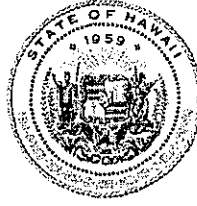
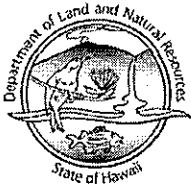


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER, LAND AND HOUSING**

**Thursday, February 3, 2011
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 580
RELATING TO AQUATIC LIFE**

Senate Bill 580 would: 1) Establish prohibitions, fines, and penalties for knowingly selling aquatic life taken from State waters, for aquarium purposes; 2) Require a permit to take marine and freshwater non-game fish and other aquatic life for aquarium purposes; and 3) Would impose new standards for permit issuance determinations. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) opposes this bill.

A 10 study in West Hawaii conducted by the Department (A compilation of the status reports done every five years, as required under Chapter 188F, Hawaii Revised Statutes) suggests that under certain management regimes, aquarium collecting is a viable and sustainable fishery. The West Hawaii coastline continues to be the major area for aquarium collecting. The Department knows of no other study that chronicles the state of the fishery and that would support the bill's provisions. The cessation of the commercial industry would impact about 80 licensed aquarium collectors whose average annual ex-vessel take is valued at \$1.45M.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

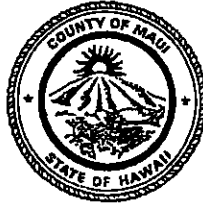
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
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
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

ALAN M. ARAKAWA
MAYOR



KEITH A. REGAN
MANAGING DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Ke'ena O Ka Meia

COUNTY OF MAUI -- Kalana O Maui

February 2, 2011

Senator Donavon M. Dela Cruz, Chair, and members
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing
State Capitol, Conference Room 225
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii

RE: SUPPORTING SB 580, PERTAINING TO AQUATIC LIFE

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and members;

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for SB580, which would direct the state to prohibit extraction of aquatic life from our near shore reefs and state waters, except for allowable purposes including cultural use, scientific research or for public display.

In the past year, Maui County reviewed and passed legislation which tightened the regulations over the widespread practices of removing aquarium fish from their natural habitats, and their important role in our unique and fragile Hawaiian reef eco-systems. As a lifelong diver, I can personally attest to the continuing degradation of a once robust natural system of underwater life, due to a myriad of stresses. It is high time that we impose statewide regulations before the resource is damaged that it cannot regenerate itself.

While some will frame the discussion in economic terms, natural resource protection, conservation and restoration is much more than that. And looking just at the financial implications, it is clear that a healthy ocean and near shore coral reef system, the nursery for many species, provides commercial ocean visitor industry revenues that far exceed financial gains to collectors engaging in unsustainable extraction of our reef fishes.

As one Maui legislator poignantly stated, "We have to put the brakes on and allow the fish to regenerate." While some may be upset with passage of this legislation, we may nevertheless rest assured that we are doing the right thing.

Please pass SB 580 and protect the health and integrity of Hawaii's coral reefs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Alan M. Arakawa", written over a horizontal line.

Alan M. Arakawa
Mayor, County of Maui

February 2, 2011

Senator Donavon M. Dela Cruz, Chair, and members
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing
State Capitol, Conference Room 225
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii

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Please pass SB 580 and protect the health and integrity of Hawaii's coral reefs.

Sincerely,

Alan M. Arakawa
Mayor, County of Maui

Dane Wicker

From: Inga Gibson [igibson@hsus.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 1:12 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: WLH testimony 2-3-11, 115pm, Rm 225, Support SB580
Attachments: Testimony WLH 2-3-11 115pm rm 225 SUPPORT SB580-Aquatic Life.doc

Aloha Dane,

Thank you for your attention to the attached testimony in support of SB580; relating to Aquatic Life, scheduled for a hearing in the WLH Committee on 2-3-11 at 115pm.

Mahalo for your assistance, Inga

Inga Gibson
Hawaii State Director, Western Regional Office
igibson@humanesociety.org
t 808-922-9910 f 808-922-9911

The Humane Society of the United States
P.O. Box 89131, Honolulu, HI 96830
humanesociety.org

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THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

Celebrating Animals | Confronting Cruelty



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**



**HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**

To: Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Solomon and Committee Members
Senate Water, Land and Housing Committee
2-3-11, 115pm, Rm 225

From: Inga Gibson, Hawaii State Director, The Humane Society of the United States / Humane Society International, P.O.Box 89131, Honolulu, HI 96830, igibson@humanesociety.org or 922-9910.

In SUPPORT: S.B. 580; Relating to Aquatic Life

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS/HSI), the nation's largest animal protection organization, with more than 11 million members and constituents, including 49,770 in Hawaii, and The HSUS/HSI's international arm, Humane Society International (HSI), supports S.B. 580 prohibiting the sale of Hawaii's aquatic life taken for aquarium purposes, being considered by the Water, Land and Housing Committee of the Hawaii State Senate. We deeply thank the Committee for addressing this important matter that affects the lives of more than 700,000 animals per year.

The global trade in live wild animals as pets—including live fish for display in home aquaria—involves billions 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. Whether small carnivores, exotic birds such as parrots, reptiles and amphibians, or fish, few species are safe from this exploitive trade.

In addition, 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 as companion animals. The means by which wild animals are captured, held and transported to consumers causes unacceptable levels of injury, damage to health and cruel treatment. 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, causing wild animals to suffer and die in captivity.

The wild-caught fish trade causes injury, damage to health and cruel treatment of fish. 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).

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 and stress suffered on the journey from the coral reef to the home aquarium. The industry treats fish like cut flowers to be displayed until they die (often of starvation), then discarded and replaced.

Industry practices, implemented to save time and money, contribute to the stressors and injuries that lead to the pre-mature deaths of this wildlife and put undue pressure on wild populations: for every animal that dies before reaching the market, more are taken to fill the demand.

In addition we are opposed to cruel practices employed by fish collectors and exporters in Hawaii such as piercing the swim bladder, starving for extended periods prior to export and fin/spine trimming: practices recently prohibited in Maui County and each with existing, less harmful, and conventional alternatives that don't cause injury or lead to higher mortality rates.

Populations in Peril

Below is a list of the top 15 marine life families taken from our reef's for the aquarium trade between 2004 – 2009, according to reports that licensed collectors are required to supply to the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). It should be noted that DLNR has reported that many collectors do not report and even those reports filed may misrepresent species or quantities since they are not verified by onsite inspections. Consequently, the numbers and species reportedly collected may be a considerable underestimate.

Hawaii Coral Reef Wildlife Collection Reported Between 2004 - 2009		
FAMILY	Common Name	Number Caught
Acanthuridae	Surgeonfishes	2,536,156
Paguridae	Hermit Crabs	1,177,554
Sabellidae	Feather Dusters	221,394
Labridae	Wrasses	126,215
Chaetodonidae	Butterflyfishes	93,689
Pomacanthidae	Angelfishes	69,473
Decopoda	Shrimp	63,212
Holothuriidae	Cucumbers	48,483
Decopoda	Crabs	41,973
Tetradontidae	Puffers/Boxfishes	18,796
Zanclidae	Moorish Idol	16,171
Serranidae	Anthias, groupers	15,851
Pomacentridae	Damselfishes	10,611
Balistidae	Triggerfishes	10,547
Cirrihitidae	Hawkfishes	10,000

Nearly fifty percent of the species in these groups are endemic to Hawaii. Some heavily targeted endemic species are disappearing due to collection (DLNR, 2010). Others are threatened with

extinction by the aquarium trade and are listed in the State's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (Mitchell, 2005).

In addition, the husbandry needs of many of the fish species collected from Hawaii reefs simply cannot be met in captivity. Collection and export of animals that have virtually no chance of survival in captivity should cease.

Among the species collected in Hawaii that do not survive well in captivity are:

- Achilles tang and Moorish idol: Paletta (2001) recommends these as species for "the beginner [hobbyist] to avoid".
- Potter's Wrasse: One hobbyist website states that it is "likely the majority of Potter's collected are doomed despite anything you might be able to provide or do" (Premium Aquatics 2010). The website further explains,

"Just one amongst the many beautiful endemics of the U.S. 50th State, Hawai'i's Potter's Angel is not easy for many to locate in the wild... w/o careful observation. It's relatively abundant in and amongst the finger-like coral (Porites compressa) which is its typical domain, but so secretive that w/o keen searching and patience, most divers miss it entirely. This cryptic lifestyle is a chief clue to success with Potter's in captivity. They're shy, need plenty of cover, and a dearth of "busy" tankmates. Most failures in the care of this Centropyge stem from a lack of this understanding... coupled with the trials of rough capture, tortuous holding, shipping and handling stress and damage through the "chain of custody" going from the wild through wholesalers, retailers to the consumer."

- Goldrim Tang: "rarely lives for more than a few weeks in captivity" (Premium Aquatics 2010).
- Achilles Tang: "Success with this soft-bodied species can only be had from securing a healthy specimen initially, providing a large living space, and high, consistent specific gravity and oxygen concentration" (ibid).
- Kole, Yelloweye, Goldring (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*): "The dismal survival rates for *Ctenochaetus* are more a function of poor capture, handling, transport and feeding problems imposed by their captors, than these fishes suitability as captive specimens"(ibid).

Collection of animals from the wild for the pet trade is harmful to wild populations. There are many examples of wild populations of animals that have been decimated by over-collection to supply the exotic pet trade. 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*) are some non-fish species that have been harmed by trade. Among marine fish species whose survival is threatened by collection for the aquaria trade are the Banggai cardinalfish of Indonesia (*Pterapogon kaudermi*), 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*). The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force has recognized that U.S. demand for aquarium species can indeed threaten the sustainability of coral reef species and ecosystems (U.S. Coral Reef Task Force 2000).

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 actually unknown. Despite implementation of the Civil Resources Violation System dealing with late/delinquent report filings, there are no mechanisms for verifying actual vs. reported catch. The absence of catch validation means that DLNR has no accurate data for effective management.

Although allowed by law, 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. DLNR requires collectors to have permits, and commercial collectors to have licenses, but 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. 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.

Some Hawaii species targeted by the aquarium trade are naturally rare or solitary and vulnerable to depletion (Clark and Gulko, 1999). Statewide stock assessments, required to protect species from over-exploitation, have yet to be conducted by DLNR because of staffing and budgetary constraints and other higher priorities. At \$200,000 and 7 months per species, these assessments would require approximately \$52 million and 1,820 months for the more than 260 species taken by the trade (Thielen, 2009). With the trade generating less than \$250,000 per year in State tax revenue (based on collector and wholesaler/dealer sales), after covering licensing administrative costs, likely little is left over to help with resource management.

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. Furthermore, collectors in Hawaii have been observed breaking coral to capture fish and even using bleach, both of which are illegal (Tissot and Hallacher 2003).

Fish in the pet trade suffer from unacceptably high death rates. The more than 700,000 animals collected alive from Hawaii's reefs every year for the pet trade deserve better treatment than what they are currently receiving. When the basic needs of captive animals are being met, their long-term survival is ensured. This is not so for fragile reef wildlife, with the vast majority of these animals experiencing temporary, not long-term, survival. Though many would survive for decades if left on the reef, the lives of most in captivity are measured in weeks or months. Contributing to these shortened lives, are the inexperienced hobbyists purchasing them, most of whom stay in the hobby, on average, only a year before giving it up.

This raises the question of suitability for a life in captivity and brings us back to a premise stated earlier in this testimony: collection and export of animals that have virtually no chance of survival in captivity should cease. To continue this practice is to condone inhumane treatment and exploitation of these animals.

In addition, DLNR is *not* ensuring that collection of these wild animals for the fish pet trade is not causing a detriment to wild populations.

Therefore, HSUS/HSI strongly supports the measure amending Chapter 188, Hawaii Revised Statutes, prohibiting the sale of Hawaii's aquatic life for aquarium purposes and requiring an aquarium fish permit to take aquatic life for aquarium purposes, regardless of the gear that may be used.

HSUS/HSI thanks the Committee for taking up this important issue. *We urge the Committee to pass S.B. 580*, to restore wildlife abundance and health to Hawaii's reefs.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

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Dane Wicker

From: Mari Shinri Nakamura [marisnak@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 7:30 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Support SB 580; Aquatic Life, Senate WLH 2-3-11, 1:15pm

Dear Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Solomon and Committee Members. Please support SB 580 to Protect our Reef Wildlife

- A million or more reef animals are captured on Hawaii reefs every year and sold as “ornamentals” in the saltwater aquarium hobby. Because these animals are fragile, up to 40% may die before even reaching their final U.S., Asia, or Europe destination. Most of the rest die within a year.
- Keeping this wildlife on our reefs is good for the animals, important for healthy reef ecosystems and essential for our tourism-based economy.
- This important measure does **not** prevent the responsible collecting of reef wildlife for education, research, cultural or consumptive purposes.

Mari Nakamura, Coordinator
Ho‘oikaika Peer Mentoring Project
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
John A. Burns School of Medicine
Pacific Basin RRTC
1268 Young Street, Suite 204
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96814—1801
808-592-5907
Toll Free: 1-866-447-9023
FAX: 808-592-5909

Dane Wicker

From: kbonk@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:17 AM
To: Dane Wicker; Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz
Subject: Testimony for WLH Committee Hearing Tomorrow - Mahalo Senator Dela Cruz for Hearing Aquatic Life "Not For Sale" Bill SB580

Dear Senator Dela Cruz:

Thank you again for moving this much needed legislation to a hearing tomorrow. Attached is testimony for the Bill from a consortium of groups I am working with to protect Hawaii's reef wildlife.

Thank you Dane for organizing this committee hearing. We appreciate your work as the Committee Clerk.

Mahalo nui loa,
Keiko Bonk

Keiko Bonk
Hawaii Reef Wildlife NFS Campaign
3734 Harding Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96816
808-734-4234
808-938-6888
kbonk@hawaii.rr.com

February 1, 2010

To: Chairman Donovan Dela Cruz and Members of the Senate WLH Committee
WLH Committee Hearing Thursday February 4, 2011 Room 225 1:15 pm

From: Keiko Bonk, Hawaii Reef Wildlife Campaign

Re: Support for SB580 Relating to Sales of Aquatic Life

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Senate Water Land & Housing Committee:

Thank you for your initiative to insure that Hawaii reef wildlife stay here in Hawaii and that our reefs are a "public good" that is "Not For Sale". I am representing a consortium of conservation and cultural groups that support SB580, an initiative to protect Hawaii's most valuable public asset, our natural ecology. Our 1.3 million residents are dependant on healthy reef ecosystems, and we understand the importance of reef wildlife sustaining healthy populations of larger marine wildlife that we depend on for sustenance. Hawaii's 7 million visitors come here from all over the world to take pleasure experiencing the natural wonder of Hawaii's reefs.

I know many of you have been leaders in this community for decades and I know that you are very familiar with the rapid rate of decline of our natural wealth. We have all seen more than enough empirical data showing evidence of this decay. We are all in agreement that our near shore reefs are suffering from complex problems. The degradation caused by invasive species and marine pollution will take years to reverse. We have just begun to clean up the long time polluted ocean areas of Hawaii. Some reefs of Hawaii may never recover from decades of dumping raw sewage and the run off from urban development.

Marine debris, coral bleaching, and ocean acidification are global problems that are also impacting Hawaii's reefs. The ocean has faced years of negative consequences from the whaling industry, the plantation agribusinesses, the international real estate industry and the international fishing industry. These impacts have all added to Hawaii's ocean decline.

As leaders in Hawaii, you face a dire situation that didn't happen over night. I do not envy you. You will be facing more and more controversial decisions regarding the management of the public's natural capital. And you will also face the anger of people acting out of frustration towards our depleted ocean. It is very important to deepen the public understanding of responsible ocean management in order to solve the problems of our diminishing resources.

We have lived way beyond our means in Hawaii for the last 2 hundred years, by making an open call to the world to exploit our natural resources without limitations. In this way we have developed unsustainable practices. We now have to eliminate many of our bad practices and choose wisely the practices that are responsible and worth keeping. Not all practices are responsible and we must discontinue the ones that do not assist in increasing the health of Hawaii's ocean life for multiple generations to come.

We have depleted 90% of the ocean life on earth and now we need to care for the last 10%. On top of this, Hawaii has the most extinct species in the world, 439 endangered species according to the U.S. Fish and

Contact: Keiko Bonk Hawaii Reef Wildlife Campaign 808-734-4234 Honolulu office; 808-938-6888 Hawaii Isle cell
**Humane Society U.S.* Humane Society International * Snorkel Bob Foundation * For the Fishes * PONO * Sierra Club
Malama O Puna * Maui Tomorrow * Earthtrust * Hanalei Watershed Hui * Hui Ho`omalu I Ka aina**

Wildlife Service. And many of these wild things are found nowhere else on earth. Recovery of 439 species is a difficult concept to grasp for most of our natural resource managers. This dramatic rate of extinction is linked to human encroachment and our unsustainable practices. Our unusually large number of species in decline gives Hawaii State the dubious status of being the "Extinction Capitol of the World". This distinction doesn't even factor in the decline of Hawaii's reef fish species.

Knowing all the challenges that face our ocean ecosystem, it's just not PONO to take Hawaii's reef wildlife to sell as pets. The private aquarium industry is about conspicuous consumption and display. It promotes a value that is in direct opposition to the human restraint and conservation we need to instill in Hawaii's culture to recover our reefs and oceans.

The bottom line is that we have eaten most of the ocean's fish. We have not sufficiently replenished the fish, and the oceans are unhealthy. It's time to cut back on unnecessary "take", starting with this decadent endeavor. No more coral as jewelry, no more fish as office décor. These kinds of "take" are morally unjustified. Extracting anything from the ocean for novelty and décor adds more stress to an already complex series of health problems that the ocean cannot endure and we have no fiscal resources to monitor and enforce this industry or the multitude of other problems we face.

As an artist, I learned at a young age that if you create a painting that you know you will never be able to recreate, you put a NFS or "Not For Sale" tag on it. NFS means you value the work of art more than any sales price. Our reefs are priceless, too valuable to sell. Humans are ingenious creatures, but we haven't figured out how to reproduce anything close to reef fish. The complexity and diversity of Hawaii's reef wildlife evolved over millions of years. We need to place a priceless value on this irreplaceable natural beauty that surpasses any man made invention or manmade objects we desire. Please pass this "NFS" Bill today and demonstrate a respect for Hawaii as a unique place of beauty. Help to secure our natural wealth for future generations.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration of SB580. We hope you will join Senate President Tsutsui, Senator Baker and Senator English, who introduced this legislation, to protect our natural world that we depend on for our long-term livelihoods and wellbeing.

Keiko Bonk
Hawaii Reef Wildlife Campaign
kbonk@hawaii.rr.com
734-4234 Office
808-938-6888 HI Isle cell

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; Senator Malama Solomon, Co-Chair, Members of the Committee on Land, Water and Housing, Hawaii Legislature

RE: Committee Hearing, February 3, 2011

FROM: Pacific Whale Foundation, Anne Rillero, Conservation Director, 300 Ma'alaea Road, Suite 211, Wailuku, HI, 96793

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 580 RELATING TO AQUATIC LIFE

Pacific Whale Foundation is a nonprofit organization with headquarters in Maui; we have more than 300,000 supporters across the United States and worldwide. Our mission is to protect our oceans through science and advocacy. Through educational ecotours, we introduce Maui visitors and residents to the ocean environment, in a manner that encourages conservation and stewardship of marine resources and generates funding for marine research, public education and conservation programs. We thank the Senate Committee on Land, Water and Housing for your hearing on S.B. 580.

Pacific Whale Foundation strongly supports SB 580, which would establish prohibitions, penalties and fines for knowingly selling aquatic life for aquarium purposes taken from waters within the jurisdiction of the State of Hawaii.

This bill is essential in protecting Hawaii's tourism industry, our state's number one industry. Our beautiful coral reefs have significance in our appeal as a world-class visitor destination. Hawaii's coral reefs are vital to the State's approximately \$800 million/year marine tourism industry. (NOAA Economics).

43% of Hawaii's visitors engage in snorkeling or diving activities. That's nearly one out of every two people who visit Hawaii. There are 1,000 ocean recreation businesses in Hawaii (Athline Clark, DAR), collectively generating more than \$800 million in revenues for the state. Snorkeling and scuba diving rank highly as important activities for visitors; for example, they are the 5th most popular activities for visitors from the West.

The aquarium collecting trade is relatively small. Yet at the same time, the aquarium collecting trade has significant detrimental impacts to our island's coral reefs and poses a significant threat to tourism and our residents' way of life.

What aquarium collectors are taking cannot be replaced. Coral reefs are complex ecosystems. The colorful reef fish found among the corals each play an important role in maintaining the reef's natural balance. For example, herbivores, which are collected by the aquarium trade in large numbers, play a significant role in controlling benthic algae. Without these fish, algae can grow out of control, killing the corals that are the very foundation of all reef life. 86% of all reef fish taken by aquarium collectors are algae-eaters. Yellow Tangs, which are herbivores, have been reduced in numbers by 73% in Hawaii since 1999, largely due to aquarium collecting.

The aquarium collector trade is not focused on maintaining the balance of the reef. They are seeking fish that can be sold in the most profitable manner. The fish that are

LATE

gathered are selected based on the aquarium industry's preferences for fish sizes, colors or rarity. This can result in overexploitation of certain important species, which undermines the reef ecosystem. Smaller fish, measuring 2 to 10 cm in length, are most frequently sought, which results in high collection levels of juvenile fish -- fish that have not yet had the opportunity to reproduce and replenish the reef.

LATE

Hawaii's precious endemic species -- those species that developed over countless generations to fit Hawaii's unique environment and today are found nowhere else but Hawaii -- are especially threatened by the aquarium trade. 25% of Hawaii's marine life is endemic (Athline Clark, DAR). Almost half of the top 20 species gathered by aquarium collectors are endemic. Some of these endemic species die quickly in captivity. Yet the aquarium trade continues to collect them because they can command a high price: one rare Hawaii endemic recently retailed for \$9,500.

What is especially disturbing about the aquarium collector trade is that it is so wasteful -- the fish that are gathered have an extremely high mortality rate. Fish in the wild can live for many years, once they get through the precarious juvenile stage. For example, Yellow Tangs can live for more than 40 years, yet between capture and retail, an estimated 20 - 40 percent of Hawaii's Yellow Tangs will die before reaching the hobbyist. (R. Fenner, Sept. 2010, wetwebmedia.com). A 2000 report by the Trade Subgroup of the International Working Group of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force noted that: "it has been estimated that the mortality of reef species from source reef to home aquaria may be as high as 90%." This high mortality rate creates additional pressures on our reefs, as collectors seek to replace what is dying.

According to a 1998 World Resources Institute report, nearly 58% of the world's reefs are at risk from a range of human activities, including global warming, marine pollution, coastal development, destructive fishing practices, overexploitation of resources, disease and runoff from improper land-use practices (Bryant et al., 1998). The study concluded that the international trade in coral, reef fish, live rock, and other reef organisms contribute significantly to the decline and degradation of reefs..

The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) adopted a resolution in the fall of 1999 recognizing that "international trade in corals and coral reef species is contributing to the stresses on these systems. We have an opportunity in Hawaii to show leadership in reef protection by passing SB 580.

It has been well-established in many parts of the world that living marine wildlife has a far greater economic value than captured or killed wildlife. This is certainly true in Hawaii, as it relates to our coral reefs. It is imperative that Hawaii's leaders recognize the economic value of our reef resources to our entire community, and not allow these precious shared resources to be squandered by the relatively small percentage of the population that engages in collecting for the aquarium trade.

SB580

Honorable Chair De La Cruz and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to address you. On behalf of the Ocean Outfall Group, I urge you to pass SB580 and protect our precious marine resources. They are, after all, quite irreplaceable! Thank you for taking on the enormous duty and responsibility that you have. We citizens count on you to protect our childrens future, and this will be a giant step toward that goal. Please know that you can count on the Ocean Outfall Group and our sister organizations for strong support on this issue.

Mahalo!

Joey Racano, Director

Ocean Outfall Group

805 540-8970

1487 Nipomo Ave Los osos Calif 93402

www.oceanoutfallgroup.com

Dane Wicker

From: Makaala Kaaumoana [makaala@hawaiian.net]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 3:06 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Testimony SB 580

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Water and Land Committee members.

Measure: SB 580

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 1:15 pm

Testifier Position: IN SUPPORT

Aloha,

The Hanalei Watershed Hui implements a community developed Watershed Action Plan that includes priorities related to water quality and aquatic species.

We are very concerned about the potential impacts of over fishing of our reefs including those fish taken for commercial aquarium purposes.

We strongly support the passage of this bill to reverse the current trend of abuse of our reef ecology.

Mahalo for your support,

Makaala

Maka'ala Ka'aumoana
Executive Director
Hanalei Watershed Hui
P.O.Box 1285
Hanalei, HI 96714
808-828-1205
808-346-5458 cell
808-431-4444 fax

The Hanalei Watershed Hui mission is to support and protect the ecology, cultures and sustainable economies of Hanalei.



Ocean Tourism Coalition

The Voice for Hawaii's Ocean Tourism Industry
1188 Bishop St., Ste. 1003
Honolulu, HI 96813-3304
(808) 537-4308 Phone (808) 533-2739 Fax
timlyons@hawaiiantel.net

Testimony to the Senate WLH Committee
Thursday, February 3, 2011; 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 225

Speaking in Support

RE: SB 580

Chair Senator Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Senator Solomon and Members of the
Water, Land, Housing Committee:

My name is James E. Coon, President of the Ocean Tourism Coalition. The OTC represents over 300 small ocean tourism businesses state wide. We appreciate the efforts being made by the Legislature in addressing the depletion of our reef fish population. The OTC supports efforts to preserve and protect our precious ocean environment. These same fish could be observed for years by snorkelers and SCUBA divers and have a huge economic benefit as well as the environmental benefit of having a healthy reef.

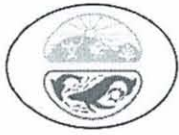
We believe this bill will go a long way in reforming some of the serious degradation we are seeing in the population of our reef fish.

Please pass this bill which will regulate the collection of aquarium fish. This will be a major step in restoring the health of our near shore reefs. The environment is the most important resource we have. Let's protect it.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me at 808-870-9115.

Sincerely,

James E. Coon, President



CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR HAWAII

LATE

Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

Hearing: Thursday, February 3, 2011

1:15 p.m.

Room 225

Support for SB 1219 Relating to Aquatic Life

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 580, which will help protect our reef fishes. Allowing reef fishes to be harvested from our coral reefs for sale in the aquarium trade is not in our best interest. Overharvesting of reef fishes for sale to the aquarium trade has resulted in the declining populations of popular and attractive species. Apparently, many of these fish die in transport, and others are difficult to sustain in aquariums. Harvesting of endemic species found naturally nowhere else in the world threatens their continued existence, adding to existing threats relating to climate change and invasive species.

These fishes are much more valuable to society if they are left on the reefs, where they fill important ecological niches, feed people, and are a popular attraction to ocean users – residents and visitors alike. Rene Umberger has prepared an informative fact sheet on this issue, which clearly indicates that leaving reef fishes on the reefs is far more beneficial to our quality of life, environment, economy, and culture than allowing these fragile fish to be harvested so wastefully for the aquarium trade.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please pass SB 580 out of your committee.

Marjorie Ziegler

Attachment



Hawai'i's Voice for Wildlife – *Ko Leo Hawai'i no na holoholona lohiu*

Telephone/Fax 808.593.0255 • email: info@conservehi.org • web: www.conservehi.org

P.O. Box 2923 • Honolulu, HI 96802 • Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 212 • Honolulu, HI 96814

President: Maura O'Connor * Vice-President: Hannah Springer * Treasurer: Kim Ramos * Secretary: Rick Barboza

Directors: Madelyn D'Enbeau * Maka'ala Ka'aumoana * Julie Leialoha

Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler

Dane Wicker

From: Summers. Jan [SummersJ@saccounty.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 12:33 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB 580

As a long-time visitor to Hawaii, I am shocked and disappointed that the "aquarium collectors" have drained-off so many of the valuable reef fish; and been "Allowed" to take these fish.

Hawaii is a "gem", a place of beauty for all peoples and it's vital that its ecosystem be protected. The SB 580 must be passed to protect the reef fish and the ecosystem required for a healthy ocean.

Please take ACTION now and pass SB 580 into Law.

Sincerely,

JAN SUMMERS

Airport Economic Development Specialist
Airport Properties and Business Development
Sacramento County Airport System

916-874-0914 (office)
916-874-0920 (fax)

www.sacairports.org

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Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 2:01 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: robertw@snorkelbob.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Robert Wintner
Organization: Snorkel Bob's, Hawaii
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: robertw@snorkelbob.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2011

Comments:

I am present at this hearing and would like to submit testimony at this time. Thank you.

Dane Wicker

From: Dennis McCrea [dennis@konaboatdiving.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 4:41 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: Konajambo@hawaii.rr.com; debra@DLNVideoproductions.com
Subject: Measure: SB 580

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Water and Land Committee members.

Measure: SB 580
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 1:15 pm
Testifier Position: IN SUPPORT

My name is Dennis McCrea and I am a Boat Captain, scuba instructor, and underwater photographer.

I have been "on Island" for over 10 years and have observed a dramatic decline in our reefs and fish populations from what it was a decade ago.

It is a travesty that the reefs are being decimated at an alarming rate do to lack of oversight of the fish collecting industry. More collectors result in more fish taken, the cheaper the sale price of those fish, which means more have to be collected to maintain the same amount of income. It has become a self perpetuating cycle that needs to be broken. With less fish on certain reefs, the algae is unchecked, and the reefs are in danger of dying off due to disease and being smothered by the algae.

I believe the reefs need to be protected for the "good of the many" and not for the benefit of the few (fish collectors). Our tourism industry is at risk. Who will want to visit Hawaii if all they can see is coral rubble and just a few fish. I believe more can be accomplished to increase and maintain tourist dollars by protecting our reefs than by spending millions on promoting sunshine and shopping. The land, and the ocean are precious resources that need to be protected for our future and our kids future.

Protect what makes Hawaii so special, and vote to eliminate the fish collection industry. It is morally and economically the "pono" thing to do!

Mahalo,
Dennis McCrea
President / Underwater Adventures Hawaii

TROPICAL FISH OUTLET
2065 Lake Rd
Elmira Heights, NY 14903
Email: Tropfishoutlet@aol.com
(607)735-0423

The continued attack on the pet industry hurts us all. I have owned Tropical Fish Outlet for 12 years and have tried very hard to excite both young and old in the responsible saltwater fish keeping. We try, when ever possible, to purchase tank raised items(both corals and fish). This is not always possible. If you discontinue the collection then many other species will not be captive breed.

Personally, I am not a large shop but three years ago I spent \$20,000.00 to purchase a larger fish keeping unit. I did this so more of the fish I purchased would live. As it was my loss was low and now it is half of what it was. I take great pride in my shop and in the way we keep our fish. We help our customers do the same. Not being able to fill the needs of our customer could put us out of business. I pay taxes and spend money to keep the economy going. Please do not stop me from making living.

Dave Cooper, owner

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 8:43 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: scuba@maui.net
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Erik Stein
Organization: Extended Horizons Inc
Address: 94 Kupuohi St # A 1 LAHAINA
Phone: 808 667 0611
E-mail: scuba@maui.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Thank you for hearing this important bill protecting reef wildlife from the international aquarium trade/hobby.
I support SB 580 because reef wildlife is a much more valuable resource for the State when left on the reef for viewing than when exported or collected.



74-5484 Kaiwi St, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740 (808) 329-5100 Fax (808) 329-7470

To my Honorable Legislators,

Wednesday, February 02, 2011

This testimony is in regards to Senate Bill 580. As a resident of West Hawaii Island for the past 35+ years, I am much opposed to SB580. I am president of Stockly's Aquariums, Inc.

Stockly's was formed in January 1978 on the Kona Coast of the island of Hawaii. We are a family run business with great employees who share the same interests for which the business was formulated. Our main source of income in the early years was aquarium maintenance. In April of 1980, Stockly's Aquariums retail store opened for business. This Hawaiian Reef Fish store is well received by the people of Kona. By 1982 Stockly's Aquariums, Inc. was incorporated and doing business throughout the state of Hawaii. Today, Stockly's custom Hawaiian reef fish aquariums are found throughout the islands, U.S. mainland, Alaska and Japan. We sell locally caught Hawaiian Reef Fish.

In reading SB580 it makes no sense to me and even to the layman. I have worked as a fisheries biologist right out of college in fisheries management. Also, in the seventies I had the position as the Sea Grant Agent in West Hawaii through UH. I have sat on the Coastal Zone Commission in West Hawaii and was a charter member of the West Hawaii Fisheries Council. Why ignore the work that these groups have done by creating a ban on Hawaiian Reef Fish collecting for a business or as a hobbyist. This bill is being pushed by special interests and uninformed lawmakers. Did you read the report to the 2010 Hawaii Legislator by DLNR concerning Hawaiian Reef Fish collection in West Hawaii? Take a good look at DLNR's recommendations.

If SB580 were to pass, we would have to remove our Hawaiian Reef Fish aquariums from the Hotels, Restaurants and other businesses. Then we would mostly likely close our doors after 33 years of business.

Thus, Please I am asking for a NO Vote on SB580

Mahalo nui Aloha,


Bill Stockly, president

Stockly's Aquariums, Inc.

Kailua Kona, Hawaii

2/2/2011

Aloha Council Members,

My name is Randy Fernley, I own Coral Fish Hawaii and I strongly oppose SB 580

Located in Aiea, Coral Fish is the largest retail tropical fish store in Hawaii.

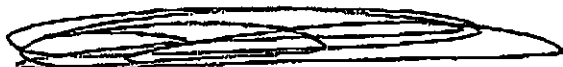
We currently support 15 employees and contribute well over a million dollars / year to the economy of Hawaii. Over the past 35 years, we have attributed to the enjoyment of tropical fish to untold thousands of people in the state. I can't tell you how many times people have come up to me stating that we helped them set up a small marine aquarium when they were a kid and thanked me for exposing them to the wonders of the ocean. If this bill were to pass, we would be forced to close our doors- no more aquariums for the keikis, no more fish in the aquariums at the hotels. Simply, no more fish for to see and enjoy for people who don't or can't go in the ocean.

The bill is being initiated by a Maui animal rights activist- "Snorkel Bob". His only intent with this bill is to bring attention to his own snorkeling business and to squash a locally sustainable industry.

The introduction of this bill by certain legislators is irresponsible given that their focus should be getting the economy jump started again- and not putting people and an entire industry out of work.

Please let the DLNR do their job and manage our industry responsibly thru science based rule making .

Thank you for your time and Aloha,



John R Fernley "Randy"/ Owner- Coral Fish Hawaii

WLH Testimony -SB 580

Hearing: Thurs 2/3/2011

Silver Dolphin Marine Education Centre
Trinity House
Wharf Road
Penzance
Cornwall
TR18 4BN
01736 364860
07881 688 234
e mail conservation@silverdolphin.freeserve.co.uk
Charity number 1125147

Dear Sir

With reference to the legislation SB580 to be heard on Thursday February 3rd at 1.15pm, I would like to point out that taking of endemic species can put the whole reef system at risk. 86% of the species taken by the aquarium trade are grazers and so removing them takes away a natural control of algal species.

When we cause an imbalance in the reef system the reef is the one that pays. You only have to remember the taking of triton shells caused an explosion of crown of thorns starfish on the Great Barrier Reef.

Also the aquarium trade allows endemic species to be relocated and disposed of in the sea to become an alien invader, as is happening with lion fish in the Caribbean at the moment.

If the aquarium trade need more fish to see then they should set up a controlled breeding programme overseen by the local government so there is no imbalance caused and aquarium fish are found homes in their own locality.

I run Eco conservation trips and would love to bring groups to Hawaii but what would be the point if the local reefs are to be plundered. The proper organisation of aquaculture, reef conservation linked in to eco tourism would be of great benefit to the Hawaiian Islands.

I hope you make the right decision and use this chance to build something great on the fantastic reef environment you have.

David Ball

www.silverdolphinmarineconservationanddiving.co.uk

Dane Wicker

From: daniel linehan [djlinehan114@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 10:26 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Bill SB580 - thursday afternoon hearing 1:15 PM

This is for Bill SB580 - Thursday afternoon hearing at 1:15 PM in room 225.

(this email was already sent but I forgot the hearing information)

To whom it may concern,

My name is Daniel Linehan and I oppose Bill SB580 - the banning of collecting fish for the aquarium trade.

I am the youngest wholesaler here in Hawaii at the age of 26. I started my own company, Tropical Fish Emporium LLC, when I was 20 years old while attending the University of Manoa for my international business degree. I took some time off from school to concentrate and expand my business, which was quickly becoming a full time job. This industry has taught me many things in life that I feel I would have never learned otherwise, at least not this quickly. I take pride in my customer service and ability to communicate with others easily, which has given me the opportunity to establish and maintain customers in more than twenty states and twelve different countries. Most of these customers are now close friends.

In regards to Bill SB 580:

There has been numerous attempts to ban the aquarium industry in Hawaii now, under false pretenses and blatant lies about collection methods, sustainability, and mortality rates. None of which have been proven or backed by scientific data or research. This is a just legal system. In order to ban an industry that employs hundreds of people, there must be some sort of concrete evidence to prove these "theories", which is exactly what they are, theories. They are also a personal attack by a tax evading hypocrit whose job also revolves around the ocean and reefs... But does he take time to educate his passengers on his tours about reef safety? No he does not. Hanauma Bay is a perfect example of where collection is no where near by but yet the reefs are still dead or dying... This is obviously not because of collection, since there is none. It is a direct result of improper reef safety. Tourists walk on the reefs all day long resulting in a near dead reef.

I bought a new piece of property in order to expand my business. Along with the property, i have more expenses and a fiancée and, god willing, a family close behind. This business is my means of survival here in Hawaii - which we all know is not a cheap place to live.

I have also started a station in Kwajalein Marshall Islands for aquacultured clams and corals. I feel this industry should move towards sustainability, but also feel Hawaii is already there. There are FRAs on the Big Island (30% closures already) that, i believe, have a major impact on why we have been sustainable for all these years. These false accusations of mortality are hurting Hawaii's image that the collectors and wholesalers have worked so hard to achieve.

I strongly urge you to squash all Bill's associated with the banning of aquarium fish collection until adequate and extensive data can be taken. For the last two years we have all heard the lies and manipulation of one man's personal vendetta against a small group of tax paying Hawai'i residents who are only trying to survive in a hard economic time.

I sincerely appreciate your time and efforts you have put forth during these past few years. If the Bill passes, then so be it, but please take into consideration the lives and families that will be affected if it does. I all ask is for data to be collected before the legislation jumps to any conclusions.

Again, thank you for your time.

Aloha

Daniel Linehan
Tropical Fish Emporium LLC
808 744 6940

--

DJ Linehan

Tropical Fish Emporium LLC

508-728-8999

Dane Wicker

From: daniel linehan [dlinehan114@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 10:23 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Bill SB580

To whom it may concern,

My name is Daniel Linehan and I oppose Bill SB580 - the banning of collecting fish for the aquarium trade.

I am the youngest wholesaler here in Hawaii at the age of 26. I started my own company, Tropical Fish Emporium LLC, when I was 20 years old while attending the University of Manoa for my international business degree. I took some time off from school to concentrate and expand my business, which was quickly becoming a full time job. This industry has taught me many things in life that I feel I would have never learned otherwise, at least not this quickly. I take pride in my customer service and ability to communicate with others easily, which has given me the opportunity to establish and maintain customers in more than twenty states and twelve different countries. Most of these customers are now close friends.

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I sincerely appreciate your time and efforts you have put forth during these past few years. If the Bill passes, then so be it, but please take into consideration the lives and families that will be affected if it does. I all ask is for data to be collected before the legislation jumps to any conclusions.

Again, thank you for your time.

Aloha

Daniel Linehan
Tropical Fish Emporium LLC
808 744 6940

--
DJ Linehan

Tropical Fish Emporium LLC

508-728-8999

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 11:05 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: email@markschacht.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mark Schacht
Organization: Green Divers Productions
Address: 555 Pierce Street Albany, CA
Phone: 510-528-2653
E-mail: email@markschacht.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Hawaii's Legislature should seize the moment to protect the state's dwindling reef fish populations by enacting this carefully constructed regulation of the aquarium 'rare fish for sale' trade, which exempts traditional practices, fishing for human consumption and public educational displays. As a licensed dive master and underwater videographer, with more than 20 years diving in Oahu, Maui, Molokai and Lanai, I have not only witnessed collectors chasing fish and destroying reefs if necessary to capture their prey, but I have come back year after year to favorite dive locations to find fish populations decimated. Please pass SB580 without any weakening amendments, and work to get it enacted this session. Thank you.

Dane Wicker

From: BigIsland Divers [info@bigislanddivers.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 3:31 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Support for SB 580

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Water and Land Committee members.

Measure: SB 580
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 1:15 pm
Testifier Position: IN SUPPORT

Our staff of 15 year round Customer Service Dive Professionals owe our livelihood to the continued health and maintenance of the West Shore of the Big Island Reef System.

Collectively diving the reef every day for 25 years, our staff has witnessed both unsustainable practices by Commercial Tropical Fish Collectors and a decline in reef fish populations despite the attempts at collection management.

While the Tropical Fish Collection advocates are explaining how they stand to loose their jobs if the Tropical Fish Collection Ban is implemented, please bear in mind the thousands of jobs in the ocean tourism industry they place in jeopardy with their collection of reef fish that belong to all of us.

The Management and Crew at Big Island Divers
Kailua Kona, Hi

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 8:02 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: frank@netsolutionshawaii.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Frank Fiorentino
Organization: Individual
Address: Wailuku, HI
Phone: 808-242-6661
E-mail: frank@netsolutionshawaii.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Thank you for hearing this important bill protecting reef wildlife from the international aquarium trade/hobby.

I support SB 580 because reef wildlife shouldn't be wasted - it should be protected for all of Hawaii.

I want to snorkel and dive where there are fish and live reef. The fish and reefs are already in serious danger. Please save the fish & reefs for our children and grandchildren. Mahalo.

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 7:13 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: helenpm1@verizon.net
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Helen Malnar
Organization: Individual
Address: Tampa, FL
Phone: 813-985-4012
E-mail: helenpm1@verizon.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and committee members, Thank you for hearing this important bill protecting reef wildlife from the international aquarium trade/hobby. I support SB580 because reef wildlife shouldn't be wasted. It should be protected for all of Hawaii.

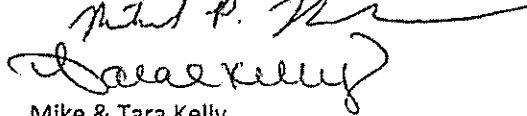
2-2-11

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Aloha,

My name is Mike Kelly and my wife Tara Kelly and I are **opposed** to SB580 bill. We live in Kona, Hawaii. I have been a commercial diver & commercial fisherman for 20 years. Tara has been a diver & fisherman for 10 years. We hold our USCG Captains license's, are Padi Dive masters and also hold our aquarium's license. We love our oceans and this is a sustainable industry. There is a lot of miss information being used out there. We know this firsthand having worked with many tour companies and the miss-guided information that takes place against aquarium divers. Our 17 year old son Andrew is looking forward to following in our footsteps one day. Please do not pass this bill. **We are opposed against SB580.**

Mahalo nui loa,

Handwritten signature of Mike & Tara Kelly in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and includes the names of both individuals.

Mike & Tara Kelly

808-937-3960 or 808-542-6014

Dane Wicker

From: Denise [onewahine@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 8:37 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Please support SB 580 to Protect our Reef Wildlife

Dear Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Solomon and Committee Members. Please support SB 580 to Protect our Reef Wildlife

A million or more reef animals are captured on Hawaii reefs every year and sold as “ornamentals” in the saltwater aquarium hobby. Because these animals are fragile, up to 40% may die before even reaching their final U.S., Asia, or Europe destination. Most of the rest die within a year.

Keeping this wildlife on our reefs is good for the animals, important for healthy reef ecosystems and essential for our tourism-based economy.

This important measure does not prevent the responsible collecting of reef wildlife for education, research, cultural or consumptive purposes.

Sincerely,

Denise Towle, Kailua Kona

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 8:03 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: sparksfly1@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Donita Sparks
Organization: Individual
Address: Los Angeles, CA
Phone:
E-mail: sparksfly1@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members, My husband and I spend our vacations in your beautiful state, specifically for the snorkeling of your reefs. No reef fish, no tourism. Please pass SB580 and protect one of Hawaii's most valuable assets for all! Thank you!

Dane Wicker

From: Eva Hillman [Ehillman@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 6:57 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: RE: Measure: SB 580

Measure: SB 580

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 1:15 pm

Testifier Position: IN SUPPORT

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Eva Hillman and I am an ocean enthusiast. Over the years of snorkeling and diving, the decrease in fish population is evident. I have witnessed fish collectors indiscriminately scooping up fish, many who die before reaching their intended destination. On the Big Island, we are repeatedly told by tourists that one of the primary reasons they travel to the Big Island is to snorkel and dive. I hope you will have the courage to ban commercial aquarium collecting for economic reasons (i.e. tourism) and conservation reasons (i.e.. protecting fish populations for this and future generations).

Sincerely,

Eva Hillman
Captain Cook
Big Island, Hawaii

Dane Wicker

From: The Humane Society of the United States [humanesociety@hsus.org] on behalf of Robyn Blaisdell [blue2.indigo@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 1:14 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Please support S.B. 580 to protect our cherished reef wildlife

Feb 2, 2011

Hawaii Senate Water, Land and Housing Committee

As a Hawaii resident, I urge you to support S.B. 580 to protect Hawaii's wildlife.

A million or more reef animals are captured on Hawaii reefs every year and sold as "ornamentals" in the marine aquarium hobby. Up to 40% may die before even reaching their final U.S., Asian, or European destination.

S.B. 580 prohibits the sale of aquatic life taken from state waters for aquarium purposes -- but it would not prevent the responsible collection of reef wildlife for education, research, cultural, or human consumption purposes.

This legislation also protect millions of reef animals from collection for the disposable commercial trade. Keeping this wildlife on our reefs is good for the animals, important for healthy reef ecosystems, and essential for our marine tourism-based economy.

People are like vacuum cleaners - they scoop up everything they get their hands on and would take them all, if they could. Please help protect our little reef friends before they are all gone.

Please support S.B. 580 when it comes before you for your consideration. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Ms. Robyn Blaisdell
PO Box 175
Makawao, HI 96768-0175

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 6:52 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: lczechowic@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lesley Czechowicz
Organization: Individual
Address: 124 Waikai Street Kihei
Phone: 8082149094
E-mail: lczechowic@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

I actually think there should be no aquarium trade. I am a naturalist who spends a lot of time at Keawakapu and tourists ask me what happened to the fish. Where are the fish? In just 5 years yellow tangs have been collected to where we never see them any more by 2 aquarium traders we've seen loading them into big collecting barrels. We have a responsibility to the next generation. We need lots of fish for a good snorkeling experience for visitors.

Dane Wicker

From: Susan Swartz [planetsms66@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 7:33 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: I support SB 580 to become a law

Aloha,

I am a Hawaiian tax payer, who is urging you to pass SB 580 into law, which will prohibit the sale of any aquatic life taken from waters within the state for aquarium purposes.

We need to protect our marine life, both for environmental and for tourism reasons.

We have been blessed to live in paradise, and it is up to us to protect the beauty and marine life we have been given. Please help us pass SB 580 into law.

Mahalo,

Susan Clark
92-1142 Olani St. #1
Kapolei, HI 96707

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 12:45 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: granada66@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Maria Rutter
Organization: Individual
Address: 711 East Maple St. Glendale. California 91205
Phone:
E-mail: granada66@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

Dear Chairperson and Committee Members:

Thank you for hearing testimonies of the SB 580 protecting Aquarium fish in the wild. I urge you to support this bill. Studies have shown that collecting Hawaii's most beautiful and unique species for the aquarium hobby has caused their populations to decline by 14% - 97% on unprotected reefs.

While harvesting and damaging coral in Hawaii has been illegal for decades, no protections exist for the other half of the reef ecosystem: the fishes and invertebrates essential to reef health and beauty. For a \$50 annual license and permit, commercial collectors have access to every living animal on every reef in Hawaii that isn't protected - virtually 99% of Hawaii's coral reefs are impacted by this industry.

Thank you for your time and consideration, Sincerely, Maria Rutter granada66@aol.com

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 9:04 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: seanconnor75@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sean O'Connor
Organization: Individual
Address: 86 Holokai Haiku HI 96708
Phone: 808.214.4957
E-mail: seanconnor75@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

As an avid (and local) dive sportsman I am asking that you please protect reef wildlife from the aquarium trade's harmful handling and shipping practices! We must sustain our coastal waters for the generations- not for off-island hobbyists!!!

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 8:45 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: sfinnerty76@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Stacy Linowski
Organization: Individual
Address: 75 Dogwood Lakes Dr Hampton, GA
Phone: 770-468-1105
E-mail: sfinnerty76@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members,

Thank you for hearing S.B. 580, an important bill protecting reef wildlife from the international aquarium trade/hobby.

Please approve this bill to ensure the protection of the natural beauty of the coral reef wildlife. I support it because reef wildlife shouldn't be wasted - it should be left on Hawaii's reefs for the benefit of all. Thank you for hearing my testimony on this matter.

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 4:38 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: vwa_vail@juno.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Diane Vogelmann
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: vwa_vail@juno.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

I have been vacationing and or living in the Hawaiian Islands for over 12 years. I have spent most of that time on Maui. I have been an avid diver the entire time. I have noticed a dramatic decline in all reef fish on all of the dive sites I have been diving for years including Molokini. The decline was gradual at first but has been growing exponentially over the past 5 years. There have been times when collectors have been witnessed removing the entire population of small fish from a reef. I have also witnessed reefs that are declining due to overgrowth of algae. I have talked to tourists that come to Maui to snorkel and dive about their concerns with the declining fish populations. Some of them are considering not returning. The economy will benefit from SB 580. Please support the passage of SB 580.

Dane Wicker

From: Joan Lloyd [joanl@snorkelbob.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 8:25 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Measure SB580-IN SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Water and Land Committee Members,

Underwater is under the radar in Hawaii, but if you've spent even a little time in the water over the years you can see our reefs are under severe pressure, bearing little resemblance to only a few years ago. Reefs once thriving and teeming with fish are empty, algae ridden and declining rapidly. Lynchpin fish species like yellow tangs and Hawaiian cleaner wrasse needed to balance Hawaii reefs are in mainland aquariums for the fleeting amusement and financial gain of few.

I support SB580. Your support of SB580 will start Hawaii reefs on the passage to recovery.

Thanks and Aloha,
Joan Lloyd
3175 Hoomua Drive, Kihei, HI 96753

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 8:19 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: robert@2waymirror.tv
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: robert fagan
Organization: Individual
Address: los angeles, CA
Phone:
E-mail: robert@2waymirror.tv
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members, Please support bill SB580 and assure the health of Hawaii's reefs for generations to come. Thank you.

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 12:35 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: squidfan@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Olivia V. Ambrogio
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: squidfan@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Committee for Water, Land, and Housing
February 3, 2011 / 1:15pm - Conference room 225
RE: SB580
OPPOSED

Chairman Dela Cruz and Committee Members,

I know that there are many of you who have heard from us on too many occasions and I am sure you are just as tired to hear from the aquarium industry, as we are to have to keep coming here to defend ourselves. I'm not thrilled to come here and speak publicly, but I am forced to do so, as well as close our business and have our employees stay home today.

I really find it difficult to believe that someone can come in here to present a bill that will have such a tremendous impact on so many lives based on lies, mistruths and incorrect data. This has been on going now for many years because of one person's vendetta against the aquarium industry. He has made it his mission in life, and he has publicly stated on public radio that there is no compromise to be made. He is looking for a total shutdown of this industry. In his way of thinking, it is his way, or no way.

He has said that the aquarium industry has no regulations.
This is UNTRUE.

First, we are regulated by DLNR. We as a wholesaler must send in monthly reports of every fish that is brought into our shop for sale, from licensed commercial divers. It must match exactly to the catch report that the diver sends into DLNR. If it does not match, they contact us. We are fined if we buy from any unlicensed diver.

For international exports, a Credited State licensed Veterinarian must first inspect our fish. Then health certificates can be stamped and signed.

We then must have USDA endorse the health certificate.

Then finally, the U.S. Federal Fish and Wildlife Service must inspect and clear the shipment, stamp and sign documents, before it can leave the country. These Government offices keep all records of the fish counts, invoices, etc. The data is there and there is no way to change or alter it. These are the facts and can be verified if someone will take the time to check it out before making a decision that will affect the lives of so many people here in Hawaii.

It is said that the aquarium industry is destroying the reef. These divers that have been diving here in Hawaii, some for 40 years or more are the best that there are, and they know what they are doing to preserve the integrity of the reef. They have respect for the ocean and for the future of our children. We all care what happens to the future of these waters and these islands. We, as an industry, are small family run businesses that are trying to survive in this very difficult economy.

Robert Wintner, also known as Snorkel Bob, said on public radio that the aquarium industry takes no responsibility to what's happening to the reef. Apparently, he does not take any responsibility for what affect his business has on the reef. I am not going to say anything more about that because we have no problems with that industry and we have a good relationship with the tour and dive groups here on Oahu. We are a very small industry in comparison. This harassment and blatant lies is nothing more than environmental terrorism against the aquarium industry. I ask of you to please take the time to check the facts before you make a decision.

Thank you for your time,
Carina Sugiyama

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 7:38 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: Lynn.all@Maui.net
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lynn Allen
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: Lynn.all@Maui.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members, Thank you for hearing this most important bill protecting Hawaii's reef wildlife from the international aquarium trade. I support SB580 as it protects Hawaii's reef wildlife for all and keeps them in the reef for enduring posterity. We should be responsible stewards of the land and reefs and immediately take action against wanton waste.

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 7:29 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: jjlear@bendbroadband.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jerry G Lear
Organization: Individual
Address: 1460 NE Northview Drive Bend, OR
Phone: 5413892490
E-mail: jjlear@bendbroadband.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members,

Thank you for hearing this important bill protecting reef wildlife from the international aquarium trade/hobby.

I support SB 580 because reef wildlife shouldn't be wasted - it should be protected for all of Hawaii.

Dane Wicker

From: Rosanne Shank [jingleshell@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 7:17 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: In support of SB 580

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Water and Land Committee members.

Measure: SB 580

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 1:15 pm

Testifier Position: IN SUPPORT

I am an avid scuba diver, beach goer and all around ocean lover. I believe it is vital that we conserve the fish on our reefs. This is our island home and the ocean surrounding it has a wealth of resources for all to enjoy.

We need to do all that we can to keep it beautiful, healthy and sustainable. I believe one of those ways is to restrict the number of reef fish that is taken from these waters on a daily bases. Some of these fish, like the cleaner wrasses, perform very important duties not only to other fishes but to other creatures such as manta rays. Have you ever seen the beauty of these tiny fishes going in and out of the gills and mouth of these huge creatures? It is truly incredible!

Our coral reefs are valuable and important to those of us who live here and enjoy them everyday. We can not keep taking and taking from the reefs and expect that they will recover. We as humans have pushed the resources beyond its limits. We need to put a stop to the never ending stripping of the natural resources that are here for all of us to enjoy not just a few through a piece of glass if the fish even lives that long. Please support the ban on commercial aquarium collecting.

Submitted by:

Rosanne Shank

78-217 Manukai Street

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

808-322-2786

jingleshell@hotmail.com

Testimony**Thursday 2-3-11 Room 225 WLH Committee****Testimony Opposed to SB 580****Dear Legislators,**

My name is Mary Beth Tubbs, I am a teacher, a school psychologist, and happen to be the wife of a tropical aquarium fish diver/wholesaler. I oppose this bill because it is founded primary on the false assumption that aquarium fish collectors and shippers operate "without limits or constraints on its catch". Having been around the tropical fish aquarium business over the past 9 years, I know for a fact there are fish size limits on particular fish which are respected by divers. Moreover, I have witnessed DLNR officials at the harbors and heard of several reports of them on the seas inspecting diver's catch buckets periodically. Such close existing scrutiny by DLNR, diminishes the need for this bill.

Quality studies that control for the time of the year that the study of fish counts is conducted, whether if it's the birthing season when fish are naturally more plentiful, or during other times, are hard to come by. What could happen as a result of this bill is that due to lack of funding for such studies that unreliable, unscientific, opinion reports may be construed as "historical evidence" to justify the exclusion of fish on the white list. I fear only the most obviously plentiful species, such as the saddle wrasse or spotted puffer will be put on the list, and that the aquarium business will die a slow death. The state simply does not have the money needed to implement this bill fairly with reliable studies.

FYI- aquarium sales and resulting fish catches were down about 17% during the last half of the year. The mere economic downturn has taken its toll on our livelihood, and I know that several divers are currently considering public assistance. Please vote NO on SB 580, this is not a necessary measure.

Sincerely,**Mary Beth Tubbs, M.Ed., NASP**

Dane Wicker

From: oceanwndows2@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 3:57 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: RE: SB580

Dear Committee Members,

I would like to express my opposition to SB580 and sincerely hope that you will consider the need for sound science before making a decision to ban tropical fish collecting on Hawaii's reefs. Good management of this trade is fully understandable and expected, as we all wish to maintain Hawaii's reefs and its inhabitants. However, it seems that there are many things taking a toll on our beautiful reefs, but fish collecting is the only thing that is continually being brought to the forefront. Several of the species listed as endangered are not even species that are frequently targeted, at least here on the Big Island. I believe there is much misinformation being circulated and it adds confusion and contempt from the public. With good management based on sound science, as well as addressing other environmental issues that are certainly impacting our reef system, I firmly believe that the aquarium fish industry in Hawaii is sustainable.

Thank you very much for considering my comments.

Best Regards,
Luci Price

Dane Wicker

LATE

From: Anne Rillero [annerillero@pacificwhale.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 4:20 PM
To: Edie Schaffer
Cc: WLH Testimony; Pam Wade; anne@pacificwhale.org; programs@pacificwhale.org
Subject: Re: Please enact SB 580

Dear Edie and Pam,

Thank you so very much for submitting your testimony in support of SB 580. I will be going to Honolulu to testify on its behalf and will keep you posted on what develops.

With aloha,
Anne

On Wed, Feb 2, 2011 at 7:55 AM, Edie Schaffer <edie_schaffer@yahoo.com> wrote:
Dear Committee members:

Since 1989, my spouse and I have made at least 10 trips to Hawaii. Why? We love your lovely, tranquil islands; your friendly, vibrant people; and most of all, we love to snorkel in your beautiful oceans, where we have seen amazingly colorful fish and coral, rays, green sea turtles, octopus . . . the list is endless.

Over time, we have noticed that we see far fewer fish at our favorite snorkeling destinations. For example, on our last trip to Maui in December 2010, we saw only a handful of Yellow Tangs, and we snorkeled every day at several different sites for eight days! So it comes as no surprise to us to hear that Hawaii's population of Yellow Tangs has dropped by 73% since 1999, and that this drop is largely due to unregulated aquarium takings. This makes us very fearful for what the future may hold for this wondrous part of Hawaii that we love.

You can help ensure that Hawaii's waters continue to be a must-see travel destination by supporting and passing SB 580. By supporting SB 580, you will help stop aquarium collectors from decimating Hawaiian reefs by taking large numbers of beautiful reef fish and shipping them to distributors and dealers around the world, where many of these fish quickly die.

While SB 580 would require a permit to take non-game marine or freshwater fish for aquarium purposes, it exempts those who take fish for food, bait, and scientific purposes. Moreover, the proposed law would not adversely impact Hawaii's home aquariums.

Please help protect Hawaii's underwater treasures by supporting and enacting into law SB 580!

Sincerely,

Edith Schaffer & Pamela Wade
26 Jules Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94112
(415)337-9735
edie_schaffer@yahoo.com
pwade@cisco.com

--

Anne Rillero
Director of Conservation and Member Communications
Pacific Whale Foundation
300 Ma'alaea Rd., Suite 211
Wailuku, HI 96793
Phone: 808-280-3196
Fax: 808-243-9021
Email: anne@pacificwhale.org

LATE



Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 6:38 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: micdorsey@ymail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael Dorsey
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: micdorsey@ymail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members,

Thank you for hearing this important bill protecting reef wildlife from the international aquarium trade/hobby.

I support SB 580 because stealing reef wildlife isn't something we allow right under our noses. There is nothing pono about it.

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 6:34 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: david@sharkville.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Amack
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: david@sharkville.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members,

Thank you for hearing this important bill protecting reef wildlife from the international aquarium trade/hobby.

I support SB 580. If we were talking about people "collecting" nene for hobbyists around the world, there would be no question of what is right. Why is this any different?

Dane Wicker

From: Dick Dresie [ddresie@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 9:08 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Tropical Fish Collecting in Hawaii

Hello,

Over the years (we started diving here in Hawaii in 1983) we have seen a steady decline in the Tropical Fish population along our Kona Coast.

We don't need this to continue.

So I am in favor of eliminating the commercial Tropical Fish Collecting in all Hawaiian waters.

Please pass the bill now being considered regarding this situation.

Thank you,

Dick Dresie

Kailua-Kona, Hawaii

Dane Wicker

From: Anika Glass [anika.nui@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:42 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Support SB 580; Aquatic Life, Senate WLH 2-3-11 at 1:15pm

Aloha, Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Solomon and Committee Members. Please support SB 580 to Protect our Reef Wildlife.

As Rep. Solomon knows, unsustainable catching of so-called "aquarium fish" is a serious problem on the Island of Hawaii.

--

Anika Glass
Waikoloa
Founder Malama Waikoloa Nightingales

Dane Wicker

From: Zac and Nancy [znzorn@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 5:59 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Measure SB580

My name is Zachary Zorn. I live full time in South Kona and have for close to 20 years. I swim and boat Kona Coast regularly. I have witnessed the abundance and the decline and the rebounding of Pebble Beach's tropical fish population over my residency here. The primary credit for the rebound goes to a committed group of activists who have convinced many of us that a very conscious effort to manage out coastal resources rationally is highly in order. Measure SB580 is a step in the right direction. Sincerely, Zac Zorn

Dane Wicker

From: Tim Levin [timlevin@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 4:14 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Measure: SB 580

Measure: SB 580

Testifier Position: IN SUPPORT

Aloha, Chair Dela Cruz, Water and Land Committee members,

As a permanent resident now (2 years) and person whom has been visiting / scuba diving in the state of Hawai'i for the past 30 years, I'd like to make my position known to all that I favor and support this ban.

Over the past 30 years, I've seen a remarkable and note worthy change in marine life here on the reefs of Hawai'i. On my first visit to the islands in the early 80's, I was amazed at all the fish and marine life. Every where I scuba dove there was thousands, upon thousands of fish and marine life. I am sorry to have to report you today, that even after efforts and laws have been put in place, the marine life here around the Big Island numbers in single and double digits. Some species are rarely, if ever, seen.

I've also seen first hand the damage that the fish collectors cause with their nets and tools to the reefs and coral. They break apart and destroy the coral to get to the fish hiding in the coral for protection. Beautiful coral that I've watched grow for over 20 years is destroyed for a \$50 fish. This to me, is a disgrace. An act that I call upon you to put a permanent stop to.

Like you, this breaks myr heart and brings me much sadness. I feel the need to step and do what ever I can to help bring about a change. I am asking you to put to a stop the damage these individuals, who rape our reefs of the marine wild life, have caused to the under water eco system. I am asking you, as a representative, to support this ban. To stop the damage, the pilfering and pirating of the state's under water natural resources.

Respectively,

Tim Levin

Kailua Kona, HI

Dane Wicker

From: Rick Decker [rickdecker@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 4:21 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Aquarium Fish Collecting

The preservation of our reefs and its species is of paramount importance to the people and to the government. Many people, if not most, in West Hawaii, are not in favor of any type of fish collecting.

Yet, it took many years of hard work to convince the state to just impose protected areas, despite the clear evidence of species being regularly ruthlessly raped and plundered.

Where does the government of the people stand? Are you truly in favor of the preservation and protection of the reef? Here is an analogy: If people were collecting sand daily on Waikiki or Hapuna or any other such beach, would you ignore them and give them a permit?

Do you know why the Kona Coast years ago used to be called the "Gold Coast". Very few people do as it hasn't been called such in a long long time. It used to be called the "Gold Coast" because the tremendous schools of yellow tangs could be seen from planes when they were landing or flying over the coast. Not so any more.

Please take a stand against AQ fish collecting and ban it completely.

Sincerely,

Rick Decker
Hawaii resident, tax-paying citizen and state voter

Dane Wicker

From: Jackie Brainard [jbrainard@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 4:04 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: Jackie Brainard
Subject: reef protection

The board of directors of the Kihei (outrigger) Canoe Club to move quickly and comprehensively to protect Hawaii's reef fish. Since we are on the water so often, we care deeply for the health of ke kai and all of its creatures. We helped garner support to pass legislation here in Maui and plan to do everything we can to move protection for reef fish forward on the state level. Mahalo for hearing our voice.

_____ Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database 5835 (20110131)

The message was checked by ESET NOD32 Antivirus.

<http://www.eset.com>

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 3:35 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: octopus@maui.net
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Rene Umberger
Organization: For the Fishes
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: octopus@maui.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee members, I will be presenting my testimony in person.

Mahalo,
Rene Umberger

Dane Wicker

From: Jamie Pardau [jpardau@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 2:49 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Testimony on SB580

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Water and Land Committee,

I am writing to testify on measure SB580 which you will hear on Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 1:15 PM. I am in support of this measure which would ban commercial aquarium collecting in Hawaii.

My name is Jamie Pardau, and I am a resident of Kailua Kona, Hawa'ii. I have devoted my retirement to the protection of the reef system in Hawaii. I volunteer with the ReefTeach program at Kahalu'u Bay. I participate in Reef Watch, which reports coral disease, invasive algae, or any other unusual event observed while diving. I am a community leader for Coral Reef Alliance, working to educate aquatic businesses about the West Hawai'i Voluntary Standards for sustainable tourism. I also monitor several reefs with a Reef Check Hawai'i team, swimming transects to count fish, invertebrates, and monitor coral health.

Through all these activities, I have seen the change in our reef system in West Hawai'i. No one cause is to blame. However, aquarium collecting has played an enormous role in the degradation of the unprotected reefs. We have FRAs (fish replenishment areas) in place that allow approximately 30% of our coastline to live without the threat of plunder. The fish counts in these areas are a stark contrast to those where collecting is allowed. Reef health depends on algae-eaters, so coral in these areas is also in better condition.

Through my CORAL training, I've learned about the millions of tourist dollars that enter the state either entirely or partially for reef experiences - snorkeling and diving. Even if you do not share the concerns of the Humane Society about the treatment of collected fish - even if you do not feel empathy for the native Hawai'ian despair at the changes on the reef - it seems to me that a government serving a beautiful land (and ocean) which derives a huge portion of its income from tourism would want to protect that natural resource which draws the tourist business and money from around the world. We can not export our natural resource for pennies when leaving it in its natural state would earn dollars!

I urge you to consider this senate bill. It is much more than a plea from ocean-lovers, it is a common-sense decision for the economic welfare of our state.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Pardau

Dane Wicker

From: Jerry Kane [jerrykane@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 2:43 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB 580

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Water and Land Committee members:

I've been an underwater marine life photographer in Hawaii for 20 years. Our reef communities are very fragile and must be protected from unsustainable fish collecting. Our reefs are in decline, and they need your help to survive. To sacrifice our reefs in order to benefit a small business interest would be a huge mistake. The reef life will suffer. Tourism will suffer. Ocean related businesses will suffer. Hawaii must protect its reefs now.

Please support SB 580.

Jerry Kane
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii

Sea Life Images
<http://sealifeimages.smugmug.com/>

Dane Wicker

From: Barbara Steinberg [h2ocolor@webtv.net]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 1:47 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB580 Aquarium bill

Please pass the SB580 Aquarium bill for these reasons .. fish are being depleted from Hawaiian oceans . it is not good thing as also some fish will go extinct.
and other reason is because it is wrong to sell the poor fish who swim happily in our waters to never grow full size in small aquariums .
another reason is the cruelty issue . thanks Barbara Steinberg
Maui

Dane Wicker

From: Shayla Middleton [Shayla@Blissfulhat.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 1:04 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Measure: SB 580 Testifier Position: IN SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Water and Land Committee members-

Measure: SB 580

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 1:15 pm

Testifier Position: IN SUPPORT

Please act in support of this very important bill.

I have only lived here 6 years but have seen the reef population in front of Kihei reefs decline significantly. I am actually surprised when I see a fish at all lately!!!

I was wondering why the fish were declining until one day, at the Kihei boat ramp, a man with a very large boat asked us if we wanted to buy his boat. He said he makes thousands collecting reef fish, and so he needed a bigger boat. He urged us to get into this 'easy and profitable' business catching 'hundreds of reef fish every day without any limits'- 'the boat will pay for itself in no time!'

This interaction happened 5 years ago... I imagine he is still in business, having no limits on his catch, and we no longer see many fish around our waters...

Please speak for the fish, who can't speak for themselves. Support this bill.

Mahalo-
Shayla Middleton
Resident, Kihei, Maui

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 9:15 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: Michellekauai@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michelle Candice Marsh
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: 808-634-4453
E-mail: Michellekauai@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members, Thank you for hearing S.B. 580, an important bill protecting reef wildlife from the international aquarium trade/hobby. I support it because reef wildlife shouldn't be wasted - it should be left on Hawaii's reefs for the benefit of all. Thank You.

Dane Wicker

From: Carlos Eyles [bluemanta@earthlink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 11:31 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Fish collection

Dear Sir or Madam

The time has come to STOP depleting Hawaii of its natural treasures in the name of personal profit to a very few. Please do the RIGHT THING when it comes eliminating fish collection as a small but very very damaging element that has no place any longer in the environment.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Carlos Eyles

Born and raised in Hawaii

2/2/11

Hello my name is Heroney Jilly,

I oppose SB 580

I am Micronesian and have worked in the tropical fish business in Hawaii over 15 years. I live in Makaha and work at Coral Fish Hawaii supporting my family and relatives- All 14 of us live in the same house.

If this bill were to pass, I would lose my job and could not afford to support my family.

Please do not pass this bill

- 1) ~~Heroney Jilly~~
- 2) Archie Smith
- 3) Wilken Jilly
- 4) Bonni Jilly
- 5) Sonika Jilly
- 6) ~~Heroney Jilly~~
- 7) Egonita Jilly
- 8) ~~Heroney Jilly~~
- 9) James Jabucka
- Heroney Jilly

- 10) Jeany Jilly
- 1-2) Pina Smith
- 13) Smith
- 14) Melton Lowkins

*
 WLH Testimony - SB 580
 HEARING: THURS 2/3/2011

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 8:34 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: anitabanana@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: anita wintner
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: anitabanana@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

Dane Wicker

From: Jim Lovell [jim@jtltiming.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 8:01 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Opposition to SB580

DATE: 2/2/2011
Testimony in Opposition to SB580

Attention:

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair

Dear Senator Dela Cruz,

I am submitting testimony in Opposition to SB580 being heard in your committee on February 3rd, 2011. This bill will cause great hardship for me as I have been an aquarium fishermen for over 30 years in Kona.

Hundreds of people in the State of Hawaii rely on this fishery for income or have a related business that profits from this industry. Right now times are hard and the economy is not strong so a drastic measure like this will create many problems for our community in addition to reducing badly needed tax revenues.

Respectfully,

Jim Lovell
Big Island Association of Aquarium Fishermen
808 325-0618
Kailua Kona, Hawaii

Dane Wicker

From: Cindy Kellogg [cindy@onlinesearches.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 8:17 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB 580

Good morning,

I am writing in reference to SB 580 and the hearing set for Thursday, February 3 at 1:15 p.m.

I am writing to express my support for this bill. My family has long vacationed in Hawaii. One of the most beautiful features of your island paradise is the vast array of tropical fish to be found and enjoyed while snorkeling. Having these fish harvested is shocking - I had no idea this was happening and reading the figures of the decline in the fish population is dismaying.

I strongly urge that this bill is passed.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

Cindy Kellogg
Gig Harbor, WA

Dane Wicker

From: Edie Schaffer [edie_schaffer@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 7:56 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: Pam Wade; anne@pacificwhale.org; programs@pacificwhale.org
Subject: Please enact SB 580

Dear Committee members:

Since 1989, my spouse and I have made at least 10 trips to Hawaii. Why? We love your lovely, tranquil islands; your friendly, vibrant people; and most of all, we love to snorkel in your beautiful oceans, where we have seen amazingly colorful fish and coral, rays, green sea turtles, octopus . . . the list is endless.

Over time, we have noticed that we see far fewer fish at our favorite snorkeling destinations. For example, on our last trip to Maui in December 2010, we saw only a handful of Yellow Tangs, and we snorkeled every day at several different sites for eight days! So it comes as no surprise to us to hear that Hawaii's population of Yellow Tangs has dropped by 73% since 1999, and that this drop is largely due to unregulated aquarium takings. This makes us very fearful for what the future may hold for this wondrous part of Hawaii that we love.

You can help ensure that Hawaii's waters continue to be a must-see travel destination by supporting and passing SB 580. By supporting SB 580, you will help stop aquarium collectors from decimating Hawaiian reefs by taking large numbers of beautiful reef fish and shipping them to distributors and dealers around the world, where many of these fish quickly die.

While SB 580 would require a permit to take non-game marine or freshwater fish for aquarium purposes, it exempts those who take fish for food, bait, and scientific purposes. Moreover, the proposed law would not adversely impact Hawaii's home aquariums.

Please help protect Hawaii's underwater treasures by supporting and enacting into law SB 580!

Sincerely,

Edith Schaffer & Pamela Wade
26 Jules Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94112
(415)337-9735
edie_schaffer@yahoo.com
pwade@cisco.com

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 8:16 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: alpineairhawaii@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM
Attachments: SB-580 Opposed.wps

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: David Dart
Organization: Individual
Address: Kailua Kona
Phone: 8089365821
E-mail: alpineairhawaii@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

Opposed SB-580

The total ban of aquarium fishing bills that we now see before the state house and senate are the result of well intended misinformed people venturing into an area they know little about. DLNR classifies the aquarium fishery as a fishery. Not just a fishery, it is classified as the most valuable inshore fishery in the state far eclipsing bottom fishing, lobster, and spear fishing combined . This fishery is the most heavily documented fishery in the state with many check and balances built in with all the levels of reporting required by permitted fisherman. By shutting down this fishery, the state would be saying “we can’t regulate any fishery” as no other fishery has the level of restrictions, regulations, and reporting the aquarium fishery has in place right now.

What will happen in Maui, where according to DLNR, only 2% of the fish taken from the reef in 2009 was a result of aquarium collecting? Yes, that is correct, only 2% of the fish taken from the Maui reefs were the results of aquarium collecting. What about 98% of the fish taken? The aquarium fishery in Maui is at a very low level compared to Oahu and Hawaii yet all the ban the fishery noise is coming from there. Maui wasn’t worth collecting on 20 years ago when we looked at it and it isn’t now because of poor bottom conditions that have nothing to do with aquarium collecting.

I have been a commercial fisherman for 35 years first diving the Kona coast and Oahu as a student at UH. Since graduating from UH in 1971 I have been a permit holder in seven science based North Pacific fisheries. I believe strongly in fishery management that ensures sustainability through science and have personally worked toward that end participating with the West Hawaii Fisheries Council as a council member or as an alternate to my son when he was a council member. For the last dozen years, the West Hawaii Fisheries Council, relying heavily on the scientific surveys and studies performed by DAR's Dr. Bill Walsh and his able staff, have crafted a blue print for a sustainable future for the fishery. The highly successful FRA's (fish replenishment areas) where no aquarium fish collection is allowed for 36% of the West Hawaii coastline is the largest reserve percentage wise of any fishery in the country. A white list of has been created and submitted to DLNR to allow only certain species to be collected. Size limits of certain species have also been submitted protecting the breeding population dramatically boosting the sustainability of the fishery. A limited entry program has been proposed also by the West Hawaii Fisheries Council. Due to the FRA's, our island visitors will always have pristine reef areas in which to view large fish populations in easily accessible areas. Instead of closing one fishery down after another, the blue print of regulating the aquarium fishery can be used to keep all fisheries open without total bans.

I am very encouraged by organizations like The Stewardship Action Plan spear headed by Jacques Cousteau's granddaughter Celine. They support aquarium collecting on Australia's Great Barrier Reef as long as it is regulated. The creation of this plan

reveals Australia's aquarium fisheries as exemplary leaders in the sustainable collection, handling, and distribution of aquarium species. This is what is being done at the West Hawaii Fisheries Council right now.

Our state legislators should be supporting the diligent efforts of the West Hawaii Fisheries Council that is one of the most progressive far thinking fisheries councils in the country. Replicate this type of management system state wide tailored to each island's particular conditions. Let the management plan play out and shelve SB-580.

Dane Wicker

From: Nathan Kellogg [nathan@onlinesearches.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 7:56 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB 580

Dear Senators,

I am writing in support of SB 580 which would restrict the taking of fish and other wildlife from Hawaiian waters for sale to aquariums.

We were stunned to learn that this is going on and even more stunned to learn that there has been substantial degradation to the population of reef fish in Hawaii because of this practice.

The reduction in reef fish population also puts additional stress on the already precarious health of the coral reefs.

There would likely also be a negative impact to tourism revenue if action is not taken.

As a frequent visitor to Hawaii, I urge you to vote in favor of SB 580.

Best Regards,
Nathan Kellogg
PO Box 949
Wauna, WA 98395
253.906.0533

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 7:52 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: kamanaocasuga@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kamao Casuga
Organization: Individual
Address: PO BOX 436 Captain Cook HI
Phone: 808-769-8386
E-mail: kamanaocasuga@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

Dear Gov't of Hawaii,

- I strongly urge you to pass SB 580 to protect the important marine wildlife in Hawaii's oceans, for all to enjoy and to preserve the unique ecosystem there. A single person's desire to capture and own certain fish for profit or other reasons should not take precedence over the enjoyment of all visitors to Hawaii's oceans.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 580,

Sincerely,

Lisa J. Sherman

Berkeley, CA.

Dane Wicker

From: Flint [dflint2004@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 6:56 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB 580

I would like to express my support for SB 580, and the hearing to be held on Thursday, February 3 at 1:15 p.m.

I am a resident of a different state, however the number one reason for me to always visit the Islands of Hawaii are for the snorkeling opportunities to see marine wildlife and the abundance of exotic fish. I would much rather see these beautiful fish in their wild, natural environment as opposed to a fish tank. Please take this opportunity to support and pass SB 580 to increase Hawaii's wonderful marine habitat.

Sincerely,

Daniel Flint
Littleton, CO
720-936-8170

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 7:22 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: mktonne@frontier.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: mary tonne
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: mktonne@frontier.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

Don't damage your heritage by allowing aquatic reef wildlife to be harvested for international aquatic trade.

Dane Wicker

From: DHARMANDVM@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 8:41 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Support SB580

we are pacific whale and BIG Hawaii supporters and want to ask you to pass SB580 to protect and regulate the aquarium fish grabbers in the islands. Please make it state wide. Thankyou,
Dr. Delia Harman DVM, TCVM, and Reverend Jeff Simson

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 8:38 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: bethrich@twcny.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM
Attachments: beth n gail 1.jpg

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Beth Marie Richards
Organization: Individual
Address: 307 West High Terrace Syracuse, New York 13219
Phone: 315-488-1701
E-mail: bethrich@twcny.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

Regarding the SB 580 hearing on 2/3/2011 by the Committee on Water, Land and Housing, I have been a frequent visitor to Hawaii. I come especially for the snorkeling and scuba. My sister and I have been tourists for the past 3 years on Maui and the previous year on Oahu. We spend every day snorkeling. As a Biology teacher, I am extremely interested in the number of species and the populations of those species in Hawaii. I have noticed the limited size of the populations of many species and the lack of diversity.

I believe it is not only a matter of continuing your tourist industry by attracting visitors interested in marine life, but a matter of responsibility to preserve this priceless resource.

Please pass this bill protecting your beautiful island environment.

Sincerely,
Beth Marie Richards

Dane Wicker

From: Ron Davis [rtdavis@cruzio.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 6:13 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Please Save Hawaii's Reef Fish

Aloha,

I am in support of SB 580, and want to voice my support (via this e-mail) at the Thursday, February 3 meeting. My family and I am a regular visitors to the islands, and being able to see a large variety of reef fish is a large part of why we come to Hawaii.

Sincerely,
Ron Davis
Santa Cruz, CA

February 2, 2011

Dear Senate Committee,

This testimony is in regards to Senate Bill 580 which is to be reviewed by the Committee on Water, Land, and Housing relating to the hearing on Thursday, February 3, 2011.

At present, there is little or no regulation enforced as to the practice of collecting reef fish and invertebrates for the purpose of aquarium trade in the State of Hawaii. This unregulated practice in decimating reef wildlife populations in the entire state is quickly reducing the population of several species while threatening them with extinction.

The loss is not only tragic; it is detrimental to an imbalance to the reef's natural eco-system. Since almost 90% of the fish that are hunted are algae-eaters, the fact is that their loss means the reefs will eventually suffer by means of an overgrowth of algae which can smother the life giving corals.

Unregulated aquarium collection for the selfish reason of private viewings is immoral in its legality. Although many of the species of tropical fish that are native to the waters and give peaceful and simple pleasures to millions can live for many years if protected, in captivity most will perish within the first year of aquarium life. This seems to be a very high price to pay in order to satisfy a limited and unsympathetic audience and must be eliminated.

Please support the requests and demands of the majority when reaching your decision and regulate the aquarium extractors by a strict control and in the process, secure the future existence of one of the greatest treasures of the Hawaiian Islands.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Fennick

Dane Wicker

From: Donnabellelima [donnabellelima@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 5:32 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB580

As a diver and frequent visitor to Hawaii I realize that the largest attraction for me are the endemic species I am privileged to see. I urge passage of legislation to protect the reef fish from collectors.

Thank You.

Paul Lima
9648 Big Springs Road
Christiana, TN 37037
Sent from my iPad

Dane Wicker

From: Judy Singer [judy.singer@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 4:11 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: testimony

My testimony relates to SB 580 and to the hearing on Thursday, February 3 at 1:15 p.m.

I live in West Hartford, Connecticut and have been to Hawaii on vacation twice. Both times, my husband and I had the opportunity and good fortune to snorkel at some of your state's most exquisite reefs. The wildlife that we saw was beyond exciting and there just are no words to describe how lovely and exhilarating an experience we had. We have encouraged our friends and family members to use the outfitters that we used and to see what we saw!

Imagine my surprise when I realized that the fabulous fish at these reefs can be collected and shipped around the world, threatening the existence of species, your ecosystem, your tourism industry, and one of your most valuable assets. A permit to do this in Hawaii costs a mere \$50. What are you waiting for? Protect these fish species from decimation just as you protect the reefs themselves. When they are gone, they'll be gone for good.

Judy G. Singer
74 Farmstead Lane
West Hartford, CT 06117

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 4:14 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: orchid6128@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: deborah mader
Organization: Individual
Address: 811 S Kihie Rd 5C Kihei, HI
Phone: 808-772-3191
E-mail: orchid6128@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

We need to protect our precious aquatic environment, including the reefs and ocean life. We are in full support of SB 580, which we feel will help to save this precious ecosystem. Please pass this bill. Our environment cannot sustain the current levels of harvesting by those who take precious sea life for the purpose of an aquarium. Thank you, Deborah Mader, Thomas Creagh, and Kai Mader Creagh

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 3:52 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: mimioz2000@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: comments only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Irene Dale
Organization: Individual
Address: 4254 Garth Road Crozet
Phone: 4348235492
E-mail: mimioz2000@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

Money-hungry individuals are slowly destroying our environment...tourists enjoy the diving in Hawaiian waters, and all that is possible to protect the wildlife all over the planet needs to be done.

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 2:57 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: jennaconnect@yahoo.co.uk
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jenna de Buretel
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jennaconnect@yahoo.co.uk
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members, Our fragile reef systems need to be preserved. I would like to commend you for hearing this crucial bill safeguarding reef wildlife from the aquarium and hobby trade.

I support SB 580 because reef life shouldn't be wasted - it should be protected for all of Hawaii.

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 2:11 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: lank-legs@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: William Monahan
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: lank-legs@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members,

Thank you for hearing S.B. 580, an important bill protecting reef wildlife from the international aquarium trade/hobby.

I support it because reef wildlife shouldn't be wasted, too much has already died, due to pollution. It should be left on Hawaii's reefs for the benefit of all.

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 12:57 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: anthonymawrie@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anthony
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: anthonymawrie@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

Dane Wicker

From: Beth Liebling [luna7676@gmail.com] on behalf of Beth Liebling [luna7676@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 12:00 AM
To: WLH Testimony

Please pass legislature to save our beautiful fish. I have been swimming in Hawaii since 1991 and have noticed the change. It is a cruel practice to take these reef fish and sell them for aquariums.

Please stop this practice with legislature and enforcement Thank you Beth Liebling

Sent from Beth Liebling's Iphone

Melanie Hardy
201-669 West 7th Avenue
Vancouver, BC Canada V5Z 1B6

Feb 1, 2011

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing
Conference Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, Hawaii

Re: SB 580 Hearing Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 1:15 p.m.

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to support Hawaii Senate Bill 580 as relating to the hearing on Thursday February 3 at 1:15pm. I support the prohibition of the sale of any aquatic life taken from water within the state for aquarium purposes.

I regularly visit Maui on vacation coming from Canada, and take great pleasure in snorkelling amongst the beautiful reefs. It is one of the reasons I keep coming back to your wonderful islands. I was very surprised and appalled to hear the state allows the aquarium trade to remove an enormous amount of reef fish from their natural habitat every year. This is such a short-sighted use of such a valuable resource. Moreover, I understand that standard practices by the aquarium trade means that many of these reef fish suffer in transport and die prematurely. Surely, the State of Hawaii can take a longer view of managing these natural resources, and receive far greater return through tourism and recreation than through the aquarium trade.

I reiterate my support for SB 580 to realize the protection of Hawaii's reef fish.

Respectfully,

Melanie Hardy
melhardy@telus.net

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 10:42 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: mjellings@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carl Jellings
Organization: Individual
Address: Nanakuli, Waianae, Hawaii.
Phone:
E-mail: mjellings@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:
Senator Dela Cruz and Members WLH

In Opposition to SB 580

Waianae nearshore waters supports several families who have a lifetime of experience in this field. Most Captain's have been committed to the resource and it's sustainability full time for over 30 and 40 years, Our legislature has been relentless come to this fishery , these men are no less than experts in this field, is the legislature to depend solely on tourism, Dozen's of Dive shops are hurting where are the tourist to support them, these shops remain open because of its diverse support from the different segment's of fishers along with tourism. Fishing supplies are also supported by a diverse group of fishers it's an economy within an economy together worth in the ten's of millions, every fishery contributes to the economy from a talented sustainable mined DIVERSE group of hard working dedicated men and the families that have sacrificed much to be a part of this tough lifestyle,"fishing Aint Easy"

Mahalo Nui

Carl P Jellings Sr

Dane Wicker

From: perinodesigns@gmail.com on behalf of Judy Perino [perino@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 10:37 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB580 (total ban on all aquarium fish collecting)

**To: Committee on Water and Land Use
SB580 hearing for February 3, 2011 at 1:15 p.m.**

This House Bill is very alarming to me as a long time resident of Hawaii. I understand overfishing very well but equally understand resource management. The proper operation of fish collection does not impact the number or quality of the reef inhabitants from my observation while diving here for over 20 years. Making designated areas which are managed or left untouched and limiting the number of collectors is a far better solution than banning all collection. The state has a very poor picture of how management works. Fishing or fish collecting licenses (especially for visitors) to generate revenue, research into true marine life statistics and stopping poorly run or unlawful businesses is what should be using state resources (not trying to find a quick way to put legitimate families out of business). Any individual who is associated with this bill should not be an elected official representing the people who pay taxes (and their salaries). Stop future companies from starting up but DO NOT close down a business who is already operational and can only move AWAY from Hawaii to stay in business. I have already been in a business here which was closed down by the state, don't continue down the path of taking the easy way out.....find the facts and work it out with imagination. Work out any issues with the collectors themselves.

ALOHA

Robert Whitmyer
74-5566 Palani Road, Suite 19
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740
(808) 640-8688

--
Judith Smith Perino
Perino Designs
PH. 808 325 5919
FAX 808 325 6262

Dane Wicker

From: The Humane Society of the United States [humanesociety@hsus.org] on behalf of ginger westerman [kailuaangel@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 8:42 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Please support S.B. 580 to protect our cherished reef wildlife

Feb 2, 2011

Hawaii Senate Water, Land and Housing Committee

As a Hawaii resident, I urge you to support S.B. 580 to protect Hawaii's wildlife.

A million or more reef animals are captured on Hawaii reefs every year and sold as "ornamentals" in the marine aquarium hobby. Up to 40% may die before even reaching their final U.S., Asian, or European destination.

S.B. 580 prohibits the sale of aquatic life taken from state waters for aquarium purposes -- but it would not prevent the responsible collection of reef wildlife for education, research, cultural, or human consumption purposes.

This legislation also protect millions of reef animals from collection for the disposable commercial trade. Keeping this wildlife on our reefs is good for the animals, important for healthy reef ecosystems, and essential for our marine tourism-based economy.

Please support S.B. 580 when it comes before you for your consideration. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Ms. ginger westerman
PO Box 44
Kailua, HI 96734-0044
(808) 386-6544

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 9:37 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: wandatstephens@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Wanda Temple Stephens
Organization: Individual
Address: 891 Noela Place Wailuku, HI 96793
Phone: 808 344-0741
E-mail: wandatstephens@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Please SUPPORT SENATE BILL 580!
Hawaii Senate Bill 580 to prohibit the sale of any aquatic life taken from waters within the state for aquarium purposes is an important Bill to pass. The oceans and aquatic life need protection now.

Wanda Temple-Stephens
891 Noela Place
Wailuku, HI 96793

Dane Wicker

From: Lewloni@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 8:49 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB580

To Whom It May Concern,

I have visited Maui county several times when I travel to Hawaii. One of the things that I enjoy very much doing is snorkeling. The reason for that is warmer waters than my home State of Oregon, but the variety of fishes that I get to see.

If you as a legislature allow such a rapid depletion of your native resources, you by extension may be reducing your tourist dollars by a very substantial margin.

Maui county voted a restriction to disallow plastic bags to protect wildlife. It turned out to be no problem at all to comply with--the BYOB program was good for the county. Protecting the fisheries wildlife any way you can with such measures can help. I would urge passing of this measure for preservation of one of the great attractions of your fine state.

Sincerely'

Lloyd L. Godin
Philomath, OR

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 8:08 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: hagemanmd@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marie Hageman
Organization: Individual
Address: 204 Champion Way Sewell, NJ
Phone: 856-589-0606
E-mail: hagemanmd@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members,

Thank you for considering protecting reef wildlife for all Hawaiians and our visitors. I support SB 580 because reef wildlife is the reason many tourists, like myself, come to HI. Marine life can be sold for a few dollars or left here to draw my yearly month-long visits resulting in \$10,000 + each year to HI. Your choice!

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 8:00 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: josteve2002@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jo Anne Ginger
Organization: Individual
Address: 2817 Panepoo St Kihei, HI
Phone:
E-mail: josteve2002@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members,

I appreciate that you are hearing this important bill protecting reef wildlife from the international aquarium trade/hobby.

I support SB 580 because I have witnessed first hand the depletion of our reef wildlife. It should not be wasted - it should be protected for all of Hawaii.

Please pass this bill and save our reef wildlife.

Dane Wicker

From: Cheryl Metz [metz4family@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 7:57 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB 580

This is in regard to the hearing on Thursday, February 3. Please protect the reef fish so that we can enjoy them in the wild for years to come. Thank you.

May peace and blessings be yours,
Cheryl Metz

Dane Wicker

From: HawaiiDoves2@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 7:58 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB 580

To whom it may concern,

I am in support of bill SB 580. I believe that too much collecting of reef fish, for commercial purposes, is harmful to our marine fish population.

This activity, should stop immediately!

Much Mahalo,
Dennis Nakashima
Kaneohe, Hi.

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 7:55 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: pauline@seaslugsofhawaii.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Pauline Fiene
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: 8088911932
E-mail: pauline@seaslugsofhawaii.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Out of necessity we have finally begun to re-learn what people knew generations ago - that every part of our ecosystem is connected to every other. Removing reef animals from already stressed reefs for human entertainment means removing grazers, scavengers that keep the ocean clean, and many animals for which we do not even fully understand their role, though surely they have one. Yet the deeper reason this should not be happening is that each of these creatures has a right to live its life naturally, to its full length in its proper habitat; to not be captured and removed from its home, shipped thousands of miles, and if still alive, be rewarded with a diminished quality of life inside four glass walls, all for the viewing pleasure of a few.

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 7:32 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: RawcoHI@cs.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM
Attachments: Comments Regarding SB580.doc

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Reg White
Organization: Individual
Address: 1540 S. King St. Honolulu, Hi 96826-1919
Phone: 808-222-9794
E-mail: RawcoHI@cs.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Comments Regarding SB580

In room 225 at 1315 on Thursday, 3 February 2011 Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing
Chair Dela Cruz and Respected Members of the Committee;

My name is Reg White. I have earned my living on Oahu's waterfront for the past 36 years and we live aboard our boat in Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor. As a result I am very familiar with the constant and repeated poaching of our indigenous marine life forms for aquarium purposes. While I support the intent of this proposed legislation, sadly it is a waste of time as it does not provide for enforcement. If you call DOCARE to request enforcement or to report an illegal activity, you will be told that they are only active in their enforcement activities from 0730 to 1630 Monday through Friday except for holidays. The poachers know this and they keep alternate office hours to those of DOCARE and so enjoy a quite hassle free professional life. If you truly want this legislation to make a difference you must provide for enforcement within the body of this bill as no one else is going to care and nothing will happen as a result of this act if you don't.

Respectfully,

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

Comments Regarding SB580

In room 225 at 1315 on Thursday, 3 February 2011

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

Chair Dela Cruz and Respected Members of the Committee;

My name is Reg White. I have earned my living on Oahu's waterfront for the past 36 years and we live aboard our boat in Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor. As a result I am very familiar with the constant and repeated poaching of our indigenous marine life forms for aquarium purposes. While I support the intent of this proposed legislation, sadly it is a waste of time as it does not provide for enforcement. If you call DOCARE to request enforcement or to report an illegal activity, you will be told that they are only active in their enforcement activities from 0730 to 1630 Monday through Friday except for holidays. The poachers know this and they keep alternate office hours to those of DOCARE and so enjoy a quite hassle free professional life. If you truly want this legislation to make a difference you must provide for enforcement within the body of this bill as no one else is going to care and nothing will happen as a result of this act if you don't.

Respectfully,

Reg White

1540 S. King St.

Honolulu, HI 96826-1919

808-222-9794

RawcoHI@cs.com

Dane Wicker

From: Judy Mick [ppchawaii@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 7:16 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB 580

Aloha Legislators-

It is time to put our environment higher on the list than making a buck. Those who would plunder our reefs for profit must be stopped. Not only is the reef ecosystem becoming imbalanced, but the fish taken for aquariums do not survive when taken from their natural environment. Please stop this activity before it's too late. Mahalo.
Aloha, Judy Mick

Dane Wicker

From: Bev Moodie [bevmoodie@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 7:08 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Please support SB 580

Dear Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Solomon and Committee Members. Please support SB 580 to protect our Reef Wildlife

No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 10.0.1204 / Virus Database: 1435/3417 - Release Date: 02/01/11

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 5:46 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: jmunday@avantrex.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dr. John C. Munday
Organization: Individual
Address: 1204 Murray Drive Chesapeake VA 23322
Phone: 757-482-5709
E-mail: jmunday@avantrex.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:
Dear Sir:

Concerning SB 580 and the hearing on Thursday, February 3, at 1:15 pm, by the Committee on Water, Land and Housing.

I have visited Hawaii four times and want to come again. As an environmental scientist, with more than a decade of experience employed by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, a state agency in Virginia, I was surprised to learn during my last visit to Hawaii in March 2010 how little protection there is for reef wildlife in Hawaiian waters. I read all the news about this issue that I could find in the newsmedia and online.

Please pass SB 580, to increase protection of reef wildlife in Hawaii.

The well-known fact about fisheries is that without protective management by both state and federal agencies, fish stocks get wiped out. The history of fishery protection is replete with examples.

Take the important step of passing SB 580. With proper management, fish stocks can be preserved for both visiting tourists and snorkelers like myself, Hawaiian native populations, and even those companies harvesting fish for the aquarium industry. In the long run, without protection, fish stocks will be depleted and then no one will have any fish to enjoy. Down deep, even the harvesting companies know that that is true -- without protection, even they will eventually go out of business as stocks are exhausted.

I served on Virginia's Pesticide Control Board for 8 years, and on a municipal wetlands board (City of Chesapeake, Virginia) for 10 years which reported to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. I am very familiar with the issues of wildlife protection in coastal marine waters.

Please do your part in protecting your own Hawaiian coastal waters. You will be glad you did.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. John C. Munday
1204 Murray Drive
Chesapeake, VA 23322
757-482-5709
jmunday@avantrex.com

Chair
Department of Natural Science, Mathematics, and Technology School of Undergraduate Studies
Regent University Virginia Beach, VA 23464
757-352-4815
jmunday@regent.edu

Dane Wicker

From: Dr. John C. Munday [jmunday@avantrex.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 5:42 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Support SB 580; hearing on Thursday, February 3 at 1:15 p.m.

Dear Sir:

Concerning SB 580 and the hearing on Thursday, February 3, at 1:15 pm, by the Committee on Water, Land and Housing.

I have visited Hawaii four times and want to come again. As an environmental scientist, with more than a decade of experience employed by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, a state agency in Virginia, I was surprised to learn during my last visit to Hawaii in March 2010 how little protection there is for reef wildlife in Hawaiian waters. I read all the news about this issue that I could find in the newsmedia and online.

Please pass SB 580, to increase protection of reef wildlife in Hawaii.

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Take the important step of passing SB 580. With proper management, fish stocks can be preserved for both visiting tourists and snorkelers like myself, Hawaiian native populations, and even those companies harvesting fish for the aquarium industry. In the long run, without protection, fish stocks will be depleted and then no one will have any fish to enjoy. Down deep, even the harvesting companies know that that is true -- without protection, even they will eventually go out of business as stocks are exhausted.

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Please do your part in protecting your own Hawaiian coastal waters. You will be glad you did.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. John C. Munday
1204 Murray Drive
Chesapeake, VA 23322
757-482-5709
jmunday@avantrex.com

Chair
Department of Natural Science, Mathematics, and Technology
School of Undergraduate Studies
Regent University
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
757-352-4815
jmunday@regent.edu

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 6:35 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: paulinest@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Pauline N. Strong
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: paulinest@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:
for SB 580, to be reviewed by the Committee on Water, Land and Housing

I love seeing the marine fish while snorkeling in Hawaii, and I am appalled that there is not stronger regulation to protect them, especially any native fish. Over time and with increases in population, the fish and ecosystems can be severely degraded without the protection that this bill begins to provide.

Dane Wicker

From: John Smith [starmason@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 6:35 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Pro SB 580

Sir:

I visit Hawaii often, from Oregon. I do so because of the unique ocean wildlife and recreational offerings, such as snorkeling, available there. I also like to share this attraction with my grandchildren. If SB 580 fails to pass, tourism will decline, futures altered worldwide and Hawaii's attractive environs damaged. Please help me to be a good Grandfather - vote to pass SB 580.

Sent from my iPad

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 6:12 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: noyitas@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Noyita Saravia
Organization: Individual
Address: 56-154 Puuluana Pl. # 53 Kahuku, Hawaii
Phone: 8082931871
E-mail: noyitas@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

I am a resident for 13 years. I am 70 years old. I love to snorkle. Over the years I have noticed less and less reef fish. I am aware a large percentage of reef fish die that are harvested for aquariums. Please put an end to harvesting for aquariums. Thank you. Noyita Saravia

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 5:36 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: FloB2@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Florence Bahr
Organization: Individual
Address: Kauhale St. Kihei , HI
Phone: 808 874-0661
E-mail: FloB2@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members,

I am thankful to you for hearing this important bill protecting reef wildlife from the aquarium trade.

I support SB 580 because our reefs are so important to our locals and visitors. We need the fish so much more than mainland people who look at them in a tank for a short while before they die. Please, do what is right and pass this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Florence Bahr

Dane Wicker

From: Kim Vicente [Kim.Vicente@gafundraising.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 5:31 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB 580 Feb. 3rd at 1:15

I, and millions of other people come to the amazing state of Hawaii for it's beauty. Unique beauty that cannot be found anywhere else in the world. Part of that beauty is it's undersea life. Nature is a delicate balance. You must protect it. If not for the benefit of the world and nature, do it for your people and your economy. No fish, no reefs, no whales, no tourists. It is really simple.

Please protect the fish and nature. Prosperity comes to those who do the right thing.

Dane Wicker

From: Kim Vicente [Kim.Vicente@gafundraising.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 5:19 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB 580 on Feb. 3rd at 1:15

It is such basic common sense. Hawaii has unmatched beauty, because of it's unique wildlife. You must protect it. Do everything necessary to protect. Not just for your economy, but for the benefit of the world. But let's face it millions of people go to Hawaii and spend a lot of money visiting your beautiful state to see your amazing ocean life. Please protect it, at all costs! It is in your best interest.

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 8:56 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: emailbrookey@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brooke Andrieni
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: emailbrookey@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members, Thank you for hearing this important measure protecting Hawaii's reef wildlife from the aquarium trade. I am in full support and ask that you please pass it without any weakening amendments and work to get it adopted this session. Mahalo,

Dane Wicker

From: Teri Sherrow [Teri@TeriSherrow.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 1:49 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Measure SB 580

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Water and Land Committee members,

I am living on Maui and cannot attend the hearing however I want you to register me as IN Support of Measure SB 580.

This is an exciting time for all of us with President Obama's call for change and having a newly elected democratic governor.

I think that change is about integrity and about caring about what is the best decision to build community in our counties and State. Considering the needs of safety, food, shelter and transportation, we move to the other needs that we have and that is of a surviving economy that is based on tourism and a surviving ecosystem so our allure of the "aloha islands" continues.

Our economy depends right now on tourism for the most part and the tourist come here because of the water, the sky, the air, and the natural beauty and the culture. Many come to be in the water and observe something they have never seen before..fish. Beautiful colors of fish and coral beneath them delight and invite them and they are only a few yards away from their luxury hotel.

The yellow tang is probably the most sought after and loved fish, especially after the recent movies depicting fish as real beings. The fans come to see them and the awesome beauty of their swimming naturally together.

Having lived and swam in our Hawaiian waters for nearly thirty years, I can, as a very avid swimmer, testify that I have personally observed a deterioration in the coral reefs and the population of our native fish dwindle.

We are allowing commercial vendors to come here to take what they want and kill off whatever in order for them to make a profit. Meanwhile, there is no regulation as to the amount or how often or even the eventual home of the fish. There is no accountability, no transparency that we are now all expecting with our new administrations.

I observed a yellow tang in a tiny glass aquarium while waiting for an oil change in Seattle Washington car dealership. It was in an area where most were watching the television while they waited for their cars to be serviced. Meanwhile the tang was alone, swimming back and forth, round and round

with no exit. Later at a restaurant, there swam another tang and other Hawaiian tropical fish in a small tank filled with plastic reef looking pieces.

I thought of the day that I saw a yellow tang stranded on Keawakapu beach and remembered gently picking it up and taking it back into the ocean and letting it go. A few minutes later it swam back to me, circled my leg and swam off in what appeared to me as a gratitude gesture. It was free to swim in it's home environment.

As a real estate professional I am made aware of the latest trends in design and am appalled by the size of aquariums in private homes that are getting out of hand. For instance, in New York, the latest and greatest designs are to create an aquarium wall with cathedral ceilings. They will need fish...how many? Probably hundreds! From where? And where are they going? Survival rates need to be accounted for as well.

I ask you to halt the extraction of all aquarium fish until we can ascertain the scientific method to do this without depleting our fish population to the point where the reefs are no longer cleaned by them and instead of fish we have an algae problem.

A moratorium for a two year period would seem reasonable until the studies can be done and regulations can be made.

If the aquarium vendors are interested in participating in the funding of the study then it will show their enthusiasm in helping us keep our ecosystem healthy. If they are not, then the study may take longer. However, if they do provide funding it will be understood that it is without voice and without any control of the study that will be contracted by the County or State to act in it's behalf.

You represent us, the people of Maui and Hawaii and I offer my sincere gratitude for your serving our community,

Mahalo for your time,
Teri Sherrow
Kihei, Hawaii 96753
Full time Maui resident since 1989
Visiting Hawaii since 1972

Dane Wicker

From: Linda Preskitt [lindap@aloha.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 11:08 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: In Support of SB 580

Measure: SB 580

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 1:15 pm

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB580

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Water and Land Committee members,

Thank you for taking my testimony. It is time for the State of Hawai'i to stop the aquarium fish trade. With our reefs degrading from overfishing, pollution, and overuse, it is economically and morally unconscionable that a select few are personally benefitting from the removal of important herbivores and rare reef fish, at expense to other ocean users. My reasons for supporting this bill are:

1. As a marine professional, I have personally observed the impact this trade has on our reefs. Every fish is important to reef health and has an important role to play in this delicate ecosystem. If we are going to remove fish, than it should be only for human consumption and sustenance. Putting more stress on our challenged coral reef ecosystems for a hobby is, at the least, very poor management of our marine resources.
2. The Division of Aquatic Resources has a difficult enough job trying to manage a sustainable fishery for human consumption and sustenance. The manpower and expense devoted to managing the aquarium fish trade, not counting the need for more enforcement, is an unnecessary drain on our depleted State budget.
3. Many of the reef fish that the collectors are taking are the very ones that are cherished by snorklers, SCUBA divers, and other ocean enthusiasts. Our tourist industry, a much more important industry a thousands of times over aquarium fish collecting, includes visitors enjoying the natural habitat in which these fish are found. The removal of hundreds of thousands of yellow tangs, just to name one that is being harvested, makes a tremendous difference to the aesthetic beauty of our corals reefs, thus lessening the experience of our visitors.
4. I am a marine biologist who volunteers my time working with State, federal and university researchers and who devotes the rest of my time to educating the public about marine conservation and human impacts on reefs. I have found aquarium fish collecting especially hard to justify. When we are teaching our community, visitors, and children to cherish this marine resource and to minimize their personal impact on our reefs, how can we turn a blind eye to such an unnecessary stress to our valuable marine resources?

Finally, as a tax paying Hawaiian citizen, I would appreciate if you, our elected and appointed officials, make a decision that is in favor of the greater good and not a select few. Please stop this trade and let our reefs return to a more natural state of greater diversity. By stopping this trade you will be sending a message to all Hawaiian residents that we all need to cherish and conserve our marine resources and protect our reefs for our children.

Thank you,

Linda Preskitt

PO Box 1391

Kamuela, HI 96743

808-882-1568

Dane Wicker

From: Matt Pedersen [matt@cichlidrecipe.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 11:05 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Commentary re: SB580

Measure: SB580
Date: February 3, 2011
Time: 1:15 PM

Matt Pedersen of Duluth MN, ornamental marine fish breeder (have spawned 23 species, reared 9 successfully including one worldwide first), and MASNA 2009 Aquarist of the Year, offering testimony in opposition to SB580.

I hope that an op-ed piece I recently wrote for Reef Builders can be included as commentary on SB580. The full article can be viewed online at <http://reefbuilders.com/2011/02/01/sb580-threatens-limit-ban-reef-fish-harvest-hawaii/> - **I will include some excerpts below.**

I would also ask people to review a recent article written by Ret Talbot - <http://coralmagazine.coverleaf.com/coral/20110102#pg71> - I believe Ret, while an aquarist as well, truly brings journalistic balance to the issue that is fundamentally lacking in this discussion.

Please note that I make allusions to other pending legislation that seeks not to ban the trade in wild marine fish, but to utilize a "white list" to limit the species collected. It is my stance that a wholesale ban on the trade completely isn't correct, and that a wholesale ban on the majority of available species isn't correct either. Ironically, having a trade in wild caught marine fish creates another interest group with vested interests in preserving the resource. It would seem that tourist-related advocates of SB580 really fail to see that they are not the only ones who care about the reefs. Truly, the marine aquarium hobby and industry is being scapegoated for all the reef's problems when in fact, it is climate change, ocean acidification, pollution, and coastal development that put much greater pressures on the reefs than the "artificial predation" created by the selective, sustainable harvest of reef fishes.

We cannot legislate based on morality and emotions, and that is precisely where I see SB580 stemming from. We need science. I believe every aquarium hobbyist in the world would wholeheartedly say "stop collection" if we were shown that we were to blame for the demise of Hawaii's reefs. But I personally haven't seen evidence of that. Unlike other industries, aquarium hobbyists not looking to make excuses, we are not perfect, and isolated individuals certainly can do stupid things. However, we are not chasing down other industries to draw attention away from our own.

Given the dire circumstances that coral reefs around the world face, it is ironically the aquarium hobby and industry that will likely provide the research and the technical means to ark this precious biodiversity. Ultimately, we are not "raiders of the reef", but instead we may be the "saviors of the reef". However, private and commercial propagators can only make progress and discoveries if we have access to all the species present. If we are cut off from the broodstock we need, we fail before we can even start, and we all lose out in the long term.

Instead of any of the bills currently on the table, I propose that sensible fisheries management is required, and other states like Florida already have well-established models that should be considered. Access to all species should remain, instead it is the levels of harvest and the sizes of individuals harvested that may need to be considered.

If time permits, I hope to compose and submit a very short personal video testimony as a personal plea to stop SB580 and show you what the aquarium hobby is really about. If not, I hope the excerpts, if not the full article, can be included as testimony.

Best Regards,

Matt Pedersen
847-732-7333 - cell

Excerpts from Reef Builders Article "New Bill Threatens to Ban Commercial Reef Fish Harvest in Hawaii", by Matt Pedersen

SB580 is perhaps a poorly crafted bill that sends conflicting messages, in some places implying a ban, in other places implying continued harvest with regulations that we thought already existed. As best as we've been able to interpret, SB580 allows for permits to be issued for collection for aquarium use, but there's a snag. A separate revision to an existing rule prohibits the **sale** of fishes collected with this permit. In other words, it relegates the collection of aquarium fishes to hobbyists and public aquariums who get permits (if they're even obtainable and reasonably priced in the first place). In effect, the bill bans the commercial collection of wild reef fish for aquariums in the state of Hawaii.

In a further chaotic move, the proposed bill imposes fines and penalties for people caught selling these fish and doesn't consider the ramifications – what does that mean for the Hawaiian Aquarium Store that's selling a Christmas Island-sourced Flame Angelfish? How can they prove it wasn't collected in Hawaiian waters? Will this bill inadvertently outlaw the keeping and sale of any species found in Hawaii's waters because there may be no way to prove the source?

As long-time aquarists (24 years myself), we cringe at the rhetoric being utilized by "morality police" like Bob Wintner, but also that the same inaccuracies espoused by him are being reflected in the wording of proposed bills. Truly, we see many red flags when morality is legislated, especially through misinformation. Take these choice words from [SB1098](#) – "Endemic species such as the bandit angelfish and the masked angelfish sell for hundreds or even thousands of dollars each, with no regulation or limit." Hobbyists in the know understand that there's a reason these fish sell for so much, but it would seem legislators see collectors getting filthy rich, with unspoken implications that these fish are collected at the same rates as something like a Yellow Tang?

Or what about, "The Hawaiian cleaner wrasse will not eat fish food in captivity and eventually dies of starvation. Likewise, coral-eating butterfly fishes, prized by aquarists for their beauty, starve in a short period of time." True, if you put these fish in the hands of the inexperienced. Somewhat false in these modern times in the hands of a more advanced fish keeper. Ironically, these posterchild fish aren't the fish that are being collected from Hawaii in great numbers anyways because *the hobby and industry itself steers people away from them*.

In other words, the hobby has long been self-policing when it comes to species unsuitable for captivity (for an example of this self-policing, you might browse [Wet Web Media's list of Butterflyfish that are poorly suited for captivity](#) – ironically at least one of the Hawaiian endemic butterflyfish species is on the white list, while a [better-suited species, *Chaetodon fremblii*](#), is not?). Still such broad sweeping statements being used to ban species stifles innovation. I personally aware of at least one pair of Hawaiian Cleaner wrasses being kept in captivity for an extended period; when I saw the white list had to tell the keepers "time to work on breeding them" otherwise this species will be lost to our hobby. By the same token, here I sit, being the first person to successfully breed a coral-feeding species (the Harlequin Filefish, *Oxymonacanthus longirostris*), this same species having a general hobby reputation of being doomed to die and yet I have a 70% success rate at establishing in captivity. That "doomed" reputation keeps most people from trying them, but if such narrow thinking resulted in an outright ban on the species, I never would have been able to obtain it and make such ground breaking discoveries (thus forever altering the future of this species, arguably for the better as we could now ark it if we ever had to). Banning species for the sake of making a compromise is a poor avenue when it comes to research and progress. 20 years ago, we couldn't keep most corals alive. Had we banned them, where would we be now?

Certainly we wouldn't have people spawning and rearing *Pocillopora* spp. corals in their home aquariums. If corals had been banned 20 years ago when they were "difficult" or "impossible" to keep in captivity, we wouldn't have captive-propagated fragments growing into full blown coral reefs like the [Formosa Forest](#). For all the disparaging half truths thrown at the marine aquarium industry, those of us across the aisle share the same vested interest in coral reefs, and we're contributing on a daily basis to advancing our scientific understandings of reef life. Ironically it may likely be the marine aquarium trade and hobby that has provided the knowledge and insights that may ensure corals and their inhabitants exist beyond the global issues of climate change, pollution, and ocean acidification.

We strongly encourage level-headed Hawaiians to see beyond the rhetoric and often blatant lies about the marine aquarium hobby. People like Bob Wintner have a vested interest in attacking the marine aquarium trade. He sells more books, and he diverts attention from the damage his own industry may be causing. He plays on your emotions when he makes claims like clownfish (Nemo) don't live in captivity. In stark contrast to Wintner's "facts", most clownfish available in the hobby are now captive-bred, some having been in captivity for multiple generations. They are quite happy in small aquariums (given that in nature, they never leave more than a couple square feet where there anemone resides), and captive lifespans can often be measured in decades, not months as Wintner would lead you to believe. Wintner and those who share similar sentiments often wind up retreating to a "moral" argument when their false facts are exposed. Meanwhile, the aquarium hobby thinks not only with it's heart, but it's mind too.

The truth is that the aquarium hobby cares about the long term sustainability of our hobby, and more importantly we care about coral reefs. We work tirelessly to improve our culture techniques and freely share what we learn. The net result is that we bring coral reefs to people who otherwise may never have even thought about them, and we bring experiences and knowledge that ultimately may ark coral reefs in light of the larger threats they are facing – threats like climate change that the marine aquarium hobby has no direct responsibility for, nor any direct capability to remedy. Still we can work to provide a failsafe via captive propagation, but only if you continue to work with the collectors and the industry to ensure that can happen. Indeed, the marine aquarium trade is not your enemy, and probably is not the culprit for the problems affecting Hawaii's reefs.

Ultimately, it is our position that if change is required in Hawaii, make it smart change. Given the two options on the table, the white list makes better sense, but is honestly simply the better of two poor choices. If something must be done, we'd encourage the white list option only as a *temporary* measure, with the ultimate aim being something in a year or two that aims to limit the impact of the trade through standard proven fisheries management practices instead of arbitrary lists of which species are, and are not, to be collected.

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 4:51 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: John@22research.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Sherman
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: John@22research.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members,

Thank you for hearing this important bill protecting reef wildlife from the international aquarium trade/hobby.

I support SB 580 because reef wildlife shouldn't be wasted - it should be protected for all of Hawaii.

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 4:50 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: janetsherman@comcast.net
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Janet Sherman
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: janetsherman@comcast.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members,

Thank you for hearing this important bill protecting reef wildlife from the international aquarium trade/hobby.

I support SB 580 because reef wildlife shouldn't be wasted - it should be protected for all of Hawaii.

Dane Wicker

From: Carol Colip [colipso@charter.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 4:00 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB 580

I want to urge the passage of AB 580, the bill to protect reef fish. I have snorkeled there, and would like to return to scuba dive there. Please protect the reef and all of its creatures. Sincerely, Carol Colip Fallon, Nevada

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 4:44 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: pattyLou9@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Patricia Hoskin
Organization: Individual
Address: 2495 S. Kihei Rd. #163 Kihei, Hawaii 96753
Phone: 808 8743965
E-mail: pattyLou9@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

I really hope you stop all aquarium collecting. I have owned a condo since 2005 and I have visited Hawaii since 1969. It is very obvious that the reef are collasping and that the fish are decreasing. I would think you would want healthy systems, if for no other reason that the tourist industry.

Mahalo,
Pat Hoskin

Dane Wicker

From: Leili McKinley [lm@leilimckinley.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 3:41 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Support for SB 580 to Protect our Reef Wildlife

Dear Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Solomon and Committee Members. Please support SB 580 to Protect our Reef Wildlife

I do a lot of diving and snorkeling. It seems to get harder and harder to find the fish. They belong in the ocean, not in someone's aquarium. Please help protect what makes our islands so beautiful. We need to protect the 'Aina.

- A million or more reef animals are captured on Hawaii reefs every year and sold as "ornamentals" in the saltwater aquarium hobby. Because these animals are fragile, up to 40% may die before even reaching their final U.S., Asia, or Europe destination. Most of the rest die within a year.
- Keeping this wildlife on our reefs is good for the animals, important for healthy reef ecosystems and essential for our tourism-based economy.
- This important measure does **not** prevent the responsible collecting of reef wildlife for education, research, cultural or consumptive purposes.
- For more info see: [Trouble in Paradise](#)

Thank you.

Leili (say lay-lee)

Follow Me on <http://www.twitter.com/leilimckinley>

Friend Me on <http://profile.to/leilimckinley/>

Connect on <http://www.linkedin.com/in/leilimckinley>

Subscribe to my <http://friendfeed.com/leilimckinley>

Read My Blog <http://www.leilimckinley.com>

Dane Wicker

From: clairer@uvic.ca
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 3:40 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB 580 hearing on Thursday, February 3 at 1:15 p.m

Dear Sir or Madame,

I am writing you this letter of testimony to voice my support for Senate Bill 580 that would prohibit the sale of any aquatic life taken from waters within the state for aquarium purposes. This testimony relates to the hearing in Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 1:15 pm.

I have been to Hawai'i many times over the past 20 years and I believe there is nowhere else like it on earth. I have also had the privilege to go snorkeling on Maui's beautiful reefs many times, and I am always amazed at the many different species of reef fish and other animals that I see. I also have a very strong interest in ocean conservation and believe it is important to protect the oceans as much as we can. As has been said, "if the oceans die, we die." Coral reefs are critical to the ocean ecosystem and all reef fish have their own specific roles which help maintain the reef ecosystem, and therefore the ocean ecosystem. Therefore, it is important to protect Hawai'i's reefs to ensure the survival of Hawai'i's ocean ecosystem.

Climate change, specifically coral bleaching, makes protecting Hawai'i's reefs, and the fish that call them home, even more important. The reefs that surround the Hawaiian Islands contain numerous endemic reef fish (species that developed over countless generations to fit Hawaii's unique environment and today are found nowhere else but Hawaii) and these unique species require even more protection as they face the risk of extinction more so than the non-endemic reef fish. It is important to look at the long-term impacts that the collection of Hawaiian reef fish for the aquarium trade will have on Hawai'i in the years to come. Snorkeling and scuba diving are important for tourism in the islands and if the reef fish are depleted, a major source of revenue for the state and its businesses will disappear. Many people come to Hawai'i to see the unique species that call it home. I would like to come to Hawai'i and observe and enjoy these beautiful reef fish in their natural habitat for many years to come.

By removing reef fish from the Hawaiian reefs, the ecosystem suffers as the loss of the reef fish causes an imbalance in the reef's natural eco-system. 86% of all reef fish taken are algae-eaters. The loss of these fish means that the reefs suffer from an overgrowth of algae, which can smother the corals.

The passage of the reef fish protection bills by Maui County in 2010 and earlier this year are examples of how the collection of reef fish from Hawaiian waters can be more strictly regulated, or even prohibited.

It is important to protect Hawai'i's reef fish now before it is too late. Therefore, I urge you to make Senate Bill 580 law.

For the oceans,

Claire Rogers

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 3:38 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: Lani2@comcast.net
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lani Harris
Organization: Individual
Address: 14840 SW Bonnie Brae St Beaverton Oregon 97007
Phone: 503-646-1477
E-mail: Lani2@comcast.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Honored State Representatives, I am writing in support of Measure SB580 to pass as law. Although I am not a resident of Hawaii, my husband and I have and do spend time vacationing in your beautiful state and much time is spent snorkling in your warm waters, enjoying the aquatic life within. We are pleased that a bill could be passed into law saving endemic reef fish species from extinction. Passing this bill would be important to the ecology of Hawaiian waters and it's inhabitants as well as for tourists, kama'aina and Hawaiians at heart. Can you imagine having no reef fishes swimming in your waters and the negative domino affect that it would have? What a sad day that would be if it were to come true. Mahalo for your time in reading my testimonial. I hope SB580 will become Hawaiian law. Respectively, Mrs. Lani Harris

Dane Wicker

From: king16x@excite.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 3:31 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: I Support SB 580

Hawaii Senate:

We must take action to preserve Hawaii's unique ecology. Please pass SB 580, which will protect Hawaiian reef fish. Thank you.

Bud See

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 3:26 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: nadineo@earthlink.net
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nadine Ornburg
Organization: Individual
Address: 40 Lamy Downs Lamy, NM
Phone: 505-466-6164
E-mail: nadineo@earthlink.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Thank you for hearing this important bill protecting reef wildlife from the international aquarium trade/hobby. I support SB 580 because wildlife shouldn't be wasted - it should be protected for all of Hawaii.

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 3:16 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: mauiskye1@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Skye Coe
Organization: Individual
Address: 3164 Mapu Place Kihei, HI
Phone: 808-280-3682
E-mail: mauiskye1@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Dear Hawai'ian Senators,

If you've ever snorkeled in Hawai'i, you are aware of the colorful reef fish that live here among the corals.

But did you know that aquarium collectors can simply scoop up these beautiful reef fish, put them in plastic bags and ship them off to distributors and dealers around the world?

In the state of Hawaii, all it takes is a \$50 permit to collect reef fish and invertebrates for the aquarium trade.

There is little or no regulation of these collectors, even though the practice is decimating reef wildlife populations around the state. For example, our population of Yellow Tangs has dropped by 73% since 1999, largely due to aquarium collecting.

Endemic species (species that developed over countless generations to fit Hawaii's unique environment and today are found nowhere else but Hawaii) are threatened with extinction by the aquarium trade. Almost half of the top 20 species gathered by aquarium collectors are endemic. Some of these endemic species die quickly in captivity. Yet the aquarium trade continues to collect them because they can command a high price: one rare Hawaii endemic recently retailed for \$9,500.

The loss of the reef fish causes an imbalance in the reef's natural eco-system. 86% of all reef fish taken are algae-eaters. The loss of these fish means that the reefs suffer from an overgrowth of algae, which can smother the corals.

Fish in the wild can live for many years, once they get through the precarious juvenile stage. For example, Yellow Tangs can live for more than 40 years. However, up to 97% of all wildlife taken is estimated to die within a year of capture.

PLEASE ENCOURAGE HAWAII'S GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ACTION Hawaii's state government has jurisdiction of Hawaii's reefs and the nearshore areas, but has not taken action to control aquarium collectors.

In frustration, Maui County residents (including Pacific Whale Foundation) turned to the Maui County Council. The council took steps last year to regulate aquarium collecting where it could. A bill passed in 2010 requires collectors in Maui County to obtain county permits, meet strict standards, and provide mortality reports, tax clearances and fees. Pacific Whale Foundation is proud to have testified on behalf of this new law -- which was the first to regulate aquarium extractors in Hawaii.

A second county bill to require humane treatment of reef fish collected by the aquarium trade underwent its final reading on January 21, 2011 -- and it passed unanimously! Pacific Whale Foundation also testified in support of this bill.

Both Maui County bills helped raise public awareness about this issue.

Now with a new governor in office and some new faces at Hawaii's state legislature, it appears that the state of Hawaii may also take action! This is a long-awaited opportunity that may not present itself again in the near future. Please help to ensure that our reef fish are protected.

HELP SUPPORT SENATE BILL 580

Hawaii Senate Bill 580 would prohibit the sale of any aquatic life taken from waters within the state for aquarium purposes. It would establish prohibitions, penalties, and fines for knowingly selling aquatic life for aquarium purposes taken from waters within the jurisdiction of the State. This new law would require an aquarium permit to take marine or freshwater nongame fish and other aquatic life for aquarium purposes. It would also impose new standards for aquarium permit issuance determinations.

It would exempt those who take reef fish for food or bait, as well as for scientific or educational purposes or cultural or religious use. This law would not impact Hawaii's home aquariums or display aquariums (where wildlife is displayed but not for sale).

'NUF SEd' Please do your job!!

Dane Wicker

From: BillyBond@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 3:11 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Stop aquarium companies from harvesting Hawaii's reef fish

My wife and I have been visiting Hawaii on the average of once a year for about 15 years now; one of our favorite activities is snorkeling. We've seen many wonders, some amusing (like the turtle that apparently assumed that I was a turtle, too--I am fat--and followed me ashore), some amazing (like rarely-seen Hawaii reef squid), some scary (an immobile but very large barracuda), some unexpected (baby moray eels; I never thought in TERMS of baby moray eels before we found a bunch of them in a tide pool). We're in love with Hawaii; could we afford it, we'd move there in a heartbeat. Largely to snorkel.

We're residents of California, not Hawaii, but if we were, we'd urge our state representatives deal with SB 580 in such a way that restrictions are immediately imposed on those who harvest the reef fish for aquariums (aquaria?) worldwide. This relates to the hearing on Thursday, February 3, at 1:15 pm.

For far, far too long, the world's population has treated the environment as if it were an infallibly renewable resource, eternally able to supply us with what we want, a vast space into which our waste can be safely dumped. We have learned, too late in many cases (all the extinct Hawaiian birds, for example), that this is a disastrously short-sighted view. Hawaii has done a lot to protect its environment, partly and largely because it's one of the wonderlands of the world, an almost stunningly beautiful place, forever changeable, and yet forever Hawaii.

If people in the rest of the world want to have aquariums at home populated with reef fish, including those from Hawaii, let them have all the CAPTIVE-BRED reef fish they want. And cease their stealing from Hawaii living bits of Hawaiian beauty.

Bill Warren
2359 Landa St.
Los Angeles, CA 90039

Dane Wicker

From: Hale Sanders [halesanders@mindspring.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 2:59 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: RE: Putting Limits on Taking Reef Fish for Aquariums in the world - Senat Bill 580

From: Hale Sanders [<mailto:halesanders@mindspring.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 7:57 PM
To: 'WLHTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov.'
Subject: Putting Limits on Taking Reef Fish for Aquariums in the world - Senat Bill 580

Please support Senate Bill 580 so that people are limited from scooping up reef fish from your waters and shipping them off to aquariums around the world. If your reef fish populations are decimated, then I and many others will not want to come to Hawaii for our vacations, since snorkeling is a big part of the reason I like Hawaii.

Hale Sanders, a longtime Georgia resident
3159 Bayonet Court
Marietta Georgia 30068

Dane Wicker

From: Edie Kennan [ekennan@earthlink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 1:32 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB 580

Please support SB 580. Aquarium dealers must be regulated in order to ensure the survival of reef fish in Hawaii. Endemic species (species that developed over countless generations to fit Hawaii's unique environment and today are found nowhere else but Hawaii) are threatened with extinction by the aquarium trade. Almost half of the top 20 species gathered by aquarium collectors are endemic. Some of these endemic species die quickly in captivity. The loss of the reef fish causes an imbalance in the reef's natural eco-system. 86% of all reef fish taken are algae-eaters. The loss of these fish means that the reefs suffer from an overgrowth of algae, which can smother the corals.

Fish in the wild can live for many years, once they get through the precarious juvenile stage. For example, Yellow Tangs can live for more than 40 years. However, up to 97% of all wildlife taken is estimated to die within a year of capture.

Please help preserve Hawaii's beautiful reef fish by voting in favor of SB 580.

Thank you,
Eden Kennan

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 2:50 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: p.dywan@att.net
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Pat Dywan
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: p.dywan@att.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

As a frequent visitor to Hawaii, one of the things I enjoy most is snorkeling with the beautiful Hawaiian fish. Please protect this very valuable natural resource from exploitation.

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 2:50 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: ricrapp@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ric Rapp
Organization: Individual
Address: 37B Puako Beach Road Kamuela, HI., 96743
Phone: 808-882-1403
E-mail: ricrapp@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Living off one of Hawaii's greatest resources for tourism, entertainment and quality of life, PUAKO REEF, I support S.B. 580 which prohibits sale of aquatic life taken from state waters for aquarium purposes. These waters at one time were called the Gold Coast because of the rivers of yellow tang that cruised the coast. These fish are a popular aquarium species and live up to 35 years. You will no longer see this sight. Three aquarium businesses in the neighborhood made sure of that. Those business have moved on to better populated reefs or gone out of business leaving the reef DE-Populated.

Why should a small mercenary industry be allowed to destroy treasures that were enjoyed by all?

Thank you,
Ric Rapp

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 2:49 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: megabyt@aloha.net
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Antony Mitchell
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: megabyt@aloha.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Hawaii needs to begin protecting its natural resources and the reason the tourists come here. I have lived on the Big Island for 31 years and as an active SCUBA diver have witnessed the dramatic decline in the reef fishes normally taken by "collectors".

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 2:46 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: armando4363@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: armando
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: armando4363@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

pls stop capturing, yellow tangs fish for hobby this fish verry important to the coral reef if we loos this coral reef migh end up for dessaster, we need to protect coral reef fish all of them period. porpose is for the next genererion we have to cheris them. they are not harmful of anything Pls protect them insted using it for hobby,that it not cool thank you

Dane Wicker

From: The Humane Society of the United States [humanesociety@hsus.org] on behalf of Ellen McFarland [ellen.mcfarland@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 2:41 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Please support S.B. 580 to protect our cherished reef wildlife

Feb 1, 2011

Hawaii Senate Water, Land and Housing Committee

As a Hawaii resident, I urge you to support S.B. 580 to protect Hawaii's wildlife.

A million or more reef animals are captured on Hawaii reefs every year and sold as "ornamentals" in the marine aquarium hobby. Up to 40% may die before even reaching their final U.S., Asian, or European destination.

S.B. 580 prohibits the sale of aquatic life taken from state waters for aquarium purposes -- but it would not prevent the responsible collection of reef wildlife for education, research, cultural, or human consumption purposes.

This legislation also protect millions of reef animals from collection for the disposable commercial trade. Keeping this wildlife on our reefs is good for the animals, important for healthy reef ecosystems, and essential for our marine tourism-based economy.

Please support S.B. 580 when it comes before you for your consideration. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Ms. Ellen McFarland
176 River Rd
Wailuku, HI 96793-5701

Dane Wicker

From: DoreenVirtue444@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 2:29 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB 580 IN SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Water and Land Committee members,

I am a PADI Divemaster living in Kona, Hawaii, and I am IN SUPPORT of SB 580. I have been diving in Kona for many years and the sharp decrease of tropical fish is troubling from a tourist standpoint and also from an ecological standpoint.

The tourists who come to Kona to scuba dive (this is one of our main tourist attractions) are complaining that there are no fish to see on their dives. I am concerned that these tourists will go elsewhere for scuba dive trips.

Please support SB 580!

Mahalo,
Doreen Virtue
78-6896 Keaupuni St
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
DoreenVirtue444@aol.com

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 2:13 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: anitabanana@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: anita wintner
Organization: Individual
Address: kihei Hi
Phone: 808874-8407
E-mail: anitabanana@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Please stop the aquarium fish collecting before our rare and endemic fish are gone. We need the reef fish on the reef to help keep reefs healthy. No regulations are in place, they can take as many fish as they want and nothing is regulated. This practice should have been stopped years ago. We know that the FRAs on the Big Island haven't worked. Please stop it now! It will be much easier to regulate if you just ban it instead of a white list. Mahalo, Anita wintner

Dane Wicker

From: MaurMick@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 2:12 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Testimony reference bill SB 580

Please pass this bill that will help maintain our reef fish that help to keep our reefs healthy. We live in Kihei, Maui and have not seen many reef fish in the last 6 years! Every year we see fewer. Have you ever checked into the percent of the reef fish taken that actually are still alive and are sold by the aquarium trade. It's a very low percentage. They are too fragile to even make the trip, but when they do sell it's enough money to sacrifice the rest and who cares if Hawaii has reef fish and healthy fish. Obviously, the reef fish trade doesn't. It's one of the most selfish things going on in Hawaii and around the world today in my opinion.

We've been needing this bill for many years, yet it hasn't happened. How come our representatives haven't passed it? You do have to ask yourself that question.

Mrs. Maureen Ross

Dane Wicker

From: The Humane Society of the United States [humanesociety@hsus.org] on behalf of Cheryl Daniel [cherinhi@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 2:11 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Please support S.B. 580 to protect our cherished reef wildlife

Feb 1, 2011

Hawaii Senate Water, Land and Housing Committee

As a Hawaii resident, I urge you to support S.B. 580 to protect Hawaii's wildlife.

A million or more reef animals are captured on Hawaii reefs every year and sold as "ornamentals" in the marine aquarium hobby. Up to 40% may die before even reaching their final U.S., Asian, or European destination.

S.B. 580 prohibits the sale of aquatic life taken from state waters for aquarium purposes -- but it would not prevent the responsible collection of reef wildlife for education, research, cultural, or human consumption purposes.

This legislation also protect millions of reef animals from collection for the disposable commercial trade. Keeping this wildlife on our reefs is good for the animals, important for healthy reef ecosystems, and essential for our marine tourism-based economy.

Please support S.B. 580 when it comes before you for your consideration. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Ms. Cheryl Daniel
PO Box 790160
Paia, HI 96779-0160

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 2:08 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: temp42@pinnacleridge.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jim Kelly
Organization: Individual
Address: 4 Leanihi Ln, #304 Kihei, HI
Phone: 425-802-3563
E-mail: temp42@pinnacleridge.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

I used to have a rather nice, 100 gallon aquarium in my home in Seattle. I thought it was beautiful and would go to the aquarium store almost weekly to see what new and exotic things I could add to my "reef". Over the course of the year I had the aquarium I slowly became educated on the aquarium supply chain business. And let me tell you, it is abysmal. Every week the manager of the aquarium store would order fish and chunks of coral or rock from places like Hawaii, Tonga, Palau, and other Pacific islands. A typical order might include 30 or 40 specimens of 20 different kinds of fish. What would arrive at the store were usually 0 to 10 living specimens and 30 to 40 dead specimens of each type of fish. I also learned that to collect the fish several coral heads were commonly destroyed by toxins or physical abuse in the collection process for each type of fish.

I was so appalled by the entire process that I destroyed my aquarium. I didn't sell it or donate it to someone, I just took the fish to an aquarium store and then I tore the aquarium apart and threw it away.

Multiply the impact of that one Seattle aquarium store by the thousands of aquarium stores scattered across the country and around the world and you have devastation on a massive level. And the sad thing is there is no longer a need to collect "wild" specimens. There are plenty of specimens already in captivity in thousands of stores and tens of thousands of private aquariums.

Hawaii has something special in its reefs. And in the 40 years since I first came here I have seen dramatic steps taken to protect those reefs. It is time to take yet another step. It is time to realize that we can't (and shouldn't) be shipping our reef off to all corners of the world. Please pass SB 580.

Mahalo,
Jim Kelly
Kihei

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 2:06 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: lreames@satx.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Victor Reames
Organization: Individual
Address: 6811 washita way San Antonio, TX
Phone: 210-687-1304
E-mail: lreames@satx.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

please protect our natural resouces. The flora and fauna of the Hawaian reefs are a natural wonder and should be protected from those who deplete or degradate them. My wife and I visit Maui twice a year. Viewing the reef life is a big reason we come. So,I believe Hawaii's economic future is at stake as well.

Dane Wicker

From: Kate Wormington [kate@mac.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 2:03 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB 580

Dear Hawaii Senate -

As long-time tourists to Maui and Kauai, we're saddened by the loss of Hawaii's reef fishes. We love coming to your great state for its unparalleled natural beauty and wonderful hospitality. Your state's beauty is supremely evident in your water. Please keep your state beautiful, by letting the water teem with the native species we all love so much.

Please vote in favor of SB580 this Thursday, February 3 at 1:15 p.m.

Very respectfully,
Kate Wormington
San Carlos, CA

Dane Wicker

From: Hazel Cadman [hazel@aatw.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 1:55 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB 580 - Hearing on Thursday, February 3 at 1:15 p.m.

Re: SB 580 - Hearing on Thursday, February 3 at 1:15 p.m.

Dear Sir or Madam

I have an interest in reef conservation and urge you to make SENATE BILL 580 law.

Endemic species (species that developed over countless generations to fit Hawaii's unique environment and today are found nowhere else but Hawaii) are threatened with extinction by the aquarium trade. Almost half of the top 20 species gathered by aquarium collectors are endemic. Some of these endemic species die quickly in captivity. Yet the aquarium trade continues to collect them because they can command a high price: one rare Hawaii endemic recently retailed for \$9,500.

I do hope that this very important bill will be made law.

Best Wishes

Hazel Cadman

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 1:42 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: mel_s_gbf@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Melanie Stephens
Organization: Individual
Address: 156 Alaluana Rd Makawao, HI
Phone: 573-9260
E-mail: mel_s_gbf@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Please vote in support of SB 580. the health of our nearshore oceans depend on the reef fish and healthy coral. . YOU have the chance to really take a stand for Hawaii's reefs. Thank you for voting for this bill.

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 1:35 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: paulmcgill@me.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Paul McGill
Organization: Individual
Address: 83 Spur Dr New Castle, CO
Phone: 970 685-8695
E-mail: paulmcgill@me.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Regarding SB 580, I testify that live in Colorado and enjoy vacationing in Hawaii. The best part of my vacations in Hawaii is snorkeling the reefs to enjoy the beautiful fish. Without plentiful reef fish, Hawaii loses its appeal as a travel destination. I support SB 580 as it will help to preserve Hawaii's reef fish.

Dane Wicker

From: Tina Wildberger [tina@kiheiice.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 1:06 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Great!

Long over due!
I totally support SB 580.
Save Maui's reefs!

Tina Wildberger

KII Admin
808-870-1739
tina@kiheiice.com

Dane Wicker

From: FOSTER, JOE (ATTPB) [jf2716@att.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 1:15 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB580

Although I am not a resident of Hawaii, I do visit there as much as possible and do consider it a very special place that all of us should value. I am also a person who believes that we must guard and protect the resources of the Islands. I recently became aware of a situation that is extremely alarming from a variety of perspectives. Although I have seen people fish in the Islands for many years, I was unaware that fish could be taken from the reefs around Maui as sold as aquarium specimens. While I am appalled at this from the impact it has on species and the life of the reefs in general (which I am sure many others will write about, I would think that government in Hawaii would recognize that by allowing this pillaging that they are removing one of your chief tourist attractions. Diving and snorkeling is a huge tourist activity.

Removing the chief reason people do this activity does not make much economic sense. No fish means a lot less activity. Also has anyone though that maybe Hawaii could actually make some revenue from regulating this "industry" more closely and also might even be able to afford to create some jobs in enforcement to protect the fish and reefs?

Again the damage to the fish populations and reefs is key, but you might want to look at this from other economic impacts.

Mahalo for listening

Joe Foster AT&T
Contract Program Director - CALNET2
Wireline: 916 227-2224
Wireless: 916 601-1212
E-mail: JF2716@att.com

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 1:07 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: pvanbemmel@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Peter P van Bommel
Organization: Individual
Address: 855 Marino Pines Rd Pacific Grove, CA
Phone: 831 649 2437
E-mail: pvanbemmel@sbcglobal.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Honorable members of the Senate,

I would like to testify that I am a proponent of SB580. Our family has vacationed on Maui and we have snorkeled at Molokini Crater, Kapalua and other spots to be treasured for all time. We noticed that the population of reef fish is diminished and at peril to be wiped out by commercial aquarium suppliers.

Please vote in favor of passing this bill to protect our reefs.

Dane Wicker

From: Sheryl Millholland [smilholland@aacrc.ab.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 12:56 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Hawaii SB580

Good afternoon. My husband and I own a wonderful home in Kihei Hawaii. One of the great joys of our lives is coming to paradise and snorkeling in the Makena area. As Canadians, we treasure every moment that we can get away to paradise, and no trip is complete without venturing into the water with our snorkel gear. Please do everything you can to preserve the endemic species of Hawaii's oceans for the enjoyment of all now, and in the future.

While I understand the allure of having a piece of paradise in a home aquarium, we believe it is vital that each of us do our part to preserve the fragile ecosystems of Hawaii and to leave the fish in the ocean where they belong, and where they thrive. PLEASE PROTECT THE FISH, TURTLES, CORAL and PLANTLIFE of Hawaii. Support Hawaii SB580.

Mahalo,

Sheryl Millholland
Director of Finance
Alberta Adolescent Recovery Centre
303 Forge Road SE
Calgary Alberta T2H 0S9

403-705-0207 (direct)
403-253-5250 (phone)
403-640-2520 (fax)
www.aarc.ab.ca

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 1:05 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: thatswright@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Linda Wright
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: thatswright@sbcglobal.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members,

Thank you for hearing this important bill protecting reef wildlife from the international aquarium trade/hobby.

I support SB 580 because reef wildlife shouldn't be wasted - it should be protected for all of Hawaii.

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 1:05 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: jweswesty@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Westerfield
Organization: Individual
Address: 2975 Eberly Road Bellingham, WA 98226
Phone: 360-201-5514
E-mail: jweswesty@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

My wife and I are frequent visitors to Hawaii, Maui to be specific. We come to Hawaii because of its uniqueness. It is another world from NW Washington State and among the unique thing in Hawaii are the reef fish.

In my travels around the USA, I have seen countless examples of what happens when any resource, especially a living resource is exploited. Overkill is always the rule and each time a species is endangered or becomes extinct, the world is a lesser place for it.

We urge you to pass SB 580 and take control of the future of these beautiful creatures, that they may endure forever.

Thank You

John & Jane Westerfield

Dane Wicker

From: Teri Dayton [teridayton@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 12:52 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Hawaii Senate Bill 580

This letter is in support of SB580, and I am sending it for the hearing being held on Thursday, February 3, 2011, at 1:15 pm.

Please, please protect your beautiful, precious fish... they are why we all want to visit Hawaii. It is a paradise like no other. The ocean needs our help, and SB580 is necessary for the survival of these beautiful fish. Please don't allow them to be over-collected or mistreated in any way, and support strict laws to prohibit any abuse of ocean life. Thank you very much.

Teri Dayton
Laguna Hills, California

Dane Wicker

From: louderpipes@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 12:47 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: RE: SB 580

To whom it may concern:

Please consider Senate Bill SB 580. It is unthinkable that collector's have had such access to the reef fish. What a shame it would be to see the reef fish disappear from Hawaii to satisfy the collector.

Please give your attention to this matter,
Susan Purcell

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 12:43 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: starlock@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Star Lockwood
Organization: Individual
Address: POB 44923 HI
Phone: 808 896-8833
E-mail: starlock@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

The reef fish and wildlife should be protected in Hawaii and not wasted for aquarium trade and or hobby. I support SB 580 and look forward to see our reef system come back to its natural state.

Thank you for hearing this important bill .

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 12:41 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: amandaramaui@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Amanda Doshi
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: amandaramaui@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB 580, to be reviewed by the Committee on Water, Land and Housing.

Stop aquarium collection of wild fish!

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 12:41 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: richandwanda@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rich Holmer
Organization: Individual
Address: 40-2 Puakukui Lahaina, HI
Phone: 808-667-6103
E-mail: richandwanda@sbcglobal.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

I am writing to request that you support this legislation to protect Hawaii's reef fish at the upcoming hearing on Feb. 3. As a long time property owner in Maui, I am concerned about the decline in reef fish and the consequences for Hawaii's ecosystem. Thank You. Rich Holmer

Dane Wicker

From: Sandsleyes@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 12:30 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB 580

I respectfully request that you pass Bill SB 580 that will be reviewed by the Committee on Water, Land and Housing on February 3, 2011. Unfortunately I will not attend the hearing but offer this e-mail as my testimony. It is imperative to Hawaii's eco system that this bill passes. Thank you very much, Wanda Winger Sands Leyes - Sandsleyes@aol.com

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 12:01 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: mmmmahalo2000@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position:
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mike Moran
Organization: Individual
Address: Kihei, HI
Phone:
E-mail: mmmmahalo2000@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and members:

Please support and approve this long overdue tp protect Hawaii's threated natural resource. We need to protect our marine resources for numerous reasons, including preserving our dwindling coral reefs, which these fish protect. In the words of a kapuna,"no fish, no culture." Also, from a strictly financial prospective, as we let the coral reef system deteriorate, so goes much of our visitor industry. Mahalo.

Mike Moran

Dane Wicker

From: Lifesaving Enterprises [info@lifesavingenterprises.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 5:04 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: anne@pacificwhale.org
Subject: SB 580, hearing on Thursday, February 3 at 1:15 p.m.

SB 580, and the hearing on Thursday, February 3 at 1:15 p.m.

I took my dream vacation to Maui and Kauai this past October - My primary goal every day was to see your amazing geology, and to 'swim with the fishes.' Swim with them in their NATURAL habitat. How many more of the endemic species on your part of the planet will you permit to die on route to their non-natural decoration locations?

PLEASE make it harder and harder for the pirates of our natural resources to prosper on the fragile ecosystem that surrounds your part of the Pacific Ocean!

I cordially and emphatically request that you support "Hawaii Senate Bill 580 would prohibit the sale of any aquatic life taken from waters within the state for aquarium purposes. It would establish prohibitions, penalties, and fines for knowingly selling aquatic life for aquarium purposes taken from waters within the jurisdiction of the State. This new law would require an aquarium permit to take marine or freshwater nongame fish and other aquatic life for aquarium purposes. It would also impose new standards for aquarium permit issuance determinations."

Regards for our continued enjoyment of the endemic wildlife populations of your beautiful islands

Andrea Arnold M.S Ed.
Program Director
LIFESAVING
E n t e r p r i s e s

212 579 CPR7 (2777)

<http://www.lifesavingenterprises.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Lifesaving-Enterprises/357373185542>

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American Heart Association
American Red Cross
American Safety and Health Institute
and NYS Provider of CPR & First Aid for Sports coaches

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 5:06 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: fryiii@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: George Fry
Organization: Individual
Address: 137 Puako Beach Dr. Kamuela, HI 96743
Phone: 808-880-9211
E-mail: fryiii@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

I believe the protection and replenishment of our reefs through out Hawaii should be a number one priority.

Dane Wicker

From: STEPHANIE M. [aloharunner@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 10:59 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Support SB 580; Aquatic Life, Senate WLH 2-3-11, 1:15 p.m.

Please support SB 580 to protect our reef wildlife. It is shameful that a million or more reef animals are captured on Hawaii reefs every year and sold as "ornamentals" in the saltwater aquarium hobby. The ocean belongs to the world and no one has the right to steal from the ocean for profit. These creatures are living beings and are fragile. In fact, 40 percent may die before even reaching their final destination. This raping of our reefs is messing up our ecosystem and it will come back to haunt us in the form of less animal life in our oceans. Do something before it is too late. Keeping this wildlife on our Hawaiian reefs is good for the animals, important for healthy reef ecosystems and essential for our tourism-based economy. Can you imagine one day not having any reef life at Haunama Bay? Thank you. Stephanie McLaughlin, 95-310 Haakualiki Place, Mililani, Hawaii, 96789, phone (808) 384-4764



Aloha from ...

Stephanie McLaughlin

"Be the change you wish to see in the world"

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 10:31 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: salempublic@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Richard Salem
Organization: Individual
Address: 320 Paani Place #6C Paia, HI
Phone: 8083881300
E-mail: salempublic@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members,

I respectfully request that you approve SB580 addressing the issue of protecting reef wildlife from the aquarium trades and hobbies. I believe Hawaii's reefs are vital to our State's environmental health, economy, culture, and way of life. It is a waste of that precious resource to allow the plundering of its wildlife for aquariums. SB580 protects the reef wildlife for all of Hawaii's interests.

Sincere mahalo for your consideration of my views and this important piece of legislation.

Dane Wicker

From: Tony Nahacky [nahacky@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 10:16 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB580 Written Testimony

Importance: High

DATE: February 1, 2011
Testimony in Opposition to SB580
SB580 Hearing Date February 3, 2100

Attention:

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair

Dear Senator Dela Cruz,

I am on the mainland due to my mother being ill and therefore I can not give public testimony as I would like to. I would greatly appreciate if your committee would take the time to read this and I have made it short to facilitate this.

I have collected fish in Hawaii since 1967 which has allowed me to pay my State and property taxes all these years. The gross income generated by my fish collecting has provided numerous jobs within Hawaii as funds flow from Europe (where I sell my fish) into Hawaii and is spent locally. If SB580 is passed I will have to leave Hawaii after 43 years as I will no longer have a source of income and those that depend on my expenditures will also be impacted. Please consider the following:

- * I collect fish in the West Hawaii Regional Fisheries Management Area. The Dept. of Aquatic Resource (referred to as DAR) Kona office studies impacts and puts in place regulations to ensure a sustainable aquarium fisheries in this management area. Why would you close a fishery that has ten years of studies and on going management specific to this resource?
- * Please contact Dr. Bill Walsh at DAR office Kona to verify that the Big Island Association of Aquarium Fishermen have endorsed further new regulations proposed by DAR. In addition we have proposed that the adult breeding stock be further protected for the key specie collected, this suggestion was well received by Dr. Walsh. Why would you close a fishery that is sustainable and helps to provide a diversified economy for the Big Island?
- * Currently 35% of the West Hawaii Regional Fisheries Management Area is protected from fish collecting to assure conservation. In addition night fishing is banned along with chemicals. In the current DAR proposed rules package which is fully supported by BIAAF there is a bag limit, slot size to protect baby fish and adult breeders, along with protecting over 200 species of fish and invertebrates from any collection to preserve biodiversity. Why would you close a fishery that preserves the resource for the future through large closed areas and species protection?

Aquarium fishing has been sustainable for the forty three years I have collected here in Hawaii and we are working with DAR to ensure that this continues to be the case in the future. There is no reason to close collection of Aquarium fish in the West Hawaii Regional Management Area which SB580 would do.

Sincerely,

Anthony Nahacky & Sally Carmiencke
Captain Cook 808 989 3791

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 10:05 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: TCroly@maui.net
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Thomas Croly
Organization: Individual
Address: 3259 Akala Drive Kihei, HI
Phone: (808) 879-7044
E-mail: TCroly@maui.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Please vote to ban the practice of collecting fish for aquarium use from Hawaiian waters. A small group of collectors make a profit while our reefs suffer. The tourism business suffers because of the degradation of the reef as an attraction.

Collecting fish from the reef for aquariums is a lose lose industry. The fish lose because the vast majority of fish collected die within weeks of their removal from the ocean. The visitors to Maui lose because they see a degraded reef eco system and the people of Hawaii lose because this is an industry that benefits only a very few.

Importance: Normal

MIME-Version: 1.0

X-OriginalArrivalTime: 02 Feb 2011 16:32:39.0046 (UTC) FILETIME=[CE61F260:01C8C2F6]

Return-Path: mauikbc@hotmail.com

--Forwarded Message Attachment--

From: mauikbc@hotmail.com

To: wlhtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Subject: SB580

Date: Wed, 2 Feb 2011 08:32:39 -0800

Please vote in favor of SB580, which would control the collection of reef fish for aquariums. I am the owner of vacation property in Kihei, Maui. One of the main reasons I chose my condo is its proximity to a good snorkelling location. The reef and its fish is one of Hawaii's most precious natural resources. It has great value to the tourism dollar. One of the ways I advertise my condo for rentals is highlighting the beautiful snorkelling nearby. But even more importantly, it is a crucial component of the unique eco-system and culture of Hawaii.

I lived on Saipan for many years. I was actually shocked at the lack of live coral and limited number of fish when I first snorkelled in Hawaii. I realize that part of the explanation is Hawaii's geographical isolation and relative youth, but that doesn't fully account for what I saw, or didn't see.

PLEASE do the right thing for our state and vote in favor of SB80.

Sincerely,
Nancy Latham

February 2, 2011

Testimony in opposition to SB580

Attention Committee on Water Land and Housing

Senator Donovan M Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair

(to be heard Thursday Feb. 3 2011 with the Water Land and Housing Committee @ 1:15 pm)

Dear Senator Dela Cruz and Water Land and Housing Committee,

As adults, I ask how many of you have children or grandchildren that like to go to the beach. Do you see them playing with critters like crabs and fish in the tide pools? Would you like to see them imprisoned for 30 days and fined more than their piggy banks contain? I would hope not.

You see this bill has many more consequence than just the obvious of putting people out of business. Many companies and businesses here in Hawaii have financial interests in the aquarium industry. Banning collection puts the collectors themselves out of business, the people that care for the fish and prepare them for shipping are out of business, and the packers are out of business. This affects entire families. Banning aquarium collection will not put other businesses out of business but will dramatically affect them. Some other industries affected by the ban include, the air lines that ship the freight. The box manufactures that make the boxes and the bag manufactures that produce shipping supplies to name a few. The aquarium industry may not be the largest industry in Hawaii, but everyone in the industry lives in Hawaii and the money made stays in Hawaii so there will be a dramatic trickledown effect from the grocery stores, sporting goods and many other everyday necessities that are purchased from money made in Hawaii that happens to originate from the aquarium trade.

You will hear about how we need to protect the reefs because people come to Hawaii to see the beautiful reefs, but take that thought a step further and think that a lot of people know of Hawaiian reefs from seeing them in an aquarium. Tourism dollars may make more money, but taking people out on cattle barges daily, does not help the reef what so ever. People poking at fish, standing on coral, peeing in the water, soaking the ocean in sunscreen littering and leaving behind all the days rubbish has its long term effects.

The reef fish are one of the highest reproductive animals in the world, you could say they "reproduce like rabbits" as the old saying goes...but I would say they are even more productive. They are not a finite resource like gold or oil that once it is gone there will never be more. They continuously reproduce many times a year with millions of eggs per fish. With this thought, the aquariums collectors have agreed to a size restriction on fish to protect the breeding size to ensure the reproductive size is stable and will continue to produce year after year, after all if the fisherman do not protect and police themselves they will not have a future. Many other proactive management plans are in place, such as a white list of species that are allowed to be collected which was collaboration between fisheries management and

the aquarium collectors. In addition to these new plans, 36% of the coast line is still off limits to aquarium collectors (even though many fish cross over from food to pets) as a reserve area.

You see these are just a few of the many management plans in place to help protect and preserve the fishery in Hawaii, so why just Ban it all together?

The other side of the story speaks some truths...but leaves out a lot of critical information to allow you to see the other side of the story. So I ask that you do your research and find out from State fishery scientists that have dedicated their lives to Hawaiian reefs what they think. I would also request that you sit down and speak to an aquarium fisherman...they are human and not a radical animal as you have been lead to believe. Finally I ask that you take all of the information you find out from the above mentioned and think about putting a total ban on an industry that is regulated(contrary to popular belief) and think for yourself as an informed elected official.

With a total ban, hundreds of hard working individuals will be put out of work over night. The next day, they will be in the unemployment lines, asking for unemployment benefits, Medicaid medical benefits for their entire family, food stamps and any other benefit they can obtain as their whole lively hood has come to a screeching halt.

Please vote NO, to this total ban on SB580.

Respectfully,

Kim Koch

808-781-8314

Kona Hawaii

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I OPPOSE SB 580 STRONGLY;

PLEASE USE THE DLNR AND
SCIENTIFIC STUDIES TO REGULATE
THE TROPICAL FISH INDUSTRY.

EMOTION BASED TESTIMONY IS NOT
ACCURATE.

Mahafo,
~~Scott~~
SCOTT JONKE

2/2/11

FAX:

To Whom It May Concern:

I hereby oppose S.B. 580. This bill is based on emotional testimony and has no scientific data to back it. Please do not pass this bill. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Kerstin Jonke
1689 S. Alanui Pl.
Kihui, HI 96753
(808) 280-7335

Dane Wicker

From: Dixon [dixoninhawaii@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:04 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Support SB 580; Aquatic Life, Senate WLH 2-3-11, 115pm

People are killing our reefs for \$. Please make these "takings" from our aquatic environment an illegal act.

Thank you.

Dixon SMith

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:02 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: lory3110@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lory Thomas
Organization: Individual
Address: 140 Uwapo Rd. 12-103 Kihei
Phone: 808-205-1202
E-mail: lory3110@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

I would like to go on record to oppose the approval of allowing reef fish to be taken from Hawaiian islands.
Do the right think for the reef and say no, \$50.00 really? you need 50 bucks that bad Hawaii?

Dane Wicker

From: auntydee@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:01 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Please Support Senate Bill 580

Dear Honorable Chair Dela Curz, Vice-Chair Solomon and Committee Members, Please support SB 580 to protect our reef wildlife. These creatures were not put on this earth to be captured by humans for monetary gains. They are essential for the health of the reef ecosystem and our tourism industry. They were meant to be enjoyed in the ocean and not in aquariums. Thank you for your consideration.
Diane Endo

Dane Wicker

From: david brown [punadivers@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 10:10 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Opposition to Sb580

Attention: Water and Land Committee

I, David Kapuna Brown, have been a commercial aquarium fish collector for most of my adult life. Born and raised here, I attended Kamehameha schools and started commercial fish collecting shortly after graduating in 1990. At age 38 now, I OPPOSE SB580. For myself and many others, this is our lively hood. Its honest, and in these bad economic times its something that is a blessing. Its all I know! Please vote against SB580! I believe and am in favor of resource management but SB580 is unrealistic!
Thank you for your time and Aloha!

Puna
David Kapuna Brown
542-8501

Dane Wicker

From: Michelle Tomas [pelehiiaka@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 10:46 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: mouna ghossoub
Subject: SB 580

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Water and Land committee members,

I would like to start off with a big Mahalo for bringing up this matter. I was born and raised in Hawaii, and am proud to say that my Dad used his throw net to feed our family of six from the abundant ocean in O'ahu and Kona. That was then. Now I can see our fish population has decreased. I go to the beach with my kids, and here in Kona the yellow tang are all but gone from the shores. I also work for a major airline carrier and the amount of live tropical fish leaving this Island is just too much! On one shift I have personally loaded at least 10 boxes weighing 50 lbs each with live fish bound for the mainland, and I have done this many, many times over the years. Auwe!

The shores of Hawaii has long been a welcome ground for all visitors near and far. Unfortunately, the natural sea life has been impacted negatively by unscrupulous people who think this natural resource is limitless. Now is the time to slow or perhaps stop the harvesting of one of our few precious resources we have left. You have a huge decision to make, and the pono thing to do is to stand up to the profiteers that are bent on eliminating countless numbers of sea life for dollars. You can make a difference in my life, my children's life and our next generation. I appreciate your commitment to this beautiful land.

Mahalo Nui,

Michelle Tomas

Dane Wicker

From: Dan Harmony [harmony1133@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 10:37 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Bill 580

As a resident of Hilo I must protest the passing of this bill. I don't think the science submitted to DLNR is accurate and much of the articles written are also sensationalizing bad information.

Please do not pass 580 and allow more time for the science to be properly presented. There are also hundreds of jobs at stake from honest businessmen who operate totally within the law.

Dan Harmony
48 Poko Pl
Hilo, HI 96720

Sent from Dan's iPhone

Dane Wicker

From: Lindsey Engle [lindseymengle@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 10:26 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB 580

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Hawaii Senate Bill SB 580. Please make sure that this bill passes. The decrease in Hawaii's endemic species is devastating to the environment, the local people of Hawaii and ecotourism. I am not from Hawaii, but have visited several times. As a high school biology teacher who studied Ecology, Behavior and Evolution at UCSD with an emphasis in Environmental Studies, I can speak firsthand about how sensitive the coral reef ecosystem is to change.

Nobody wants Hawaii to become a coral reef wasteland. For some species it is possible to breed in captivity. I urge you to use SB 580 to help regulate the aquarium industry more closely today, to insure a better tomorrow for Hawaii's wildlife.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Engle
Biology Teacher
San Diego, CA

THE TRUTH ABOUT AQUARIUM FISH COLLECTING

UN Ocean Conference; "The ocean and its resources belong to all and no one group can lay claim the ocean". This is the basis of State and International Law regarding the World's Oceans. Our State and DNLR regulate the Ocean to three miles out. We should not eliminate groups from Ocean usage but regulate Oceans to maintain their resources. To outright ban any ocean user group would be illegal.

The legality of any bill banning one group from the ocean could have legal ramifications.

Tropical fish collectors love the ocean and agree with environmental groups about protecting and maintaining our oceans resources for all future generations. Aquariums educate about marine animals and ecosystems. Tropical fish collecting and the Hawaii aquarium trade promote Hawaii's economy and tourism through the many aquarium enthusiasts who visit to see the fish. Aquarium fish around the world our Hawaii's little ambassadors. Tourism is important and we want tourists to see our wonderful oceans with all their beauty. Aquarium Fish Collectors avoid tourist areas.

The State of Hawaii DNLR has done a great job in both management and regulation of the States Fisheries. In Kona, millions of dollars in fish counts and catch report data prove our industry is not only sustainable but fish counts have increased. State laws creating 35% Fish Replenishment Area closures, size limits, permits, and many other laws have been very effective in managing our State ocean resources. Catch reports are done on time under penalty of law. Catch reports are accurate not only for legal purposes but DNLR has stated current catches may be used to set future catch limits. The aquarium Trade is one of the most regulated businesses in Hawaii. Permits and inspections are required from U.S. Fish and Wildlife services, USDA, and certified veterinarians.

The ecology of the ocean is amazing. Reef fish are the most renewable resource producing one to five million fry per spawning. Adult size may be reached within a few months. Radio labeled and genetic studies show nearly 60% of the millions of fry return to the reef from where they were spawned. Most of these small fish do not reach adulthood. Eels, sharks, other predators and lack of food and or habitat all reduce populations. In the end 1-10% live to adult breeding stage. This is still 10,000-50,000 adult breeders per one original pair. Aquarium fishermen collect the smaller size of abundant fish resulting in little impact to reef populations. "Survival of the fittest" even helps future populations. We are truly a sustainable fishery.

Aquarium fishermen love the ocean and the fish. Everything is done to keep the fish alive and healthy. With regular care, fish live longer in captivity. The national 7 billion dollar a year pet industry has many workers who rely on products to be sold for maintaining aquarium fish. Those who rely on aquarium fish and related products to feed their families depend on Hawaii's renewable fish resources. Numerous Hawaii residents, especially, many part-Hawaiians, depend on Tropical Fish collecting to support their families. The Hawaii businesses that have greatly benefited from the tropical fish industry are: Hawaii air carriers together make million from us yearly, boat dealers, boat repair shops, dive shops, fishing supply stores, aquarium pet stores, pet store wholesalers, box suppliers, bag suppliers, oxygen

gas suppliers, aquarium maintenance, tourist aquariums in Hotels, Sea Life Park, Waikiki Aquarium, gas stations, computer repair, office supply, interisland cargo shippers, Fish and Wildlife inspections fees, USDA inspections fees, Department of Agriculture fees, DNLN permit fees, ect. To underestimate the value to the state would be serious.

The **Hawai'i Tropical Fish Association (HTFA)** represents a wide array of businesses and individuals involved with the marine aquarium trade in the Hawaiian Islands. Our members include marine aquarium fishermen, fish dealers and wholesalers, pet stores, fish breeders (aqua culturists), and aquarium hobbyists. ***Our goal is to promote the marine aquarium trade in Hawai'i, educate the public, and ensure that our industry remains sustainable for future generations to enjoy.***

Marine aquaria—both public and private—are vital tools for raising public awareness on the importance of reefs and related conservation methods. Although Hawai'i provides only a small percentage of the world's marine aquarium fish, **we are renowned for our sustainable, humane, and environmentally-friendly fishing methods** (Wood 1985). Hawaii leads the world in using responsible collection methods and providing the highest quality fish to aquarists worldwide. By law, Hawaiian aquarium fishes can be captured using only small-mesh fence and hand nets, which does not harm the marine environment, ensures that the fish stay healthy, and allows us to release any unwanted fish unharmed.

Because fish suitable for aquariums are small, abundant, and reproduce quickly, **the aquarium fishery in Hawai'i has proven to be sustainable.** The fishery is regulated and monitored by the state, and research conducted since 1997 by DLNR has shown that aquarium fish have not declined in numbers over the past ten years. The same studies have shown that our fishery does not harm coral or otherwise affect the health of the reef.

Aquarium Fish Collectors and what we do.

We care and do many things to protect our fish and Ocean resources.

For years fish collectors have provided fish to educate schools across the nation. In Hawaii schools are taken on field trips to local aquarium fish wholesalers or children to ocean fieldtrips by some of our collectors. One program brought live fish to the classrooms for children education. Fish collection for major public aquariums locally and worldwide educate many on Ocean ecology. Many fish rarer or not have been caught and donated to Waikiki Aquarium for research and education.

Rare species are left alone and protected by collectors. Collectors have repopulated fish to areas where populations have declined due to extreme warm summers. Fish population issues are reported to researchers.

Turtles caught in nets are remove when found. Hooks and fishing line around turtles are removed. A hook found in monk seals mouth was reported and NOAA captured and removed the hook. Garbage and nets are removed by many collectors. Some even collect the old bottles found in the ocean. Illegal dumping grounds are reported. Old downed planes and wrecks are reported and identified by researchers.

Many boat rescues and ocean users have been aided by tropical fish collectors. Ocean abuses have been reported by aquarium collectors. Many aquarium fish collectors are Marine Biologists, Zoologist, and Ichthyologists. Information is shared by most collectors with other researchers to aid in ocean ecology. Black coral infestation of an invasive species was reported for observation. Pictures and video are shared. Fish populations are watched by collectors to aid researchers.

The recent toxic killing of puffer fish in Hawaii has led to the self imposed no collection of all puffers until the natural or manmade poison can be identified or eliminated. Researchers are brought samples and taken to normally abundant puffer locations to help with the problem. Pregnant reef fish are collected with our help for researchers to aid breeding projects. Ocean food is supplied for captive breeding stocks. Trigger fish have been supplied for US Navel ocean propulsion studies.

Invasive species like Argus groupers and blue line snappers are targeted and eliminated with the help of the tropical fish collectors. These invasive species kill more marine fish than the aquarium fish collectors!

Aquarium fish collectors have gone on TV shows and spoke for ocean ecology and shared information to protect our ocean. NOAA researchers and others studying fish are educated in fish collecting techniques for research purposes. We are the best eyes of Hawaii as we go many places other divers or tourists do not and can greatly help with the preservation and care of the oceans of Hawaii.

The ocean is our future more than anyone else's. We love to give back. If you need our help doing so contact us.

Dane Wicker

From: Tamhas Griffith [tamhas@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 10:14 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB 580 and the hearing on Thursday, February 3 at 1:15 p.m

This email is regarding SB 580, to be reviewed by the Committee on Water, Land and Housing at the hearing on Thursday, February 3 at 1:15 p.m.

I am a California resident who vacations once a year in the Hawaiian Islands, usually on my beloved Maui. There is nothing better than blissfully snorkeling off of a beautiful beach. Watching marine life in their natural environment brings me such joy.

Please take any measures necessary to ensure the safety of, and protect the future of, Hawaii's marine life - vertebrate and invertebrate.

Our future depends on you.

Respectfully,

Tamhas Griffith
612 E Street
Martinez, CA 94553
510-610-7005

Dane Wicker

From: Diane Shepherd [doctord@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 10:00 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB 580

Dear Chair De La Cruz and Committee Members,

My name is Diane Shepherd, and I have a small animal veterinary clinic in Kihei, Maui.

I have been diving in Hawaii waters since 1964, nearly fifty years, and have witnessed the sad decline of our nearshore reefs. Please vote to support SB580 and ban the taking of Hawaiian reef fishes for the aquarium trade. Every creature in a reef ecosystem has its place, and that is not in a glass tank for the amusement of humans. Hawaiian reefs are under assault for many reasons, and only a reef with a healthy population has a chance of recovery.

Thank you, Diane Shepherd

3329 Kehala Dr. Kihei, HI 96753

808-874-9372

doctord@hawaii.rr.com

Aloha,

Relevant background on me: 1) own a dive center on Oahu with about 10 full time dive instructor, 4 boats and over \$1mil revenue a year.

Position: oppose outright ban, but I do support a marine protected area network

Comments: I was actually alerted to this legislation by a supporting group that expected my support, and honestly this legislation would probably benefit my business. However, it doesn't seem right to me to put the fisherman making a living in this trade completely out of business by passing a law making their living illegal. I do support a restriction of this activity, but an outright ban does not get my support even considering the possible benefits to my own chosen living. I run into plenty of fisherman on the water, and passing a law that benefits me over them seems fundamentally wrong.

Aloha,

Matthew J. Zimmerman, Ph.D.

Owner, Island Divers Hawaii, Oahu

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 9:22 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: golfdoc1@mindspring.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: JoAnne Lusk
Organization: Individual
Address: 1424 S. Brown Ave. Tucson, AZ
Phone: 520 298-3323
E-mail: golfdoc1@mindspring.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

We visit Hawaii often and a big draw is snorkeling. We have noticed that the snorkeling isn't as good as it used to be and now we know why. Reef fish are getting exported. I can't help but think that you would not knowingly destroy one of your one of your finest resources and tourist attractions. Please pass this bill.

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 9:15 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: julie.klaz@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: julie Klaz
Organization: Individual
Address: 77-6425 Kuakini Hwy #41 kailua Kona , Hawaii 96740
Phone: 8082389505
E-mail: julie.klaz@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

I am apposed to SB580. This bill will make any child who takes a fish out of the ocean home to keep a criminal with a "first offense" fine of \$1000 or 30 days in jail. This is tyranical and extreme.

Children are more important than fish. Shame on whoever wrote this bill for not writing a bill for an education fund for undereducated keiki and to support the public school system!

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 9:12 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: d8greenthumb@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Debra Trelinski
Organization: Individual
Address: 7676 Victor Lane Fanny Bay BC Canada
Phone: 250-335-2209
E-mail: d8greenthumb@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

Please stop all collection of reef fish for man to interfere with nature is unacceptable I don't think anyone should get a permit for any type of collection. In Canada we have strict rules around our ocean sustainability is the goal the small fish feed the big fish.

Testimony Opposed to SB 580
Thursday 2-3-11 1:15pm room 225 WHL Committee

Please vote NO to SB 580

I love and care for tropical fish 24/7. I own an aquarium fish shop and rely on these fish to feed my family and pay my bills, as well as my suppliers. You may see those making aquariums and order aquarium supplies for these fish and also rely on their business. This billion dollar industry needs your support in this time of economic downturn.

We take very good care of our tropical fish. there's many different lines of tropical fish specialty foods. Our fish are well fed and taken care of. None suffer and very few die. We have a 99% arrive alive rate and have been in business for 21 years read
Thanks for listening to what I had to say. I gladly appreciate it.

Sincerely Yours,

Milly All Seas Fisheries

Opposed to SB 580 2-3-11 room 225

OPPOSED TO SB 580

**Dear Representative,
Please vote no to SB 580**

I am a of Hawaiian ancestry and I oppose shutting down where my family has been able to fish forever to give the ocean to a bunch of mainland tourists. There are no scientific based studies to support the claims that fish counts are down.

Just the opposite years of DNL R catch reports show sustainable, renewable fisheries in Hawaii. The strictest laws are already in effect with nearly 10% of Oahu already in some type of preserve. Corals are in great shape growing 3 to 5 inches per year.

Fish counts are up according to Great American fish count species recognition done across our state. Whale counts, monk seal counts are up. Turtle counts are up. DNL R has done a great job putting new laws in place and is working on several new laws which are scientific based. Many marine biologists oppose this bill. The only supporters are those who bend the truth or click on Snorkel Bob's website form letter from the mainland.

Please do not close our Ocean just as tourism and the economy are in a major decline. Please do not give our oceans to the rich tourist tour groups leaving us without fish to feed our families.

Thanks,

Brian Persinger

Testimony Opposed to SB 580 2-3-11 1:15 PM room 225

Opposed to SB580

Dearest WHL members,

My name is Mamoā Ntiua, I am from Christmas Island. My husband collects fish from Christmas Island to help and support our family and also our new born child.

Without wholesalers in Hawai'i we cannot sell our fish. We depend on fish from Kona as a way to sell our countries fish worldwide. A loss of even one wholesaler could hurt us.

Some of my family members who depend on this income to pay for their life saving medical and food for their families.

About eighty percent of our countries economy depends on tropical fish. All these tropical fish are sold to the Hawaiian Marine Fish Wholesalers. Our whole economy depends on Hawai'i's Tropical Fish Industry. In the south Pacific fifty nine million dollars is gained from tropical fish sales annually. Please do not restrict and take away this opportunity away from us for this industry. Like Hawaii our fishing industry has sustained catches for 30 years and more. Aquarium Fish industry is sustainable unless ecology groups are allowed to shut us down. Thanks you for your time.

Respectfully, Mamoā Ntiua

Testimony Opposed to SB580 2-3-11 Room 225

Respectfully Submitted by Adam Snodgrass, Hawaiian Diver/Fisherman

AS A HAWAIIAN OPPOSED against HB580
To the members of the WHL committee,

As a diver and fisherman for ten years I have seen an increase if 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 always see plenty of fish we I dive but the ecologist groups say all the fish are gone. Now with HB580 and asking for a complete ban? They want to tell me cannot catch. Enough already with the bills from the eco groups.

The lies associated with the user conflicts:

- It was reported that 9 million Aquarium fish are taken from Hawaii's waters annually. The truth is approximately 750,000 fish are taken annually. DNLR fish catch report counts. No where near 9 million!
- Ecology groups have run daily TV commercials claiming 75% of all fish are gone from Hawaii's waters. The true scientific statement was that 75% of the world's oceans have been impacted by man's activities. Many believe these lies as they do not know any better. Fish catch reports show increases as well does fish counts. See for yourself take a submarine dive!
- Maui groups say most of the fish are gone and tropical fish divers took them. The truth: The great American Fish Count 2000 to 2001 sponsored by and done with some of the same groups who oppose tropical fish showed an increase in numbers of identified species on all Islands. Even though the counts were done by amateurs and thus not scientific they are still useful. DNLR Bill Walsh's fish count analysis study, revealed inexperienced people cannot count the fish correctly, that their counts are too low because they cannot identify fish correctly. Thus the counts should actually be higher.
- Coral reefs take tens of thousands of years to grow. Reefs created after lava flows have coral growth in just a few years. Complete reef formation occurs on new lava flows with in just 100 years! The truth some places in Kaneohe Bay has seen 6 feet of coral growth in 14 years. Coral grows 3 to 5 inches a year in the shallows! Harbors must be dredged regularly as we must now do on Maui due to coral growth.
- Fishermen are taking all the fish. The truth one breeding pair of yellows can repopulate a whole reef in a few months. One yellow tang spawning produces one million larvae with around 60% surviving to the reef where spawned. The yellow reproduces twice a year. This year saw three spawning of yellows. Many other fish can produce as many as 5 million larvae.
- Tropical fish divers can take all the fish they want without regulations. The truth is almost all boats can only support only a small amount of fish in good enough condition to allow them to be sold as pets. The amount of water needed to keep the fish alive is very heavy and takes a lot of space on the boat. Some big island boats which are bigger have been specially modified with pumps to allow bigger catches. Diving is very physical and most only dive 2 to 3 days a week. Weather causes many days of non diving. Most of the summer sales are slow and divers are told not to go out. Most fish aquarium systems will only support a few hundred fish! Fish health and quality is everything so they are not crowded. **THE AMOUNT OF FISH TAKEN IS VERY LIMITED.**
- Tropical fish suffer and keeping them as pets is not humane. The truth is very few die. Life in a controlled environment with highly nutritional foods and medications has lead to very long and healthy lives for the fish. Predators, starvation and short life spans are the norm for wild ocean fish. If I was a fish give me a good human aquarium home!

Eutrophication Seaweed problem

Only very near shore reefs in run off areas with little current are in decline; see <http://cramp.wcc.hawaii.edu/> study of Kaneohe and Maui. Hawaii's reef fish do not eat seaweeds which grow as a result of eutrophication and run off. Aquarium fish collectors are being blamed for an excessive algae problem which does not even have anything to do with our industry. Divers rarely if at all dive at depths shallower than 60 feet and the algae growth is at shallow depths near shore. We have no effect on fish populations in these areas. The cause is runoff several studies prove this. To think tropical fish collecting has any impact on this issue makes no sense. Would you dive in polluted high algae growth areas?

Why would ecology groups testify against scientific based legislation? Many do not care about the science! Some do not care about the truth.

There were so many lies from groups and individuals trying to protect fish at all cost, even to the point of perpetuating lies in numerous media ads, We must slow down, assess the issues and logically and scientifically address the future of our oceans. If we don't make the right decisions jobs and incredible benefits will be lost for no reason.

Selfish uncaring individuals do not care about those who may lose their jobs and the ability to feed their families. Their only concern is their own interests or they would not lie.

Ecology based legislation is needed to ensure the future of all Hawaii's fish, plants and animals. A lot of good has come from ecological concerns. Fishermen love to hear that people want to be protecting our Oceans but many have gone too far. Excessive protectionism will only cost us all.

Science based information will provide for a rational decision-making process coordinated by DLNR that will address the user conflicts, and fishing sustainability. We need ecologically sound; least-biased, factual context aimed at perpetuating not lies, but the sustainability of Hawaii's ocean resources upon which all parties depend. The World's healthiest and highest quality fish come from Hawaii. The Hawaii tropical fish collector has been known as the best for ecological friendly collecting for over 50 years. The World's fishermen and ecologists have looked to Hawaii and have copied our collecting techniques. Hawaii's Tropical Fish Association is proud of their role in World wide environmentally friendly collecting practices.

The World's healthiest and highest quality fish come from Hawaii. The Hawaii tropical fish collector has been known as the best for ecological friendly collecting for over 50 years. The World's fishermen and ecologists have looked to Hawaii and have copied our collecting techniques. Hawaii's Tropical Fish Association is proud of their role in World wide environmentally friendly collecting practices.

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.

Adam Snodgrass
Tropical Fish Diver
HTFA Member

Opposed to SB 580 2-3-11 Room 225

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)].

By distinguishing aquarium fishing as the sole cause of adverse fluctuations in coral reef fish populations, S.B. 580 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

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.

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 heavilyexploited

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.

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

Testimony Opposed to SB 580 2-3-11 1:15 PM room 225

As a representative for Christmas Island **OPPOSED TO SB 580**
To the WLH Committee,

From Snorkle Bob's website;

“Talking Points: Keep it brief. **Avoid facts & figures.** No matter what we say, the aquarium advocates will call it untrue. The committee will count support and opposition. Give the aquarium collectors **NOTHING** to grasp.”

Why would ecology groups testify against scientific based legislation? Many do not care about the science! Some do not care about the truth.

There were so many lies from groups and individuals trying to protect fish at all cost, even to the point of perpetuating lies in numerous media adds, we must slow down, assess the issues and logically and scientifically address the future of our oceans. If we don't make the right decisions jobs and incredible benefits will be lost for no reason. Closing large areas could increase impacts on other areas leading to serious ecosystem damage. Science and sound decisions must be done.

Christmas Island's whole economy depends upon our ability to sell fish to local Hawaii wholesalers who then send our fish around the world. Sales are down enough please do not make doing business any harder than it already is. I fear that if passed this bill will cause shutdowns of some wholesalers in Hawaii and in turn cause a major loss in our important economy.

Thanks for your time and I am sure you will do the right thing.

Sincerely,
Donna Namikin

Testimony Opposed to SB 580 2-3-11 1:15 PM room 225

VOTE NO SB580

Dear City Council members,

I have already lost \$75, 000 contracts due to People for the Ethical Treatment of

Animals (P-E-T-A). They have unfairly targeted the aquarium businesses. Please do not

give the ECO groups Hawaii's fisheries. They will not stop and nothing you can do will

satisfy them except to close down a business. God gave the right to maternally care for

his creatures and given by the fact that they will be taken away. These creatures would be

able to have a safer home by which my family, my friends, my business associates, and I

are willing to provide.

Respectfully,

Greg Tides In Inc.

Committee for Water, Land and Housing

February 3, 2011 1:15 pm in Conference Room 225

Senate Bill 580

Chairman Dela Cruz and Committee Members,

My name is Wayne Sugiyama and I am a co-owner of a wholesale tropical fish business on Oahu. I am deeply opposed to SB580 because it would put many people out of work. The collectors for aquarium fish would not be allowed to sell fish to us, thereby causing our business to have no supply to sell and be forced to shut down.

We export these fish out of Hawaii and by doing so, it brings in international and mainland tax dollars for Hawaii.

Any government should only pass bills that create jobs, not take them away. If you support this bill, it means that you support more unemployment, welfare and possible homelessness. We would all lose. Please consider the damaging effects of this bill, and vote against it.

Thank you very much.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Sugiyama". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Wayne Sugiyama

Dane Wicker

From: Lin Smith [linmariesmith@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 12:33 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: STOP THE CAPTURE AND SALE OF REEF FISH

I was shocked and saddened, to see the change in the reefs in Hawaii, from when I lived there in 1990, and moved back in 2007!! I am referring to Maui. The reefs are 1). DIEING!, do to fertilizer, cane field and golf course run off from rain. Not to mention that horrible weed killer spay!! That is just plain irresponsible. Rain, washes all this poison into our beautiful Hawaiian waters. 2). I witnessed first hand, less reef fish over a period of 11 years, visiting in between my living on Maui.

3). I no longer swim at Kam 1, 2 and 3, the fish have left, reef is dying, water is dirty.

Please hold people accountable, to care for our Ina's, stop allowing individuals from taking our reef fish, stop polluting! Please, help take care of this magical, beautiful land and waters. Thank you.

Lin Smith

Dane Wicker

From: Michael [sierrajester19-hawaii@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 12:05 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Support SB 580

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Water and Land Committee members.

Measure: SB 580
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 1:15 pm
Testifier Position: IN SUPPORT

Aloha,

On a daily basis I work with customers diving to enjoy the Kona Coast reefs. These customers, many of them repeat visitors, come to our island to enjoy the vibrant reef system.

While the various associations and committees that support the commercial collection of reef fish advocate such buzz words as sustainability and management, the bottom line is these people are trying to protect their few jobs at the expense of thousands of others.

If you want an economic incentive just consider the tropical fish collection industry generates a few million dollars a year at best while the coastal tourism industry of Hawaii generates hundreds of millions of dollars at least. People who purchase our precious tropical reef fish on the mainland through the internet do not spend a single collateral dollar on hotels, restaurant or entertainment.

Finally there is the simple moral issue of taking living fish from the reef to be displayed in someone's home. Less than 50 percent of the fish actually make it to the end purchaser where they live less than half their wild life expectancy and offer zero population return.

Please work to ensure the continued health and well being of our reefs, our islands and our economy.

Rod Baldwin
Dive Boat Captain
Master Scuba Diver Trainer
Kailua-Kona

Dane Wicker

From: Charles Swartz [cswartzat@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 12:03 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Fwd: FW: I support SB 580 to become a law

From: cswartzat@gmail.com
To: wlhtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: I support SB 580 to become a law
Date: Wed, 2 Feb 2011 11:33:01 -0600

Aloha,

I am a Hawaiian tax payer, who is urging you to pass SB 580 into law, which will prohibit the sale of any aquatic life taken from waters within the state for aquarium purposes. We need to protect our marine life, both for environmental and for tourism reasons. We have been blessed to live in paradise, and it is up to us to protect the beauty and marine life we have been given. Please help us pass SB 580 into law.

Mahalo,
Charles Swartz

Dane Wicker

From: Michael Stroschein [revmike4@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:52 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Support for SB 580

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Water and Land Committee members.

Measure: SB 580
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 1:15 pm
Testifier Position: IN SUPPORT

My name is Michael Stroschein a resident of Kailua Kona and Charter Dive Professional.

I lead tourist on daily charters to experience our reef system here on the Big Island.

With the entire ocean ecosystem under the assault of fishing pressure, pollution and climate change it is simply irresponsible to remove reef fish from the wild to become ornaments in individual aquariums.

From an economic standpoint allowing aquarium fish collection is giving a very small number of individuals a medium level income at the expense of the thousands of individuals who depend on the ocean tourism industry and the millions of dollars generated by maintaining a health reef ecosystem.

Please take all steps necessary to completely eliminate this wasteful and counter productive practice.

Michael Stroschein
PADI SCUBA Instructor and Divemaster
Kailua Kona, Hi 96740

Dane Wicker

From: sayo [honobird@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:49 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Support SB 580, Aquatic Life, Senate WLH 2-3-11, 1:15 pm

Dear Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Solomon and Committee Members:

Please support SB 580 to Protect our Reef Wildlife.

- A million or more reef animals are captured on Hawaii reefs every year and sold as “ornamentals” in the saltwater aquarium hobby. Because these animals are fragile, up to 40% may die before even reaching their final U.S., Asia, or Europe destination. Most of the rest die within a year.
- Keeping this wildlife on our reefs is good for the animals, important for healthy reef ecosystems and essential for our tourism-based economy.
- This important measure does **not** prevent the responsible collecting of reef wildlife for education, research, cultural or consumptive purposes.

Τηνακ ψου φορ ψουρ τιμε ανδ χονσιδερατιον. Πλεασε συππορτ ΣΒ 580.

Σαψο Νακαγαωα

2029 Ωιληελμινα Ρισε

Ηονολυλυ, ΗΙ 96816

(808) 741-7134

Dane Wicker

From: Anubias Design [anubiasdesign@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:14 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Senate Bill 580

Sirs:

As a marine aquarium hobbyist with 36 years of experience, I was dismayed to hear that you are considering banning the commercial collection of native Hawaiian species. One of the projects I have planned for this year is to attempt to spawn and rear Potter's angelfish, *Centropyge potteri*. I have had a few individuals over the years and they have always done well for me. I've had several other species of *Centropyge* spawn in my tanks but have not tried to maintain this one in a group and am very excited about the prospect of doing so. I feel that banning commercial collection will eliminate the possible aquarium propagation of the various Hawaiian reef fish at a time when more and more marine species are being successfully bred and raised by both hobbyists and commercial hatcheries. It is my sincere hope that you will vote against this bill. I am not a resident of Hawaii but as a concerned hobbyist I believe that I have a real interest in the result of your considerations regarding this bill.

Best regards,
Mark Denaro
5084 Winfield CT
Bensalem, PA 19020

Anubias Design
"where rare species are common"

<http://anubiasdesign.com/>

Dane Wicker

From: Keith Christie [keithc@snorkelbob.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:19 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: I support SB580

I support SB580 to ban aquarium collecting in Hawaii.

Why would we allow our most precious reef treasures to be shipped off for aquariums? Its crazy and represents irresponsible management of our states most valued resources- the fish.

Thank you,
Keith Christie
Maui

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:18 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: reefgirlmaui@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cheryl Sterling
Organization: Individual
Address: 2020 Main St. #505 Wailuku, HI
Phone:
E-mail: reefgirlmaui@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

Please support SB580 that is needed to protect Hawaii's endemic marine species, the coral reef ecosystems where they live, and the perpetuation of our natural resources for the enjoyment of the people who reside here and the vital marine tourism industry that benefits the state's economy far more than export of reef fish to distant aquariums. Mahalo.

Say NO to SB580

Testimony Opposed to SB 580 2-3-11 1:15 PM room 225

To close down aquarium fishermen in Hawaii is to not fair to Tropical Fish Fisherman. This is not an attempt at ecological protection but an attempt to put one group of fishermen out of business. This is not fair or productive in its intent. The **SB580** has so many issues, how can such a bill even have been introduced.

Each issues are complex and significant in there effect. Emotion not logical thinking is the driving force behind such a Resolution. Science and due process has been left by the wayside. Please sincerely consider the problems associated with acting on such a resolution.

An environmental impact statement should be done on potential bill damage, eliminating certain fish as income, impacts on foreign fisheries as a result of Hawaii fish restrictions.

How much will all this cost? The DNLR is already under funded and overworked. How many D.O.C.A.R.E. officers will be needed. Researches how much, how many. No thought was put into this senate bill.

Thank you,

Tasha Keao

SB 580
REPRESENTATIVES PLEASE OPPOSE SB191

Snorkel Bob pushed the gill net law through last year hurting Hawaiian fishermen. Now wishes to buy legislation shutting down the Tropical fish guys. Why do you listen to a liar and tax evader. In 1995 he was found guilty of \$950,000 from a tax fraud case. Now with his 501 C 3, the Snorkel Bob Foundation is lobbying and forcing legislative opinion to enact SB 580. This is a clear IRS non-profit 502 C 3 Violation. It is under investigation by the IRS. I also hear his false advertising statements through websites, TV adds, and radio. Enough injustice has been done. Please show some mercy on those fishermen and hold SB 580 Please take a moment and think of these people that your are jeopardizing. Thank you for listening to what I have to say and also that you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

Journee Tsark.

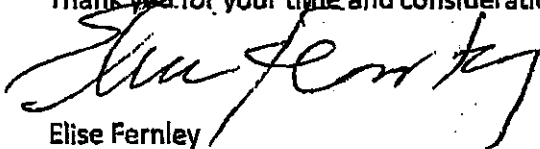
Hello Committee Members,

My name is Elise Fernley and I work alongside my husband at our shop, Coral Fish Hawaii. I am strongly opposed to SB 580. The so-called reasons for introducing this bill and its statewide ban on tropical fish collection are unwarrantable. The ban is also discriminatory.

Collectors like my husband who have been collectors for decades have known that they need to collect responsibly since their livelihood depends on the fish and the reefs. They know that they can't destroy reefs because that is where the fish they catch live and breed. They know they can't deplete the reefs of fish because then there would be no fish left to catch. Also, the collectors who are also distributors know that they must maintain their systems and keep their fish healthy in order to ship them.

This ban would kill a sustainable industry that brings in a lot of money for the state from collectors, wholesalers and the supply businesses we/they buy from. It would also put a lot of people into the unemployment system. Aren't we supposed to be stimulating the economy, working on economic GROWTH and getting people OUT of unemployment?

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elise Fernley', written in a cursive style.

Elise Fernley

Dane Wicker

From: Janine Parder [janine.parder@edu.sait.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 9:35 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: I love Hawaii and care for its fish!

To whom it may concern,

I am a Canadian resident with dreams of one day becoming a Hawaiian resident. I fell in love with the beautiful state last year upon my first visit to the beautiful island of Maui. My fiancé and I loved Maui so much that we are getting married there on May 12, 2011!

I love Hawaii not only for its wonderful people and Aloha spirit, but also for its pristine natural beauty. Hawaii's marine life largely contributes to this natural beauty, and I would be beyond saddened if Hawaii's beautiful tropical fish became endangered. I have become aware of the SB 580, which will keep aquariums away from Hawaii's fish by issuing a fine upon their capture. I am writing to express my feelings on this topic in hopes to pass SB 580 as a law.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts. I truly hope that SB 580 is passed. I look forward to my visit this May with my husband to be 😊

Janine Parder

Calgary, AB Canada
Phone: (403) 464-8116

Dane Wicker

From: tliilienfield@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 1:58 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Measure: SB 580 Please support

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Water and Land Committee members.
Please support Measure SB 580: supporting a statewide ban on commercial tropical fish collection.

I visit Hawaii regularly for it's fabulous scuba diving and I strongly believe that commercial tropical fish collecting is greatly harming this important industry. Many divers believe that Hawaii's fish population is in great decline and much of this is due to commercial fish collection.

Please save your natural wonder and do your part to ensure that your fabulous snorkelling and scuba diving industries thrive.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Terry Lilienfield
1912 Osage Circle
South Lake Tahoe, CA
96150

Dane Wicker

From: Daniel Russo [dmrusso72@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 1:44 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB 580

We need to stop having people profit from the destruction of our natural resources. Please prohibit collecting native species. Only this will help our already endangered reefs.

--

Daniel Russo

Dane Wicker

From: Virginia Shy [viriniashy@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 1:43 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Stop Fish Collectors!

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Water and Land Committee members

Measure: SB 580
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 1:15 pm
Testifier Position: IN SUPPORT

Please stop the decimation of our reef fish. As a diver you can tell that each year has a less fish. Fish that used to be common on the reefs are now a rare find. Please help them thrive again.

Mahalo,
Virginia Shy
Kailua Kona

Dane Wicker

From: Ellen Nunes [tahoeartconsultant@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 1:38 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: MEASURE SB: 580

**Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Water and Land Committee members.
Regarding Measure: SB 580
To be heard on Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 1:15 pm
please be informed that my Testifier Position is IN SUPPORT of this
measure.**

Thank you!

Ellen Nunes

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 2:30 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: solarworks2@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Derek McLaughlin
Organization: Individual
Address: Port Hueneme, Ca
Phone:
E-mail: solarworks2@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

I strongly support passage of SB580. It will help Hawaii's marine ecosystems and fish populations, and help people to have these resources for use and enjoyment for all generations to come. The exceptions seem very reasonable. I think it is an unfortunate but reasonable and necessary requirement for aquarium businesses and others under the circumstances of the threats to Hawaii's marine environment and the past and ongoing damage these environments have had, are under going, and face in the future. Rising sea temperatures from global warming will require a healthy marine environment to be able to withstand the challenges they will face.

Dane Wicker

From: Shannon Shea [shandawg9@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 2:25 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: I Support SB 580!

Measure: SB 580

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 1:15pm Testifier Position: IN SUPPORT

Hello Chair De La Cruz and Water and Land Committee members;

I am writing to express my support for Measure SB 580 to ban commercial aquarium collecting in Hawaii. As a dive instructor, I am in the ocean almost daily, enjoying the natural underwater beauty of Hawaii, and teaching others to do so as well. Part of my teaching includes telling every new diver to avoid harming the underwater environment by not touching anything, not harassing marine life, and leaving nothing but bubbles. I point out that Hawaii's whales, turtles, and dolphins are protected by law. When it comes to the fish, however, I can appeal only to a new diver's conscience.

Apparently we do not extend the same regard for fish and their role in the health and viability of our reef system as we do to other marine life. Why should this be? I can think of no good reason. To presume that certain links in the chain of life are expendable and others are essential seems the height of arrogance, and folly. I am not aware of any hard science that demonstrates that there is any "safe" or "acceptable" number of fish that can be taken before negatively impacting the eco-system. Nor do I observe that the existing regulations are uniformly or effectively enforced.

In addition, I am troubled by the relative rarity of large schools of tropical fish I observe in the areas where collecting is permitted, as opposed to the marked difference I see in the locations here and elsewhere in the world where fish collectors have been prevented from operating. I can only imagine the burst of life that I would observe if collecting were to be banned completely!

We must think of the long-term economic benefits and moral imperative to protect our reef. Fish collecting benefits a very small number of people, at the expense of many. Fish collecting is also cruel and wasteful, as so many of the collected fish die before they ever reach home aquariums, and those that are hardy enough to survive the ordeal have a much shorter lifespan than their counterparts in the wild.

Hawaiian residents are better off having a healthy and beautiful reef that attracts divers, snorkelers, and other marine life enthusiasts to come look at these fish here in their natural habitat, rather than decimating our precious fish populations and shipping them off to aquariums for just a few people to enjoy elsewhere.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I hope that you will allow your conscience to guide you in this matter. As custodians of our water and land, you must speak for creatures which cannot speak for themselves, and for those of us who would preserve them for future generations to enjoy.

Sincerely,
Shannon Shea
Dive Instructor
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 1:09 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: janet_dart@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Janet Dart
Organization: Individual
Address: Kailua-Kona.
Phone: 808-325-0768
E-mail: janet_dart@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

The total ban of aquarium fishing bills that we now see before the state house and senate are the result of well intended misinformed people venturing into an area they know little about. For the last dozen years the West Hawaii Fisheries Council, relying heavily on the scientific surveys and studies performed by Dr. Bill Walsh and his able staff, have crafted a blue print for a sustainable future for the fishery. The highly successful FRA's (fish replenishment areas) where no aquarium fish collection is allowed for 36% of the West Hawaii coastline is the largest reserve percentage wise of any fishery in the country. A white list of has been created and submitted to DLNR to allow only certain species to be collected. Size limits of certain species have also been submitted protecting the breeding population dramatically boosting the sustainability of the fishery. A limited entry program has been proposed also by the West Hawaii Fisheries Council. Do to the FRA's, our island visitors will always have pristine reef areas in which to view large fish populations in easily accessible areas. Instead of closing one fishery down after another the blue print of regulating the aquarium fishery can be used to keep all fisheries open without total bans. Our state legislators should be supporting the diligent efforts of the West Hawaii Fisheries Council.

Dane Wicker

From: Bertha [pbasabe@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 1:01 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB580 Testimony

SB580
WLH COMMITTEE
HEARING AT 1:15pm on February 3, 2011

Chairman Dela Cruz,

Thank you for reading my testimony. I am against SB 580. I live on the Big Island of Hawaii in Kailua Kona. I have lived in Hawaii 32 years.

The aquarium fish collectors are working closely with the West Hawaii Fisheries Council and the Department of Aquatic Resources to protect the resources along our beautiful coastline. This includes the aquarium fish collection, spear fishing and gill netting, and daytime mooring usage. There are many different groups/users and environmental factors that have an affect on the health of our reefs. Many of the aquarium fish collectors have been in the aquarium trade for more than 30 years, and have been involved in the numerous rules that have been set up in the past two decades to manage this resource, which has been their livelihood.

I am very disappointed that this bill has been introduced at this time. This legislation could negate the thousands of hours spent by the West Hawaii Fisheries Council protecting our reefs. A total ban is not needed. I am also surprised the State would support the further erosion of diversification of income in the present economical climate.

Thank you again for listening.

Sincerely,

Bertha F. Basabe
P.O. Box 2805
Kailua Kona, Hawaii 96740

Dane Wicker

From: Heather & Steve Halsey [konahalsey@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 12:17 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB 580

Please indicate the following: **Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Water and Land Committee members.**

Measure: SB 580

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 1:15 pm

Testifier Position: IN SUPPORT

As a resident of the Big Island for the past 20 years we have spent many hours in and around our beautiful ocean. We feel that this environment is fragile and can use all the support we can give it. By harvesting reef fish it disrupts the entire plant and animal food chain. Please vote in support of SB 580 to eliminate reef fish harvesting for aquariums.

Thank you,

Heather & Steve Halsey

Dane Wicker

From: Lynn Sullens [lsullens2@carolina.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 2:45 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Do not support Senate Bill 580

Good afternoon,

I am **NOT** in support of Senate Bill 580. The taking of fish from the Hawaiian waters for the sale in the aquarium trade does not have a large impact on fish numbers. The decline of coral reefs is due to pollution. The fish taken from the Hawaiian waters are some of the best cared for and have the best survival rates for wild captured fish. High survival rates are due to the responsible manner in which fish are captured and quickly transported to their new homes. Other countries do not have as responsible capture methods and poor facilities for maintaining fish, causing fish losses. This promotes the decline of our coral reefs.

What is needed is not more restriction or an outright ban on capture of aquarium fish but the development of marine sanctuaries. Scientific studies have shown that setting aside and protecting rich sections of the coral reefs, fish populations replace those fish taken from unrestricted areas.

The economic effect will be great. All those individuals/businesses involved in responsible capture and maintenance of wild captured fish will have a negative impact on the already depressed economy. Every job lost has an effect on the Hawaiian economy. Less jobs...less taxes...less individuals purchasing products and supporting local business resulting in the loss of more jobs.

Please do the right thing for Hawaii. Set aside more marine sanctuaries. The ability of individuals to keep Hawaiian fish in their homes helps promote the sharing of information and need to protect our reefs. Our reefs are in danger due to pollution and the increasing acidification of all ocean waters not the taking of fish for the aquarium trade.

Sincerely
Lynn Sullens

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 2:50 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: garycyndeewatts@comcast.net
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Gary Watts
Organization: Individual
Address: Paradise, CA
Phone:
E-mail: garycyndeewatts@comcast.net
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

Dear Sirs,

Our extended family of 12 comes to Hawaii for 8 days every 2 years. We spend almost all of our time in the water. We dive and snorkle for hours. On our most recent trip last October the fish life on Lanai, where it is hard to collect fish, was remarkably more abundant than on most of Maui. If the reefs become degraded we will be less likely to vacation in Hawaii. Please protect your precious and wonderful resource--the fish that make those reefs so special. Thank you, Gary Watts

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 4:14 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: victoriamartocci@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB580 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

LATE

Testimony for WLH 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB580

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Victoria Martocci
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: victoriamartocci@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members,

Thank you for hearing this important bill protecting reef wildlife from the international aquarium trade/hobby.

I support SB 580 because reef wildlife shouldn't be wasted - it should be protected for all of Hawaii.

Dane Wicker

From: Pete Basabe [pbasabe@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 3:39 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: SB 580. Hearing on Thursday February 3rd. Time: 1:15pm. WLH

Chairman Dela Cruz and Committee members,

Thank you for reviewing my testimony. I'm against SB580.

I'm a licensed Aquarium fisherman and have been collecting Aquarium fish in Hawaii for 40 years.

During those 40 years I have flown from the Big Island to testify countless times on this issue.

I wish this was solely a resource issue. If it was, then it could be handled by the managers that are in place to do so (DLNR and DAR). Why do we have these agencies in place if we don't heed their advice?

The West Hawaii Fishery Management Area, which covers 36% of the west side of the Big Island, now has 10 years of data available to help resource managers to make decisions on these kind of issues. In the last six months aquarium fishers have been working with the DAR on a "white list" of species to be caught. Aquarium fishers have been working on bag limits with the DAR on certain species. Aquarium fishers have asked the DAR to consider a size limit on two of the more popular aquarium fish so the breeding stock will be protected for future generations. Aquarium fishers have also asked the DAR to consider a "slot size" requirement for yellow tangs. These are all tools that are used to allow a fishery to reach a balance of sustainability, this I think is what we should strive for.

Proponents of SB 580 say there are no regulations on the Hawaii Aquarium Industry. This is not the case, besides the WHFMA(36%), there are many MLC'D's and FMA's and FRA's that do not allow Aquarium collecting. Monthly reports, boat decals, stiffen flags, facility inspections and state Agriculture inspections are all a part of the industry. If and when the DAR and DLNR initiatives are put in place, the Hawaii Aquarium Industry will be an even greater example of a sustainable fishery. Hawaii Aquarium Fishers need to be applauded for their efforts to work within the system with the agencies responsible, (DLNR & DAR). To allow SB580 to go forward would punish the stakeholders for trying to be part of the process.

Further information on the above facts is available on request. We have always offered an open invitation to all legislators to visit our facilities and to go out on our boats to experience what we do. Recently the Council Chair from the Big Island did so and conceded that the trip was an invaluable tool to his decision making process. If you are going to take away a family's livelihood, maybe you should walk in their shoes or swim in their fins.

Mahalo for you time.

Pete Basabe

Director Big Island Association Aquarium Fishermen

Dane Wicker

From: christian redman [credman19@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 3:47 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: support

I work in the ocean and completely support the ban on commercial aquarium collecting. Leave the fish in the sea, don't be greedy and selfish and let private collectors enjoy the ocean. The ocean is for everyone to enjoy. Thank you Christian

February 3, 2011

LATE

RE: HR580

Hearing at 1:15 p.m. State Capitol Room 214

Testimony to: Water and Land Commission

Honorable Chairman Dela Cruz and honorable committee members, Solomon, Fukunaga, Ryan, Shimabukuro, Tokudo, and Slom:

My name is Judith Perino and I have come over today from the Big Island where I have lived for the past 34 years to offer testimony to adamantly oppose HR580.

It is unimaginable to me that a bill encouraging the closure and banning of an entire sustainable, productive industry in this state could even be proposed, especially given the dire state of our economy. While I am sure Senators Tsutsui, Baker, and English were well intentioned, they seem to be misguided and uninformed about the efforts being made by the tropical fish collectors, DAR, and other county groups such as West Hawaii Fisheries Council, working together, to arrive at improved management policies on which all sides can agree, to ensure the continued health and sustainability of the fisheries resource.

Perhaps, these Senators, all residing in Maui County, where special interest groups are most active, and have obviously done a thorough job of cherry picking information or taking scientific data out of context to bolster their cause, have simply been sold a bill of goods without doing the necessary due diligence to understand the issues at hand, the efforts being made to resolve user conflict issues, better management plans and procedures that are on going both on Oahu and the Big Island.

One incredible example of this campaign of misinformation currently being undertaken by Rene Umberger of Maui are these photos of endemic reef fish with a caption at the top of the page the states, "examples of endemics threatened with extinction by aquarium trade harvesting". She then attributes this statement to a study conducted by DLNR, Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, completed in October of 2005. In perusing this study for myself, there is not one example sited by this study that lists ANY of these reef fish pictured by Umberger that is considered "threatened with extinction" as she claims. As usual, some of the opponents are willing to say or do anything that helps them achieve their goal of a complete ban, truth and science be damned.

This fishery, despite claims otherwise, is the most highly regulated and restricted of any aquatic resource in the state. Over 35% of our Kona coast is currently designated as Fish Replenishment Areas where no collecting is allowed. Timely catch reports must be turned in or licenses cannot be renewed. Boats used while collecting are required to have an AQ insignia affixed to both sides of the boat hull and fly a yellow pennant with the AQ emblem. These are regulations applying only to tropical fish collectors and no other users of any other fisheries resource. To suggest that this industry is not regulated is simply false.

LATE

It seems that there is on going efforts to blame all the ills of the reef on the industry of tropical fish collectors who have become the scapegoat for just about everything, when in reality, ocean management must consider ALL users of the fisheries resource and all environmental effects associated with coastal development, and the unavoidable runoff that is largely responsible for increased pesticides, nitrates, and phosphates affecting the shoreline and spurring algae blooms which impact fish habitat in a very negative way.

Here are some facts taken directly from the DLNR "Report to the Twenty-Fifth Legislature", regular session of 2010.

- >Endemic species make up 25% of the reef population.
- >West Hawaii tropical collectors catch increased 25% during the last ten years due to good fish recruitments in 2002, 2006, and 2009.
- >35% of the coastline in marine reserves sustain yellow tang breeding stock in only 50% of the entire coastline.
- >Recruitment in some species can vary highly between years. Repeated low recruitment levels of some fish are a regular occurrence. One example is the Fantail File Fish that recruited in enormous numbers in 1987 and has hardly been seen since.
- >Currently, less than 1% of the Hawaiian Islands are protected by Marine Preserve Areas where gill netting and spearing are allowed thus impacting large (breeding) populations of fish.
- >Kole are the most abundant species with 30 per 100 sq. meters. (DLNR report 2010)
- >Potter's Angel is the most common Hawaiian angelfish. (Randall- Reef and Shore Fishes of the Hawaiian Islands 2007)
- >Bandit Angelfish is not naturally common but is reported to 670 feet, and usually is found much deeper than 100 ft.
- >Multiband Butterfly is reported to 374 ft. (Randall 2007)
- >Toby is another common species and is reported to 292 ft. (Randall 2007)
- >Flame Wrasse resides in over 70 ft. and reported to 300 ft. (Randall 2007)
- >Hawaiian Anthias found in depths up to 720 ft.

Perhaps more research is needed as these fish that are being used for propaganda as "threatened with extinction" seem to be widespread over great ocean depths that have not been fully explored. Just because you don't see them at 100 ft. or less doesn't mean there aren't abundant and thriving.

It is a certainty that all sides need to work together to continue to develop and evolve management strategy. Closure of an entire industry and the domino effect it will have throughout the state economy is simply not an option. I urge you to oppose HR580.

Thank you.

**Testimony
SB 580
"Relating to Aquatic Life"
Committee on Water, Land and Housing
February 3, 2011**

LATE

**Submitted by:
Bruce Carlson, Ph.D.**

Good afternoon Chairman Donovan and members of the Committee. My name is Bruce Carlson and my background involves research on the biology of reef fishes. I have a Ph.D. from the University of Hawaii in Ichthyology and I served as Director of the Waikiki Aquarium where I worked for 26 years from 1976 - 2002.

I am testifying in opposition to SB 580. There are many ways to manage fisheries by regulating where, when, how many, what species, size and so forth, but completely closing a legitimate fishery through this legislation is unjustifiable. Furthermore, putting tax-paying workers out of business in a recession is equally unjustifiable. I therefore urge you to table this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Dane Wicker

From: perinodesigns@gmail.com on behalf of Judy Perino [perino@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 10:35 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: HB580

To be heard by the Water and Land Committee on Feb. 3, 2011 at 1:15 P.M.

Dear Senator Dela Cruz,
re: Senate Bill 580

I urge you to to oppose SB580 for the following reasons:

No definitive data supports this measure.

Much of the data on this subject has been accumulated by UH researcher Dr. Brian Tissot & his various associates.

All of this data is inconclusive, with it's empirical findings ambiguously supporting all points of view*, depending on where one is standing.

Arguing against SB580, Dr. Tissot's 20 year study of Pelekane Bay, clearly shows *terrestrial factors* contributing to fish declines, concluding:

"...declines in seaweeds, invertebrates, live coral cover, and fish density...(are) likely...in response to long-term sedimentation stress due to chronic terrestrial run-off and reduced ocean circulation...(as well as) massive deforestation in the Kawaihae watershed, and the construction of the Kawaihae Harbor revetment."

And Dr. Tissot's (& Leon Hallacher's) "Impacts of Aquarium Collectors on Coral Reef Fishes in Kona, Hawai'i" further militates against SB580, concluding:

"...assess(ing) whether these abundance patterns are clearly due to aquarium fish collecting requires better knowledge about the intensity and location of collecting activities...(and)...it is suggested that additional conservation measures (only) be applied...and efforts to establish a marine reserve network in Hawai'i (be) supported."

No one is more interested in protecting this resource than the collectors themselves, as it is their very livelihood.

Based on current collector permits, this ban would cause immediate harm to at least 60 families. Abolishing collection altogether will have far reaching, irreparable, and long term negative impact on jobbers and the industries they represent (i.e. Airlines, Inter-island Air Cargo providers, Inter-island Shippers, Trucking Companies, Auto Dealers, and so on), as well as the already struggling state and county economies.

In Hawaii, collection of aquarium tropical fish has been shown to be an environmentally sound and sustainable industry for more than forty years, and aquarium reef fishing is a non-destructive, economically viable and productive industry, adding to the local tax base...and it should be allowed to continue.

I respectfully urge you to vigorously oppose this bill as it is completely without basis in science or fact, and would cause irreparable harm to collectors, their families, and to the already struggling Hawaii state and local economies.

Sincerely yours,

--
Christopher Peter Hoy
P. O. Box 1000
Kamuela, HI 96743
808 885 8822

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