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GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Monday, February 5, 2016
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2235
RELATING TO HONOKOHAU SMALL BOAT HARBOR**

House Bill 2235 proposes to authorize the Board of Land and Natural Resources to transfer the operation, administration, management, and maintenance of the Honokohau Small Boat Harbor to a community-based board of Hawaii County, a public-private partnership, or a private organization. The measure also appropriates funds for repairs and maintenance of the harbor. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure with the following proposed amendments.**

The Department feels it is time to move the State Small Boat Harbor Program in a new direction and would prefer that the Legislature support Senate Bill 2900 and House Bill 2371 which are the Department's administrative proposals. These bills would accomplish the same outcome but also allow the Department to enter into similar agreements with the rest of the State small boat harbors. Should the Legislature decide to move forward with House Bill 2235, the Department recommends deleting subsection (a)(1) as it pertains to a community-based board of the county where the harbor is located. This type of management style is very cumbersome and does not lend itself to the effective and efficient operation of the facility. Allowing the Department to enter into public-private partnerships or working with private organizations would free up valuable staff time and resources that can be allocated to the management of the state's navigable waters and near shore areas that are in dire need of resource protection.

Finally, while the Department is supportive of the funding for the Honokohau Small Boat Harbor; the Department respectfully request however that the Legislature support the Capital Improvement Projects found in the Administration's Supplemental Budget request.

Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair



Committee on Water and Land

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Blue Ocean Mariculture

Monday, February 5, 2016

Support for H.B. 2235 Relating to Honokohau Small Boat Harbor

Blue Ocean Mariculture is the world's leading producer of cultivated Kahala (*Seriola rivoliana*). We employ 25 people full-time in the Kona area, including 13 in our facility at Honokohau Harbor. Our operations at Honokohau Harbor include mobilizing equipment and launching vessels on a daily basis in the care, feeding and harvesting of Kahala at our offshore farm near Keahole Point. In addition, we frequently launch and recover water quality testing and benthic monitoring activities from the Harbor.

We strongly support H.B. 2235 Relating to Honokohau Small Boat Harbor, which would allow a transfer of certain harbor management and maintenance duties to non-State organizations, and would appropriate certain funds for harbor repair and maintenance during the upcoming fiscal year.

Honokohau Harbor is an important source of economic activity in the Kona area, with the potential for further growth and improvements in efficiency and safety. A strong working relationship between DLNR DOBOR and a community-based board or public-private partnership will allow more timely delivery of harbor improvements and will relieve some of the workload on an already over-extended DLNR DOBOR organization. Appropriation of much-needed funds for repair and maintenance at the Harbor will allow DLNR DOBOR to deliver more of the improvements it has worked so hard to develop.

We believe there is significant untapped potential for Honokohau Harbor to develop into a world-class boating facility, providing additional economic benefit to the State of Hawaii and improved access to ocean-based activities for the local community. We believe the best way to pursue this potential is through the types of public-private partnerships contemplated by H.B. 2235. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Blue Ocean Mariculture

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 3:22 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: rgaffney@pacificboatsales.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2235 on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM

HB2235

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rick Gaffney	Hawaii Fishing & Boating Association	Support	No

Comments: Honokohau Harbor remains unfinished 40 years after it first opened and the DLNR Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) seems to be incapable of completing, improving, maintaining and operating the facility, which is a serious disservice to the boating community and ocean recreation industry in West Hawaii, and has a direct impact on the economy of our community and the State as a whole. Our legislators and the administration are very much aware of the failings of the DOBOR. Several legislative audits have expounded on that, and the issues are constantly decried by members of the public. It is time to pursue a new management paradigm, and this bill offers an opportunity to consider options, including a public private partnership, based on the model recently agreed to in Hilo for the management of DLNRs Banyan Drive properties. The creation of a similar management authority for Honokohau would allow management to be undertaken at the local level, with one on-one communication possible 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. It is time to change the way Hawaii manages its boating facilities and the West Hawaii boating community is ready to participate in that process. Please begin the process of fixing a badly broken management system by supporting this bill. Mahalo, Rick Gaffney President, Hawaii Fishing & Boating Association Kona, Hawaii

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 4:58 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: jasonholtz@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2235 on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM

HB2235

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Holtz	Pursuit Sportfishing	Comments Only	No

Comments: My family and I have ran businesses out of Honokohau harbor for over 30 years so I am very qualified to speak on this matter. I believe that the management of Honokohau harbor is long overdue for change. It has been proven that the present management cannot do the job. Just take a walk around our harbor and the evidence is there. There is no security, no electricity dockside, dumpsters are overflowing from community use, the bathrooms are nearly unusable due to uncleanliness, there is a massive feral cat problem, and many of Lina's homeless have chosen to use Honokohau as their campground. Kona has been put on the map as one of the premier Sportfishing locales on the planet by the hard work of enthusiastic captains over several decades. Now millions of dollars pour into Kona's economy every year from anglers traveling from around the world to fish in our beautiful calm and rich waters of the Kona coast. The only problem is that they have to do it from one of the most poorly maintained harbors that I have ever ran a boat out of. My experience includes running boats out of 16 countries most of them third world. Yet they still have marinas with better and cleaner facilities. Hawaii is my home and has been for 4 generations. I feel it long overdue for Kona to have a marina that we can be proud of. One that has reason to be situated within minutes of our five star class hotels and golf courses. It's time for a five star marina.

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BLUE MARLIN CAPITAL DESERVES A WORLD CLASS FACILITY



Honokohau could be redeveloped into a world-class marina that attracts businesses and volumes of tourists.



Kona is recognized as the blue marlin capital of the world. Its small boat harbor at Honokohau is filled with more than 100 charter vessels offering half- and full-day charters with a good chance of catching a blue marlin. Blue marlin and other large gamefish are often caught in close proximity to Honokohau because the steeply dropping coast brings large pelagic fish close to shore. Kona is host to many gamefish tournaments including the prestigious Hawaii International Billfish Tournament, usually mounted in July.

Every issue of *Hawaii Fishing News* recounts the fish landed or tagged-and-released at Kona. The October 2015 edition includes three photos of fish greater than 500 pounds and two granders, or fish greater than 1,000 pounds. In the past, about two-thirds of the fish landed by the Kona charter fleet were blue marlin. This has dropped to about 30 percent as more charter captains embrace the catch-and-release ethic, estimating the weight of the fish and then tagging it. A YouTube video of a 16-year-old New Yorker landing a grander in February went viral, receiving up to half a million hits.

With this kind of success one could be forgiven for being underwhelmed when actually visiting Honokohau. Its location in a barren desert-like lava field does it no favors when it comes to landscape aesthetics. But the big surprise is how primitive Honokohau is compared to other world-class sportfish destinations such as Cabo San Lucas, La Paz and Los Suenos in Mexico and harbors in Costa Rica, Brazil, Nicaragua and Cape Verde, Africa. These developing countries offer far superior harbor facilities, which attract not only fishing patrons but also tourists who visit the docks to dine and shop.

Honokohau facilities include toilets on both sides of the harbor but no showers. The north side of the harbor, which handles the majority of the traffic because of two small boat ramps, has no paved parking or driveways. The unpaved surface can quickly turn to mud, and charter captains and crews have had to wash their customers' feet before they come aboard.

The gleaming charter vessels nestling in this ugly, underequipped lagoon provides quite a contrast. The north side of the harbor has no electrical power so vessel operators have no shore power. On the harbor's south side where there is power, vessels owners had to put in their own shorepower connection at a cost of \$30,000 per unit. Having power is a safety issue as charged vessel batteries keep bilge pumps working so boats stay afloat. Another complaint is non-trailer boats have only a single fuel supplier in the harbor.

Ko'olina, a private facility on O'ahu, comes close to being a first-class harbor in Hawai'i. Perhaps the best future for Honokohau is to become privatized as well. Kona and its surrounds continue to grow. Part of that growth could be the redevelopment of Honokohau into a world-class marina that attracts other businesses and volumes of tourists above and beyond the sportfish fraternity. 🐟



Pacific Blue Marlin
Kajiki, A'u, Sa'ula, Batto

Distribution

- Found in all tropical oceans.
- Found year-round in Hawai'i.
- Large females migrate into Hawai'i waters in summer to spawn.

Stock Status

- Fished sustainably, with the stock neither overfished nor subject to overfishing.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 4:28 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: stevenfassbender@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2235 on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM*

HB2235

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
steven fassbender	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 9:53 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: strsnng@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2235 on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM

HB2235

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Starsong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I'm in favor of this bill, Honokohau needs repairs and maintenance badly.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 8:24 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: shirl72025@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2235 on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM

HB2235

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shirlee M. Shumway	Individual	Support	No

Comments: HB2235 Submit Submit (?) Submit Testimony Measure Title: RELATING TO HONOKOHAU SMALL BOAT HARBOR. Report Title: Board of Land and Natural Resources; Honokohau Small Boat Harbor; Appropriation (\$) Description: Authorizes the board of land and natural resources to transfer the operation, administration, management, and maintenance of Honokohau small boat harbor to a community-based board of Hawaii county, a public-private partnership, or a private organization. Appropriates funds for repairs and maintenance of the harbor. Companion: SB2462 Package: None Current Referral: WAL, FIN Introducer(s): LOWEN Sort by Date Status Text 1/25/2016 H Pending introduction. 1/27/2016 H Introduced and Pass First Reading. 1/27/2016 H Referred to WAL, FIN, referral sheet 3 2/2/2016 H Bill scheduled to be heard by WAL on Friday, 02-05-16 8:30AM in House conference room 325. S = Senate | H = House | D = Data Systems | \$ = Appropriation measure | ConAm = Constitutional Amendment Some of the above items require Adobe Acrobat Reader. Please visit Adobe's download page for detailed instructions. HB2235

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Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 5:17 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: uki47@hotmail.co.jp
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2235 on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM

HB2235

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
takeo Izawa	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: HB2235 testimony. Operation of Honokohau harbor office, year 2016-17. • Employee salary, benefit and operation cost: Department of Land and Natural Resource (DNLR) requested bill Honokohau Harbor office employees are should continue to have job for support them family. We need DNLR to report this necessary amount and set aside for after June 31 2016. • Harbor maintenance is request amount \$5,000,000. as follow. THE SENATE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2016 STATE OF HAWAII JAN 22, 2016 A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII: • SECTION 1. The director of finance is authorized to issue general obligation bonds in the sum of \$46,500,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary, and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the purpose of capital improvement projects for the third senatorial district, as follows: Department of land and natural resources Section 2. Honokohau harbor General improvements, ramp and facility repair Total funding \$5,000,000 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored will be Future Master Planning. Honokohau harbor does not have future master plan for sustainable community at this time. Future Honokohau harbor master plan planning for 2016 to 2046. Planning sturdy time take 12 month and Sturdy cost should \$300,000 by Honokohau Community Base Management Authority. We request forming receiver group of “Honokohau Community Management Authority”. “Honokohau Community Management Authority” is five members association receiver from Department of Land and Natural Resource management Honokohau Harbor. Five member of “Honokohau Community Management Authority” are, One of represent from DNLR. One of represent from Department of Hawaiian Homes. One of County of Hawaii members. One of Honokohau Harbor tenant. One of Kona residence represent.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 8:00 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: mlflaherty@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2235 on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM

HB2235

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
michael flaherty	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: As a boat owner I strongly support the transfer of Honokohau Harbor. The DLNR seems to be caught up in a bureaucratic nightmare where even the simplest of cost saving measures (fixing water leaks or changing light bulbs) are beyond there capacities. I believe transferring management to a private non profit would be in the best interest of the community.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 6:13 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: tbrit02@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2235 on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM

HB2235

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tom britton	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support this bill to focus the appropriate attention to fixing, maintaining, and improving this important resource. Please consider including the Kawaihae Harbors under this new management.

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

LATE

**Testimony of
Piilani Kaawaloa
Aha Moku Advisory Committee Member, Moku O Keawe**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER and LAND**

**Friday, February 05, 2016
8:30 AM
Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2235
RELATING TO HONOKOHAU SMALL BOAT HARBOR**

House Bill 2235 proposes to authorize the board of land and natural resources to transfer the operation, administration, management, and maintenance of Honokohau small boat harbor to a community-based board of Hawaii County, a public-private organization, or a private organization. It further appropriates funds for repairs and maintenance of the harbor. **Aha Moku supports this measure.**

The Honokohau Harbor is located within the Ahupua'a of Honokohauiki, Kona Moku on the Mokupuni (Island) of Moku O Keawe (Hawaii). The area has long been used by local fishermen even before the Honokohau Harbor was built in 1965. It has a natural harbor and a thriving fishery that has been the fishery used not only by the Honokohauiki Ahupua'a, but the neighboring ahupua'a of Puapua'a (where Kailua-Kona is located), Holualoa, Kaloko, O'oma and Kalaoa (where the Kona Airport is located). It is next to the Kaloko-Honokohau National Historic Park which houses the Ai'io'io Fishpond – an ancient Native Hawaiian fishpond that supplemented the fishery subsistence connected with Honokohau.

It is because of this history of Honokohau that Aha Moku supports a community-based board of Hawaii County. However, we ask that a community member of the Ahupua'a of Honokohauiki who is a subsistence fisherman (*lawaiia*) and who has traditional knowledge of the natural and cultural resources of Honokohau be a member of the newly created board. Honokohau Harbor is now a public entity that welcomes all to use it. Therefore, in order to ensure the historic and cultural importance of the area where the Honokohau Harbor is located is included, we believe that this traditional fisherman (*lawaiia*) of this ahupua'a should be included in any discussion and decision-making made on a community-based board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 4:30 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: finance@fair-wind.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2235 on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM

HB2235

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alicia Starsong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Yes, the harbors need better management. Moving control to the County or private organization would be beneficial.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 7:46 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: bokahui@laiopua.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2235 on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM

HB2235

Submitted on: 2/4/2016
Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Craig "Bo" Kahui	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a resident of West Hawaii on the Big Island and former commercial fisherman, I support HB 2235 which authorizes the board of land and natural resources to transfer the operation, administration, management, and maintenance of Honokohau small boat harbor to a community-based board of Hawaii county, a public-private partnership, or a private organization. Appropriates funds for repairs and maintenance of the harbor. The current Harbors Division cannot manage or maintain the Honokahau harbor facility. This bill will provide options to DLNR to seek a private partner to maintain and operate the harbors.

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