



**KONA-KOHALA  
CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE**

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**LATE**

March 14, 2016

**Testimony to the Water, Land, and Agriculture Committee  
March 14, 2016 at 2:45 P.M.  
Conference Room 224, State Capitol**

**RE: HOUSE BILL 2235 HD1 RELATING TO HONOKOHAU SMALL BOAT HARBOR**

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee,

The Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce (KKCC) ***strongly supports HB 2235 HD1.***

The KKCC is West Hawai'i Island's leading business organization, representing over 540 businesses. Over 70% of our members represent small businesses. As the largest business organization on Hawai'i Island and fourth largest chamber in the State, the KKCC exists to provide leadership and advocacy for a successful business environment in West Hawai'i.

The Honokohau Small Boat Harbor remains unfinished, 40 years after it opened. Many of your constituents on the Hawai'i Island have likely expressed their concerns of completing, repairing, improving, maintaining and operating the Harbor facility by the DLNR Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DLNR-BOR). Our community deserves a world class Harbor as our ocean attracts many locals and visitors for recreation and fishing. The Harbor even plays host to our annual International Billfish Tournament, which has been a staple event in our community for over 55 years. Our Harbor has the potential to further grow our economy and therefore, much needed jobs in our community.

HB 2235 HD1 seeks to create a public-private partnership for Honokohau that would allow management to be undertaken at the local level, with closer communication between the boaters and the managers, and provide the opportunity for private parties to participate in completing the harbor's infrastructure and improving the facilities in a timely fashion. The State could continue to own the land and would benefit from improved management of their property, as would the economy as a whole.

On behalf of over 540 businesses on the Hawaii Island, I urge you to pass HB 2235 HD1.

Sincerely,

Kirstin Kahaloa  
Executive Director  
Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce