

Kenison T.K. Broad

April 17, 2009

House of Representatives 25th Legislature 2009
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St. Rm. 438
Honolulu, HI 96813

Attention: Chairman Ito

Dear Mr. Chairman,

SUBJECT: H.C.R. 251

Please accept this letter as my testimony in support of H.C.R. 251. I am a proud fisherman from Hauula, born and raised and currently still reside here. I have been fishing for most of my life. Fishing for me, is not only an occupation, but it is also a cultural lifestyle in which I have grown to love. My father was a fisherman, so was my grandfather, grandmother, aunts, uncles and so forth. We've always lived in close proximity to the ocean and have always incorporated the sea and its inhabitants in our daily lives. I was taught from an early age to respect the ocean and all that it encompasses, and have always lived by those practices and principles.

I have been a fisherman in a commercial capacity of one form or another for over 25 years. I've engaged in trolling, bottom fishing, diving both scuba and free diving and have incorporated the use of gill, fence and bag nets in my daily operations. The various techniques I utilize have been handed down to me from past generations. I have adapted their styles, and have honed and tailored them to harvest fish more effectively and efficiently while minimizing the possible impacts to our oceans ecosystem. It was through the thousands of hours that I have spent in and under the water that I learned about geography, currents, tides, wind and weather patterns and how they affect the availability of various fish species, their habits, growth rates, spawning, reproduction and life cycles. This has kept me in tune with the ocean environment and nature. It has made me a more conscious and caring fisherman. The practices we utilize have always been centered upon the ideas of conservation and longevity; with the premise that this is the only way can we remain self reliant and sustainable long term while preserving our resources for our future, as well as future generations to come.

Over the years the Department of Land and Natural Resources has subjected the fishing community to more and more rules and regulations. They claim that these regulations are designed to protect the marine ecosystems and allow the proliferation of all its creatures. Their imposed measures claim to help keep the biomass healthy and

provide a sustainable usage of the oceans resources. Through my extensive fishing experience it is my opinion that the DLNR has failed to do so. Instead the department has implemented a set of regulations that does not address the core issues. The department has failed to provide proficient scientific studies which coincidentally does not and has not included us, the fishermen. The fishermen who spend an enormous amount of time submersed in the oceanic environment. The Department of Land and Natural Resources has not made a sincere and honest effort to involve us, the fishermen, in any kind of dialog nor have they included us in the rule making processes. Instead they have held meetings, so called public forums to collect public input, but they do not adequately advertise these meetings to inform us of the dates, times, and locations. They simply hold these public forums as a formality when their end result has already received the green light.

My inquiries into the subject matter has shown me that long term studies on the multitude of adverse effects that impact both the fish populations and their environment have not been adequately performed. Impacts such as pollution, population growth, storm run offs, sewage discharge, water salinity, and sedimentation as well as other outside entities like the degradation of habitat, feeding and spawning grounds are all contributing factors. A lot of which can be attributed to the misuse of thrill crafts, commercial tourism operations, shoreline development and the impact of invasive species. Instead they have a set of generic rules that encompass everything under an umbrella type coverage, simply stated "because it's easier to enforce." These rules do not make sense. They simply do not accomplish the goals that they are designed to do.

Upon reviewing the net ban for example, rules have been implemented but seemingly no one in the department knows what the impacts on the fish populations are as a result of their rules. In fact, Hawaiians have been utilizing this method of fishing for hundreds if not thousands of years and have maintained sustainable yields. Only in recent years has this practice seen so much scrutiny and concern, still no studies have been conducted as to determine how usages vary and what their results are. Instead they just banned the whole practice without consideration of our cultural heritage. Furthermore the department has misinterpreted information compiled from sources such as our catch reports as to the actual condition of the fishery. They have not considered why certain things are happening. One example is the decline in ulua landings that coincide with outbreaks of ciguatera. As a result, the markets refused to buy ulua, concerned that their customers could get sick. Fisherman simply targeted other species. This does not mean that ulua populations are in trouble; it's simply that we stopped targeting them as they were no longer economically viable to pursue. Another example is that moi was limited to 15 per person in 1969, thus in the following years landings declined. People simply didn't target them as vigorously. Naturally there would be a decrease of reported landings.

It is the responsibility of the DLNR to insure the best management of our ocean resources; I don't see how they can accomplish this with the current mentality to close everything. They need our input, after all the knowledge we as fisherman possess is the

single most accurate amount of data that they have. They have an obligation to utilize this information both responsibly and ethically to better determine how we should manage our fisheries.

Historically, fishermen and the practice of fishing were considered to be noble and respected occupations. Today, fishermen are viewed as a detriment to the environmental resources. In contrast, we provide a viable service to our community. Our contributions to our communities are far reaching as they benefit countless individuals both economically and culturally, not only for Hawaiians, but for all ethnic diversities. We supply markets, communities and individuals with the freshest Hawaiian fish available while maintaining sustainable practices. Our quality and standards are unsurpassed. Our knowledge, skills and abilities are unique and indigenous to our cultural lifestyle. In closing, we urge and look forward to opportunities that will allow all parties involved to form a respected partnership that will help guide and shape the future of Hawaii's oceans and its resources for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Kenison T.K. Broad

Testimony in support of HCR251/HR220

Hi,

My name is Michael Chung I am in support of resolution 251. I am a third generation commercial fisherman. I've been very fortunate to come from a family that has such a vast knowledge about the ocean and its contents. My family and I have been living and commercial fishing mostly from Kaneohe bay, although some of my family has fished throughout the state of Hawaii. We spear, surround/bag net,troll/hook (palegic, and near shore) , dive for Tako(octopus). We have been taught by our elders the seasons, the bait to use for a certain species,and the fishing grounds for different fishes. I believe that the commercial fisherman of Oahu as well as Hawaii as a state should be included in the process of making rules and regulations by the Division of aquatic resources. The commercial fisherman are the people who know first hand about the resource, because they are in the water almost every day. They know the habits,the habitat where the different aquatic life prefer to gather as well as the times when the resource returns home after they go out and forage.The commercial fisherman has always been concerned and looking out for our resource because they rely on it to feed the general public (markets) as well as feed ourselves.I also believe in educating the public as well as our children on the right ways or proper ways to manage our resource and fish responsibly.In closing I would like to thank you for viewing my testimony and i hope everything will work for the better of our resourceses.