



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

**Testimony of
LESLIE KULOLOIO
Chair**

**Before the Senate Committees on
JUDICIARY AND LABOR
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Wednesday, February 24, 2016
10:00 AM
Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2453
RELATING TO AQUATIC RESOURCES PENALTIES**

Senate Bill 2453 authorizes the court to require a person who violates certain laws pertaining to aquatic resources to complete an aquatic resources educational class administered by DLNR in lieu of or in addition to paying a monetary fine. It authorizes the court to require a person who violates certain laws pertaining to aquatic resources to perform community service administered by DLNR in lieu of paying a monetary fine.

Aha Moku supports this measure.

We believe that many aquatic violations happen most frequently because people are either ignorant about Hawaii's aquatic laws, or they just don't care. This would change with a strong dose of education on the protection and preservation of the marine environment, and safety for others who frequent the ocean.

Thank you for the opportunity to testimony on SB 2453.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

SENATE JOINT COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR, WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday February 24, 2016 10AM Room 211

In Support SB2453 Relating to Aquatic Resource Penalties

Aloha Chairman Sen. Keith-Agaran, Chairwoman Sen. Tokuda and Members of the JDL and WAM Committees,

On behalf of our 12,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **supports** SB2453 to allow courts the option to impose community service and education as penalties for violations of aquatic resource protections.

This bill adds the completion of an aquatic resources educational class and community service administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the list of possible penalties that can be imposed on persons who violate laws pertaining to aquatic resources. These penalties can be in addition to or in lieu of monetary penalties.

These alternative sentencing options allow judges to impose penalties that specifically address the aquatic resource offense. These penalties allow for the rehabilitation of the violator's behavior and can effectively deter future violations. Educational and community service penalties stress the importance of our resources, enhances the public's knowledge of the aquatic resource laws, and ensures punishment of those who are unable to pay monetary penalties.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Townsend".

Martha Townsend
Director