

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
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS

Friday, April 05, 2013
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 91, HOUSE DRAFT 1
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
CONVENE A MARINE GAME FISHING TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A
REGULATORY SCHEME FOR REQUIRING LICENSURE FOR
MARINE GAME FISHING

House Concurrent Resolution 91, House Draft 1, requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to convene a marine game fishing task force. **While the Department supports this resolution, the Department feels the term “marine game fishing” needs further clarification.**

Marine game fishing may mean the taking of fish for sport: for example, big game fishing for deep-sea pelagic marlins or reef fishing for papio. In other cases, marine game fishing may mean “catch and release.” Both examples are different from subsistence fishing or sharing with others as pure domestic consumption. The Task Force needs legislative guidance on this point. Should the Task Force consider only sport fishing, only subsistence/sharing, or all of the above?

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

ESTER 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
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2013

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS

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NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, April 05, 2013
TIME: 11:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 312
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 91, HD1 (HSCR1391) with RESERVATIONS

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Ward and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development and Business.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support with reservations of this resolution and submit the following recommendations.

- 1- That the taskforce be convened addresses the “non-commercial” marine fisheries permit or license rather than a “gamefish” license. Fishermen recognize the importance of having good data including the number of participants, catch and effort data, species being targeted, etc. to promote and establish sustainable fisheries program in Hawaii, but defining what is a “gamefish” will differ among user groups and potentially problematic. Additionally, it is of importance to address all targeted or potentially harvested species rather than only “gamefish.”
- 2- That the Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources invite and convene a representative group of interested parties to participate in this taskforce rather than having specified participants. A group of fishermen have already begun a dialog with the Chair at his monthly meetings with the fishing community regarding this subject, and it is important that this group be included in the taskforce discussions and deliberations to develop possible recommendations.

Fishermen recognize that statutory authority is needed to embark upon a Chapter 91 Administrative Rule making process to establish such a rule and therefore applaud having a taskforce to initially address the myriad of issues and concerns that are sure to arise from our fishing communities regarding the matter of requiring a “non-commercial” marine permit or license. Having a representative group of participants in this taskforce is essential in order to produce viable recommendations and potential legislative initiatives.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify and provide recommendations on HCR91, HD1.

Respectfully Yours,
Roy N. Morioka
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