

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
CARTY S. CHANG
Interim Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Thursday, February 26, 2015
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1478, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS HUMPBACK WHALE NATIONAL
MARINE SANCTUARY

House Bill 1478, House Draft 1 proposes to establish the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (Sanctuary) program, within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department); establish the Sanctuary co-manager position; and appropriates general funds for the Sanctuary co-manager and costs relating to State co-management of the Sanctuary. **The Department strongly supports this bill, provided that its passage does not adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Biennium Budget request.**

The Sanctuary was established in 1992 by United States Congress and Sanctuary waters currently comprise almost 25% (800 square miles) of all State waters in the Main Hawaiian Islands. The Sanctuary is co-managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the State of Hawaii by way of the "Compact Agreement for Coordinated Management of Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary" signed May 4, 1998. The State entered into the co-management agreement with NOAA to improve interagency coordination and enhance the management of Hawaii's humpback whales and other marine resources.

Since 1998, the State program has always been fully funded by NOAA. However, over the last several years, federal funding has declined by over 70% and current funding is set to expire in July 2015. Furthermore, the Sanctuary and the State's co-management program have never been formally established under state law and no state funding has never been provided. State recognition and state funding of co-management are critical to maintain state sovereignty and to underscore the State's commitment to co-management over the long-term.

In spring 2015, NOAA will propose to expand the Sanctuary from management of humpback whales to management of all natural and cultural resources in its boundaries. NOAA will also propose to expand Sanctuary boundaries to overlay more than 30% (1,000 square miles) of State waters in the Main Hawaiian Islands, including Niihau. The State Co-manager ensures that 1) the current Sanctuary is managed with Hawaii's priorities in mind, and 2) NOAA's proposed changes are compatible with Hawaii interests. Now, more than ever, the State of Hawaii needs a Sanctuary co-manager to ensure that the interests of the State and its communities are represented.

The Sanctuary has achieved many successes over the last fifteen years, including disentangling over twenty humpback whales, conducting cutting-edge research, and developing nationally-recognized education and outreach programs. The Department will continue to work with NOAA on more equitable funding for the State and support for these important programs, but to engage successfully in the management of the Sanctuary, State recognition and support must occur and should have happened years ago.

In addition, the Department notes that although funding from NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries had declined dramatically and makes the appropriations in this bill critical to continued co-management of the Sanctuary, as a result the work of the Department's current Sanctuary staff, approximately \$2.5 million dollars in federal and private funds have come to the Department over the past three years to support programs and personnel that work on community co-management and marine protected species issues.

Lastly, the Department has a few suggested technical edits that are included as track changes below.



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of
Leimana DaMate
Executive Director – Aha Moku Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 26, 2015
11:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

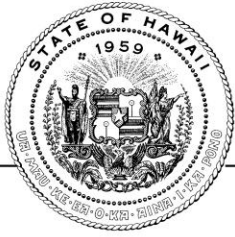
**In SUPPORT of
House Bill 1478, HD 1
Relating to the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary**

House Bill 1478 HD 1 establishes the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Program, establishes a sanctuary co-manager position within the Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and appropriates general funds for the sanctuary position and costs related to the State co-management of the Sanctuary. **Aha Moku strongly supports this bill as its overall concept reflects the State's long-term commitment to co-manage the resources of the Sanctuary into perpetuity.**

Established in 1992 by Congress, the Sanctuary jurisdiction currently comprises almost 25% of all State waters in the Main Hawaiian Islands. It is co-managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and together, the State and NOAA focused on improving interagency coordination. However, since its creation, NOAA has fully funded both the federal and state program. That funding will expire for the State portion in July 2015. And, while the funding is very important, of more critical concern for the Aha Moku is the strengthening of and continuing co-management of the Sanctuary in state waters.

The Aha Moku, through its moku and ahupua'a communities on each island has studied the Humpback Whale Sanctuary Draft Management Plan which is being processed now. There is consensus that all state waters, including those waters located within the Sanctuary jurisdiction must be strongly co-managed by the State because there are areas within those waters that have been and continue to be used traditionally by native Hawaiian practitioners in cultural and subsistence ways. There is concern that the expanding jurisdiction of the Sanctuary as listed within the current draft plan will impact native Hawaiian practices, thus the support of the State co-manager is an important part of this bill.

The Aha Moku supports this bill, provided that its passage does not adversely impact Native Hawaiian natural and cultural resources, and that it does not adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Biennium Budget request.



**OFFICE OF PLANNING
STATE OF HAWAII**

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LEO R. ASUNCION
ACTING DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Acting Director, Office of Planning
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Thursday, February 26, 2015
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
HB 1478 HD1
**RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS HUMPBACK WHALE NATIONAL
MARINE SANCTUARY.**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the House Committee on Finance.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports the intent of this bill, HB 1478 HD1, which proposes to establish the Hawaiian Islands humpback whale national marine sanctuary (Sanctuary) program and co-manager position within the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

OP administers the State's Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program. The CZM area encompasses the entire State of Hawaii including the Northwest Hawaiian Islands and extends seaward to the limit of the State's police power and management authority, to include the territorial sea; thus, Sanctuary boundaries overlap with the State's CZM area. Establishing the Sanctuary program benefits the State's CZM program and encourages continued collaboration with a network of agencies for the management of ocean and marine resources. OP offers the following comments on this measure.

Given the implications of the State's role as co-manager for the Sanctuary Program, OP respectfully recommends the following amendments:

At Page 3, lines 14-16- to read as follows: Providing advice and seeking input from
[~~recommendations to~~] the governor, the department, and other state departments and
agencies on matters relating to the management of the sanctuary; and
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

February 24, 2015

Re: Strong support for HB 1478

My name is Tova Callender and I live and work in Maui.

I strongly support legislative efforts to allocate general funds for the State Co-Manager position of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (Sanctuary), as well as the Sanctuary's operations.

The Sanctuary is a key partner in our work to protect marine ecosystem health. As the focus for management shifts to ecosystem management, this becomes even more the case as there is greater alignment with our management goals such as improved coastal water quality.

Many local nonprofits, conservation organizations, schools and universities also rely on the Sanctuary for its outreach and education programs, as well as its facilities that allow for many educational presentation and workshops be shared with the community.

The Sanctuary has been co-managed by the State of Hawaii and NOAA since 1998. Since that time, the federal government has supported the State Co-Manager position and Sanctuary operations. However, current funding will expire in July 2015.

This is a critical time. In spring 2015, the federal government will propose shifting the Sanctuary's scope from management of humpback whales to management of all natural and cultural resources in its boundaries. In addition, the proposal will expand Sanctuary boundaries to overlay 30% of State waters (app. 1,000 square miles). Now, more than ever, the State of Hawaii needs a Sanctuary co-manager to ensure that the interests of the State and its communities are represented.

The State Co-Manager has been a consistent voice for the State, for our communities, and for our resources, working closely with a range of partners—fishermen, community advocates, tour operators, cultural practitioners, universities, agencies, and keiki—to address complex issues related to the Sanctuary, as well as Hawaiian monk seals, sea turtles, and other marine protected species.

We need to ensure that the state and Hawaii communities do not lose the one position responsible for co-managing its natural resources.

Please allocate general funds for the State Co-Manager position and Sanctuary operations.

Thank you,
Tova Callender
Kihei, Maui

Aloha,

I am writing to submit written testimony on bill HB1478 concerning the funding for the position of Co-manager of the Hawaii Humpback Whale Sanctuary.

As you are well aware the sanctuary has been in a process of reviewing and proposing changes to the current management plan. Although these changes have not yet been presented to the public, it is apparent that some will have wide ranging affects for the entire state.

I feel it is of the utmost urgency that Hawaii continues to represent its own interests in these changes and will be well served by maintaining this position. A voice that helps to coordinate between state and federal agencies will only help both sides to understand what is necessary and in the public's best interest, while maintaining access to the waters we all love, use and protect.

As a current member of the sanctuary advisory council I am strongly in favor of this bill and implore you to pass it and fund this position.

Yours truly

George Douglas Thompson

Kauai seat

Hawaii humpback whale sanctuary



Ocean Tourism Coalition

The Voice for Hawaii's Ocean Tourism Industry
Century Square-1188 Bishop St., Ste. 1003
Honolulu, HI 96813-3304
(808) 537-4308 Phone (808) 533-2739 Fax
timlyons@hawaiiantel.net

February 26, 2015

Testimony To: House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

From: Tim Lyons, CAE
Executive Director

Subject: H.B. 1478, HD 1 - RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS HUMPBACK
WHALE NATIONAL MARINE SANTUARY

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

I am Tim Lyons, Executive Director of the Ocean Tourism Coalition and we support this bill.

The OTC represents over 300 small ocean tourism business state-wide. Most of these are family businesses which are locally owned and operated. Many of them have been in business for several decades and are an important and valued part of their respective communities.

The Ocean Tourism Industry depends on an environment that is healthy and protected. The Whale Sanctuary enjoys strong support from our members. The Sanctuary has been co-managed by the State of Hawaii and NOAA since 1998. Historically the Feds have funded this State Co-manager position.

We understand that this necessary funding has been cut from the Federal budget as of July, 2015. It is absolutely vital that the State of Hawaii not lose this very important position and be able to have a voice in how to manage our state waters. Without a state funded manager we have no voice.

The Co-Manager will look out for the interests of the people and the State of Hawaii. We must continue to have this voice to protect our collective interests.

The OTC humbly asks you to pass H.B. 1478, HD1 and fund this vital position.

Thank you.

Re: Strong support for HB 1478

- I am Jerrod Kowalski and I am the General Manager for Aqua Lung Pacific in Aiea.
- **I strongly support legislative efforts to allocate general funds for the State Co-Manager position of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary** (Sanctuary), as well as the Sanctuary's operations.
- The Sanctuary is an important part of the local culture and community and to business we partner with to support tourism.
- The Sanctuary is one of the world's most important humpback whale habitats, with more than 10,000 whales visiting Hawaii each year.
- The Sanctuary's incredible natural resources draws countless visitors to Hawai'i each year, which subsequently provides essential revenue to hundreds of Hawai'i businesses. Many local nonprofits, conservation organizations, schools and universities also rely on the Sanctuary for its outreach and education programs.
- The Sanctuary has been co-managed by the State of Hawaii and NOAA since 1998. Since that time, the federal government has supported the State Co-Manager position and Sanctuary operations. However, current funding will expire in July 2015.
- This is a critical time. In spring 2015, the federal government will propose shifting the Sanctuary's scope from management of humpback whales to management of all natural and cultural resources in its boundaries. In addition, the proposal will expand Sanctuary boundaries to overlay 30% of State waters (app. 1,000 square miles). Now, more than ever, the State of Hawaii needs a Sanctuary co-manager to ensure that the interests of the State and its communities are represented.
- The State Co-Manager has been a consistent voice for the State, for our communities, and for our resources, working closely with a range of partners—fishermen, community advocates, tour operators, cultural practitioners, universities, agencies, and keiki—to address complex issues related to the Sanctuary, as well as Hawaiian monk seals, sea turtles, and other marine protected species.
- **We need to ensure that the state and Hawaii communities do not lose the one position responsible for co-managing its natural resources.**
- Please allocate general funds for the State Co-Manager position and Sanctuary operations.

Thank you,

Jerrod Kowalski
General Manager
Aqua Lung Pacific



Working together to restore clean water, healthy coral reefs and abundant native fish populations to the islands of Maui Nui.

Robin Newbold, Chair

Tegan Hammond,
MCRP Coordinator

Amy Hodges,
Program Assistant

Irene Bowie

Rich Brunner

Jay Carpio

Linda Nakagawa Castro

Rhiannon Chandler

Mark Deakos

Lucienne deNaie

Scott Fisher

John Gorman

Wendy Harvey

Harry Hecht

Sol Kaho'ohalahala

Robin Knox

Ekolu Lindsey

Takeo Miyaguchi

Tamara Paltin

Dana Reed

Rina Sampson

Larry Stevens

Ananda Stone

Darla White

February 24, 2015

**Re: General Funding for State Co-Management of the Hawaiian Islands
Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary - HB 1478**

Aloha Senators and Representatives:

The Maui Nui Marine Resource Council respectfully submits support for legislative efforts to allocate general funds for the State Co-Manager position of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS) and its operations.

Our council consists of 22 members and numerous advisors who represent a broad spectrum of the community including commercial, recreational and subsistence fishers; ocean tourism businesses; scientists, educators and cultural practitioners. Our goals are to have clean water, healthy reefs, and abundant native fish.

The people of Maui Nui depend on Sanctuary waters for cultural, ecological, subsistence, and economic purposes. Protecting this resource requires the cooperation of agencies and organizations at all levels.

The HIHWNMS has been an invaluable partner for us and many other Maui-based organizations. The State Co-Manager has been a consistent voice for the State, for our communities, and for our resources. As the Sanctuary's management scope shifts from species specific to ecosystem based to include all natural and cultural resources in its boundaries, the State Co-Manager's role will become increasingly important in marine resource conservation.

We encourage you to ensure that the State continues to co-manage its natural resources in partnership with the Federal government. Please allocate general funds for the State Co-Manager position and Sanctuary operations.

Thank you,

Robin Newbold

Chair and Co-Founder, Maui Nui Marine Resource Council

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 1478 HD1 Relating to the Hawaiian Islands Humpback
Whale National Marine Sanctuary
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 26, 2015, 11:00AM, Room 308

For more than 35 years, The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i has been working closely with government agencies, local businesses, private landowners, non-profit partners, and interested communities across the state to preserve the lands and waters upon which all life in these islands depends. The Conservancy is a private non-profit conservation organization that has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 35,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i, and support 19 coastal communities seeking to co-manage marine resources in partnership with the State of Hawai'i.

The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 1478 HD1 to formally establish the program and co-manager position in the DLNR to represent the State's interests in the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary.

The Humpback Whale Sanctuary surrounding the main Hawaiian Islands overlaps with some of the most important marine assets belonging to the State of Hawai'i. The federal government has supported the State co-manager position for the Sanctuary for many years, but those funds are going away. It is critical that the State support its share of the co-management partnership for these resources and, perhaps more importantly, ensure that its interests are properly represented going forward.

National Marine Sanctuaries play a valuable role in the marine conservation. Not only are they designed to protect important biological and archeological resources, they have served as test beds for new management techniques, provide critical research and monitoring opportunities that extend beyond their boundaries, and have helped to increase public education and awareness of ocean issues and the role healthy oceans play in our lives and livelihoods.

In spring 2015, the federal government will propose shifting the Whale Sanctuary's scope from management of humpback whales to management of all natural and cultural resources in its boundaries. In addition, the proposal will expand Sanctuary boundaries to overlay 30% of State waters (~1,000 square miles). Now, more than ever, the State of Hawai'i needs and established program and Sanctuary co-manager in DLNR to ensure that the interests of the State and Hawai'i's people are represented in the joint management of these resources with the federal government.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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David C. Cole (2004-2008), Duncan MacNaughton (2008-2011), Kenton T. Eldridge (2011-2014)



**Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth In Support of HB1478
Relating to the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary**

House Committee on Finance
26 February 2015, 11:00am, Room 308

Audrey Newman
Hawai'i Green Growth
P.O. Box 535 Ho'olehua, Hawai'i 96729

Hawai'i Green Growth is a voluntary partnership of more than 70 state, county, federal, business, and non-governmental leaders from energy, food production, natural resources, waste reduction, planning, green jobs, and other sectors who have come together to support a shared statewide commitment and tangible actions toward sustainability and a model green economy.

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) strongly supports HB1478 HD1 to establish and appropriate money for the Hawaiian Islands humpback whale national marine sanctuary program and sanctuary co-manager position.

The two State Co-Managers represent state priorities in the large-scale marine protected areas jointly managed with federal agencies: Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary and Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM). The Sanctuary Marine Wildlife Program Coordinator oversees State efforts to reduce recreational fisheries-related hookings, entanglements, and other disturbances of Hawaiian monk seals and sea turtles in the Main Hawaiian Islands. HGG members agreed these critical state marine resource management positions in the Department of Land & Natural Resources are top priorities for legislative action to significantly advance the natural resource management goals of the *Aloha+ Challenge*.

The *Aloha+ Challenge: A Culture of Sustainability – He Nohona 'Ae'ōia* is a joint leadership commitment to achieve six sustainability targets by 2030 in the areas of clean energy, local food production, natural resource management, solid waste reduction, smart growth and climate resilience, green jobs and education. The *Aloha+ Challenge* was unanimously endorsed by the 2014 Legislature (SCR 69) and signed by Hawai'i's Governor, Mayors and Office of Hawaiian Affairs. It was also internationally recognized as a model of integrated sustainability at the UN Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa.

As a partnership representing Hawai'i's leaders in environment, food and energy, HGG asks for your support of **HB1478 HD1**, an important investment to ensure the health and productivity of our marine resources.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Audrey Newman". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Audrey Newman

Senior Advisor, Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG)

Bringing leaders together to achieve sustainability in Hawai'i & be a model for a green economy

<http://www.hawaiigreengrowth.org>

February 25th, 2015



RE: Testimony recommending strong support for HB 1478

My name is Kristi West and I direct the Hawaii Pacific University (HPU) marine mammal stranding program where I am also an Associate Professor of Biology. I am in strong support of legislative efforts to allocate general funds for the State Co-Manager position of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary as well as for Sanctuary operations. Many of my students and stranding volunteers are also in strong support of this bill as demonstrated by the attached list of supporters.

Approximately 20-25 whales and dolphins strand throughout the main Hawaiian Islands every year, and the HPU stranding program is responsible for conducting cause of death investigations to document causes of mortality and threats faced by Hawaiian dolphins and whales. While HPU manages the cause of death investigations that follow a dead stranding event, the State Co-Manager (Ms. Elia Herman) plays an equally critical role during stranding events. Specifically, the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) ensure that human safety remains of paramount importance during whale strandings and the State Co-Manager coordinates logistics for at sea towing of carcasses or land transport for disposal using heavy equipment when floating or beached dead whales attract sharks to popular beaches. Decomposing carcasses also pose human health hazards and disease risks to an untrained public and this has historically been mitigated by at sea towing or by disposal efforts on land that are led by the State Co-Manager at DLNR. Large decomposing sperm or humpback whale carcasses that pose human health hazards occur in the Hawaiian Islands occur on at least an annual basis, and I am very concerned about the potential for negative human health and safety impacts to local communities in the absence of permanent support of the State Co-Manager position.

The State Co-Manager has historically worked cooperatively with other stakeholders to leverage federal funds for the protection and management of endangered marine mammals in Hawaiian waters. Most recently, the State Co-Manager coordinated partners from Cascadia Research Collective, HPU and DLNR while providing oversight for the writing and content development of a Section 6 Endangered Species proposal that was submitted to NOAA by DLNR last fall. Through a nationwide competition among states for federal funding to support endangered species work, this proposal is currently under very serious consideration for funding and will very likely bring significant federal support to Hawaii. The proposal requests in excess of 1 million federal dollars, and it would not have been possible to prepare and submit such a competitive proposal without the leadership of the State Co-Manager.

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Founded in 1965, Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU) has grown to become the state's leading private, not-for-profit university with three campuses, presences on six military bases, and online courses offered to students around the world. HPU maintains strong academic programs, small class sizes, and a diverse faculty and student population.

With students from all 50 U.S. states and more than 80 countries, HPU is a leading destination for foreign students studying abroad and is recognized as one of America's top 20 masters universities in international enrollment.

HPU is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), and has additional accreditations and memberships from nationally recognized groups.

www.hpu.edu



**College of Natural and
Computational Sciences**

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In addition to public safety priorities and leveraging of funds, the State Co-Manager maximizes the opportunity to learn about 20 different species of primarily poorly known dolphins and whales that come ashore in our state during stranding events. Marine mammals are recognized sentinels of ocean health and can provide the first line of detection of ominous changes to our ocean environment. The State Co-Manager coordinates heavy equipment to transport fresh carcasses for examination (such as an endangered Hawaiian false killer whale that stranded last year with 5 fish hooks and a plastic bottle in its stomach) and conducts community outreach. Hawaiian dolphins and whales are an important natural resource to the state of Hawaii and the State Co-Management of Hawaii's marine wildlife is vital to our collective future.

Sincerely,
Kristi West, Ph.D.
Stranding Program Director/Associate Professor of Biology

Founded in 1965, Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU) has grown to become the state's leading private, not-for-profit university with three campuses, presences on six military bases, and online courses offered to students around the world. HPU maintains strong academic programs, small class sizes, and a diverse faculty and student population.

With students from all 50 U.S. states and more than 80 countries, HPU is a leading destination for foreign students studying abroad and is recognized as one of America's top 20 masters universities in international enrollment.

HPU is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), and has additional accreditations and memberships from nationally recognized groups.

www.hpu.edu



Hanalei Watershed Hui

February 25, 2015

Testimony in support

HB1478HD1

Finance Committee

Hearing: February 26, 2015 11:00 am Room 308

RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS HUMPBACK
WHALE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY.

Report Title:

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Program; Appropriation (\$)

Description:

Establishes the Hawaiian Islands humpback whale national marine sanctuary program.
Establishes a sanctuary co-manager position. Appropriates funds. (HB1478 HD1)

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and committee members,

The Hanalei Watershed Hui strongly supports this measure. It is very important the State of Hawaii retains an active partnership with the NOAA Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary and that a position be in place to assure Hawaii State waters are co-managed.

All of Hanalei Bay is within the boundaries of this Sanctuary and our organization works closely with both the Federal and State managers and staff and has experienced the benefits of this relationship and oversight.

Me ka pono,

Makaala Kaaumoana
Executive Director

E malama kumu wai ~ Protect the source

5299C Kuhio Hwy, P. O. Box 1285, Hanalei, Kaua'i, HI 96714

Telephone/Facsimile (808) 826-1985 E-mail: hanaleiriver@hawaiian.net

www.hanaleiwatershedhui.org

The Hanalei Watershed Hui is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

FIN-Jo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 10:13 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: fmcgilvray@malamamaunalua.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1478 on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM*

HB1478

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frazer McGilvray	Malama Maunalua	Support	Yes

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Testimony Before The House
Committee on Finance

IN SUPPORT OF HB 1478 HD1

Thursday, February 26, 2015, 11:00AM, Room 308

My name is Kevin Chang and I am the Executive Director of Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (or KUA). KUA works to empower grassroots rural and Native Hawaiian mālama 'āina groups to celebrate their places and pass on their traditions to better Hawai'i and achieve 'āina momona— an abundant, productive ecological system that supports community well-being.

KUA supports HB 1478 HD1 as an incremental step towards 'āina momona. This bill would establish the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (Sanctuary) within DLNR; establishes the co-managed marine area special fund; appropriates general funds.

We employ a community-driven approach that currently supports a network of more than 31 mālama 'āina community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together), 40 fishpond projects and practitioners called the Hui Mālama Loko I'a, and a new and growing hui of Limu practitioners from across our state.

Many of the communities in the networks KUA facilitates focus on improving natural resource management and restoration of food and native ecological systems, values and ethics more sensitive to the needs of their wahi (their places). Some of the communities in the networks we facilitate touch upon, interact with and have interests in the borders and shared jurisdiction of the Sanctuary. The collaboration and at sometimes necessary tension between the State and Federal Sanctuary Managers and their overlapping jurisdictions has also led to incremental improvements and evolution of the program in a way more favorable to community input and participation.

This year our federal government will propose shifting the Sanctuary's scope from humpback whales to include all natural and cultural resources in its boundaries. In addition, the proposal will expand Sanctuary boundaries to overlay 30% of State waters (app. 1,000 square miles). Given this shift and the tensions it may bring it is now even more important that our state retain a voice for state and community concerns in this discussion. That voice has been embodied in the State's Sanctuary Co-Manager.

Our communities are committed to ensuring the long-term health of our cultural and natural resources because they have depended on them for generations. This bill among others helps to better support our state's role as a partner with our communities to restore the abundance that we all desire.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha 'Āina Momona

I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1478. I represent the Polanui Hiu Community Managed Makai Area organization which is part of the Maui Nui Makai Area Learning Network. Our community based reef ecosystem restoration project is located on the shores of Lahaina and is within the Humpback Whale Sanctuary. The Sanctuary's recent holistic approach to ecosystem management and restoration supports Polanui Hiu's efforts in bringing back balance to our marine ecosystem.

We support the establishment of the Sanctuary within the DLNR and more importantly the co-manager position and necessary funding for an effective management program. It is imperative that we implement Bills to support holistic approaches to ecosystem management within a co-management (with the community) scenario to be determined.

POLANUI HIU STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1478!

Thank you,
Edwin "Ekolu" Lindsey
Polanui Hiu Po'o

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, February 26, 2015

11:00 AM

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1478

RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS
HUMPBACK WHALE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Chairperson Luke and distinguished committee members:

My name is Dave Raney. I am a former member of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council, and I support passage of HB 1478.

The Hawaiian Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is based on partnerships between the state of Hawai'i and the federal government. Co-management between equal partners is a key, and beneficial, principle underlying these partnerships.

Many of the most important natural resources in these marine protected areas are found within state waters. HB 1478 will provide the Department of Land and Natural Resources with the legal authorities and financial means for the State to properly carry out its Co-Management responsibilities, and will demonstrate the State's commitment to the effective management of the public trust resources involved.

The dollar amounts are modest, and the benefits are significant. I urge passage of HB 1478.

Mahalo for the opportunity to present my testimony on this important matter.

Date: February 24, 2015

To: House of Representatives Committee on Finance
Conference Room 308
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: Adam A. Pack, Ph.D.

Re: STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 1478 HD1

Testimony:

Aloha Chairpersons Luke and Nishimoto and Committee Members:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 1478 HD1, which establishes the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Program within DLNR and allocates general funds for the State Sanctuary Co-Manager position and Sanctuary Co-Management operations.

I am Dr. Adam Pack, an Associate Professor in the Departments of Biology and Psychology at University of Hawaii at Hilo. I am also the current elected Chair of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, although for the purposes of this testimony I am only representing myself as a long-time resident in the Hawaiian Islands. I have lived in Hawaii since 1983, and for the past 20 years have been working in the coastal waters off Maui, Oahu and Hawaii Island studying the social ecology, migratory patterns, biology, behavior, and communication systems of our humpback whales. I have published over 25 scientific papers and reports on Hawaii's humpbacks that have provided State and Federal agencies with important information to assist them in the protection and conservation of this endangered species and official State of Hawaii marine mammal.

Hawaii is the principal destination for North Pacific humpback whales migrating from feeding areas in Alaska and elsewhere along the Northern Pacific rim. Each winter and spring, over 10,000 humpbacks congregate in Hawaii's waters to breed, calve and raise their young. Because these activities occur along our coastlines and often involve spectacular aerial displays, they attract tens of thousands of visitors from around the world and constitute a significant economic factor in Hawaii. The total economic impact of Hawaii's humpback whale tour boat industry alone was estimated at \$19-27 million per year back in 1999, supporting nearly 400 jobs (Utech, 2000) and has continued to grow over the last 15 years.

In 1992, U.S. Congress designated the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (Sanctuary), and in 1998, Governor Cayetano signed a Compact Agreement recognizing a joint State and Federal partnership of the Sanctuary. As part of that original agreement, funding to support the State of Hawaii Co-Manager Position housed in DLNR was to be provided by NOAA pending availability of funds. However, as you are aware, in recent years federal funding for many programs has been cut making budgets and budget planning tenuous at best. At the same time, the Sanctuary's community-based advisory

council has recommended as part of the Sanctuary's management plan review and planning process expanding from a single species sanctuary to one that recognizes the importance of the entire marine ecosystem. I believe that this recommendation is a positive move for the Sanctuary as long as it's commitment to humpback whales is maintained.

However, I also believe that if the State of Hawaii is to be a true partner with NOAA, play a significant role in co-managing the Sanctuary, and live up to its own rights and responsibilities for the protection of Hawaii's fragile marine environment, it must at this critical juncture provide its own State resources to permanently establish and fully fund the State Co-Management Sanctuary Program within DLNR including the allocation of funds for the State Co-Manager Position and Sanctuary Co-Management operations. By providing this funding, the State's ability to co-manage the Sanctuary would not be dependent on fluctuations in federal budgets. Furthermore, the State would be clearly demonstrating to all its long-term commitment to its partnership and active participation in the Sanctuary, as well as to the protection and conservation of Hawaii's marine resources. To best manage Hawaii's marine resources, a true partnership in all senses of the word makes sense, particularly as the Sanctuary considers expanding the resources it manages. More than that, it is simply *pono*. **I therefore urge you to pass HB 1478 HD1.**

I sincerely thank you for your time and consideration, and for all that you do to protect Hawaii nei.

Sincerely,



Adam A. Pack, Ph.D.

References Cited:

Utech, D. (2000). 'Valuing Hawaii's Humpback Whales: The Economic Impact of Humpbacks on Hawaii's Ocean Tour Boat Industry' in 'The Economic Contribution of Whale Watching to Regional economies: Perspectives From Two National Marine Sanctuaries', Marine Sanctuaries Conservation Series MDS-00-2.

Testimony of
JOHN N. (JACK) KITTINGER, PHD

In consideration of
HB1478
Relating to the State of Hawai'i's Co-Manager for the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale
National Marine Sanctuary

I strongly support legislative efforts to allocate general funds for the State Co-Manager position of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

I am the acting Secretary of the Sanctuary Advisory Council for the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary and have worked on coastal conservation issues for over 8 years in the Hawaiian Islands. My family and I live in Niu Valley, Oahu.

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is one of the world's most important humpback whale habitats, with more than 10,000 whales visiting Hawaii each year. Further, the Sanctuary's incredible natural resources draws countless visitors to Hawai'i each year, which subsequently provides essential revenue to hundreds of Hawai'i businesses. Many local nonprofits, conservation organizations, schools and universities also rely on the Sanctuary for its outreach and education programs.

The Sanctuary has been co-managed by the State of Hawaii and NOAA since 1998. Since that time, the federal government has supported the State Co-Manager position and Sanctuary operations. However, current funding will expire in July 2015.

This is a critical time. In spring 2015, the federal government will propose shifting the Sanctuary's scope from management of humpback whales to management of all natural and cultural resources in its boundaries – a shift that has been endorsed by the Sanctuary Advisory Council and has engendered a broad base of support from community members. In addition, the proposal will expand Sanctuary boundaries to overlay 30% of State waters (app. 1,000 square miles). Now, more than ever, the State of Hawaii needs a Sanctuary co-manager to ensure that the interests of the State and its communities are represented.

The State Co-Manager has been a consistent voice for the State, for our communities, and for our resources, working closely with a range of partners—fishermen, community advocates, tour operators, cultural practitioners, universities, agencies, and keiki—to address complex issues related to the Sanctuary, as well as Hawaiian monk seals, sea turtles, and other marine protected species.

For the State of Hawaii to be an effective management partner in this collaboratively managed site, we need to ensure that the co-manager position is adequately supported.

Please allocate general funds for the State Co-Manager position and Sanctuary operations.

Thank you,

John N. (Jack) Kittinger, PhD

finance8-Melanie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 1:42 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: lfoote@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1478 on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM

HB1478

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Liz Foote	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support legislative efforts to allocate general funds for the State Co-Manager position of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, as well as the Sanctuary's operations. As a director of a nonprofit organization based on Maui, I have worked with the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary for the past 18 years, and the value of the services this agency provides to the community and our natural resources cannot be sufficiently quantified. It has come to my attention that funding for the State Co-Manager position and Sanctuary operations is set to expire in July 2015. As so many important initiatives are currently underway and planned, such as the expansion of the scope of the Sanctuary, this is not the time to reduce funding. Please allocate general funds for the State Co-Manager position and Sanctuary operations, so that the state and Hawai'i's communities do not lose the one position responsible for co-managing its natural resources. Sincerely, Liz Foote Wailuku, Maui

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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I am Hannah Herman , resident of Aina Haina writing in support of HB 1478. I urge the passage of this bill to allocate general funds for the State Co-Manager position of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary as well as all Sanctuary operations.

Having lived in Hawaii since the 60s and remembering when there were virtually no Humpback whales in these waters, and then to have witnessed their remarkable recovery, has truly been magical. We need the State to maintain a strong presence in managing this wonderful resource. We cannot rely on the federal government to ensure that the interests of Hawaii and all community members will be considered in Sanctuary decision making. We need the State co-manager to represent Hawaii in dealing with the complex issues surrounding the Sanctuary and all protected marine species in our waters.

finance8-Melanie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 9:54 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: garydlanglely@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1478 on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM*

HB1478

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary Langlely	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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finance8-Melanie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 11:00 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: babyjean@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1478 on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM*

HB1478

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronnie Perry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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FIN-Jo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 9:56 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: thorneabbott@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1478 on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM

HB1478

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thorne Abbott	Coastal Planners, LLC	Support	No

Comments: Please support this important effort by voting yes to the bill. Mahalo!

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Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: Strong support for HB 1478

- I am Gregg Levine DVM. NOAA contract Veterinarian for Marine Mammal Strandings.
- 267 S. Kalaheo Ave
- Kailua, HI. 96734

For the last 16 years I have worked as a veterinarian responding to stranded dolphins, whales, and Hawaiian Monk seals. On numerous occasions we have had to work with the state, DLNR, to coordinate responses to whale strandings and injured or sick Hawaiian Monk Seals. The role of the state and its partners to coordinate personnel and heavy moving equipment has been critical to, at times to help an injured animal, and at other times to keep our beaches clean and safe by removing dead whale carcasses.

In my opinion, this position is invaluable to these kinds of responses and countless others protecting the state's valuable resources of marine animals (whales, seals, and turtles)

- **I strongly support legislative efforts to allocate general funds for the State Co-Manager position of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary** (Sanctuary), as well as the Sanctuary's operations.
- The Sanctuary is one of the world's most important humpback whale habitats, with more than 10,000 whales visiting Hawaii each year.
- The Sanctuary's incredible natural resources draws countless visitors to Hawai'i each year, which subsequently provides essential revenue to hundreds of Hawai'i businesses. Many local nonprofits, conservation organizations, schools and universities also rely on the Sanctuary for its outreach and education programs.
- The Sanctuary has been co-managed by the State of Hawaii and NOAA since 1998. Since that time, the federal government has supported the State Co-Manager position and Sanctuary operations. However, current funding will expire in July 2015.
- This is a critical time. In spring 2015, the federal government will propose shifting the Sanctuary's scope from management of humpback whales to management of all natural and cultural resources in its boundaries. In addition, the proposal will expand Sanctuary boundaries to overlay 30% of State waters (app. 1,000 square miles). Now, more than ever, the State of Hawaii needs a Sanctuary co-manager to ensure that the interests of the State and its communities are represented.
- The State Co-Manager has been a consistent voice for the State, for our communities, and for our resources, working closely with a range of partners—fishermen, community advocates, tour operators, cultural practitioners, universities, agencies, and keiki—to address complex issues related to the Sanctuary, as well as Hawaiian monk seals, sea turtles, and other marine protected species.

- **We need to ensure that the state and Hawaii communities do not lose the one position responsible for co-managing its natural resources.**
- Please allocate general funds for the State Co-Manager position and Sanctuary operations.

Thank you,
Gregg Levine DVM
808-358-5311
glevinedvm@aol.com

Re: **Strong support for HB 1478** to allocate general funds for the State Co-Manager position of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (Sanctuary), as well as for State Sanctuary operations.

I am Louis M. Herman, Ph.D., an almost 50-year resident of Hawaii, an emeritus professor at the University of Hawaii, and a humpback whale researcher for 40 years.

Let me explain briefly.

Perhaps you read the major piece in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser several weeks ago Sunday that described the annual visit of the humpback whales to our waters and the researchers who study them, myself included. I have watched these magnificent animals recover from only a few hundred remnants of commercial whaling when I first pioneered their study in Hawaiian waters in 1976, to now over 10,000 visiting our waters each year! The presence of these whales has become an important State economic and cultural resource, and Hawaii has become known as the best place in the world to view and appreciate whales.

I was gratified when in the 1990s the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary was formed to study and protect these animals, and I was honored to serve for many years as the Conservation Chair of the Sanctuary Advisory Council. The important fact now is that the Sanctuary is co-managed by the Federal Government (under NOAA) and by the State of Hawaii, with the State position of Sanctuary Co-Manager positioned under DLNR. However, that position is funded by NOAA under a stipulation that says in effect, "if funds are available." There has often been uncertainty as to whether funding will be allocated so that in a way the State has been held hostage with the threat of withholding funding always looming. Current funding will expire as of this July.

Of course, the whales remain primarily in the shallower State waters during their winter visit here for mating and birthing so that the interest of the State in their welfare and management is huge as are the interests of the State in addressing the concerns and welfare of the human users of Sanctuary waters.

What can resolve and improve the situation greatly is the funding of the State Co-Manager position by the State. This would take away the potential "hostage" threat and make the State Co-Manager better able to represent not only the whales but also the interests of our people and their values. I therefore ask that you help insure that independence by making the position of the State co-Manager of the Sanctuary a State-funded position.

As full disclosure, my daughter Elia Y. K. Herman has occupied the State Co-Manager position for the last 3.5 years. Although there is understandably a father's pride and concern for his daughter, it is through my own 40 years of work with the whales and my concern and care for the State of Hawaii and its people that I speak now.

With appreciation for your support,
Louis M. Herman, Ph.D.
Emeritus Professor, University of Hawaii

FIN-Jo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 11:03 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: keolani2@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1478 on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM

HB1478

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Agdeppa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: • I am Lisa Agdeppa and Lahaina is my home. • I strongly support legislative efforts to allocate general funds for the State Co-Manager position of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary as well as the Sanctuary’s operations. • The State Co-Manager has been a consistent voice for the State, for our communities, and for our resources, working closely with a range of partners—fishermen, community advocates, tour operators, cultural practitioners, universities, agencies, and keiki—to address complex issues related to the Sanctuary, as well as Hawaiian monk seals, sea turtles, and other marine protected species.

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From: eyeofthetiger157 . <ahelene007@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 7:23 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: HB1478 HD1, Hearing FIN 02-26-2015

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015

Alexandra Helene
ahelene007@gmail.com

Thursday, February 26, 2015

I am in support of HB1478 HD1, Hearing FIN 02-26-2015, and I urge you to vote to pass the bill.

I have been a volunteer for The Hawaii Islands Humpback Whales National Marine Sanctuary Program for 5 years. I have seen the important work they do every winter when the Humpback Whales, an endangered species, come into Hawaiian waters for their breeding, calving, and nursing activities. Without this program, would the Humpback Whales be in existence today or would they be facing extinction?

As you know, Federal Funding has declined and is set to expire in July 2015. The Sanctuary and the State's co-management program have never been formally established under state law and state funding has never been provided. In order for the Sanctuary to expand from the management of humpback whales to management of all natural and cultural resources in its boundaries which would overlay more than 30% of state waters in the main Hawaiian Islands including Niihaa, I believe it is imperative that you provide the funding needed and establish a sanctuary co-manager position.

Please support HB1478 HD1.

From: eyeofthetiger157 . <ahelene007@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 7:23 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: HB1478 HD1, Hearing FIN 02-26-2015

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015



Alexandra Helene
ahelene007@gmail.com

Thursday, February 26, 2015

I am in support of HB1478 HD1, Hearing FIN 02-26-2015, and I urge you to vote to pass the bill.

I have been a volunteer for The Hawaii Islands Humpback Whales National Marine Sanctuary Program for 5 years. I have seen the important work they do every winter when the Humpback Whales, an endangered species, come into Hawaiian waters for their breeding, calving, and nursing activities. Without this program, would the Humpback Whales be in existence today or would they be facing extinction?

As you know, Federal Funding has declined and is set to expire in July 2015. The Sanctuary and the State's co-management program have never been formally established under state law and state funding has never been provided. In order for the Sanctuary to expand from the management of humpback whales to management of all natural and cultural resources in its boundaries which would overlay more than 30% of state waters in the main Hawaiian Islands including Niihaa, I believe it is imperative that you provide the funding needed and establish a sanctuary co-manager position.

Please support HB1478 HD1.



Conservation Council
for Hawai'i

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i / leo no nā holoholona lōhiu

LATE

Testimony Submitted to the
House Committee on Finance
Hearing: Thursday, February 26, 2015 11:00 am, Room 308

In Support of HB 1478 HD 1 Relating to the
Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

Aloha, Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 1478 HD 1, which establishes the Hawaiian Islands humpback whale national marine sanctuary program and the Papahānaumokuākea marine national monument program, establishes a co-manager position, and appropriates moneys.

We ask you to appropriate \$127,500 for the position and operations. The Sanctuary is one of the world's most important humpback whale habitats, with more than 10,000 whales visiting Hawai'i each year. The Sanctuary's incredible natural resources draws countless visitors to Hawai'i each year, which subsequently provides essential revenue to hundreds of Hawai'i businesses. Many local nonprofits, conservation organizations, schools and universities also rely on the Sanctuary for its outreach and education programs.

The Sanctuary has been co-managed by the State of Hawai'i and NOAA since 1998. Since that time, the federal government has supported the State Co-Manager position and Sanctuary operations. However, current funding will expire in July 2015.

This is a critical time. In the spring 2015, the federal government will propose shifting the Sanctuary's scope from management of humpback whales to management of all natural and cultural resources in its boundaries. In addition, the proposal will expand Sanctuary boundaries to overlay 30% of State waters (approx. 1,000 square miles).

Now, more than ever, the State of Hawai'i needs a Sanctuary co-manager to ensure that the interests of the State and its communities are represented.



Conservation Council for Hawai'i is a nonprofit, environmental membership organization dedicated to protecting native Hawaiian plants, animals, and ecosystems for future generations. Established in 1950 and based in Honolulu, CCH is one of the largest and most effective wildlife organizations in Hawai'i with more than 5,000 members and supporters, including concerned citizens, educators, scientists, government agencies, and elected officials.

Through research, education, service, organizing, and legal advocacy, CCH works to stop the destruction of native wildlife and wild places in Hawai'i.

Since 1973, CCH has served as the Hawai'i state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation.

Telephone/Fax: 808.593.0255 | email: info@conservehi.org | web: www.conservehi.org
P.O. Box 2923 | Honolulu, HI 96802 | Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 220 | Honolulu, HI 96814

President: Hannah Kihalani Springer | Vice-President: Julie Leialoha | Treasurer: Bianca Isaki | Secretary: Wayne Tanaka

Directors: Rick Barboza | Ryan Belcher | Maka'ala Ka'auomoana | Koalani Kaulukukui

Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters



Conservation Council for Hawai'i

February 26, 2015

HB 1478 HD 1 - Page 2

The State Co-Manager has been a consistent voice for the State, for our communities, and for our resources, working closely with a range of partners—fishermen, community advocates, tour operators, cultural practitioners, universities, agencies, and keiki—to address complex issues related to the Sanctuary, as well as Hawaiian monk seals, sea turtles, and other marine protected species.

We need to ensure that the state and Hawai'i communities do not lose the one state position responsible for co-managing its natural resources. Please kokua and allocate enough general funds for the State Co-Manager position and Sanctuary operations.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marjorie Ziegler".

Marjorie Ziegler

LATE

The Voice for Hawaii's Ocean Tourism Industry
1188 Bishop St., Ste. 1003
Honolulu, HI 96813-3304
(808) 537-4308 Phone (808) 533-2739 Fax
timlyons@hawaiiantel.net



Ocean Tourism Coalition

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, February 26, 2015
TIME: 11:00 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY OF THE OCEAN TOURISM COALITION SPEAKING IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1478

My name is James E. Coon, President of the Ocean Tourism Coalition. The OTC represents over 300 small ocean tourism businesses state wide. Most of these are family businesses which are locally owned and operated. Many of them have been in business for several decades and are an important and valued part of their respective communities.

The Ocean Tourism Industry depends on an environment that is healthy and protected. The Whale Sanctuary enjoys strong support from our members. The Sanctuary has been co-managed by the State of Hawaii and NOAA since 1998. Historically the Fed has funded this State Co-Manager position.

We understand that this necessary funding has been cut from the Federal budget in July, 2015. It is absolutely vital that the State of Hawaii not lose this very important position and be able to have a voice in how to manage our State waters.

The Co-Manager is always looking out for the interests of the People of the State of Hawaii. We must continue to have this voice to protect our collective interests.

The OTC humbly asks you to pass HB 1478 and fund this vital position.

Sincerely,

James E. Coon, President
Ocean Tourism Coalition
808-870-9115
Captcoon@gmail.com

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2015 8:33 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: maunalei.ahupuuaa@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1478 on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM

HB1478

Submitted on: 2/26/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Solomon P. Kaho?ohalahala	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB 1478 because it provides for the co-management of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary by the State of Hawai'i. I ask for your consideration and passage of this bill. Mahalo

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