

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**

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

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
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ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**LATE**

**Before the House Committee on  
OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, March 19, 2014  
9:45 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 229/ HOUSE RESOLUTION 180  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO  
CONDUCT AN OPIHI MANAGEMENT STUDY**

House Concurrent Resolution 229/House Resolution 180 requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), to conduct a statewide opihi management study. **The Department appreciates the intent of these measures and offers the following comments.**

The Department is working on an administrative rule for opihi and has already begun those discussions necessary to develop the basis for management of the opihi resources Statewide.

The Department has met with scientists and opihi dealers to discuss administrative rules to provide for long term sustainable management of opihi. The Department's concepts (still under discussion) include an Oahu moratorium, a clarification on how to measure opihi, a slot size limit, and a new licensing requirement for opihi dealers to track opihi through the market. These ideas need to be discussed in more detail with stakeholders, including opihi fishers, dealers, scientists, and the Aha Moku Advisory Committee, before they are ready for broader public consideration.

**LATE**



## **Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs**

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OCEAN MARINE RESOURCES AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

#### HR180/HCR229 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN OPIHI MANAGEMENT STUDY

Wednesday, March 19, 2014; 9:45 am; Room 325

Aloha Madam Chair Hanohano, Vice chair Cullen and members of the Committee. I am Soulee Stroud president of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AHCC) here to support this resolution to conduct a study on management of the opihi.

A study related to opihi management is long overdue, given the popularity, high cost and danger involved in collecting this limpet. The opihi is a special favorite of Hawaii's people and is found where the roughest surf breaks over rocky shorelines. Even though it is difficult gathering opihi, overharvesting continues with no opportunity for the animals to reproduce, and opihi becomes ever more difficult to find.

The plan to find and recommend best management practices of replenishing the opihi populations for all islands, coupled with enforcement measures is reasonable and should be implemented as soon as possible.

We would also like to suggest an amendment to the resolution that the study look into the potential of replicating a controlled rough surf environment that would allow the cultivation of opihi for the market. Perhaps it is something that the Natural Energy Laboratory in Kona can look into, if they have not already done so.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure.

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