

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Friday, February 21, 2014
12:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1911, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AQUATIC RESOURCES**

House Bill 1911, House Draft 1 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to conduct a study examining the feasibility of establishing a noncommercial fishing license program and report back to the 2015 Legislature. **The Department strongly supports this measure as drafted.**

The Department presently requires commercial marine licenses for all commercial fishing. The program works. There is no equivalent for non-commercial fishing. Accurate data is critical in assessing the health and managing Hawaii's fishing stocks. Data gathering for non-commercial fishing is voluntary, less reliable, and fails to provide the information needed to make informed decisions.

This study will evaluate how a non-commercial licensing program could work. It is long overdue.

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

ESTHER KIA'AINA
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
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

finance1

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 9:43 PM
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LATE

HB1911

Submitted on: 2/20/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 21, 2014 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nick Morris	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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LATE

Good afternoon Chairwoman Lake and members of the committee,

My name is Brian McMaster. I am a student at the University of Hawaii Manoa. I am writing to urge your support of HB 1911. This bill will be the first step in helping to protect and sustain the marine life that is so vital to the Hawaiian economy and way of life.

The overfishing of marine life is a serious problem and one that must be acted upon swiftly. According to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), three out of four of all species of fish are slowly starting to disappear. If action is not taken soon, these species will continue to dwindle until there is none left.

Almost every state in the union requires noncommercial fishing licenses for citizens before they are allowed to fish, and it is absurd Hawaii does not as well. If we are not careful, future generations will not be able to enjoy fish and marine life we find around these islands.

Passage of this bill will require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of establishing a noncommercial fishing license program here in Hawaii. This is a critical first step to a problem that should have been addressed years ago. I urge you, please move HB 1911 forward with a do pass recommendation.

Sincerely,

Brian McMaster