 8:01 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SR 11 & SCR 17

Committee: Senate Water & Land Committee

Committee-Chair: Senator Hee

Hearing-Date: Friday, March 28, at 2:45pm

My Testimony is: Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee, I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on â€œornamentalâ€ reef fish.

Aquarium collectors are now unlimited on Hawaii reefs. Neither the number of collectors nor the number of fish they can take is regulated or limited in Hawaii. Reefs around the world are in peril. No reef extraction should continue without limits and enforcement.

Please urge DLNR/DAR to begin responsible protection of these species and habitats.

Thank you.

Name: Janet Mercer

Name-of-my-island: Maui

Phone: 808-572-0099

SendTestimony: Send Testimony

email: jmercer@halealii.com

This e-mail was generated from a form submission on your website:
savehawaiianreefs.org

testimony

From: testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2008 3:46 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SR 11 & SCR 17

Committee: Senate Water & Land Committee

Committee-Chair: Senator Hee

Hearing-Date: Friday, March 28, at 2:45pm

My Testimony is: Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee, I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on â€œornamentalâ€œ reef fish.

Aquarium collectors are now unlimited on Hawaii reefs. Neither the number of collectors nor the number of fish they can take is regulated or limited in Hawaii. Reefs around the world are in peril. No reef extraction should continue without limits and enforcement.

Please urge DLNR/DAR to begin responsible protection of these species and habitats.

Thank you.

Name: Robert Wintner, President, Snorkel Bob's Hawaii

Name-of-my-island: Maui

Phone: (808) 879-7449

SendTestimony: Send Testimony

email:

This e-mail was generated from a form submission on your website:
savehawaiianreefs.org

testimony

From: mike@tortuga-web.com
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2008 9:16 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SR 11 & SCR 17

Committee: Senate Water & Land Committee

Committee-Chair: Senator Hee

Hearing-Date: Friday, March 28, at 2:45pm

My_Testimony_is: Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee, I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on â€œornamentalâ€œ reef fish.

Aquarium collectors are now unlimited on Hawaii reefs. Neither the number of collectors nor the number of fish they can take is regulated or limited in Hawaii. Reefs around the world are in peril. No reef extraction should continue without limits and enforcement.

Please urge DLNR/DAR to begin responsible protection of these species and habitats.

Thank you.

Name: Mike Roberts

Name-of-my-island: Maui

Phone: 808 891 0082

SendTestimony: Send Testimony

email: mike@tortuga-web.com

This e-mail was generated from a form submission on your website:
savehawaiianreefs.org

testimony

From: Nina Monasevitch [oceanmana@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2008 9:12 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Support SCR 17 and SR 11

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Senator J. Kalani English, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

PLEASE SUPPORT SCR 17 AND SR11

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.

DATE: Friday, March 28, 2008 TIME: 2:45 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 414 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

MAHALO,
Nina Monasevitch
4457 Laukini Rd. Lihue, HI 96766

testimony

From: vermeij@hawaii.edu
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2008 9:31 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SR 11 & SCR 17

Committee: Senate Water & Land Committee

Committee-Chair: Senator Hee

Hearing-Date: Friday, March 28, at 2:45pm

My Testimony is: Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee, I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on â€œornamentalâ€œ reef fish.

Aquarium collectors are now unlimited on Hawaii reefs. Neither the number of collectors nor the number of fish they can take is regulated or limited in Hawaii. Reefs around the world are in peril. No reef extraction should continue without limits and enforcement.

Please urge DLNR/DAR to begin responsible protection of these species and habitats.

Thank you.

Name: Dr. Mark Vermeij

Name-of-my-island: Maui

Phone: 8082504133

SendTestimony: Send Testimony

email: vermeij@hawaii.edu

This e-mail was generated from a form submission on your website:
savehawaiianreefs.org

testimony

From: peemer@kula.com
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2008 12:16 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SR 11 & SCR 17

Committee: Senate Water & Land Committee

Committee-Chair: Senator Hee

Hearing-Date: Friday, March 28, at 2:45pm

My_Testimony_is: Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee, I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on â€œornamentalâ€œ reef fish.

Aquarium collectors are now unlimited on Hawaii reefs. Neither the number of collectors nor the number of fish they can take is regulated or limited in Hawaii. Reefs around the world are in peril. No reef extraction should continue without limits and enforcement.

Please urge DLNR/DAR to begin responsible protection of these species and habitats.

Thank you.

Name: Pamela Polland

Name-of-my-island: Maui

Phone: 808/878-3220

SendTestimony: Send Testimony

email: peemer@kula.com

This e-mail was generated from a form submission on your website:
savehawaiianreefs.org

testimony

From: barbkran@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2008 12:16 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SR 11 & SCR 17

Committee: Senate Water & Land Committee

Committee-Chair: Senator Hee

Hearing-Date: Friday, March 28, at 2:45pm

My_Testimony_is: Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee, I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on a ornamental reef fish.

Aquarium collectors are now unlimited on Hawaii reefs. Neither the number of collectors nor the number of fish they can take is regulated or limited in Hawaii. Reefs around the world are in peril. No reef extraction should continue without limits and enforcement.

Please urge DLNR/DAR to begin responsible protection of these species and habitats.

Thank you.

Name: Barbara Kranichfeld

Name-of-my-island: MAui

Phone: 305-469-8045

SendTestimony: Send Testimony

email: barbkran@yahoo.com

This e-mail was generated from a form submission on your website:
savehawaiianreefs.org

testimony

From: wtpray@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2008 12:16 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SR 11 & SCR 17

Committee: Senate Water & Land Committee

Committee-Chair: Senator Hee

Hearing-Date: Friday, March 28, at 2:45pm

My_Testimony_is: Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee, I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on a ornamental reef fish.

Aquarium collectors are now unlimited on Hawaii reefs. Neither the number of collectors nor the number of fish they can take is regulated or limited in Hawaii. Reefs around the world are in peril. No reef extraction should continue without limits and enforcement.

Please urge DLNR/DAR to begin responsible protection of these species and habitats.

Thank you.

Name: Bill Pray

Name-of-my-island: Maui

Phone: 2050605

SendTestimony: Send Testimony

email: wtpray@hawaii.rr.com

This e-mail was generated from a form submission on your website:
savehawaiianreefs.org

testimony

From: shellysurf@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2008 1:01 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SR 11 & SCR 17

Committee: Senate Water & Land Committee
Committee-Chair: Senator Hee
Hearing-Date: Friday, March 28, at 2:45pm
My_Testimony_is: Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee,

It's important to manage the land and sea as na kupuna before us did. Please help to keep everything pono, in balance. The wild Salmon on the West Coast of America is now nearing extinction. Balance...

I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on â€œornamentalâ€œ reef fish.

Aquarium collectors are now unlimited on Hawaii reefs. Neither the number of collectors nor the number of fish they can take is regulated or limited in Hawaii. Reefs around the world are in peril. No reef extraction should continue without limits and enforcement.

Please urge DLNR/DAR to begin responsible protection of these species and habitats. Pono means balance.

Mahalo, Shelly Stevens
Name: Shelly Stevens
Name-of-my-island: Maui
Phone: 808-573-0121
SendTestimony: Send Testimony
email: shellysurf@hawaii.rr.com

This e-mail was generated from a form submission on your website:
savehawaiianreefs.org

testimony

From: ynez.reyes@hawaiiantel.net
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2008 1:01 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SR 11 & SCR 17

Committee: Senate Water & Land Committee

Committee-Chair: Senator Hee

Hearing-Date: Friday, March 28, at 2:45pm

My_Testimony_is: Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee, I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on â€œornamentalâ€œ reef fish.

Aquarium collectors are now unlimited on Hawaii reefs. Neither the number of collectors nor the number of fish they can take is regulated or limited in Hawaii. Reefs around the world are in peril. No reef extraction should continue without limits and enforcement.

Please urge DLNR/DAR to begin responsible protection of these species and habitats.

Thank you.

Name: ynez fernandez-reyes

Name-of-my-island: Maui

Phone: 808 872-1284

SendTestimony: Send Testimony

email: ynez.reyes@hawaiiantel.net

This e-mail was generated from a form submission on your website:
savehawaiianreefs.org



Legislative Testimony

**SCR 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**

Senate Committee on Water and Land

March 28, 2008

2:45 p.m.

Room: 414

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) SUPPORTS, with amendments, S.C.R. 17, which urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop and adopt administrative rules to regulate the collection of ornamental reef fish with "appropriate and reasonable limits" placed on the industry.

One of the threats that is currently endangering the health of Hawai'i's marine ecosystems is the unregulated collection of reef fish for aquariums. OHA realizes that this problematic practice is not effectively regulated and enforced. As such, there is a dire need to address this problem, and OHA sees this concurrent resolution as a step in the right direction. OHA further appreciates that this concurrent resolution, unlike HCR 347, includes all of Hawai'i State waters.

OHA requests, however, that the resolution be amended to include language that states that the proposed rules 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. Moreover, we suggest that the proposed ornamental reef fishery industry rules actually reflect the West Hawai'i Fisheries Council's rules. We encourage the DLNR to reach out to the public and encourage community participation in the adoption of these rules.

As such, OHA urges the Committee to PASS S.C.R. 17, taking the above requests into account. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

testimony

From: Surfmyturf@roadrunner.com
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2008 2:46 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SR 11 & SCR 17

Committee: Senate Water & Land Committee

Committee-Chair: Senator Hee

Hearing-Date: Friday, March 28, at 2:45pm

My_Testimony_is: Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee, I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on â€œornamentalâ€œ reef fish.

Aquarium collectors are now unlimited on Hawaii reefs. Neither the number of collectors nor the number of fish they can take is regulated or limited in Hawaii. Reefs around the world are in peril. No reef extraction should continue without limits and enforcement.

Please urge DLNR/DAR to begin responsible protection of these species and habitats.

Thank you.

Name: Mary Pritchard

Name-of-my-island: MAUI

Phone: 760-889-2029

SendTestimony: Send Testimony

email: Surfmyturf@roadrunner.com

This e-mail was generated from a form submission on your website:
savehawaiianreefs.org

testimony

From: deborah.shields@vanderbilt.edu
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2008 2:01 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for SR 11 & SCR 17

Committee: Senate Water & Land Committee

Committee-Chair: Senator Hee

Hearing-Date: Friday, March 28, at 2:45pm

My_Testimony_is: Dear Senator Hee & Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee, I support SR 11 and SCR 17 to urge DLNR/DAR to establish and enforce bag limits on â€œornamentalâ€œ reef fish.

Aquarium collectors are now unlimited on Hawaii reefs. Neither the number of collectors nor the number of fish they can take is regulated or limited in Hawaii. Reefs around the world are in peril. No reef extraction should continue without limits and enforcement.

I am originally from west virginia, and this reef extraction of fish is reminiscent of strip mining in west virginia...an unly practice that was allowed to go on for years and the countryside still has not recovered. Please stop this practice and save Hawaii's wonderful natural resources.

Thank you. Deb Shields

Name: Deb Shields

Name-of-my-island: tennessee

Phone: 615-646-9384

SendTestimony: Send Testimony

email: deborah.shields@vanderbilt.edu

This e-mail was generated from a form submission on your website:
savehawaiianreefs.org

TESTIMONY
SCR 17 & SR 11
(END)