

Honolulu, Hawaii

February 8, 2016

RE: H.B. No. 2039

H.D. 1

Honorable Joseph M. Souki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2016
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, to which was referred H.B. No. 2039 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to protect the nearshore aquatic resources of Hawaii by, among other things:

- (1) Establishing a Community-based Marine Resources Grant Program;
- (2) Permanently establishing five specific positions within the Department of Land and Natural Resources; and
- (3) Converting 12 temporary positions in the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement of the Department of Land and Natural Resources to permanent positions.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources, Office of Planning, Aha Moku Advisory Committee, Conservation Council for Hawaii, The Nature Conservancy, Kuaaina Ulu Auamo, and many concerned individuals supported this measure. A concerned individual opposed the measure.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:



- (1) Establishing the Community-based Marine Resources Grant Program in Chapter 187A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which pertains to aquatic resources, instead of Chapter 171, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which pertains to public lands, because Chapter 187A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, more appropriately addresses the needs of the Community-based Marine Resources Grant Program;
- (2) Providing that individual grant awards under the Community-based Marine Resources Grant Program be managed by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, rather than a qualified non-profit or government fiscal sponsor that charges no more than a 10-percent overhead rate for financial management;
- (3) Clarifying that the new community-based fishing area planner would support all community-based fishing areas -- not just community-based subsistence fishing areas; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2039, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2039, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committees on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs and Water & Land.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Energy &
Environmental Protection,


CHRIS LEE, Chair



