



FISHING TALES

with **Mike
Sakamoto**

Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Testimony in support of HB 2793, Relating to Board of Land & Natural Resources

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice-Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

My name is Stefanie Sakamoto, and I am testifying on behalf of Fishing Tales with Mike Sakamoto, a company that was founded by my father in 1985, and the Mike Sakamoto Memorial Scholarship. In addition to producing a fishing show in Hawaii for 15 years, Mike Sakamoto was a tireless fishing advocate, whose philosophy was the preservation of fishing rights and ocean resources for future generations.

We are in support of HB 2793, Relating to Board of Land and Natural Resources. In order to make responsible, educated decisions regarding ocean matters, it makes sense to include representatives from the fishing and seafood communities on the Board. Experienced representatives from within the industry would add a wealth of knowledge regarding current issues, which would be integral when discussing ocean resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Stefanie Y. Sakamoto
Chair, Mike Sakamoto Memorial Scholarship

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2012

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

Rep. Isaac W. Choy	Rep. Chris Lee
Rep. Ty Cullen	Rep. Dee Morikawa
Rep. Sharon E. Har	Rep. James Kunane Tokioka
Rep. Mark J. Hashem	Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita
Rep. Linda Ichiyama	Rep. Barbara C. Marumoto
Rep. Jo Jordan	Rep. Gil Riviere
Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami	Rep. Gene Ward

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, February 29, 2012
TIME: 1:30 P.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in SUPPORT
HB2793

My name is Tony Costa and I represent Hawaii Nearshore Fishermen – a loosely organized yet tight knit group of nearshore fishermen. Hawaii Nearshore Fishermen are in strong support of HB2793

We have long advocated and called for our nearshore marine resources and nearshore fisheries to be better represented at the various policy making and government levels – fishing and marine resource issues require specialized understandings and are dependent on ever changing data, interpretation of data, stock assessments and fisheries management sciences.

Fishing rules and regulations are generally developed in two different venues – 1. Legislatively, and 2. Through the chapter 91 Administrative rule making process.

Chapter 91 rule changes are reviewed at the Department of Land and Natural Resources Land Board.

Currently, the Board does not require or have any ocean/fisheries related board members.

We are adamant that our marine resource issues are so vitally important and valuable that fisheries management should be addressed through as much science and empirical knowledge and expertise as possible and we also feel our policy makers should have as much information as possible to best make those judgments.

We feel, in order for the Land Board to effect Fishing Rules and Regulations in an honest, informed and justified way, rather than a political way, it would make sense that a certain percentage of members be cognizant of or have the marine resource affinity.

Is it for this reason, we are in strong support of HB2793

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this important measure.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony Costa – 540-1308 / 778-3133

February 28, 2012

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I speak in strong favor of HB2793. The DAR has historically been a “behind the scenes” steward of our aquatic resources. When the DAR is consolidated into a larger bureaucracy it will lose much of its effectiveness by not having Board members with background and experience in ocean resource management.

Shoreline and near shore resource management will require a delicate balance involving recreation, commercial and cultural balance. The different ecosystem interaction is now much too complicated for a single “expert” to make ignorant decisions without advise from adjacent ecosystem consultants.

“Ahupuaa” management is even more critical than in the past as the “aina” is impacted by our population. Every impact on land will eventually affect the ocean as everything flows toward it.

A majority of the Board members should therefore have ocean-related expertise and interest.

Thank you, Scott Masunaga

FINTestimony

From: Leslie Hata [hata@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 3:06 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: RNVFishing
Subject: HB2793 Relating to Board of Land and Natural Resources

Aloha Honorable Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the House Committee of Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in Very Strong Support of HB2793.

Hawaii being a state which relies on the ocean and its resources need to include 4 members who have ocean-oriented background and interest.

With the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) being consolidated under the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) these 4 new members are needed to address marine specific matters. These 4 members will have to be able to understand the needs that the people that fish both recreationally and commercially needs their knowledgeable support.

Please remember that Hawaii and its people rely heavily on the waters that surrounds us and the fish that swim in it.

Your support of this measure is very critical to our ocean resources and its management.

Respectfully Submitted,
Les Hata
February 27, 2012

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 2:06 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: papafarm@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2793 on 2/29/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 1:30:00 PM HB2793

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Frank Farm Jr.
Organization: Alii Holo Kai
E-mail: papafarm@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:
Testimony in SUPPORT
HB2793

I serve as President of Alii Holo Kai a Fishing and Dive Club since 1972 and we are support of HB2793. Over the years, Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) has had no or very little representation from the fishing/marine community. Past testimony by fishers and related interested parties have on a number of occasions resulted in amendments, further study, denials, etc. of proposed agenda items by the current makeup of BLNR. However, more items are acted upon without the benefit of important relevant input by stakeholders or users. They are not always aware of, or cannot prepare and attend the meetings because of necessary demands on their life, i.e. work, family obligations, outer island meetings, etc.

Our ocean and marine resource provides food, recreation, etc..and there is no need to list and provide additional dialogue as to its importance and value to this committee. However, to keep the resource healthy and provide good management, there is a need for representation with some in depth knowledge of the resource. Indeed, there is more to the ocean then looking from shore and see water. There is a complexity under that water that will benefit from experience, science and empirical knowledge when effecting related rules and regulations.

Pass this bill and take a giant step to improve the management of our vital marine resources. Thank you for this opportunity to emphasize the importance of this bill and to present testimony.

Frank Farm Jr.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 4:00 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: Fishingready@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2793 on 2/29/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 1:30:00 PM HB2793

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ronald Tam
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Fishingready@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/27/2012

Comments:

Dear Rep. Oshiro, Rep. Lee, and the members of the Finance Committee:

I am a senior citizen, born and raised in Hawaii, spent my working career in Hawaii, fished in Hawaii since childhood, and have testified to the Land Board regarding ocean resource matters.

I fully support the proposed legislation as I believe it will enhance the effectiveness of the Land Board.

Mahalo for considering my testimony on the matter.

Sincerely, Ronald Tam

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 12:38 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: philferna@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2793 on 2/29/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 1:30:00 PM HB2793

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Philip Fernandez
Organization: Individual
E-mail: philferna@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/27/2012

Comments:

Dear Rep. Oshiro, Rep. Lee, and the members of the Finance Committee:

I strongly support this bill.

BLNR has broad responsibilities and therefore the commission members requires knowledge and experience from a variety of background. This bill will add the much needed backgrounds of commissioners that are familiar with ocean resource management.

The islands are a socioeconomic culture that are ocean oriented and representation of this important fact must be reflected at the BLNR.

Thank you for your support.

Phil Fernandez
Ocean User

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 4:32 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: whitings002@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2793 on 2/29/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/29/2012 1:30:00 PM HB2793

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Stephen Whiting
Organization: Individual
E-mail: whitings002@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/27/2012

Comments: