



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
February 3, 2011 at 2:30pm

by

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HB 1442 – RELATING TO FISHING

Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Nakashima, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo is pleased to have this opportunity to testify regarding HB1442 which directs the Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center (PACRC) to study the options for enhancing the Big Island fishing industry including feasibility of a commercial fishing village.

The fishing industry and the seafood it produces are a major part of the Big Island's cultural and economic heritage. Unfortunately, the industry has been facing a number of challenges in recent years including decreased catches, increased costs, increased regulation and lack of infrastructure. This bill will provide the baseline information and suggest management and infrastructure improvements that will lead to a sustainable and safe seafood supply. Further, specifying the PACRC as the implementing organization is appropriate as it excels at the broad community-based and multi-disciplinary approach required by the bill.

Notably, 85 to 90% of PACRC operating funds are obtained from restricted grants and contracts, the Center will not be able to conduct the study without funding.

We support the overall concept of this bill as it includes initiatives supportive of our goals and objectives, but given the state's tight resources we are concerned about the cost implications generated by this bill.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify.

Testimony in Support of HB 1442

Rick Gaffney [rgaffney@pacificboatsales.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:59 AM

To: HEDtestimony

RE: HB 1442 Relating to Fishing

Thursday, February 3, 2011

Conference Rm 309

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee on Higher Education:

I am in support of this bill and the concept of localizing the handling and distribution of Hawaii Island's seafood resources, but I would like to suggest that the committee consider making a few changes.

1) The preamble suggests that Pier 38 and the fish auction are essentially one in the same and that is not true. Pier 38 was developed by the State to provide a facility to support ALL aspects of the commercial fishing industry in Honolulu (fuel, ice, equipment, restaurants, vessel support, fish cutting facilities, etc.). The fish auction is a privately owned, for profit entity that is located at (and is arguably the anchor tenant of) Pier 38. I think there should be a clear differentiation between the two in the preamble to this bill so that the opening statement is accurate, and that the statistics (\$value of fish sold at auction) which are attributable only to the auction tell only part of the story of the value of Pier 38.

2) While I like the idea of supporting the U of H Hilo by having them do this study, there is already related work going on on the Big Island by The Kohala Center to identify much of the work outlined in this bill. Perhaps we'd get a better end-product if this study were done in coordination with their work?

3) State land adjacent to Honokohau Small Boat Harbor and the NELHA (enterprise zone) properties are the two obvious places for a facility like this, perhaps that should be mentioned in the bill?.

4) Hawaii island needs a facility that is HASEP certified (federal regulations for sea food) so that Big Island fish can be cleaned/cut/package and distributed island-wide and shipped from here AND so that fish (particularly marlin) caught by the charter and recreational fleets can be donated then butchered and distributed to non-profits and charities for distribution to low-income families, the homeless, seniors, etc.

Aloha,

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