

**gabbard2 - Donna**

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**LATE**

**HB2020**

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

Testimony for WLA on Mar 16, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Faith Chase	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
HB2020 HD1, Relating to the Causes of Decline in Limu and Reef Fish  
Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture  
Wednesday, March 16, 3:00 p.m., room 224

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

**LATE**

Aloha!

I wish to strongly urge passage of HB2020 HD1, Relating to the Causes of Decline in Limu and Reef Fish and that would appropriate general funds for the Department of Land and Natural Resources to conduct and contract for studies to identify the causes of decline in limu and reef fish along the Ewa coast.

Last year, I provided testimony on HCR 119, Requesting a Study of Limu and Reef Fish Decline in Certain Areas of the 'Ewa Coast of O'ahu, but apparently, DLNR was unable to do due to lack of funding. **It's time sensitive and essential to do this study in order to determine solutions to save what little now remains of a once abundant limu and reef fish resource.** DLNR's earlier guess was the lack of nutrients, thus, to assure expeditious solutions are found, recommend that the bill require coordination with the University of Hawaii and cultural practitioners, especially in areas where limu is still prevalent.

In July 2014, the then Governor, Mayors and legislators proudly launched the Aloha+Challenge, a series of targets for the state to reach in various sectors of sustainability, renewable energy and natural resource management. Two benchmarks are worth mentioning: Local food: Double local food production with a goal of 20 to 30 percent of food consumer being grown locally; and Natural resource management: Increase watershed protection, community-based marine management, invasive species prevention and control, and restoration of native species.

**This bill walks the talk of the Aloha+Challenge. Mahalo to the introducers of this bill. Please pass it to enable DLNR to do the studies necessary to be proactive in protecting and enhancing this food source.....important to the diet of Native Hawaiians and others who live in Hawai'i.**

**Me kealoha**

**/s/ by e-mail**

**LEIMOMI KHAN**