

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of**  
**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
**Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on**  
**JUDICIARY AND LABOR**

**Thursday, March 2, 2017**  
**9:30 AM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**In consideration of**  
**SENATE BILL 1240, SENATE DRAFT 1**  
**RELATING TO AQUATIC LIFE**

Senate Bill 1240, Senate Draft 1, proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to submit proposed legislation to the legislature by the 2019 regular session including a definition of “sustainable”, a policy for sustainable collection practices of near shore aquatic life, and limits on the total number of species and sustainable rates of collection. **The Department supports sustainable collection practices and appreciates the intent of the measure but has concerns about the requirement to establish catch limits for all reef species by 2019.** The Department provides the following comments.

The Department is currently engaged in statewide marine planning efforts, and plans to incorporate sustainable collection practices into all of our fisheries management policies in accordance with the intent of this measure. However, determining take limits for all species (presumably fish species) based on existing data will be practically impossible given that relatively little is known about the life cycle of most local species, large data gaps on the abundance of most reef species in waters around the State, and very limited resources to answer develop the necessary information (i.e., stock assessments, etc.). The Department would not be able to comply with this provision given its existing resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**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

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
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



**Conservation Council  
for Hawai'i**

*Hawai'i's voice for wildlife*

*Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu*



Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
By the Conservation Council for Hawai'i  
Hearing: Thursday, March 2, 2017 9:30 am  
Room 016

Support for SB 1240 SD 1 Relating to Aquatic Life

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee,

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 1240 SD 1, which requires DLNR to submit proposed legislation to the legislature by the 2019 regular session including a definition of "sustainable", a policy for sustainable collection practices of near shore aquatic life, and limits on collection.

Our preference would be to ban the collection of marine life from our reefs for the aquarium traded. Please include language calling for a moratorium until a definition of "sustainable" and sustainable practices and limits are proposed to the legislature and enacted.

If commercial wildlife collectors were removing native Hawaiian birds – even common ones – from our forests to be sold as caged-bird pets, the public would be up in arms. We feel the same way about removing marine life from our reefs for commercial sale to aquarium enthusiasts. The practice of removing marine life for the aquarium trade is unnatural, unnecessary, and wasteful with high levels of wildlife mortality.

Please protect our reef ecosystems and pass SB 1240 SD 1. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

*Marjorie Ziegler*

Marjorie Ziegler



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President: Wayne Tanaka | Vice President: Koalani Kaulukukui | Secretary: Rachel Sprague  
Treasurer: Les Welsh | Director: Anne Walton  
Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters





**TO:** Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads, and Judiciary and Labor Committee Members, 3-2-17, 9:30 a.m.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Keith Dane, Hawaii Policy Advisor, State Affairs, Humane Society of the United States, [kdane@humanesociety.org](mailto:kdane@humanesociety.org), Tel: 301-312-1489; and Teresa M. Telecky, Ph.D., Director, Wildlife Department, Humane Society International, [ttelecky@hsi.org](mailto:ttelecky@hsi.org), Tel: 301.258.1430

**RE: SUPPORT for SB1240 SD1, Relating to Aquatic Life**

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The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and Humane Society International (HSI), support SB1240 SD1 which would, if enacted, require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to submit proposed legislation, including a definition of "sustainable," a policy for "sustainable collection practices" of nearshore aquatic life, and collection limits, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the 2019 Regular Session. We sincerely thank the Committee for addressing this important matter that affects the lives of more than 700,000 animals per year. The bill also answers the call of the majority of Hawaii residents who, as shown in a [poll](#), cited environmental concerns as the main reason for wanting to ban the collection of coral reef wildlife for the aquarium trade.

In 1998, a DLNR State of the Reefs report listed the collection of fish for the aquarium trade as a major cause of coral reef degradation in Hawaii (DLNR, 1998). Since then, numerous studies have documented substantial population declines of between 45 to 90 percent in certain reef fish species heavily targeted by the trade on Oahu and Hawaii Island (UH Hilo/DAR, 1998; Tissot and Hallacher, 2003; DAR/HCRI-RP, 2007; DLNR/DAR 2010; DLNR/DAR 2015; Grabowsky, in prep).

In 2000, approximately 32% of West Hawaii reefs were closed to collection of fish for the aquarium trade. In these closed areas, studies have since shown population size increases for some, but not all, of the top 10 targeted species (DLNR/DAR 2010; DLNR/DAR 2015). In stark contrast, these same studies confirm that fish population sizes are significantly diminished in the 68% of West Hawaii reefs that remain open to aquarium trade collection. The number of fish collected for the aquarium trade in West Hawaii is enormous; to wit, at least 3.5 times more fish are taken in West Hawaii than are taken from the entire Great Barrier Reef, which comprises an

area that is 21 times greater than Hawaii's entire land mass (The State of Queensland, 2011). This intense collection pressure on the 68% of West Hawaii reefs that remain open to aquarium trade collection shows no sign of slowing down and poses a serious threat to the health of fish populations and the coral reef itself.

Aquarium fish catch reports since 1976 demonstrate the depletion by the aquarium trade of the most heavily targeted fish species. For example, five butterflyfish species were among the top ten fishes targeted by the trade in 1976. In 2008, DLNR's Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) reported that butterflyfish abundance on some parts of West Hawaii had declined by an average of 70 percent, and the teardrop butterflyfish, formerly among the top ten, had declined by 90 percent (DAR, 2008). By 2014, just one of these five butterflyfishes still held a spot among the top ten most captured fishes: the forcepsfish / longnose butterflyfish, though reported catch had declined by 83 percent since 1976. Indeed, between 1980 and 2014, catch of these five butterflyfish species declined by a startling 74 percent; this is an indication of severe unsustainable take by the aquarium trade.

A second compelling example of catch reports documenting fish population changes comes from leeward Oahu where yellow tang populations collapsed in the 1980s as a result of hurricanes and over-collection (Walsh et al., 2004). While yellow tang catch began to inch up about a decade ago, it is still 75 percent lower than before the crash (Walsh et al., 2004; DLNR, 2013).

Yet despite the foregoing evidence, those who oppose measures and rules aimed at restoring and protecting Hawaii's coral reefs, and protecting them from the collection of animals for the aquarium trade, claim that such collection is "sustainable."

In fisheries management terms, "sustainable" typically refers to "maximum sustainable yield" (MSY), which is the highest possible annual catch that can be sustained by a species over time. In some cases, populations may be reduced by up to 80 percent and the catch may still be considered "sustainable." But this terminology does not take into account the role of the species in its ecosystem and negative impact on ecosystem function when populations of one or more species are reduced to such an extent. In complex ecosystems such as coral reefs, the reduction of a population of one fish—such as an herbivore that plays an important role in keeping algae from covering coral—can have negative, cascading effects on the function and resiliency of the entire reef ecosystem. This, in turn, will not only negatively impact the coral reef ecosystem but the people who rely on that ecosystem.

Indeed, Hawaii's aquarium fishery exploits nearshore, shallow coral reefs. Areas impacted by this trade are literally extensions of the human communities adjacent to them and may be no more than a stone's throw away. Community members and other stakeholders are intimately linked to these reefs and derive numerous socio-economic benefits from them (HCRI-NOAA, 2008). The diminished fish populations and degraded reefs that result from the collection for the aquarium trade, though described by some as "sustainable," in fact seriously harm the benefits associated with healthy, abundant and beautiful coral reefs.

DLNR's Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) leadership has recently called into question the sustainability of the collection of fish for the aquarium trade. In October 2014, a Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) meeting was held on a rule proposal fashioned by the aquarium trade to set so-called "limits" on their activities. One of the proposed limits was to allow take of 100 immature yellow tang per person per day (with no limits on the number of people doing so). The HSUS/HSI, environmental organizations, and community members voiced strong opposition to the rule package for its lack of meaningful change and maintenance of the status quo. In an unprecedented move, DAR's administrator and respected marine biologist, Frazer McGilvray, also submitted testimony in opposition. Mr. McGilvray testified on the unsustainability of the proposed rules, noting that:

- "The majority of yellow tang taken by the trade are immature and have not contributed to the future of the species. The take of juveniles is generally prohibited."
- "The proposal to allow take of 100 immature yellow tang per person per day, is driven by the demands of the trade and is contrary to good natural resource management. There appears to be no scientific basis for the proposed bag limits for each species."
- "The proposed rule is akin to setting a speed limit at 400 MPH."
- Community input is key but their concerns have been completely ignored.

BLNR approved the rule package despite strong opposition, but at the request of two board members, an agreement was made to explore additional steps in informal meetings with stakeholders (including The HSUS and HSI) and scientists who had been left out of the process. Two separate meetings of stakeholders and scientists were subsequently held in the following months. After one of the meetings, acting DAR administrator Alton Miyasaka disseminated notes from the meeting to the stakeholders demonstrating that DAR does not know what sustainable means or how it should be measured:

"...The main management questions remained unanswered. Those questions are, What does sustainable mean, how do you measure it, what are the management goals, and how do you know if you are meeting those goals" (emphasis added).

SB 1240 SD1 will ensure that, at some point in the coming years, these basic management questions are answered. However, because Hawaii's reefs and wildlife populations are in dire straits, we urge you to consider amending it to include the original moratorium on the issuance of aquarium fish collection permits until the required definition, policy and collection limits are enacted.

Before closing, we would like to point out that the bill only addresses collection of fish with fine mesh nets for the aquarium trade; whereas, important fishes such as sharks and eels, and invertebrates are also collected for this trade. Invertebrates, taken by the hundreds of thousands in some years, feed on algae, waste and other debris, provide calcium carbonate, key to reef development and protection against impacts of ocean acidification, and perform other essential

ecosystem services necessary for healthy coral reefs. Known as “clean-up crews” in the aquarium hobby, these hermit crabs, sea cucumbers and feather-dusters are taken for the same services they provide, over the course of shortened lives, in tanks. These invertebrates are not captured with nets but, instead, are plucked by hand from their environments. Those taking invertebrates and other aquatic animals without fine mesh nets are not required to obtain an aquarium fish permit under HRS 188-31. We, therefore, also suggest the bill be amended to prohibit collection by any means of aquatic life for aquarium purposes.

HSUS and HSI sincerely thank the Committee for taking up this important matter. ***We urge the Committee to pass SB1240 SDI*** and to consider amending it to reinsert the moratorium language and to include all marine life taken for aquarium purposes and restore wildlife abundance and health to Hawaii’s reefs.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.



**TO:** Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads, and Judiciary and Labor Committee Members, 3-2-17, 9:30 a.m.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Keith Dane, Hawaii Policy Advisor, State Affairs, Humane Society of the United States, [kdane@humanesociety.org](mailto:kdane@humanesociety.org), Tel: 301-312-1489; and Teresa M. Telecky, Ph.D., Director, Wildlife Department, Humane Society International, [ttelecky@hsi.org](mailto:ttelecky@hsi.org), Tel: 301.258.1430

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area that is 21 times greater than Hawaii's entire land mass (The State of Queensland, 2011). This intense collection pressure on the 68% of West Hawaii reefs that remain open to aquarium trade collection shows no sign of slowing down and poses a serious threat to the health of fish populations and the coral reef itself.

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Yet despite the foregoing evidence, those who oppose measures and rules aimed at restoring and protecting Hawaii's coral reefs, and protecting them from the collection of animals for the aquarium trade, claim that such collection is "sustainable."

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Indeed, Hawaii's aquarium fishery exploits nearshore, shallow coral reefs. Areas impacted by this trade are literally extensions of the human communities adjacent to them and may be no more than a stone's throw away. Community members and other stakeholders are intimately linked to these reefs and derive numerous socio-economic benefits from them (HCRI-NOAA, 2008). The diminished fish populations and degraded reefs that result from the collection for the aquarium trade, though described by some as "sustainable," in fact seriously harm the benefits associated with healthy, abundant and beautiful coral reefs.



DLNR's Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) leadership has recently called into question the sustainability of the collection of fish for the aquarium trade. In October 2014, a Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) meeting was held on a rule proposal fashioned by the aquarium trade to set so-called "limits" on their activities. One of the proposed limits was to allow take of 100 immature yellow tang per person per day (with no limits on the number of people doing so). The HSUS/HSI, environmental organizations, and community members voiced strong opposition to the rule package for its lack of meaningful change and maintenance of the status quo. In an unprecedented move, DAR's administrator and respected marine biologist, Frazer McGilvray, also submitted testimony in opposition. Mr. McGilvray testified on the unsustainability of the proposed rules, noting that:

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SB 1240 SD1 will ensure that, at some point in the coming years, these basic management questions are answered. However, because Hawaii's reefs and wildlife populations are in dire straits, we urge you to consider amending it to include the original moratorium on the issuance of aquarium fish collection permits until the required definition, policy and collection limits are enacted.

Before closing, we would like to point out that the bill only addresses collection of fish with fine mesh nets for the aquarium trade; whereas, important fishes such as sharks and eels, and invertebrates are also collected for this trade. Invertebrates, taken by the hundreds of thousands in some years, feed on algae, waste and other debris, provide calcium carbonate, key to reef development and protection against impacts of ocean acidification, and perform other essential

ecosystem services necessary for healthy coral reefs. Known as “clean-up crews” in the aquarium hobby, these hermit crabs, sea cucumbers and feather-dusters are taken for the same services they provide, over the course of shortened lives, in tanks. These invertebrates are not captured with nets but, instead, are plucked by hand from their environments. Those taking invertebrates and other aquatic animals without fine mesh nets are not required to obtain an aquarium fish permit under HRS 188-31. We, therefore, also suggest the bill be amended to prohibit collection by any means of aquatic life for aquarium purposes.

HSUS and HSI sincerely thank the Committee for taking up this important matter. ***We urge the Committee to pass SB1240 SDI*** and to consider amending it to reinsert the moratorium language and to include all marine life taken for aquarium purposes and restore wildlife abundance and health to Hawaii’s reefs.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.



**Environmental Caucus**  
of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Testimony in support of SB1240  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Hearing Date: March 2, 2017

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports SB1240 as it may help protect coral reefs and reef wildlife. As the endangered species capitol of the world, we must do better for ourselves and future generations.

It's time to take action given what we know about climate change, ocean acidification, pollution and the decline in many of our rare plant and animal species. Commercial extraction of Hawai'i reef wildlife for aquarium collectors can and should end. The reality is we can grow the fish ourselves and create new industries through research and education, yet there is little incentive to invest if it is legal to extract wildlife for export for free.

The State of Hawai'i has for decades allowed massive live export of reef wildlife—benthic and pelagic species, vertebrate and invertebrate, often rare, exotic and vanishing species. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) has authority but does not have the resources (or inclination) to manage, regulate or enforce commercial aquarium extraction activities. Meanwhile, biodiversity in Hawaii is declining and more scientists are coming forward with data to show exportation of reef species from Hawai'i contributes significantly to habitat loss and species decline. Even the Environmental Council (made up of a broad spectrum of industries and interests) urged DLNR and the Governor to issue a moratorium for commercial aquarium collection in October 2015 given new data.

Destruction caused by Hawai'i reef wildlife extraction occurs underwater and is, therefore, largely unnoticed. If collectors took flora and fauna from any local forests for commercial sale, like Hawaiian honeycreepers, it would be unimaginable, likely illegal.

Not so long ago, before climate change, ocean acidification and catastrophic coral bleaching, the aquarium trade in Hawai'i may have seemed harmless. Today, all nearshore reefs in the main Hawaiian Islands are compromised; risks and threats are at an all time high. We must stop selling our reef wildlife (for free) at enormous cost to all of us, the public trust and future generations. Please support and strengthen SB1240.

Mahalo for providing the opportunity to testify.

Jessica Wooley

Member, Democratic Party of Hawai'i Environmental Caucus

**The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii hopes that  
you will join us in securing an environmentally sustainable future for  
Hawai'i and its Ohana.**

627 South Street Honolulu, HI 96813

website: [hawaiigreencaucus.org](http://hawaiigreencaucus.org) email: [ecodemhi@gmail.com](mailto:ecodemhi@gmail.com)



TO: Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads, and Judiciary and Labor Committee Members, 3/2/17, 9:30 a.m.

FROM: Rene Umberger, Executive Director, For the Fishes, [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); tel: 808-283-7225

RE: SUPPORT for SB1240 SD1; Relating to Aquatic Life

For the Fishes strongly supports SB1240 SD1 which would require DLNR to define "sustainable" and develop practices and limits designed to achieve sustainability. We also urge you to consider amending SB1240 SD1 to reinsert the moratorium and also ensure that the measure includes aquatic life *taken by any means* for aquarium purposes. The possession of an aquarium permit under HRS188-31 is not necessarily required to take aquatic life for aquarium purposes. For example, in its current form, the bill excludes important fishes such as sharks and eels, which may be captured by means other than fine mesh nets, and invertebrates such as hermit crabs, which are captured from tidepools and shallow reefs by hand, in numbers ranging from tens to hundreds of thousands annually.

For at least a decade, DLNR has referred to the "sustainability" of wildlife capture by the aquarium trade when opposing efforts aimed at reducing aquarium trade impacts and restoring abundance to a majority of Hawaii's reefs. These bills, rules, and resolutions, whether at the state, county or local levels, have proposed solutions ranging from take and permit limits, to area closures and total bans. In all cases, hundreds to thousands of Hawaii residents and concerned citizens elsewhere have urged the adoption of strong measures to address and mitigate the trade's degradation of Hawaii's reefs. Equally, in all cases, DLNR has based their opposition and inaction, either in part or whole, on the so-called "sustainable" level of take by the aquarium trade, inexplicably ignoring their own publications, staff reports and other experts documenting the opposite of sustainable:

- "Storm effects combined with overfishing resulted in the collapse of the aquarium fishery along [the southwest] portion of the Oahu coastline" (Walsh, et al./DLNR 2004).
- Aquarium fishing is a "main cause of coral reef degradation" on Oahu and Hawaii Island (DLNR, 1998)
- "a number of aquarium-targeted species have not responded to the increase in protected areas and have actually decreased in West Hawai'i since 1999" (Walsh, et al./DLNR 2010)
- Severe overfishing for aquarium trade occurs even in the United States: Aquarium fishes **outside** of reserves [in West Hawaii] experience significant declines – from 14% to 97% (U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, citing the West Hawai'i Aquarium Project Report, 2002)
- DAR Administrator Frazer McGilvray testified against Oahu aquarium trade rules because they did not address ongoing unsustainable take and were contrary to good natural resource management. He referred to the rules as akin to setting a speed limit at 400 MPH (attached).

- Australia has sustainability measures in place for aquarium take on the Great Barrier Reef. Aimed at ensuring fish populations are not diminished by aquarium take, they allow a level of take that's a fraction of that taken from Hawaii reefs annually (see attached).

In 2014/2015, as participants in a BLNR directed process to engage stakeholders and scientists outside the aquarium trade in developing next steps for Oahu aquarium fishery rules, we learned that a definition for a sustainable aquarium fishery has never been determined by DLNR/DAR. In a Feb. 26, 2015 email disseminating meeting notes related to this process, then DAR acting administrator, Mr. Alton Miyasaka, summarized the outcome, as follows: *"The main management questions remained unanswered. Those questions are, What does sustainable mean, how do you measure it, what are the management goals, and how do you know if you are meeting those goals"* (see attached).

We received that news with enthusiasm and hope, however it was extremely short-lived. On the very next day, Feb. 27, we attended the House JUD committee hearing on HB873 HD1, a bill with extensive community support that would have effectively managed the AQ trade for the first time in Hawaii's history. The DLNR had submitted testimony opposing the bill and alluding to the sustainability of the trade. The DAR acting administrator was present at the hearing and answered various questions posed by committee members. In doing so, he directly contradicted the message sent on the day prior by stating to the committee that HB873 HD1 is unnecessary because AQ take is "sustainable". Additional comments from the acting DAR administrator further mislead the committee by:


- Incorrectly portraying West Hawaii yellow tang abundance as having doubled.
- Neglecting to mention significant declines of other heavily targeted AQ species in West Hawaii.
- Neglecting to mention that the yellow tang fishery on leeward Oahu collapsed in the late 1980's and has not recovered.
- Neglecting to mention that four months prior, his former supervisor and DAR administrator at the time, Mr. Frazer McGilvray, had refused to sign-off on the Oahu AQ rules because they were "contrary to good natural resource management".

The glaring inconsistencies we've presented here are just some, of many, examples, and we hope serve to explain why we think SB1240 SD1 is so important. While we realize the financial challenges a moratorium could *potentially* cause some trade members, we urge you to consider the following when making your decision:

- "Full-time" work in the trade equates to 3 days/week (Stevenson, 2011)
- About 70 people, statewide, report aquarium fish capture and sale to DLNR – about half are "part-time" only.
- Holding commercial fishing licenses, many aquarium collectors already engage in fishing for "kau kau" fish and would be able to supplement incomes in that manner (per testimonies from trade members; and, William Aila, 2008).

We hope you'll see the urgent need for this measure in order to reverse the depletion, collapse and degradation that's been ongoing for decades and is surely unsustainable. We urge your support for SB1240 SD1, and we thank you very much for this opportunity to testify.

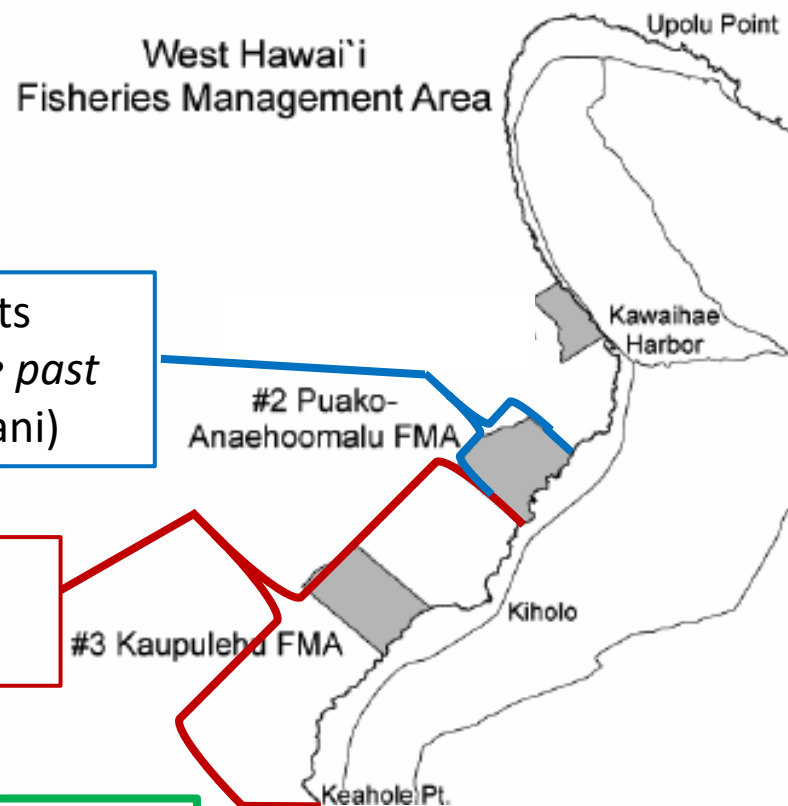
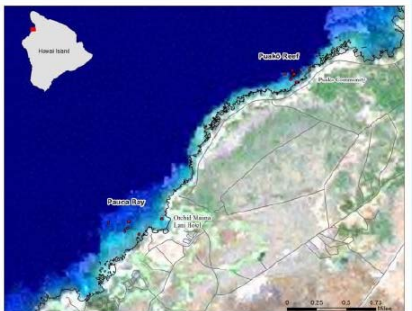
# Hawaii's Heaviest Take and Nearby Impacts



**South Kohala Reefs in Dire Straits**  
Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources

A long-term study at two South Kohala sites on the Island of Hawai'i has found drastic declines in reef fish abundance over the past quarter century and a marked deterioration of the area's coral reef habitat.

One of the study sites is Puako which has been a Fishery Management Area (FMA) since 1985. The FMA prohibits the use of all nets except thrownets. The other site is at Pauoa Bay which became a Fish Replenishment Area (FRA) in 2000. The collecting of aquarium fishes is prohibited within the FRA. The FRA was also closed to all lay net fishing in 2005. Prior to the establishment of the Puako FMA, a comprehensive study of the area's coastal resources, fisheries and fisheries ecology was conducted from 1979-1981 by the University of Hawai'i's Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit. They surveyed 6 transects at



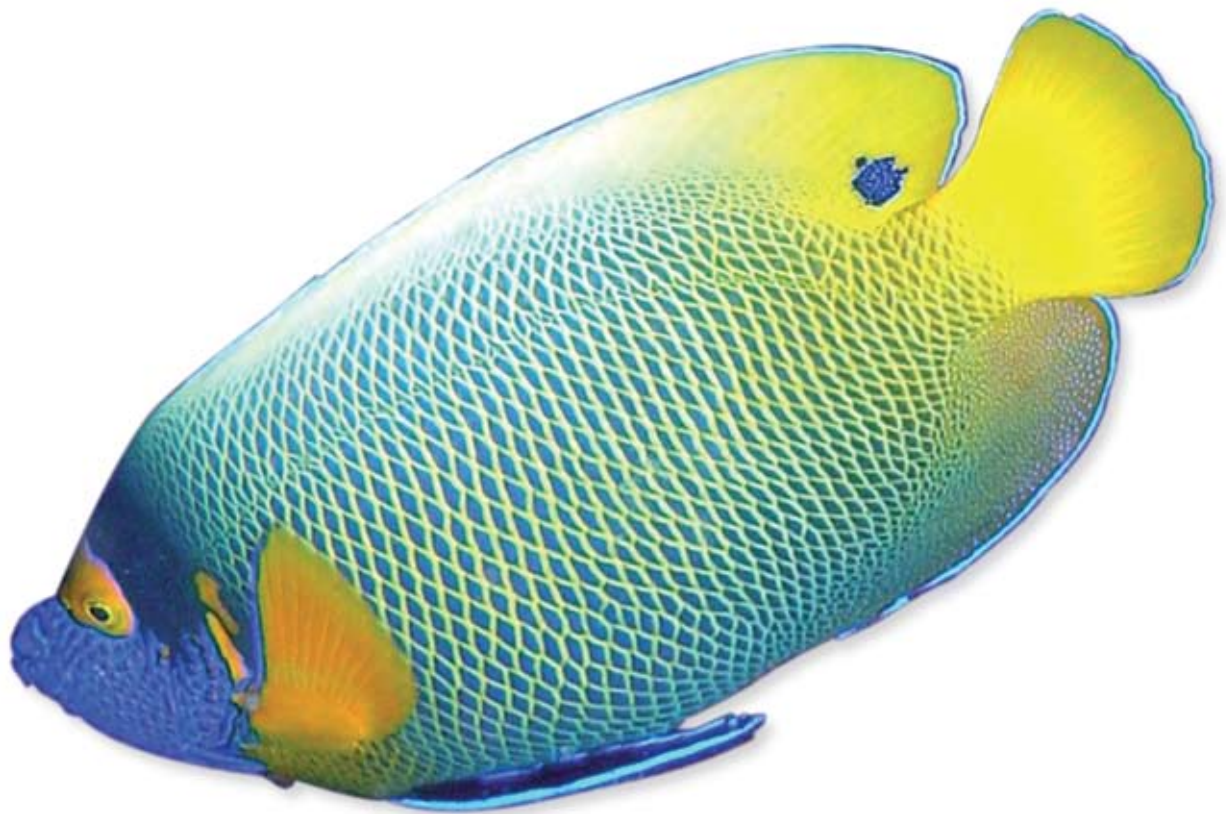
**South Kohala Reefs in Dire Straits:** DLNR reports *“drastic declines in reef fish abundance over the past quarter century”* at Puako and Pauoa (Mauna Lani)

AQ trade reports massive catch from adjacent areas: 191,083 fish in 2014

Take from just this portion of West Hawaii's shoreline exceeds AQ take from Australia's entire Great Barrier Reef, an area 300 times larger than Hawaii's reefs.

# Annual status report 2011

## Marine Aquarium Fish Fishery



Photograph courtesy of Helen Taylor

## Fishery Profile 2010

<p><b>Key species</b></p> <p>Majority of targeted fish species belong to the following families; Pomacentridae, Pomacanthidae, Labridae, Chaetodontidae and Gobiidae. Invertebrate species are also commonly harvested.</p>	<p><b>Total number of commercial licences in 2010</b></p> <p>44 A1 licences and 4 A2 licences.</p>
<p><b>Total harvest from all sectors</b></p> <p>134 206 individual fish from 47 species groups.</p>	<p><b>Commercial licences accessing the fishery in 2010</b></p> <p>34 (A1 and A2 combined).</p>
<p><b>Commercial harvest</b></p> <p>134 206 individual fish from 47 species groups.</p>	<p><b>Fishery season</b></p> <p>All year (however two five-day closures applied for coral reef fin fish in October and November 2010).</p>
<p><b>Recreational harvest</b></p> <p>No estimate level of harvest for 2010.</p>	<p><b>Fishery symbols</b></p> <p>A1 or A2.</p>
<p><b>Indigenous harvest</b></p> <p>No estimate level of harvest for 2010.</p>	<p><b>Monitoring undertaken</b></p> <p>Commercial logbooks (CFISH).</p>
<p><b>Charter harvest</b></p> <p>Not applicable to the fishery.</p>	<p><b>FOP days monitored in 2010</b></p> <p>Nil.</p>
<p><b>Allocation between sectors</b></p> <p>Predominantly commercial.</p>	<p><b>Accreditation under the EPBC Act</b></p> <p>Wildlife Trade Operation expires 25 November 2011.</p>
<p><b>Total exports</b></p> <p>No estimate for 2010. 94 000 live fish, valued at \$2.8 million in 2008–09.</p>	<p><b>Logbook validation</b></p> <p>Yes—completed May 2007.</p>
<p><b>Commercial Gross Value of Production (GVP)</b></p> <p>No estimate for 2010. The GVP for the Marine Aquarium Fish Fishery and the Queensland Coral Fishery (QCF) (combined) was estimated to be \$10–12 million in 2008–09.</p>	<p><b>Quota managed</b></p> <p>No.</p>



State of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
Division of Aquatic Resources  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

October 24, 2014

Board of Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii

REQUEST TO APPROVE PROPOSED NEW HAWAII ADMINISTRATIVE RULES,  
CHAPTER 13-77, OAHU AQUARIUM LIFE MANAGEMENT, TO ESTABLISH  
NEW REGULATIONS ON GEAR, BAG, AND SIZE LIMITS FOR AQUARIUM  
COLLECTING ON OAHU

Submitted for your consideration is a proposed new Administrative Rule to manage aquarium fish collection on Oahu. There are separate aquarium collection rules for Kona (adopted 2013). This process was started in August 2011. A group of commercial aquarium collectors from Oahu presented to the Department a proposal to regulate the aquarium fishery. They recognized the need for management of the fishery to reduce waste of limited resources and to implement conservation measures that would ensure the long-term economic viability of the fishery.

After receiving the commercial collector proposal, the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) held a publicly noticed meeting on November 3, 2011 to discuss the proposal with the broader community. In December 2011, DAR held several working group meetings with different groups of commercial aquarium collectors to refine the proposal and develop the basis for the proposed rules. On January 13, 2012, the Board approved holding a public hearing on the rules.

On June 20, 2012, the Small Business Regulatory Review Board (SBRRB) reviewed the proposed rules at its meeting of June 20, 2012 and recommended the rules proceed to public hearing. Dr. Gail Grabowski (Chaminade University), presented testimony in opposition to the proposed rules. The SBRRB recommended that DAR meet with Dr. Grabowski to discuss her objections. DAR met with her on August 14, 2012. DAR did not change the proposed rules. She argued the rules were not restrictive enough.

On December 5, 2012, a public hearing was conducted at the Waimalu Elementary School in Pearl City, Oahu. DAR received more than 4,000 testimonies. 98% opposed the proposal in varying degrees. Testimonies were pre-printed post cards or form letters. Opposing testimony called for limits on the number of aquarium permits issued or a moratorium on collecting. Opposing testimony focused on the proposed bag limits which they thought were too large. They did not suggest a particular number.

The Division has insufficient scientific information about marine species taken by Oahu aquarium collectors to judge their status. The purpose of these rules is to reduce waste and overcrowding while being collected. The majority of this waste occurs after the fish is taken, due to overcrowding or rough handling the fish are injured prior to delivery to the

ITEMF-2

dealer. The dealers will not buy injured fish. Inexperienced collectors often overcrowd their small boats with fish in hopes of higher revenues, take species they cannot market, use too much net, or do not take proper care in handling the fish.

These rules do not address the take of undersize, sexually immature, fish. Yellow tang mature at 5½ inches in length, but these rules would allow the take of up to 100 fish per day under 5 inches. The majority of yellow tang allowed to be taken under this rule are immature and have not contributed to the future of the species. These rules, driven by the demands of the trade, are contrary to good natural resource management. The take of juveniles is generally prohibited. The take of adults is allowed but only where good management practices govern the take.

The proposed rules have new limits on nets used to collect the marine life, daily commercial bag limits, commercial size limits, and a prohibition on the take of certain fish species. The proposed net limits are intended to reduce the use of too long nets that would tend to increase injury to the fish collected. The proposed daily commercial bag limits are large, but these numbers are less than the numbers that currently may be collected. The proposed commercial rule allows the take of 6 very small (less than 1½ inches) and 6 very large (greater than 5½ inches) yellow tang, and 6 kole greater than 5½ inches. The proposed commercial limit on the take of cleaner wrasse recognizes that this species has a very specialized diet. It would be difficult for the average aquarist to provide the proper food to keep this species alive, but there is some take allowed to supply the experience aquarists and the public aquariums, which have the expertise to care for this species. The proposed prohibition on the take of the butterflyfishes is in recognition of the strictly corallivore diets of these species.

Not all Oahu commercial collectors agree with the rule. Some collectors feel that no new regulations are needed. However, they do agree that waste should be avoided and these rules are a step towards reducing waste.

Attached are:

- a) the hearing minutes (Appendix 1);
- b) a summary of the comments and our responses to those comments (Appendix 2);  
and
- c) the final draft rules (Appendix 3).

DAR made a number of minor changes to the version the Board approved for public hearing on January 13, 2012. The date of implementation of the net gear restrictions has been changed from December 31, 2012 to July 1, 2015 to provide the collectors time to transition to the new gear restrictions. Moreover, the December 2012 date has already passed. Other changes are recommended by the Deputy Attorney General for purposes of clarity and format. These are not considered significant changes and will not require another public hearing.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

These rules were drafted and submitted for public hearing two (2) years before I became the DAR Administrator. These rules are submitted to you at the request of the Chairperson.

However, as DAR Administrator, I cannot recommend their approval because:

1. There is not yet sufficient population data to judge the carrying capacity of the various fish populations;
2. The taking of 100 immature yellow tang per person per day is not consistent with good natural resource management when there are more than 50 licensed aquarium collectors on Oahu; and
3. There appears to be no scientific basis for the proposed bag limits for each species.

It is my belief that these rules require further work and are not yet ready for adoption.

Therefore, I respectfully dissent.

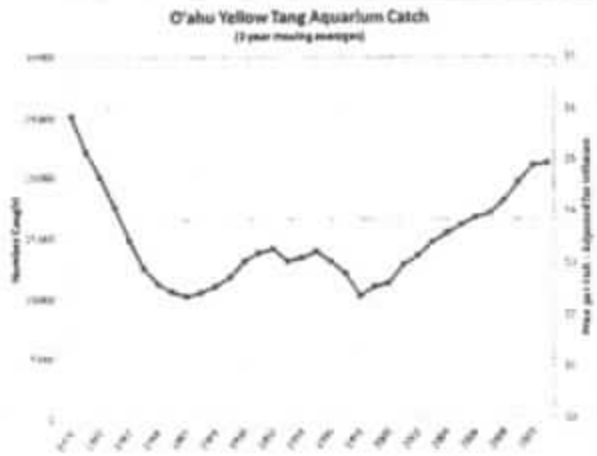
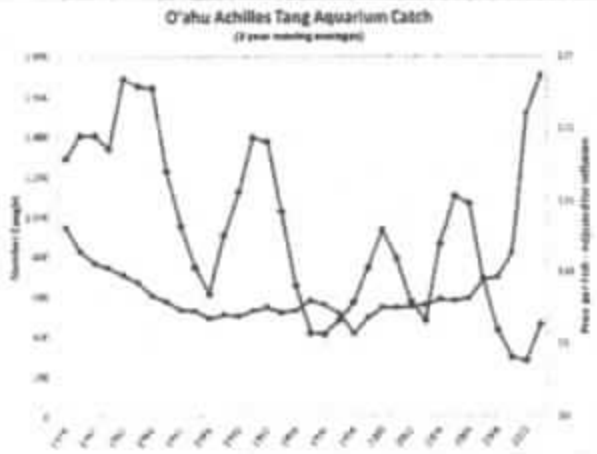
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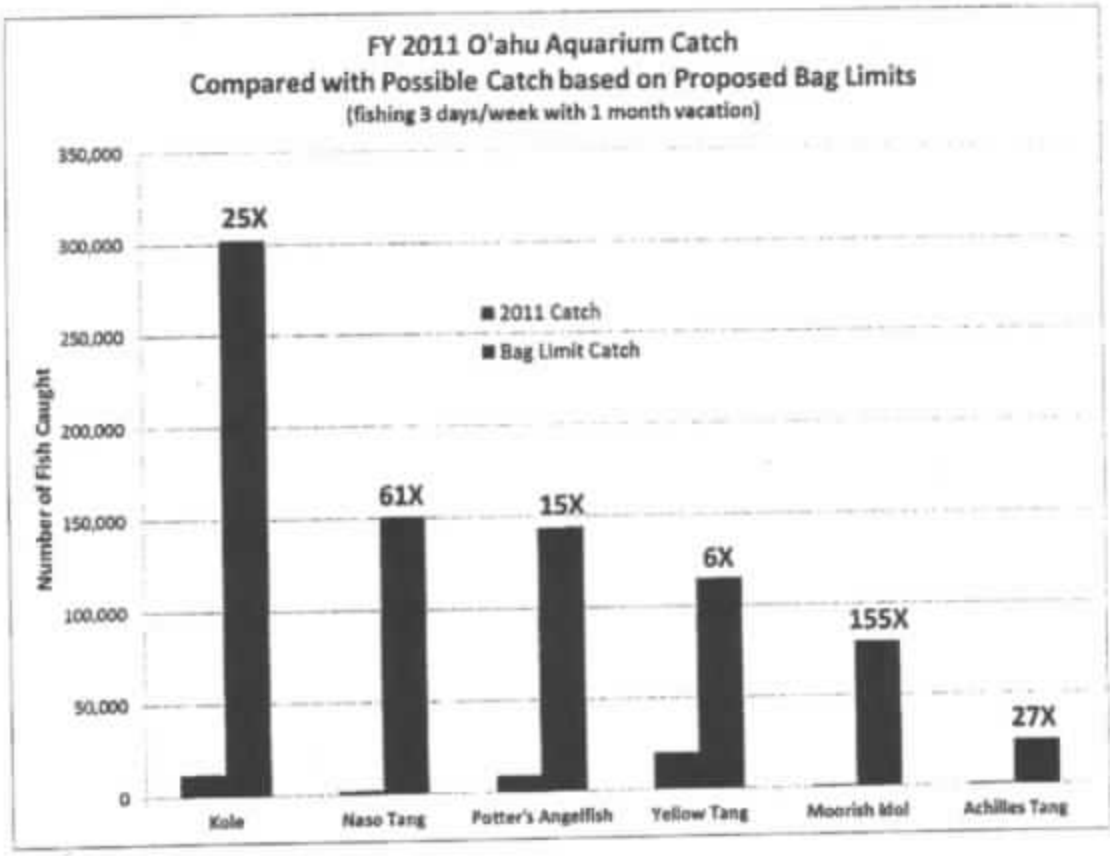
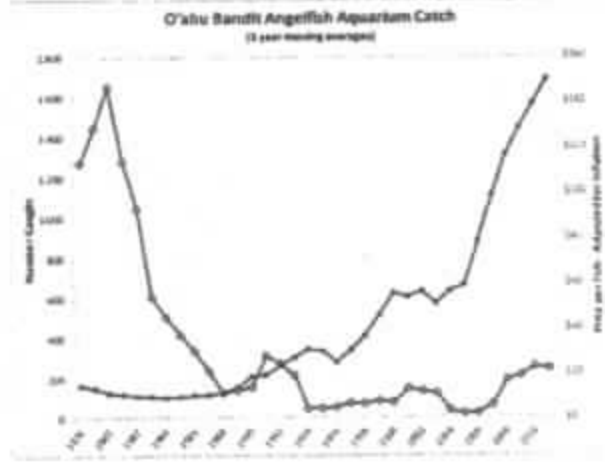
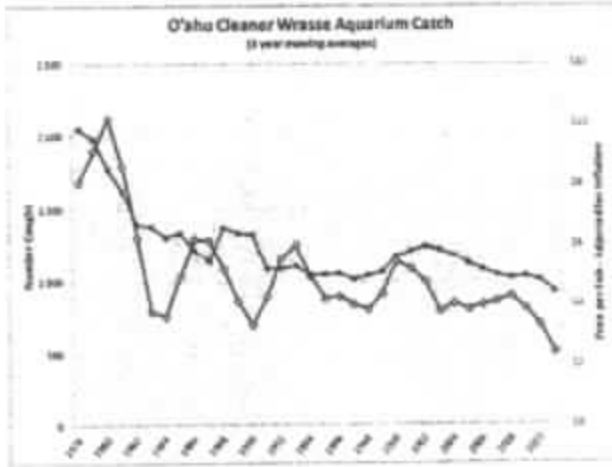
Frazer M<sup>c</sup>Gilvray  
Administrator

**APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:**

**WILLIAM J. AILA, JR. Chairperson**

The Division of Aquatic Resources is proposing to adopt an Administrative Rule (HAR 13-77) for the management of the O'ahu aquarium Fishery. There are 3 groups of proposals. To be continued....





## Rene Umberger

---

**From:** Alton.K.Miyasaka@hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 26, 2015 4:20 PM  
**To:** Ivor Williams; Gail Grabowsky; Alan Friedlander; Marlowe Sabater; Marc Nadon - NOAA Affiliate; Kuulei.N.Moses@hawaii.gov  
**Subject:**  
**Attachments:** Science Meeting Minutes of 2-12-15  
Science group mtg minutes 2-12-15.pdf

To All

Attached are the minutes from the science group meeting on February 12, 2015. You may note that while the meeting was a good overview of what kinds of studies are being done by whom, the main management questions remained unanswered. Those questions are What does sustainable mean, how do you measure it, what are the management goals, and how do you know if you are meeting those goals.

The attached document contains my meeting notes, followed by the agenda, then the handouts the various participants provided.

The main takeaways from the meeting were that the managers have to decide what the management goals are, not the scientists. The scientists have the tools or can design the tools to answer the questions but the managers have to first decide what the questions are. For example, science can tell you what the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for a stock should be but the managers have to determine if sustainable means 20%, 50%, or 80% of MSY. Should the managers use a stock assessment based on catch and effort as the measure of abundance or length-based models instead?

Ku'ulei, please forward to Ms Woodside and Mr Char

Let me know if you have any questions. I'm still trying to figure out the next steps.

Thank you,

Alton



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Thursday, March 2, 2017  
TIME: 9:30 a.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 016

TESTIMONY OF THE OCEAN TOURISM COALITION SPEAKING  
IN CONDITIONAL SUPPORT OF SB 1240, SD1

Chair Senator Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Senator Rhoads and Members of the  
Committee on JDL:

My name is James E. Coon, President of the Ocean Tourism Coalition **speaking in  
Conditional Support of SB 1240,SD1**

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. Most of these businesses operate from State Boating Facilities. A significant percentage of these companies take tourists snorkeling and diving. A vibrant and diverse fish population is vital to our industry. There is anecdotal evidence of declining reef fish populations which has been attributed to fish collection.

We supported a moratorium on aquarium fish permits until a definition of "sustainable" and sustainable practices and limits are in place. However this was taken out in SD1. Please restore the moratorium that was in SB 1240.

Please amend and pass SB 1240.

Sincerely,

James E. Coon, President

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017 6:05:39 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 3/1/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Adena Rosmarin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support SB1240. The Yellow Tang is valuable and deserves our protection-- not only for its intrinsic beauty and its important role in the marine ecosystem but also for its contribution to the local tourist economy. My family and I travel to the Big Island every year to experience its amazing natural beauty. During our visit we contribute to the local economy -- housing, restaurants, and shopping as well as rental of cars, snorkel gear, and charter boats. On our first trip our charter boat captain described how the waters used to run golden because there were so many Yellow Tang. But now we must search to find even a small school of Yellow Tang. We learned that this decimation is a result of the out-of-control aquarium trade. This is shocking and tragic and completely unnecessary. The Yellow Tang deserves better. Please give SB1240 your full support. Thank you! Adena Rosmarin

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Sunday, February 26, 2017 5:50:31 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
aerie waters	Individual	Support	No

Comments: YES, I support SB1240. No more aquarium permits. Freeze existing permits until DLNR can develop a comprehensive, sustainable management plan. Yes! I support SB1240. Stop live export of Hawaii reef wildlife now! YES, I support SB1240. I'm a frequent visitor to Hawaii and I want to see Hawaii reef wildlife living free in the wild on Hawaii reefs. Hawaii reef wildlife is not for sale to an amusement industry!

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017 1:36:05 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 3/1/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alice K. Carter	Individual	Support	No

Comments: YES, I support SB1240. I want a healthy Hawaii reef!

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**From:** [Alma](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 8:43:43 PM

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Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240.

Please end the decades of unsustainable aquarium take, and add the moratorium back in.

I have snorkeled here for many years and I notice that so many areas are almost completely devoid of fish. the reefs are getting covered with algae and they need the fish there to keep them healthy. the ONLY places that have an abundance of fish are the few marine preserves we have such a Kealakekua and Hanauma Bays.

There are laws against taking turtles, sea cucumbers, coral, sand etc for private profit, so why are a few people allowed to decimate the reefs here?. The fish are needed on the reefs, they should not be taken to go in aquariums, prisons really, where they often die pretty soon and are subject to cruel practices to get them to the mainland, and benefit just a few people instead of the general public! I think more fish would also attract more tourists to other places than the over used Hanauma and Kealakekua bays.

It is useless to tell these fish hunters to only take a sustainable few , they need to be stopped completely as the state does not have the available people to monitor the take.

**WE MUST PASS THIS BILL!!**

Alma McGoldrick

Amy Bond

YES, I support HB1457/SB1240. No more aquarium permits. Freeze existing permits until DLNR can develop a comprehensive, sustainable management plan.

I worked at a distributor of aquatic life 17 years ago in Bensenville, IL for 2 years:

<http://www.apetinc.com/>

They received 2 shipments from Hawaii, twice a week. My job was to sell fish to all the pet shops in IL and MI. There were always at least 200 yellow tangs, 40-50 flame angel fish, 20-30 naso tangs, Hawaiian clean wrasse, and many other Hawaiian fish. Apet is only ONE destination for fish at a wholesale level. MULTIPLY these numbers for all the distributors in the USA alone, then think worldwide, such as Dubai & Europe. The numbers are daunting.

I moved to Maui in August, 2001. Scuba Diving is what brought me to Hawaii. In 15 years of diving in Hawaii, I've seen only 8-10 flame angels. Only 3 around Maui. The rest on the Big island.

Please consider my testimony to put in place a freeze on all permits, and to let the reefs recover for a minimum of 20 years. There are many salt water fish being raised/farmed to supply the aquarium industry, let them supply the pet industry. Supply a limited amount of permits to those whom are CURRENTLY "farming salt water fish" IN HAWAII to try and add species to their list not raised in captivity at this time to supply the demand for salt water fish. These folks are only on the Big island at this time..

<http://seahorse.com/shop/Marine-Fish/>

Please consider my testimony.

Amy Bond

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017 8:25:14 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 3/1/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We need to protect reefs by eliminating unsustainable taking of herbivorous fish. Support interim moratorium on taking of our public trust resources. These resources deserve protection as an inherent right for their own existence as part of our larger global commons. A moratorium to further study long term sustainability of these resources is the minimum action we should undertake as stewards. Mahalo for your consideration. Please support this bill.

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Saturday, February 25, 2017 7:34:57 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/25/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Angela Huntmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair. Vice Chair and Committee Members, I live on Oahu and have seen first hand the taking of reef wildlife. Please support SB1240, amended to stop new aquarium permits. Freeze existing permits until DLNR can develop a comprehensive, sustainable management plan. Ideally, the aquarium trade should be shut down immediately and indefinitely. It strips the populations and sends them on a one way trip to die in transit of tanks. These animals can never reproduce. It is an ecological outrage. Thank you for you kind attention to this matter. Angela Huntmer

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Sunday, February 26, 2017 3:45:59 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
anita wintner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill to stop aquarium collector from taking all the fish they want off our reefs. The fish have a purpose and we need them to keep our reefs healthy. DLNR fish counts show the decline in many species and that is what they don't want you to hear. An EIS should be done before aquarium collectors should continue to take it all. Please stop it now.

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Sunday, February 26, 2017 8:17:18 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anne Mulder	Individual	Support	No

Comments: YES, I support SB1240. No more aquarium permits. Freeze existing permits until DLNR can develop a comprehensive, sustainable management plan. Once the population has been depleted or destroyed it cannot be replaced and being able to swim with and see fish and corals in their natural habitat is one of the reasons I come to Hawaii.

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**From:** [Anne Musselman](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 8:07:22 AM

---

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members,

I write in strong support of SB1240 SD1 and urge you to place a moratorium on AQ take until the environmental, cultural and ethical conflicts are resolved.

I have lived in Hawaii for most of my life, from the mid 50's, and have seen a great difference during that time of the condition of our waters, reef and marine life.

I worked on the Great Barrier Reef in the 90's and visited there again last year. Persevering our aquatic environment is paramount in Hawaii as it is a very big part of what we have to offer our visitors and residents alike.

Mahalo for your kind consideration.

Aloha,  
Anne Musselman

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 9:23:31 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anthony Tortoriello	Atort Photography	Support	No

Comments: I am an established ocean photographer on island working with organizations such as NOAA for the past 15 years and have seen our oceans change drastically for the worse and this is something that has to also stop! It is time to respect ALL life and show Mother Ocean and her inhabitants the love and respect they deserve and to show some true aloha and do what is right to keep our islands around for our keiki and years to come. Aloha Anthony

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**Cc:**  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM\*  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 3:15:25 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017 8:16:56 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 3/1/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bob Ferguson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I believe we should end reef wildlife trafficking. It is not Pono and not good for our environmental integrity.

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**From:** [Bradley Jones](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 12:13:47 AM

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Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members,

I write in strong support of SB1240. Please end the decades of unsustainable aquarium take and add the moratorium. Also please contact the Hawaii Tourism Authority and ask them if fish disappearing from the coral reefs of Hawaii is something they want to deal with on Yelp and other social media websites. Tourists will comment and complain about the bad snorkeling and diving conditions and they HTA will not be able to stop people from choosing destinations that care more about their natural resources. It seems the State of Hawaii doesn't care and won't do anything about this unless there is financial loss in the tourism industry which is now an issue. Otherwise this barbaric and shortsighted practice would have been banned long ago.

Sincerely,

Bradley Jones



March 1, 2017

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

Thank you for your consideration of the impacts of aquarium trade in Hawai'i. I am writing in support of SB 1240. Protecting the marine resources of Hawai'i should be a priority for a state whose critical economic tourism industry depends upon them. Hawai'i is a major supplier for the aquarium trade (Tissot & Hallacher, 2003; Walsh et al., 2003). This is of potential concern as Hawai'i's collection restrictions are minimal, and maximum sustainable yields for Hawaiian ornamentals are lacking (Ogawa, & Brown, 2001). Further, the accuracy of ornamental catch reporting in Hawai'i is questionable (Rhyne et al., 2012; Tissot & Hallacher, 2003; Walsh, 2000) and can sometimes go undocumented as a result of legal loopholes regarding dealer reporting (Walsh, 2015). There is some evidence indicating the aquarium trade has impacted Hawai'i fish populations. For example, the Achilles tang (*Acanthurus achilles*), an ecologically unsustainable species by the Sustainable Aquarium Industry Association (SAIA), is the third most collected species in Hawai'i (Walsh, 2015).

In this letter I will share data and findings from a recent piece of relevant research I have conducted focusing on a testimony analysis of all 1,652 testimonies submitted for HB 873 in 2015. After removing duplicate testimony, there were a total of 1,455 usable testimonies. This research was presented at an international academic conference in October of 2016, and was invited to be part of a special issue journal. The research and findings have since been submitted as a complete manuscript to *Tourism Geographies*, and are currently under peer review. Additionally, I will be presenting again on the areas of dissension of stakeholder groups surrounding the aquarium industry at an international conference this June. In this letter I will summarize the research findings relevant to SB1240 in attempt to broaden the debate on the importance of the state's marine resources. For brevity, I will focus solely on the issue of sustainability as revealed by the aforementioned research.

Sustainability appeared as a key issue for both the opposition and the supporters of HB 873, yet, for different reasons. In general, the opposition viewed the aquarium trade as sustainable. "Science", as perceived by the opposition refers to findings from specific studies out of Hawai'i (e.g., Tissot et al., 2009; Walsh et al., 2003; Walsh, 2015). These studies, demonstrated or referenced positive results for *some* measured species (e.g., increase in yellow tang populations) from active management in the form of fish replenishment areas (FRAs) or ecosystem-based management (EBM), yet, all of the referenced studies disclosed limitations of the current science and/or regulations and enforcement. Multiple other studies reveal that the data on the sustainability of the aquarium trade is limited or incomplete, making it challenging to ascertain actual sustainability of the trade



(Albins, & Hixon, 2013; Rhyne et al., 2012; Kolm & Berglund, 2003; Tissot & Hallacher, 2003; Tissot et al., 2009; Walsh et al., 2003; Walsh, 2015).

Sustainability was considered important to the supporters as well. A majority of supporters described a noticeable decline in fish. These personal accounts of fish decline are worthy of further attention. Local knowledge can be valuable (Fischer, 2000), yet citizen science is often challenged by organizational issues and issues relating to data collection and use (Ottinger, 2010). For a state largely dependent on marine tourism activities, a perceived reduction in fish on the reef (real or otherwise) has the potential to impact overall visitor satisfaction. Spatial demographic data revealed that marine resource user groups extend well outside of Hawai'i, especially for the supporters (those in favor of further regulating and/or banning the aquarium trade) (see Table 1). Support testimony came from nearly every continent and was widely distributed across the USA. This compares to the opposition who was representation was mostly localized to Hawai'i. Monetarily, tourism sales are estimated annually at \$25.2 billion (HTA, 2016), while the aquarium industry has been valued at \$3.2 million (Hawaii Coral Reef Initiative, N.D.). This discrepancy in economic value and impact demonstrates an urgent need to better understand the sustainability of the aquarium trade and its potentially detrimental impact on the state's tourism industry.

Table 1.  
 Spatial demographics of individuals providing public testimony on HB 873.

Region	Opposition	Supporters
USA Hawai'i	478 (62%)	358 (52%)
USA West (excluding Hawai'i)	12	118
USA Midwest	5	30
USA South	16	36
USA Northeast	1	18
<i>USA (excluding Hawai'i) TOTAL</i>	<i>34 (4%)</i>	<i>202 (30%)</i>
North America (excluding USA)	0	13
Europe	7	36
Africa	0	2
Asia	0	1
Oceania	0	12
<i>GLOBAL TOTAL</i>	<i>7 (1%)</i>	<i>64 (9%)</i>
Not specified	250 (33%)	62 (9%)

It is, without doubt, known that healthy reef ecosystems would benefit all marine resource users. Understanding sustainability of marine resource use is a critical priority. If Hawai'i is to remain the "Paradise of the Pacific" (see Mak, 2015), rather than a last-chance tourist destination, urgent attention to the health of the marine resources is needed.

Please reinsert the moratorium and be sure SB1240 encompasses all aquatic life taken for aquarium purpose (including those taken by hook and line or hand). Please pass SB 1240.

Sincerely,



Brooke A. Porter, Ph.D.  
Scientific Advisor  
Coral Triangle Conservancy

## References

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The Coral Triangle Conservancy, Inc.

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3rd Avenue Corner 30th Street,  
Global City, Taguig 1634



community-based management in Hawaii. *Coastal Management*, 37(3-4), 255-273.

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM\*  
**Date:** Sunday, February 26, 2017 7:03:43 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
C. Azelski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carlton York	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please Reinstate the Moratorium and allow the fish population to recover and thrive over harvesting for aquarium use is not sustainable nor a sustainable practice. Allow these fish their proper role in this unique ecosystem.

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chris Mentzel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cookie wintner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Don't sell any more permits!!!

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cory Harden	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha legislators, Please put the moratorium back in this bill, and let's see how the fish and our reefs respond. Our wildlife should not end up in faraway fish tanks! mahalo, Cory Harden

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**Date:** Friday, February 24, 2017 11:16:26 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
CSpellman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I live next to Baby Beach, West Side, Maui, HI. It grieves me to see the daily capture of aquatic life for aquariums and heaven knows what else. The coral is dying due to too much sunscreen and large quantities of fish and other aquatic life is being taken out daily. Huge amounts. This must stop. Do you care about the Ocean? Do you care about Tourism? People come here to see fish in our ocean! The point of no return is upon you must take action now. Please stop the abusive practices currently in place. We need a lot of enforcement here because once our Oceans are depleted its all gone. Over 90% of all Large Fish are extinct. I support this Bill. If you love Hawaii and the Ocean Aquatic Life then you too should support this Bill 1240.

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Curtis Bisby	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I SUPPORT SB1240, amended to stop new aquarium permits. Freeze existing permits until DLNR can develop a comprehensive, sustainable management plan.

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/25/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
d friedman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB1240. The aquarium trade kills Hawaii reefs. STOP IT NOW!

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Dale Jamison

Yes, I support SB1240. My family and I are frequent visitors to Hawaii. A primary reason for our visits is the ability to observe and swim with the reef wildlife in their natural habitat. I support a moratorium on aquarium licenses until a comprehensive and sustainable management plan can be implemented. The profits from the aquarium industry are only short term gain, and they do not compare to the long term loss of tourism dollars when the wildlife is gone.

Dale Jamison

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
david amack	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Taking fish from Hawaii's fragile reef ecosystem is no more acceptable than bagging a nene to put in your birdcage. STOP AQUARIUM COLLECTING NOW while the reefs still have a chance to recover.

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 3/1/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
david BRUNING	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: YES, I support HB1457/SB1240. I'm a frequent visitor to Hawaii and have enjoyed spending large portions of my visits in the ocean and on the reefs. While some fishing / collection seems reasonable, it is important to protect the reefs for ourselves and the next generations. This is one of the key reasons I have brought my children and my in-laws on our latest visits. Thank you!

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
DEAN BARRICK	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB1240 as a tourist I come to Hawaii to scuba and see the natural wildlife.

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**From:** [Deb Shields](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 10:05:59 AM

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Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240. Please end the decades of unsustainable aquarium take, and add the moratorium back in. I visit and dive the Big Island and I have sadly noticed a decrease in fish population.  
Thanks  
Deb Shields

Sent from my time wasting device

**From:** [Deborahwallace](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 5:53:03 PM

---

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240. Please end the decades of unsustainable aquarium take, and add the moratorium back in.

I have been swimming daily at Hanauma bay and over the last 13 years I have noticed a dramatic decrease in fish. Aquarists are known to collect outside of Hanauma.

This decrease in fish can be seen all over the islands. There is a huge loss of fish in the by-catch of aquarists that often goes unaddressed.

I feel strongly that a moratorium on aquarium take is essential for our reef health, and for our tourism ..... snorkeling and diving are prime reasons why many visit our islands.

Thank you,  
Deborah wallace

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Dennis Yamaguchi](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB1240SD1  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 8:38:08 PM

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## COMMENTS ON BILL SB1240SD1

February 27, 2017

Chair Agaran and Committee Members,

My name is Dennis Yamaguchi and I am a full time fisherman of aquarium fish. I Agree with the intent of bill SB1240HD1 to sustainably manage Hawaii's near shore resources, and to promote research and education on the State's near shore aquatic life. I respectfully offer the following comments.

Act 306, SLH 1998 established a West Hawai'i Regional Fishery Management Area along the entire west coast of the Island of Hawai'i (§188F-4, HRS). Overall, the purposes of Act 306 were to:

- (1) Effectively manage fishery activities to ensure sustainability;
- (2) Enhance near shore resources;
- (3) Minimize conflicts of use in this coastal area.

As evidence of the success of the sustainability plan in Act 306, the following results were offered on page three of the "Report on the Findings and Recommendations of Effectiveness of the West Hawaii Regional Fisheries Management Area":

-The FRAs have been very successful in increasing Yellow Tang populations. Fifteen years after closure, the population of Yellow Tang has increased 64.5% in the FRAs while its abundance in the Open Areas has not declined significantly.

-Overall Yellow Tang abundance in the 30'-60' depth range over the entire West Hawai'i coast has increased by over 1.3 million fish from 1999/2000 to 2012-2013 to a current population of 3.6 million fish.

-Two of three sites at long-term studies in South Kohala and South Kona have found Yellow Tang populations have increased to levels found over three decades ago before the expansion of aquarium collecting.

I would also request clarification on what exactly are the "historic levels" of aquatic life SB1240SD1 seeks to attain. In my lifetime there have been many populations of supposed uncommon fish which suddenly bloomed into unimaginable abundance for several years, only to decline to the point of rarity a few years later. How or why remain unanswered, all we can say is it



has happened, and will happen again. The question becomes, using best science, which are the historic levels to be used by the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on bill SB1240SD1.

Dennis Yamaguchi

**From:** [Diane Ware](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: SUPPORT SB1240  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 2:46:45 PM

---

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Diane Ware < >  
Date: Feb 27, 2017 7:28 PM  
Subject: SUPPORT SB1240

Cc:

> Aloha Chair and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240.

>

> I am appalled that our Hawaii reefs are not protected from aquarium fish collection. I have lived here for over 25 years and see so few reef fish now that it is not worth snorkeling and tourists are reporting that other than a few protected spots like Kealakekua Bay there is not much out there. I used to see Tangs in the hundreds now we see 10 or 20. Our future is grim with destruction and rape of the reef fish that mostly die from inhumane practices.

> Please vote to better preserve our reef fish for future generations and our tourism industry rather than for the profit of a few. To do this sustainability levels of catch must be determined rather than ignored.

>

>

> Diane Ware

>

>

**From:** [Don Erway](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 9:33:13 AM

---

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240 SD1 and urge you to place a moratorium on AQ take until the environmental, cultural and ethical conflicts are resolved.

Mahalo,  
Don

Donald Erway

---

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**From:** [Donita Sparks](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 9:14:23 AM

---

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240. Please end the decades of unsustainable aquarium take, and add the moratorium back in.

My husband and I travel to the Big Island a couple of times a year for the snorkeling. The fish and corals are so beautiful, and sadly so in danger.

Please protect these creatures from the aquarium trade. It seems like there are less and less fish every time we snorkel there.

Keep the tourists and our DOLLARS coming to Hawaii. Protect your assets and our oceans.

Thank you for hearing this bill.

Mahalo,

Donita Sparks

Los Angeles

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
donna sawdon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Cc:**  
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**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017 8:34:30 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 3/1/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
DONNIE BECKER	Individual	Support	No

Comments: RELATING TO AQUATIC LIFE. Requires the Division of Aquatic Resources to promote education about nearshore reef wildlife and to develop a comprehensive plan, programs, and policies for its sustainable management. Places a temporary moratorium on the issuance of new aquarium fish permits.

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**From:** [Donya Drummond](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 7:51:05 AM

---

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240 SD1 and urge you to place a moratorium on AQ take until the environmental, cultural and ethical conflicts are resolved.

All the best,

Donya Drummond  
Vallejo CA

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:56:52 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Doug Fetterly	Individual	Support	No

Comments: How could anyone vote against a bill like this? If we humans continue to ignore the plight of our oceans, the shorelines, the coral and the fishes, the environment will further decline. Please vote in favor of this bill.

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**From:** [Douglas Miller](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 10:35:58 AM

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Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240. Please end the decades of unsustainable aquarium take, and add the moratorium back in.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Friday, February 24, 2017 5:31:53 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Currently, ornamental fish are only being managed in West Hawaii. The rest of the state is unmanaged. In West Hawaii, while species collected in bulk (i.e. yellow tangs and kole) remain abundant, other endemic and less common species remain rare and are likely suffering from over-collection. Additionally, since there is no limit on the issuance of new collecting permits, the number of collectors continues to grow, and effort is likely to overwhelm the resource at some point. Proactive management is needed.

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:25:43 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Edward Dowling	Individual	Support	No

Comments: please save our resources.

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 2:28:23 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
emily	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this action to limit reef fishing and have a sustainable limit enacted. Please vote for this. I grew up on Maui, it is my beloved home and that of the plethora of life that abounded..until recently..within the reefs. The diminishment of life and the ecosystem has massive implications for the future of the health of the ocean(s), and all of us. Please recognize how deeply this impacts us all and vote yes. Mahalo.

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**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Sunday, February 26, 2017 8:13:58 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Fernando Lopez Arbarello	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I SUPPORT SB1240. No new permits. STOP THE AQUARIUM TRADE NOW! I'm an underwater photographer based in Maui and I have witness the decline in fish population over the years. Collection of tropical fish for display or entertainment IS NOT THE SAME as fishing for food. Tropical fish are a form of wild life, aquarium collection is the same as trafficking wildlife. It must be stopped once and forever. Thanks.

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## **Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members,**

I write in strong support of SB1240 SD1. Coral reefs all over the world are extremely important resources to the people who live near them. They are crucial to the protection of coastlines, providers of food and, of course, seats of biodiversity and beauty. Hawaii's reefs are at risk from climate change, pollution from coastal run-off and over-exploitation. Most of the reef fish species collected for aquaria are herbivores. They graze algae. Algae left unchecked smothers coral. There is a growing understanding of how the loss of reef fish, especially herbivores, impacts reef health (Hay 1981, 1985, Lewis & Wainwright 1985, Lewis 1986, Hixon 1996, McCook 1996, Hughs et al. 1999, Aronson and Precht 2000).

With the exception of West Hawaii (Big Island) the State has done an abysmal job "managing" the aquarium fish industry under the guise of it being a "sustainable" undertaking. There is no data or report to support this claim. Just because fish have been may have been taken from the reef for "a long time" or "in the same amount" does not mean an activity is sustainable. There are concerns among scientists about stock sustainability (Rhyne et al 2012, Fujita et al 2013). In addition the tools and techniques for removing fish improve all the time, so catch can stay constant (or even increase) as we develop means to remove ever-rarer fish.

The way to determine if fish are depleted is to compare areas where there is no removal with similar areas where there is removal. Friedlander & DeMartini (2002) found that "Hanauma Bay, the first no-take marine protected area established in Hawaii in 1967, had the highest biomass on the island of Oahu." Specifically it had a biomass of fish 8.4 times higher than that of the surrounding south shore area of Oahu. Williams and Walsh (2007) in an HCRI Project Final Report found that "of the 20 most collected aquarium species, 18 declined in abundance ( $p < 0.001$ ) with the species facing the heaviest fishing pressure typically showing the greatest declines."

### **Something needs to be done now about aquarium fish collection and here are my recommendations:**

- (1) Since all of the species collected from the wild can either now or in the future be bred and reared in captivity, we have a great entrepreneurial opportunity in Hawaii to create a commercial means of providing people with a lovely saltwater aquarium that does not put the reef at risk. By allowing the capture and removal of wild fish from the reef we are not only putting our reef at risk, we are stifling a business opportunity that Hawaii could lead the world in. Hawaii has the highest percentage of unique fish species (25%) ever recorded in the world (Randall 1998, 2007, Friedlander et al 2008). This makes our fish something special not only to the reef but potentially as aqua-cultured pets. Check out the App "Tank Watch" if you want to learn how many marine fish are already aqua-cultured. Many aquarists prefer to buy fish they know were bred in captivity.

(2) Extraction from reefs should stop until the State completes a sustainable management plan based on sound science and indigenous practice and values. Recent data (Walsh 2014) from the Big Island's FRAs (Fish Replenishment Areas) found that *Z. flavescens* (yellow tang) abundance has increased by 64.5% in the FRA's since the closure to aquarium collection in 2000. "Prior to the year 2000, the areas which would become the FRA's were not significantly different than the Open Areas [areas open to all fishing] in terms of Yellow Tang [*Z. flavescens*] abundance...." Serious science-based citizen-involved management works. Oahu is overdue for it on this issue.

**In summary:** I am in complete agreement with SB 1240 SD1 in terms of developing and implementing a management plan that ensures sustainability. Short of that, collection should be stopped. The reef is a public trust that we cannot afford to gamble with. In addition, the State should do all it can to incentivize the aquaculture of marine fish. Paramount to that is stopping the limitless extraction of ornamentals from the wild. Stocking aquaria with fish bred in captivity makes good business, reef and future-security sense.

Thank you for hearing my testimony,

Dr. Gail Grabowsky  
*Environmental Studies Program Director*  
*Chaminade University*

**Papers Cited:**

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- Walsh, W.J. 2014. Report on the findings and recommendations of effectiveness of the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area. Report to the Thirteenth Legislature, 2015 Regular Session.

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017 5:37:54 AM  
**Attachments:** [Support HB1457 and SB1240.docx](#)

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 3/1/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gail Sweeney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [sleepless09@live.com](mailto:sleepless09@live.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Friday, February 24, 2017 11:52:12 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
george pierce	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I fully support SB1240. No new permits! The aquarium trade is destroying the sustainability of one of Hawaii's greatest treasures, its reefs.

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**Cc:**  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 2:49:29 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
George Robertson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Friday, February 24, 2017 1:36:18 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gerrit DeCambra	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB1240. Stop live export of Hawaii reef wildlife now!The life of our beautiful island reefs are dwindling fast. With pollution and island over population taking its toll, the Aquarium industry is definitely not helping the situation.

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**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:25:31 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gina Bates	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The time is now to END the capture and trafficking of Hawaii native reef wildlife for commercial aquarium collection. Support all measures to STOP wildlife trafficking!! There shall be NO commercial extraction of native reef wildlife in state waters for aquarium collection!

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SB 1240 SD 1

2/24/2017

Rhoads

Baker

Keith Agaran

Espero

Inouye

I've been collecting tropical fish 40 years, and my knowledge is great but not adequate to predict fish replenishment. Many people use common sense to govern our oceans but further from the truth is actually accomplished. The mysteries of nature is frequently unpredictable on our Hawaiian Fauna. What I know for sure is this industry has been sustainable throughout these years! Many collectors on oahu panicked when hurricane Iwa and Iniki hit us, it wasn't a pretty sight. The Fauna is more durable than you think, not like on land where direct impacts from human population are ignored. Please stop all attacks on this industry until DLNR see precautionary measures are necessary.

Glenn Fukuda

**From:** [gregg\\_blue](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Sunday, February 26, 2017 5:35:03 PM

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Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240 SD1 and urge you to place a moratorium on AQ take until the environmental, cultural and ethical conflicts are resolved.

Aloha and thanks

Gregg Blue

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 11:41:44 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gregg Gruwell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240 SD1 and urge you to place a moratorium on AQ collection! I started vacationing in Kona in the early 1980s. Snorkeling brought me there and fish were abundant. Since, and up to spending all of last winter in Kona, it is crystal clear that all reef fish are in great decline. You used to be able to walk Ali Drive in Kona Town and see schools of Yellow Tang from the sidewalk. No more! They, and many others are gone! Tourism is the life blood of Hawaii and, at a certain point, this will greatly affect the State. DLNR has no idea how many fish were there 40 years ago, 30 years, 20 years, or today. The State needs to stop this practice and get answers, and a plan, before it's too late! Mahaolo! Gregg Gruwell San Mateo, CA

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**From:** [Hallie Larsson](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 5:01:44 AM

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Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240. Please end the decades of unsustainable aquarium take, and add the moratorium back in.

Mahalo!  
Hallie Larsson



**From:** [Helen Malnar](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017 5:30:04 AM

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Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240. Please end the decades of unsustainable aquarium take, and add the moratorium back in.

As a 25 visiting scuba diver in Hawaii, I can attest to the fact that I saw many underwater sea life become increasingly hard to find, and some, simply a memory. It is sad to not be able to see underwater what was commonplace many years ago.

Please rectify this.  
Thank you,

Helen Malnar

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017 9:05:56 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 3/1/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James Long	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha my name's James, I am a resident of Ka'u on Hawai'i Island. I just want to say I believe our near shore aquatic life are Hawaiian natural resources and should not be exploited. I am against capturing and collecting our fishes for removal from our waters and most definitely against selling them for profit. Mahalo for your time.

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My name is Jim Lovell and I oppose sb1240

This bill states: "The department of land and natural resources shall submit proposed legislation to the legislature including a definition of "sustainable", a policy for sustainable collection practices of near shore aquatic life, and limits on the total number of species and sustainable rates of collection no later than twenty days before the convening of the regular session of 2019."

ACT 306, which was passed in 1998, requires the state to "effectively manage fishery activities to ensure sustainability." and report back to the legislature a review of the effectiveness of the program every 5 years.

The latest report was in 2015 with the next report due in 2020. The current status of the resource based on the 2015 report is that there are millions of more fish on the reefs now than there was 20 years ago. This fact would meet any definition of "Sustainable" that anyone could come up with.

Act 306 already addresses the general requirements of this bill and has been doing so for over 17 years.

Our industry recognizes that currently rules packages, fish limits and regulation are only being done in Oahu and the Big Island. That is because these are the only two Islands where any significant collection is occurring. No collection is done on Kauai, Molokai or Lanai and virtually none is done on Maui. Spending millions of dollars to do studies on these islands would be a waste of money.

There are three items in this bill that I major problems with.

1. The statement that species have "disappeared." - This is a lie. Not only have no species disappeared, but not a single species in Hawaii is listed as endangered or threatened for any reason. Evidence to substantiate this claim must either be produced or the sentence needs to be removed from the bill.
2. "Historical levels" - this phrase is very vague and needs to be clarified. What is the time frame and what scientific data exist from that time frame that can be used.
3. Many factors contribute to the sustainability of our near shore resources including many land based problems. In addition there are thousands of snorkelers and other divers who have a major impact on out reefs. It is illogical to only include a small handful of fishermen if we are trying to come up with a policy to ensure our near shore resource. Singling out one user group while allow all others unlimited access to the resource is not a good solution to any problem.

The "West Hawaii Advisory Council" is a community based management group that meets every month to discuss concerns and come up with

solutions to problems with our resources. Anyone with concerns or ideas is welcome at the table at any time.

I humbly ask you to reject this bill and invite you to join us to continue to ensure that our resource is sustainable for future generations.

Thank You for your time!

**From:** [Bowman, Jane](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 10:30:18 AM

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I come to Hawaii every year on business/vacation but will reconsider my destination if I don't feel that Hawaii is ecologically sensitive to the sustainability of the reef.

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240. Please end the decades of unsustainable aquarium take, and add the moratorium back in.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017 3:24:16 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 3/1/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jared Brenner	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: The time is now to end the capture and trafficking of Hawaii native reef wildlife for commercial aquarium collection. The specific language in the bill could say “there shall be no commercial extraction of native reef wildlife in state waters for aquarium collection.”

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:00:18 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Saturday, February 25, 2017 12:23:12 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/25/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeanne Duberstein	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Our reefs are not what they used to be, for residents and for tourists. We all suffer from the aquarium trade.

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 8:33:46 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeremy Crabtree	Individual	Support	No

Comments: YES, I support SB1240. No more aquarium permits. Freeze existing permits until DLNR can develop a comprehensive, sustainable management plan.

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**From:** [Jerri Gisela Francisco](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Gail Grabowsky](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017 2:06:33 PM

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Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240. Please end the decades of unsustainable aquarium take, and add the moratorium back in. The SB1240 is important because it states how we can be sustainable to support our aquatic life here in Hawaii. Fish are friends and are essential to our ecosystem. Most importantly, essential to live because not only are they food, but they are an important part of the ocean. Fish are meant to live in the sea, not to be displayed in a tank in an aquarium. Please help us to limit the amount of fish captured yearly for capitalist purposes.

Thank you,

Jerri Francisco

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 7:51:56 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jerrold Barclay	Individual	Support	No

Comments: YES, I support SB1240. No more aquarium permits. Freeze existing permits until DLNR can develop a comprehensive, sustainable management plan.

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**From:** [Jerry Lear](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 8:33:28 AM

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Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240. Please end the decades of unsustainable aquarium take, and add the moratorium back in.

Jerry G Lear, MD  
Bend, Oregon

Jessica Wooley

March 1, 2017

RE: Testimony in support of SB1240

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

I support SB1240 moving forward and being strengthened, so that all native reef wildlife is protected from commercial extraction by aquarium collectors, as are Hawai`i rocks and corals.

Hawai`i reefs and wildlife have been decimated over the last 50 years; climate change and ocean acidification are only increasing the rate of decline for many native species. The State executive and its agencies have failed to protect critical public resources (i.e., fish, eels, shrimp and other creatures that feed us, keep our coral reefs healthy and drive our economy in so many ways) from commercial extraction for aquarium collectors for decades. It is unfortunate the Department of Land and Natural Resources does not have the resources (staff/expertise, science, information, time or funding) to manage, enforce and/or protect reef wildlife in any meaningful way. The agency has never even defined sustainable despite claims of being sustainable; never placed any total numerical limit on commercial collection of any species allowed to be collected, with (fish) or without (other wildlife) a permit; never evaluated the environmental effects; and never said no to any permit applicant. To add insult to injury, the lack of a program, rules monitoring or enforcement mean illegal traffickers go unchecked.

This is the opposite of how our host culture traditionally managed the nearshore waters, promoting abundance, and in stark contrast to the Kumulipo and Native Hawaiian culture that cherish corals and reef wildlife.

DLNR likely cannot complete a meaningful study or plan, although anything attention, education and/or examination of this issue will be movement in the right direction. Instead, the legislature could let DLNR end this unprofitable “program” that uses state resources to promote and justify commercial extraction of native reef wildlife for aquarium collectors that is of little value but has significant, negative effects. The world has changed; there is not enough abundance of wildlife species in Hawai`i left to continue to allow the free, unlimited capture, export and death (without reproducing).

Relief from commercial extraction for wildlife collected for aquariums would allow wildlife recovery and promote coral reef resilience and ecosystem health. Now is the time to change policy, protect what we have left and potentially witness a return of abundance of wildlife in our coastal waters, for ourselves, the economy and future generations.

Mahalo for providing me the privilege to testify in support of this bill.

Jessica Wooley

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Sunday, February 26, 2017 5:56:52 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joan Lloyd	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please, no more aquarium permits. Hawaii's reefs ship out daily, leaving nothing but further reef decline and chump change in Hawaii. A NY Post article from February 23, 2017 described a recent aquarium fish auction: Around midnight the auctioneer threw up his hands in dismay. "Tough crowd!" he shouted. "Where are my saltwater people? Unbelievable!" On the block, a stupefied yellow tang — one of the world's most popular aquarium fish, who prefers a brackish environment — swam suspended in a clear plastic bag. On his head was a starting bid of \$10. It was a fraction of the retail price of \$50 and up for a two-inch specimen. But no bidders were biting — yet." Luxury tank installers like House of Fins are profiting from Hawaii's reefs as the fish disappear; once they exhaust Hawaii's reef wildlife supply they'll move on to the next reef like parasites with no thought about the irreversible impact on Hawaii reefs and only an eye to \$\$\$.

"House of Fins clients run the gamut from A-list celebs to Wall Street power brokers — for privacy reasons, Bray would only identify one, Howard Stern, whose tank is rumored to be 7,500 gallons. Price tags can reach into the millions. "We did a shark tank that was 27 feet long here in Greenwich," Bray says. "That was a \$1.4 million dollar installation." Is this Hawaii's legacy, supplying wealthy buyers with reef wildlife from our home reefs while our reefs collapse? How about becoming an example of thriving, healthy reefs teeming with life that locals and visitors go out of their way to experience? End the aquarium trade. Please support SB1240.

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM\*  
**Date:** Friday, February 24, 2017 8:09:20 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joanne West	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Chair: Sen Gilbert Keith-Agaran  
Vice Chair: Sen Karl Rhoads

2/27/17

SB 1240 SD1

I oppose the bill with Amendments

Although **I approve the intent of the bill**, I would like to see the following amendments to the bill

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, except for limited protected areas, state law allows an unlimited number of permits to collect aquarium fish to be issued, ~~and there is no limit on the amount collected for many species.~~ The legislature further finds that "sustainable [fishing]" as it relates to aquatic life remains undefined, and sustainability is not a factor that is considered by the State when issuing licenses for commercial collection of aquatic life.

The legislature finds that herbivorous fish[, especially parrotfishes and surgeonfishes,] play a significant role in maintaining the resiliency of coral reefs as they exert strong top-down pressure on macro algae growth on the reef, and [a significant] ~~the~~ decline in ~~wild~~ [these] herbivore populations is a known stressor to coral reefs. Scientists ~~estimate~~ in "Recovery Potential of the World's Coral Reef Fishes", MacNeil et al., Nature, April 2015, ~~that the time needed for a moderately fished coral reef to recover is approximately thirty-five years and as many as fifty nine years for more depleted reefs. Their findings~~ demonstrate that a range of fisheries restrictions can help reefs recover.

The legislature finds that it is critical that the State ~~leave~~ [manage] healthy aquatic life on the reefs. The State's economy is inextricably tied to its marine environment, and the economic and environmental benefits of reef ~~protection~~ [conservation] go far beyond tourist dollars that currently drive the economy. ~~Herbivore populations~~ [Populations of parrotfishes and surgeonfishes] that have declined ~~or disappeared~~ in Hawaii must be ~~restored~~ [managed] to promote reef ~~recovery~~ [stability] and the socioeconomic well-being of our people.

The purpose of this Act is to require the department of land and natural resources to define "sustainable [fishing]" and establish sustainable ~~collection~~ [fishing] practices and limits, for legislative adoption, to ensure the sustainability of



Hawaii's native near shore aquatic life.

SECTION 2. (a) The department of land and natural resources shall submit proposed legislation to the legislature including a definition of "sustainable [fishing]", [and] a ~~policy~~ [plan for assessing] sustainable ~~collection~~ [fishing limits for] ~~practices of~~ [parrotfishes and surgeonfishes] ~~near shore aquatic life, and~~ [including a timetable for establishing sustainable fishing] limits on ~~the total number of~~ [these] species ~~and sustainable rates of collection~~ no later than twenty days before the convening of the regular session of 2019.

(b) The department of land and natural resources shall promote research and education on the State's near shore aquatic life and work to increase aquatic life health and numbers to historical levels.

(c) For purposes of this section:

"Aquatic life" has the same meaning as defined in section 187A-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

"Near shore" means up to three miles from the shoreline.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

*Randy Fernley / Coral Fish Hawaii*

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 7:21:52 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Gelert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** [John Morris](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 6:25:51 AM

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Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240. Please end the decades of unsustainable aquarium take, and add the moratorium back in.

Collecting of marine life poses the risk of misuse, abuse and habitat destruction. Species needed for the aquarium trade can be bred in captivity, so this is an unnecessary risk.

John Morris  
Nehalem, OR

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 10:44:16 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jose Gilberto Pereira	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**From:** [Judith Cucco's gmail](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 8:12:59 PM

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Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240 SD1 and urge you to place a moratorium on AQ take until the environmental, cultural and ethical conflicts are resolved. I have been snorkeling in Hawaii for more than a decade and have seen the dramatic decline in the number of species and number of fish sighted as I volunteer with Reef Environmental Education Foundation and have completed more than 750 species and abundance surveys.

Sincerely,

Judith Cucco

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Saturday, February 25, 2017 5:57:32 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/25/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kas Nelson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support 1240, protect Hawaii's wildlife, protect the reef inhabitants!  
Maintain the underwater eco system and preserve Hawaii's tourism industry. The aquarium trade hurts Hawaii.

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 6:54:37 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Katharine Morgan	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: •YES, I support SB1240. No more aquarium permits. Freeze existing permits until DLNR can develop a comprehensive, sustainable management plan.

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**From:** [kathie@touringinwinecountry.com](mailto:kathie@touringinwinecountry.com)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB1240  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 5:29:19 PM

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Dear Sir or Madam:

What you have before you in SB1240 now requires development of a definition for "sustainable", sustainable practices and real limits. Please put the moratorium back in. It's time for unsustainable and unethical take to end.

My sister and brother-in-law live on the Big Island. They and I have witnessed firsthand how the taking of fish has damaged the reefs. We were in Galapagos in 2007 and in Hawaii two weeks after our trip. The Galapagos reefs were teeming with life. The Hawaiian reefs had 10% of the life that the reefs in Galapagos supported. When we last visited my sister in 2015, there were even fewer fish. If you do not do something to stop the outflow, Hawaii's reefs will never be able to recover from the loss. Sustainable means that you take less than can be reproduced. That is not happening now.

Thank you for helping to keep Hawaii's oceans full of life.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen E. Schroeder  
Wilmington, DE



Aloha,

My name is Kauionalani Waller. I was born and reared in Lahaina on the beautiful island of Maui. I have seen a lot of growth and change on Maui over the last 40 plus years.

I understand that change is inevitable. What is not inevitable is the raping of our reefs of the tropical fish.

I am testifying in support of SB 1240. We must amend to stop new aquarium permits and freeze existing permits until DLNR develops a comprehensive and sustainable management plan. Hopefully leading to a complete ban on aquarium trade.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Na`u me ke aloha,

Kauionalani Waller

Maui Nui Wear LLC

**From:** [Kerri Ballard](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 6:39:39 AM

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Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240. Please end the decades of unsustainable aquarium take, and add the moratorium back in.

I live in Makawao, Maui and am a pilot for Alaska Airlines. Snorkeling is my passion and I go every chance I get, not only on Maui but on my layovers on the other islands. Other than in the marine reserves such as Ahihi Kinau and Hanauma Bay, I have seen a gradual decline in the numbers of fish with occasional drastic declines. I keep a log of what fish I see and where and am very concerned for our reefs.

Thank you for your hard work and attention to this important issue.

Kerri Ballard  
Makawao, Maui

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [kurt@oceandefenders.org](mailto:kurt@oceandefenders.org)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Friday, February 24, 2017 8:46:34 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kurt Lieber	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support SB1240! Stop the extraction of Hawaiian fish for the aquarium trade. STOP THE AQUARIUM TRADE, NOW!!

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**From:** [aloha.lani](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 9:47:10 AM

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Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240. Please end the decades of unsustainable aquarium take, and add the moratorium back in.

Mahalo,  
Lani T.  
Kailua-Kona

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 9:56:03 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Larry Thompson	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Yes! I support SB1240. Stop live export of Hawaii reef wildlife now, please!

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM\*  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 8:18:16 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lauren Ampolos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** [Lisa Marten](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT FOR SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Sunday, February 26, 2017 5:42:25 PM

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Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members,

I strongly support SB1240.

Please stand up for our marine ecosystems that are being depleted for the private profit of one group. As an avid snorkeler, I would like to see reef fish where they belong - on the reefs. Please place a moratorium on aquarium fishing until the numbers rebound.

Thank you,

Lisa Marten  
Windward Oahu

**From:** [Lisa Kaddas](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017 8:17:04 AM

---

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240.  
Please end the decades of unsustainable aquarium take, and add the moratorium back in.  
Please protect Hawaii's reefs.  
Lisa Simonsen  
Everett, WA

Sent from my iPad



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 10:45:02 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: If the people who make money off our fish selling to aquariums where most of the fish die, and the State thinks the short-term income for these people is worth the loss of our fish, the least DLNR can do is set a reasonable limit. This could be done with a sustainability study. This bill puts this forward as a condition for these people to gather fish from OUR reef.

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**From:** [Lynn Allen](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Sunday, February 26, 2017 6:00:01 PM

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Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240. Please end the decades of unsustainable aquarium take, and add the moratorium back in.  
Lynn Allen  
Kihei, HI

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [lrmmmn@gmail.com](mailto:lrmmmn@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Friday, February 24, 2017 1:23:10 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lynne Moore	Individual	Support	No

Comments: YES, I support SB1240. Please, do not issue any more aquarium permits. Please freeze existing permits forever. Please immediately stop live export of Hawaii reef wildlife. I support SB1240 because I'm a frequent visitor to Hawaii and I want to see Hawaii reef wildlife living free in the wild on Hawaii reefs. Hawaii reef wildlife should not for sale to an amusement industry, nor should people or corporations be allowed to harvest wildlife on land or in the oceans for aquariums or entertainment. As a vegetarian, I wish you would stop allowing fishing, too. Thanks in advance for your time and attention to this important issue.

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**From:** [Madge](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 10:55:57 PM

---

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240. Please end the decades of unsustainable aquarium take, and add the moratorium back in. Many Pacific islands have implemented total bans for taking tropical fish. Our reefs suffer from a shortage of the fish who are cleaners. Be courageous and save these little creatures!  
Madge Schaefer

Sent via iPad

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [marcw@snorkelbob.com](mailto:marcw@snorkelbob.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Friday, February 24, 2017 8:49:30 AM

---

**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marc Walske	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB1240. The aquarium trade kills Hawaii reefs. Stop it now!

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**From:** [Marie Hageman](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 3:54:38 AM

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Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members,  
I write in strong support of SB1240.

I travel from NJ to spend Februaries in Maui, diving amid your beautiful reef life. (12 trips so far.)

I have seen the numbers of fish decline over the years and I think of our mainland tragedy, the Passenger Pigeon, once so plentiful that a flock passing overhead was reported to blacken the sky and now, for 100 years, extinct, due to hunting.

<http://www.audubon.org/magazine/may-june-2014/why-passenger-pigeon-went-extinct>

You have the power to prevent the same loss in Hawaiian waters, which, if occurred, would render your Islands irrelevant for my trips, and cause me to take my dollars to other diving destinations.

Please end the decades of unsustainable aquarium take, and add the moratorium back in.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marie Hageman

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017 4:12:42 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 3/1/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marie Le Boeuf	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I support both HB1457 and SB1240 wholeheartedly. Live export of Hawaii's reef wildlife needs to stop now if the near shore waters are to recover and thrive. These bills would be a good start. thank you

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017 7:45:02 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 3/1/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mark Sheehan	MAUI OCEAN PROTECTORS	Support	No

Comments: This is very important bill that must be passed. Our reefs are in trouble for many reasons and the aquarium trade is plundering the reef fish. Please pass this bill.

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [rmmkona@gmail.com](mailto:rmmkona@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Friday, February 24, 2017 12:39:24 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Menacho	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB1240. Stop live export of Hawaii reef wildlife now. The aquarium trade is a last vestige of trafficking in reef wildlife for the pet industry. It's banned in many vibrant reef areas and must end in Hawaii. Lets not wait until it is to late. Mahalo for your time.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [msmarymac1@me.com](mailto:msmarymac1@me.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Friday, February 24, 2017 8:48:59 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Whitmire	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support SB1240, amended to stop new aquarium permits. Freeze existing permits until DLNR can develop a comprehensive, sustainable management plan.

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**From:** [Matthew Gurewitsch](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 12:33:54 PM

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Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240. Please end the decades of unsustainable aquarium take, and add the moratorium back in.

I have been snorkeling the waters of South Maui about 340 days a year for the past six years and have seen with my own eyes how stocks are dwindling. Colorful species that were once abundant (cleaner wrasse, for instance) are now seen seldom and never in numerous clusters. Full-grown specimens of all kinds of fish (notably parrotfish and yellow tang) are likewise rare sightings. Call it a tragedy, call it a crime—this depletion of the aina must stop. The stresses on the reef from tourism and development are enormous. Let's give the creatures who live there the very best conditions we can for their survival not only in our lifetime but for future generations. Our local economy depends greatly on their presence, and our quality of life also. Banning the taking of our reef fish for the aquarium may not turn the tide, but it is our last, best hope. I implore you to do the right thing.

Mahalo for your attention.

*m.*

Matthew Gurewitsch

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 10:28:42 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
matthew hines	Individual	Support	No

Comments: YES, I support SB1240. No more aquarium permits. Freeze existing permits until DLNR can develop a comprehensive, sustainable management plan. Yes! I support SB1240. Stop live export of Hawaii reef wildlife now! YES, I support SB1240. I'm a visitor to Hawaii - my family and I travelled all the way from the UK to visit the reefs - and I want to see Hawaii reef wildlife living free in the wild on Hawaii reefs.

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017 8:00:36 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 3/1/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
melissa bukoski	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Yes! I support SB1240. Stop live export of Hawaii reef wildlife now!

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 7:24:35 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
mg	Individual	Support	No

Comments: YES, I support SB1240. No more aquarium permits. Freeze existing permits until DLNR can develop a comprehensive, sustainable management plan.

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM\*  
**Date:** Saturday, February 25, 2017 7:46:07 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/25/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
michael lauterman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [michelleanderson@usa.net](mailto:michelleanderson@usa.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Friday, February 24, 2017 10:57:50 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
michelle anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Stop permitting reef harvest by aquarium profitiers!

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:15:59 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michelle Lanker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: YES, I support SB1240. No more aquarium permits. Freeze existing permits until DLNR can develop a comprehensive, sustainable management plan.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mmmmahalo2000@aol.com](mailto:mmmmahalo2000@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Thursday, February 23, 2017 7:42:30 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Moran	Kihei Community Association (KCA)	Support	No

Comments: Please support this measure save the reef fish before it is too late  
Mahalo, Mike Moran for KCA

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 10:58:17 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Miranda Camp	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB1240. Stop live export of Hawaii reef wildlife now! I have seen a huge drop in reef fish, especially yellow tangs, in the last 10 years. And I have personally seen collectors in our waters filling net bags with our reef fish. This must stop!!!

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**From:** [Momi V.](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:12:53 PM

---

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240 SD1 and urge you to place a moratorium on AQ take until the environmental, cultural and ethical conflicts are resolved. Please Help Us Help Them.  
MahaloPiha

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 2:40:32 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nishone Weymouth	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Humans have a responsibility to protect our environment, not destroy it! We must stop reef permits and protect our beautiful and unique environments. My mom was born and raised on Oahu, I was married on Kauai. We love Hawaii and LOVE snorkeling. It's one of our biggest passions. It would be so depressing to not be able to visit and go snorkeling because we were too greedy or selfish not to protect those that do not have a voice! Stop wildlife export!

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM\*  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017 10:32:53 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 3/1/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Pamela Palencia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 1:32:50 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Pamela Small	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear officials of the committee, I am writing to ask that you support and pass a moratorium on aquarium collecting from Hawaii's precious ocean reefs until a \*true\* definition of sustainable can be established to protect them from over collection by the aquarium trade. Currently 200,000 fish are taken annually from between Waikoloa and Kona alone. An additional 204,000 are collected from South Kona to South Point. That isn't sustainable and the Big Island's oceans/reefs are suffering. There needs to be real limits that are enforced. As a state that is dependent upon the tourist industry, our island guests want to see fish in our ocean waters. Currently, they are seeing bleached coral and very few fish. We have a kuleana to protect our reefs and the creatures that inhabit them. Mahalo for time and consideration. Please pass a moratorium on the aquarium trade until sustainability can be defined. Sincerely, Pamela Small Kamuela, Hawaii 96743

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**From:** [pattyleckert@gmail.com](mailto:pattyleckert@gmail.com)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 7:09:17 PM

---

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240. Please end the decades of unsustainable aquarium take, and add the moratorium back in.

Patty Eckert



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017 12:10:41 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 3/1/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Paul Kohman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass this bill to protect the Hawaii reef ecosystems. I have visited Hawaii regularly for 40 years and resided on Maui for 4 years and see a decline in reef fish population during my scuba diving and snorkeling outings. We as humans have a moral obligation to protect our environment and reef ecosystems are compromised by the commercial extraction of wildlife.

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**Cc:**  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM\*  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017 11:35:22 AM

---

**SB1240**

Submitted on: 3/1/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Paul Solomon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** [Phil](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 2:42:35 PM

---

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240 SD1 and urge you to place a moratorium on AQ take until the environmental, cultural and ethical conflicts are resolved.

Thanks  
Phil Hoyle  
HOKU BOATS

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 10:10:25 AM

---

**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rebecca Melendez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I'm sure you have seen the picture I am attaching of all the dead reef fish that were taken and dumped in the dumpster because they didn't make it to export. I work in the ocean 5 days a week and I've seen the serious decline in reef fish population and it has changed our Hawaii waters drastically. Hawaii is called the Golden Coast because of huge schools of yellow tang fish that you used to be able see lining the coastline. Now, you are lucky to see a small school of yellow tangs because all the big schools have been fished out and there are no more huge schools anywhere. People can take even the rarest fish from Hawaii and those fish will never come back again. Plus, over 20% of reef fish in Hawaii are only found in Hawaii and they are being taken with no thought to them being able to repopulate. If you want Hawaii waters to be beautiful for your grandchildren, you will support this bill because Hawaiian reef fish are leaving us fast. It's up to you to make a difference for Hawaii's future and I hope you will do the right thing and support this bill for our future.

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**From:** [rhonda](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB1240 SD1. plus a personal note..  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 8:36:23 AM

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Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240. Please end the decades of unsustainable aquarium take, and add the moratorium back in.

In addition I have had the luck of being able to swim daily in honokaope bay, which is exactly below the Mauna lani hotel, and above the Hilton. it is horrible the amount of yellow tang loss over the last 10 years, and you barely see octopus too caused by the spearfishing daily as it is really an accessible place. I think the sunscreen ban is ludicrous, when the grass pesticides are the real culprit at the golf courses, please do not head in that direction very stupid.

thanks for understanding.

Rhonda Doyle

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 1:03:06 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Richard/Ric Andrews, M.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240. Please end the decades of unsustainable aquarium take, and add the moratorium back in I live in Kihei AND I VOTE!! Our reefs needs real attention. Once again, greedy corporations and businesses are taking OUR fish to sell in aquariums. These fish belong on our reefs!! We must INCLUDE THE MORATORIUM. We, the Hawaiian voters, ARE WATCHING! Please responsibly do your job and make sure this bill, with teeth, becomes reality. Mahalo, Ric Andrews, M.D.

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 8:37:02 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
richard rosenblum	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I completely support this bill Richard Rosenblum

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**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:04:13 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rick Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I am providing written testimony in favor of SB1240. Hawaii State DLNR has neglected the coral reef ecosystems by the issuance of unlimited and uncontrolled permits for collection of various reef species. This non-science based approach has been compounded by a myriad of illegal un-permitted collectors that the State has chosen not to pursue. This unregulated collection has resulted in the decimation of numerous species that will take many years to recover. Please provide your support for DLNR decision making that is based on fact, not aquarium collectors opinion. Mahalo for your consideration, Rick Lee Bonefish Hawaii

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [woodsgood1@gmail.com](mailto:woodsgood1@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Friday, February 24, 2017 10:34:40 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rob Simonsen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I SUPPORT SB1240. No new permits. STOP THE AQUARIUM TRADE NOW!

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 6:52:23 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rob Weltman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass SB1240 to preserve Hawaii's reefs and sea life by freezing the permitting of aquarium trade with Hawaiian fish.

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**From:** [Robert Bruce](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 9:36:10 PM

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Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members,

I write in strong support of SB1240.

Please stop the pillaging of the fish in Hawaiian waters! It is unconscionable to permit this stealing of this unique resource to populate aquariums on the mainland!

Thanks for your consideration and for your service to the Aloha a State.

Bob

ROBERT BRUCE

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 7:45:54 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robert Lloyd	Individual	Support	No

Comments: No more aquarium permits. Enough studies. Hawaii's reefs should not be sold for an amusement hobby. Help Hawaii's reefs recover. Freeze aquarium permits.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [robertw@snorkelbob.com](mailto:robertw@snorkelbob.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Friday, February 24, 2017 12:20:04 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robert Wintner	Snorkel Bob's Hawaii	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran and JUD Committee Members: I support SB 1240. Please amend to end the aquarium trade in Hawaii by requiring the State to stop issuing new permits. Opposition is based on livelihood, but current aquarium permits (issued prior to 2017) can be grandfathered if DLNR can support its claim of sustainability with a substantive definition. Legislative testimony is not given under oath, and DLNR still presents alternate facts. No DLNR data to date has been peer-reviewed by non-state employees. Please amend SB1240 to end the State of Hawaii from issuing new commercial aquarium permits, and require DLNR to define sustainability in substantive terms. Thank you, Robert Wintner, Snorkel Bob's Hawaii

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [rrogers05@yahoo.com](mailto:rrogers05@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Friday, February 24, 2017 12:30:46 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robin Rogers	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I SUPPORT SB 1240. NO NEW PERMITS. STOP THE AQUARIUM TRADE NOW!

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Opposed to SB 1240

JDL Committee 3-2-17 9:30 AM Room 016

Aloha Senators,

There is no science or facts that support such a need to pass SB 1240 as the number of aquarium fish collectors is low around 60 and catches are small compared to resource; it is very sustainable. DLNR already has great handle on sustainability and give educational talks on the subject. They have worked with and created many new laws over past several years. The DLNR with help from the aquarium fishermen created new rules and now laws for both Oahu and Kona. DLNR has also done a great job with new closed areas. Listen to DLNR researchers and work with them for what is best is the goal of our fishery.

We will gladly work with them to maintain sustainability and give back to the ocean we love.

Limits on collection are not needed at this time, as the fishery numbers across the board are higher than ever before.

There are fish counts, researcher's studies and science from DLNR that proving the fishery is already sustainable.

Dr. Rossitor Waikiki Aquarium in testimony: "even if the number of fish collectors greatly increase they will still be sustainable"

I present to you below those facts and information direct from the researchers themselves. Even the opposition in the news link below tell of the incredible fish counts and millions of fish statewide.

Please hold SB 1240.

Thanks,

Ron Tubbs B.S. N.D. RT Distributors

"I made a special trip last week to see it and video it myself. It really is unlike anything anyone has ever seen," **Rene Umberger said**. Even **dive shop owner**, anti-fishing activists agreed there lots tons of reef fish right now all across Hawaii. TV link below!

The %33 percent Kona West Hawaii FRA aquarium fish closure and its success is not required for the rest of the state. The larger area of the big island fishery made it practical there. To do the same for other islands is counterproductive and just forces fishermen into less areas creating greater impact on any remaining open areas. Less area means less rotation of fishing spots and more impact not less.

We already have around 30% closure. Of the Main Hawaiian Islands another 30 percent is protected by Sanctuaries, Marine Protected Areas, Fish Replenishment Areas (FRA), Marine Life Conservation Districts (MCLD), Refuges, Fishery Management Areas (FMA), National Monuments, restricted military areas and the strictest laws of any State in the United States.

**The vast majority of the Hawaiian Island shores are untouched by fishing and diving.** High surf in the winter closes northern shores of all islands for many months. Summer surf affects southern shores. High winds from the east, for most of the year shut down east shores for diving. Poor accessibility too many areas due to distance, lack of harbors and roads,

ensures these areas remain untouched. More than 90% of Hawaii is not impacted by fishing! Almost all of Hawaiian waters receive periods of "no catch" due to weather and inaccessibility. Untouched areas are already in place.

## **Most of isles' coral recover from mass bleaching (Corals did not bleach last year and nearly all recovered state wide!)**

By Audrey McAvoy

POSTED: 04:53 a.m. HST, Jan 29, 2015 ASSOCIATED PRESS

The DLNR studied coral for bleaching -- a stress response that causes corals to lose algae and color from their tissue -- in Kaneohe Bay. Coral rely on algae for food and their survival.

Dlnr Hawaii coral bleaching report 2 news

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vwqagvw1a1g>

## **Hawaii Sees Major Fish Population Increase**

Videos show tropical fish swarming state's reefs

<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/26454840/videos-show-tropical-fish-swarming-states-reefs>

## **Fishery Sustainable Dr. Bill Walsh, Richard Pyle and NOAA Video:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50L6JcMOVLQ&t=219s>

HONOLULU (HawaiiNewsNow) -

It's being called a spawning event of "Biblical" proportions -- a summer swarm of fish over Hawaii's reefs. Aquarium fisherman and underwater photographer Ron Tubbs shot video off Oahu's coastline showing the population explosion.

"I made a special trip last week to see it and video it myself. It really is unlike anything anyone has ever seen," Rene Umberger said. Even **dive shop owner**, anti fishing activists agree there lots tons of reef fish right now all across Hawaii.

"In 35 years this is the most fish I have ever seen. For most species, it's just incredible. It's just amazing. Areas where you see hundreds of fish normally, that's a lot of fish for an area, you're seeing thousands of fish," Ron Tubbs said "This year the numbers are just exceptional." What about Aquarium fishing in Hawaii?

January 2014 saw the new Kona aquarium fish rules go into law. Aquarium fishermen and Kona DLNR scientists created stricter laws for an already sustainably fishery. Dr. Bill Walsh now advocates for these fishermen due to their cooperation and efforts to maintain fish populations.



The same thing has been done on Oahu with the DLNR researchers there. The Oahu DLNR scientists also believe we are already sustainable but agree further regulations can help to protect our reef fish. The Oahu rules should go in to effect sometimes in 2015. As a result we have wide spread support from many members of Hawaii's legislature, DNLR and UH scientists and even private eco groups who once opposed us. Aquarium fishermen continue to work with researchers to make it the greatest sustainably fishery in the world. The oceans belong to all and to protect them and preserve it wonders is the job of all ocean users.

What do Hawaii's ocean researchers say about aquarium fish collecting?

**Here are some shortened quotes from Public testimony Hawaii County Council testimony 2014, Hawaii news now and West Hawaii Today news excerpts.**

Dr. Bill Walsh October 2014:

*In my capacity as the West Hawai'i Aquatic Biologist for the Division of Aquatic Resources I have been involved in the management and biological monitoring of the West Hawai'i aquarium fishery for over 15 years.*

*I would like to share with you some of the results of our latest monitoring efforts as they relate to the issue at hand. Two species, the Yellow Tang and Kole make up over 93% of all aquarium fish caught in West Hawai'i. Since the no-aquarium collecting Fish Replenishment Areas (FRAs) were established in 1999 (protecting 35% of the coastline), the numbers of Yellow Tang have increased in the FRAs by almost 65% while not significantly decreasing in the remaining Open Areas. In the 30'-60' depth range alone, the numbers of Yellow Tang in West Hawai'i have increased by 1.3 million fish. Similarly Kole populations have increased not only in the FRAs (by 24%) but also in the Open Areas as well (by 28%). Kole populations in the same depth range have increased by over 2 million fish! Clearly resource management efforts are working in West Hawai'i.*

*Scientific studies which have indeed found high levels of mortality among aquarium fishes have typically been conducted in remote areas with poor handling capabilities. That is clearly not the case in Hawai'i.*

**~ Dr. William Walsh**

**Division of Aquatic Resources  
State of Hawaii DLNR**

Dr. Dan Polhemus:

*It is a good thing for folks to scrutinize and ask questions about what's going on in our fisheries and on our reefs. These are important to all of us. A realistic perspective does need to be maintained however. Let me elaborate. On Maui in 2009 there were a total of 16,300 aquarium animals caught, representing 82 different species. Yellow tangs accounted for 69% while Kole was 7% of the catch. During that same year non-aquarium commercial fishers captured (and killed) 319,491 reef fishes of 75 species. While yellow tangs weren't caught to any degree there was considerable overlap in a number of the other species. To the commercial food catch one can add another 480,000 reef fish taken by recreational/subsistence fishers (extrapolated from 2006 NOAA Rec Fishing Survey data). So, in the grand scheme of things, the aquarium take on Maui is literally a drop in the bucket, representing less than 2% of the total mortality of reef*

*animals that year. This serves to point out that undue focus and hyperbole about aquarium collecting and its impact on the reefs is dangerously shortsighted and counterproductive. We need to think and act holistically.*

*Hope I didn't overwhelm you with numbers. (as of 2014 no aquarium fish collectors were taking fish on Maui and the number of collectors state wide have decreased and so has catch.)*

**~ Dr. DAN A. POLHEMUS**  
**Division of Aquatic Resources**  
**State of Hawaii DLNR**

Emily S. Munday, M.S.

*For my master's research at Washington State University, I studied the West Hawaii aquarium trade from 2010-2012. Part of my study focused on holding and transport of live yellow tang in the West Hawaii aquarium trade.*

*My research on fish holding and transport indicated that the practices implemented by Hawaiian fish exporters do not cause mortality in yellow tang. In June of 2012, I collaborated with fishers and exporters in Kona, and caught 60 yellow tang from the reef, held them in a working export facility, and shipped them from Kona, HI to Portland, OR. The fish were then transported to the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, OR where they resided for 6 months. My study shows 100% survival rate of these tangs during collection, holding in the export facility, air transport, and after a 6-month holding period. In fact, the fish have now become part of an exhibit at the Hatfield Marine Science Center about sustainability in the aquarium trade and I have received no reports of mortality after 2.5 years.*

**~Sincerely,**  
**Emily S. Munday, M.S.**  
**Washington State University**

*As far as aquarium related mortality in Hawaii goes here's a quote from a Cesar 2002 study "Mortality rates of aquarium fish are low and have gone down considerably since the last survey in 1984. Currently, mortality rates from collection to wholesaler are estimated at 0 to 1 percent. In the wholesaler's tanks, mortality rates range from close to 0% up to 2%. During shipment, rates range from 0.75% to 2%. This give a current total of between 1% and 5%, down from a range of 5% to 8% in the early 1980's (van Poolen and Obara, 1984; estimates of wholesalers and collectors, own study).*

**~ Dr. DAN A. POLHEMUS**

*These studies quoted are old and much better technology and care techniques now exist so we are sure it is an even lower rate today. Decreased transport times due to better roads and more airline flights make it even easier to ship shipments with no DOA at all. Life extension techniques are used by the hobbyist at all times. Customers demand such care. Life spans of fish can be greatly increased in captivity. Many aquarium fish hobbyists tout their ability to increase fish pets life spans. Several cases have pet fish owners keeping fish alive for 15 years.*

*Life span of the average fish in the wild can be very short. Without enough food and the predators eating many smaller fish survivability to adult breeding state is only 2%. In 2014 a much bigger percentage survived due to increases in plankton due mainly to changes in currents. If the food is there the 1-5 million fry per adult pair spawning can result in astronomical population growth. This has resulted in biblical increases in fish populations in fall of 2014. A few species like Angels only produce 10,000 fry per spawning which is way below the norm for most reef fish. Even those species are doing great in population numbers. Fish are very efficient breeders.*

**~ Ron Tubbs B.S. N.D.  
University of Hawaii**

Tina Owens executive director of the LOST FISH Coalition, Member West Hawaii Fisheries Council says:

*A great deal of the “sky is falling” news you’ve heard about the reef recently is just plain not true. Try giving credit to the thousands of volunteer hours given by your neighbors to the West Hawaii Fisheries Council to get the gains you are now free to enjoy. (done with the help of Aquarium Fishermen on the council who agreed to the laws)*

*Lost Fish Coalition, through the venue of the West Hawaii Fisheries Council, has been working with many stakeholders to get a reasonable settlement to the long-standing problem of the aquarium industry harvest. In almost 16 years, we have accomplished the following management actions:*

- *We have 55-plus miles of coastline where reef fish cannot be taken. These areas allow the fish to grow large enough to be very successful breeders. These areas — Fish Replenishment Areas — are the nurseries for the reef fish to spread out to the rest of the reefs.*

*Thanks to these measures, West Hawaii has more fish than most every other widely accessed reef in the state, especially the beautiful ornamentals that give tourists and residents so much delight. If someone says that nothing has been done in West Hawaii, they are either lying, unaware or are being duped by someone else’s lies about the situation. There are a few “outsiders,” by which I mean people who don’t live here, who have decided that West Hawaii doesn’t know what it’s doing. This group, headed by Maui resident Robert Wintner, and Wintner’s frontman Rene Umberger, decided it was going to be the ones to get aquarium collecting banned, to make themselves the “rescuers of the reef.”*

*Clearly if the goal is to get rid of the industry and management prevents that goal being reached, then discrediting the benefits and successes of management would seem the only way left to go. And so they have taken that path.*

*They have held community meetings and displayed a lot of false or twisted data, quoting from papers outdated by more than 15 years, and “re-interpreting” data from scientific papers. They have been telling people that “there are no fish left,” which is patently untrue. I once had a woman tell me with great passion and assurance that there are no fish left anywhere in West Hawaii. I asked her why she thought that, and she replied that everyone knew it. I asked if she swam in the ocean. No. Did she dive? No. Did she know anything about the management strategies in place? No. She had, however, just come from an “information session” in which she heard these things from Wintner’s frontman Rene Umberger.*

*Which brings me back to the wide-screen TV. The TV runs a 90-minute loop of undisturbed, natural activity of fish on the reef. Apparently, the footage was filmed on West Hawaii reefs. The article states: "Wintner praised the videos. 'It shows what abundance looks like,' Wintner said." At least he got that right.*

**~ Tina Owens, executive director of the LOST FISH Coalition, Member West Hawaii Fisheries Council and resident of Kailua-Kona.**

See for yourself News links:

<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/26454840/videos-show-tropical-fish-swarming-states-reefs>

<http://www.reef2rainforest.com/2014/08/29/biblical-spawning-event-on-hawaiian-reefs/>

<http://westhawaii.com/news/setting-record-straight-fish-collecting>

## **Tropical Fish Are Thriving in Hawaii**

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Sunday, February 26, 2017 3:38:22 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Scott Buzzard	Individual	Support	No

Comments: YES, I support SB1240. I'm a frequent visitor to Hawaii and I want to see Hawaii reef wildlife living free in the wild on Hawaii reefs. Hawaii reef wildlife should not for sale to an amusement industry!

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Saturday, February 25, 2017 8:47:47 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/25/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
scott folsom	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: There is no science or facts that support such a need to pass SB 1240 as the number of aquarium fish collectors is low around 60 and catches are small compared to resource; it is very sustainable. DLNR already has great handle on sustainability and give educational talks on the subject. They have worked with and created many new laws over past several years with aquarium fishermen with rules for both Oahu and Kona. DLNR has done a great job with new closed areas and many new laws. Listen to their researchers and do what they need is the goal of our fishery. We will gladly work with them to maintain sustainability and give back to the ocean we love. Limits on collection are not needed at this time, as the fishery numbers across the board are higher than ever before. There are fish counts, researcher's studies and science from DLNR that proving the fishery is already sustainable. Dr. Rossitor Waikiki Aquarium in testimony: "even if the number of fish collectors greatly increase they will still be sustainable." Even the opposition tell of the incredible fish counts and millions of fish statewide. Please hold SB 1240.

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**From:** [Sharon Small](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Hawaiian Fisheries limits  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 12:02:31 PM

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Dear Legislators:

I am writing about bill SB1240 regarding sustainable collection of fish for the pet trade. I first visited Hawaii in 1975 and was amazed at the number of beautiful fish that could be seen snorkeling in the

waters surrounding every island. There have been fewer and fewer every decade. With all the environmental pressures now facing wildlife, it becomes even more critical to do everything we can to

protect and control those factors that we can control.

Thank you for hearing this bill. Please establish a moratorium and set very real sustainable limits so that we aren't the last generation to marvel at the beauty and diversity in these waters.

Sincerely,

Sharon Small

Kennett Square, PA

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Friday, February 24, 2017 9:43:50 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shayla Middleton	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support SB1240, amended to stop new aquarium permits. Freeze existing permits until DLNR can develop a comprehensive, sustainable management plan. I SUPPORT SB1240. No new permits. STOP THE AQUARIUM TRADE NOW! I support SB1240. Stop live export of Hawaii reef wildlife now! I support SB1240. The aquarium trade kills Hawaii reefs. Stop it now!

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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**From:** [Shyanne Hirata-Freitas](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose SB1240  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017 4:00:32 AM

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Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Thursday March 2, 2017  
9:30 am  
Conference room 016

Shyanne Hirata-Freitas  
I strongly oppose SB1240

I am a Native Hawaiian. I live on Oahu and I am a licensed commercial collector and I work for a distributor. I also have an interest in marine aquaculture, with an emphasis on marine ornamentals for commercial purposes. I strongly oppose SB1240.

There are a few animals rights extremists that are hiding Ban-All bills in "sustainable acts" bills. These people do not care if the industry is sustainable. They do not care if a fish is captive bred; they want to ban all marine fish from being kept. They are misleading and giving out false information to trick people into thinking that the coral reefs are dying, fish are dying, fish are disappearing due to collecting.

I 100% support a research and educational plan to promote public awareness of nearshore reef wildlife. I believe in sustainability and will fully support a bill that reads that. I will not support a bill with a hidden anti-aquarium agenda, which this bill is coming off as.

Their ultimate goal is to stop, ban, all marine collecting. Stating that we are unsustainable, killing fish, taking everything without limits, destroying the reef with chemicals, etc. When in fact commercial marine collection in Hawaii is very sustainable; we have daily bag, catch, size, gear limits, the use of chemicals is

highly prohibited and it's illegal to use or sell fish that have been exposed to such, our permits must be renewed yearly, as well as sending in a monthly catch report of what we caught and the quantity.

If these bills pass, it will have a big impact on the marine industry. These bills prohibit the collection of marine life for commercial sell or recreational keep.

Although, I do believe in sustainability and educational awareness, I do not believe a suspension on marine collecting is warranted. The amount of marine life collected compared to the amount still on the reef is unmatched; Hawaii's reef fish are thriving. The Department of Natural Resources is doing an excellent job at managing the Aquatic Resources and have already set strict rules and regulations. There are currently daily size and catch limits on several species, and monthly reports must be turned in by all current licensees.

The larger reef fish that play a much bigger role in managing the reef, like the parrotfish, are not a target for the aquarium trade. Sea urchins also play a big role in fighting nuisance algae, as shown with the urchin project in Kbay.

Yellow Tangs spawn frequently, monthly and a single female can release thousands of eggs.

A big debate is non-locals, visitors, and people who are not actually in the water daily to see for themselves. They believe the fish are disappearing due to collection, they are not aware of the real bigger problem of pollution and run off. Pollution and urban run off is killing the coral and poisoning the fish.

Chemical sunscreen has been found to kill coral and is found to be toxic to humans, what is the affect it's having on fish?

Humans stepping on and kicking the reef in popular tourist snorkel sites and beaches, damaging it. There was a study of

stress factors to the marine ecosystem with Pollution being within the top 3, and Collection being second from the bottom. I believe the bigger picture is pollution and that should be the focus and resources should be used to better manage pollutants from continuing to affect the ocean; coral reefs, fish, invertebrates, marine mammals, and sea birds.

If you read through the testimonies of those in support of the bill, there is a common and repetitive pattern of uneducated individuals believing that coral reefs are dying because of collection. Little to none are offering scientific facts, statements or proof. Now compare that to those that are in opposition to the bill, more times than not, scientific facts are stated with numbers and proof that this is already a sustainable practice.

Please use your wise judgement and trust in those that were selected, and the department that was built to manage the natural resources, and let them continue to do a great job. Where time and resources can be better used to deal with the pollution problem that is actually affecting and killing the coral reefs.

Thank you,  
Shyanne H. Freitas

## Testimony

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Bill: SB1240 SD1

Date: Thursday, March 2, 2017

Time: 9:30

Place: Conference room 016

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and committee members:

My name is Sierra Grucella and I am a student at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of SB1240 SD1.

The issue of sustainability is something that truly concerns both me and many of my fellow peers. We are each required to create a "Youth Envisioning Sustainable Futures" Project for our AP Environmental Science class this year. The topic I decided to focus on was sustaining Hawaii's coral reefs. I believe it is very important to insure that our coral reefs are protected from any further harm. Overfishing can have lasting impacts on the coral reefs. These reefs are delicate ecosystems that react drastically to the smallest change. If too many herbivorous fish are pulled from a reef, the amount of algae could increase and lead to the death of the coral. There has to be a limit to the amount of fish that can be removed from one place.

Limiting the amount of fish that can be taken is crucial to the survival of our coral reef ecosystems. For this reason, I strongly support SB1240 SD1.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sierra Grucella

Mililani High School Junior

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Sunday, February 26, 2017 3:30:43 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Steven Williams	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill. Healthy reefs are important for our environment.  
Collecting kills reefs

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017 7:19:42 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 3/1/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan Douglas	Individual	Support	No

Comments: YES, I support HB1457/SB1240. No more aquarium permits. Freeze existing permits until DLNR can develop a comprehensive, sustainable management plan.

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**From:** [Huffmans001.](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017 12:03:42 PM

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Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members,

I write in strong support of SB1240. Please end the decades of unsustainable aquarium take, and add the moratorium back in. It is our responsibility as residents of Hawaii and as humans living on this planet to protect the environment in which we live. Laws need to be put in place so that we are not exploiting the marine life and waters for our own selfish needs. More importantly, how it affects the sustainability of our ocean. I humbly ask you to please consider the positive impact we would be making to our beautiful waters/life simply by reimplementing the moratorium and establishing guidelines for the aquatic take.

Sincerely,

Susan Huffman

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To: [JDLTestimony](#)  
Cc:  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:28:57 PM

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## **SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susanne Spiessberger	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran and JDL Committee Members! I support this bill amended to stop new aquarium permits and make existing ones non-transferable. Bill SB1240 got 90% of testimonies in support of phasing out Aquarium permits - supporters representing all sorts of people. Scientists, community associations, professionals who are like the collectors in the water every single day to make a living, people witnessing unsustainable collecting and inappropriate transit practices, or plain Hawaii lovers, natives or non-natives, who realize what happens when wildlife is being removed in an unsustainable manner. I am a scientist and have been working on environmental sustainability for a long time. Our reefs, which are vital for Hawaiian culture, recreation, tourism, and protection from waves, are increasingly being threatened by rising water temperatures, pollution, and ocean acidification. Reef wildlife like Yellow Tangs and other surgeonfishes are proven to play an imperative role for reef balance, resilience, and recovery. Yet those exotic, rare, and often endemic species are being removed in unlimited numbers by the aquarium industry. Most of them die through cumulative trauma in long transits and inappropriate tank set ups, fueling the demand. Catch methods like tickle sticks, sand-mimicking tarps, or dragging anchors and equipment across reefs, further damage corals that are protected by law. The DLNR keeps on failing to protect critical public resources. They have not set any limit on permits for aquarium collection and have never engaged in environmental review of this program. Enforcement is ineffective, catch report compliance low. Mean fish length, herbivore biomass, and hard coral cover have declined across most of West Hawaii. Few species in the 35% no-take areas recover. The economic value of a healthy reef for the local people by far outweighs the value of a trade that removes wildlife in an unsustainable manner and serves it to an off-island decor industry and relies on a 90% wildlife mortality rate. Aquarium collection practices is the opposite of how Hawaiian culture traditionally managed the nearshore waters and in contrast to Hawaiian values, which recognize the importance of, and cherish, corals and reef wildlife. Please stop issuing new permits and phase out aquarium collection. Thank you!

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**From:** [suzanne.hammer](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 8:16:31 PM

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Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240. Please end the decades of unsustainable aquarium take, and add the moratorium back in.

aloha I have been swimming snorkeling in Hawaii daily for 45 years and have watched the enormous decline in reef fishes first in Waikiki, then Kailua Bay, and in Hanauma Bay due to illegal taking of fish, and now in Waimanalo bay.

Especially vulnerable are the colorful coral reef fish. There is very little regulation of the aquarium industry and not enough DLNR staff to monitor illegal fishing now. I have watched people taking pails or coolers of fish from various ocean waters. I have heard unsuspecting aquarium collectors brag about their catches and methods of taking fish, i.e. from Hanauma Bay.

I have witnessed "officially authorized " collectors from Aquariums on the mainland take more than the allotted number of fish using unauthorized methods.  
I questioned several of the groups as to whether or not they recognized the decrease in reef fish from year to year. They acknowledged they did.  
Each person thinks of what they want.  
They are not watching the overall populations decline and are stoked when they get the rare find.

I support a ban until populations recover and a sustainable process can be implemented.

Please contact me if you need further information  
Aloha  
Suzanne Hammer MD

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Sunday, February 26, 2017 6:13:32 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Suzanne Shriner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: On the Big Island, the impact of the aquarium trade is immediately obvious. Over the past two decades, I have watched the reef fish populations crash. I swim and paddle in Honaunau bay on a weekly basis. At night, you can see the lights and hear the vacuum pumps of those who suck up all the fish off the reef. During the day, almost no fish are left to view. This is horrible for our visitor industry, not to mention the ecosystem. If for no other reason, we need to set limits to protect the Big Island's reputation as one of the best spots in the world to visit. Please support this bill. Mahalo, Suzanne

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017 1:37:48 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 3/1/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We need to protect reefs by eliminating unsustainable taking of herbivorous fish. Support interim moratorium on taking of our public trust resources.

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**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 8:08:13 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Thomas Haggerty	Individual	Support	No

Comments: YES, I support HB1457/SB1240. No more aquarium permits. Freeze existing permits until DLNR can develop a comprehensive, sustainable management plan. I'm a frequent visitor to Hawaii and I want to see Hawaii reef wildlife living free in the wild on Hawaii reefs.

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**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 9:38:36 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Thomas Melcher	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Stop stripping the Hawaiian reefs of its beautiful creatures. STOP THE AQUARIUM FISH TRADE NOW AND PERMANENTLY, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

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**Cc:** -  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017 5:43:38 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 3/1/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tim Sherburne	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hello! My name is Tim Sherburne, and I live in Washington, the Evergreen State. Hawaii is one of our family's favorite places to vacation, and snorkeling and swimming in Hawaii's beautiful and lively reefs are always at the top of the list of activities. It's what we want to do first, last, and everyday we're there. It's what we come to Hawaii for. We all support SB1240. We want to see Hawaii reef wildlife survive, and thrive, in their natural habitat.

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 4:34:34 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tom Polehinke	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Limits MUST be imposed if we want to be able to see tropical fish in their native habitats in the next 50 years!!

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**From:** [Tom Wallace](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Please Support SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 8:37:47 PM

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Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in support of SB1240.

I snorkle quite often , and would love for us to see tropical fish populations returned.

Warm regards,

Tom Wallace  
Honolulu HI

**From:** [Tracy Jones](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB1240 SD1  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 10:22:54 AM

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Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members, I write in strong support of SB1240. Please end the decades of unsustainable aquarium take, and add the moratorium back in. I assisted the Maui County Council in 2010 with our local efforts in the fish collection ordinance. We need statewide regulation. As a Marine Biologist turned attorney, I have a special appreciation for the environment and for your work. I encourage you to forward this important legislation to protect our reefs from the unbridled harvesting for commercial gain. The tropical fish take poses a serious threat to our ecosystem, and is a priority. Thank you.  
Tracy Jones

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2017 11:39:18 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tulsi Greenlee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I SUPPORT SB1240. Amended...No new permits. STOP THE AQUARIUM TRADE NOW

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**Aloha, I am submitting testimony again for the wise use of Hawaii's natural resources. Again Hawaii benefit more from the bringing people to the fish instead of a few taking fish out of Hawaii. In the aquarium trade article copied below, you can READ where their concern is....their own pocketbooks....and nowhere else. No concern for ALL Hawaii Revenue, no concern for the animals, no concern for the ocean, no concern except for Self – ME ME ME....have we not heard enough of this selfishness ! Please reduce the harvesting and increase the protection of Hawaii's Beautiful Colorful Amazing Reef Fish.**

**“Fish.Aquaculture Vs. Wild-Caught Aquarium Fish**

**<https://www.petcha.com/aquaculture-vs-wild-caught-aquarium-fish/>**

Is it better for the environment for most (perhaps all) of the fish and invertebrates sold in the aquarium hobby to be aqua cultured or to be wild-caught, albeit with sustainable harvesting methods?

Somewhat behind the scenes in the tropical fish industry, there is a very interesting, and important, debate going on. Basically, the debate involves whether it is better for the environment for most (perhaps all) of the fish and invertebrates sold in the hobby to be commercially produced on fish farms or to be taken from the wild, albeit with sustainable harvesting methods.

Most people have an immediate reaction that it is much better to farm fish than to catch them in the wild. However, the proponents of sustainable harvest point out that if fishermen depend on the wild for the source of their income, they will protect that environment, as its continued health is critical to their livelihood.

On the freshwater side of the aquarium hobby, there is really not much left to debate, since better than 90 percent of the fish and invertebrates sold are already commercially aqua cultured either in Florida or the Far East. Many of the few remaining fish that have been traditionally available only from the wild, cardinal tetras and rummy nose tetras for example, are now being produced commercially in large quantities.

On the marine aquarium hobby side, however, this is not the case. The majority of marine fish being aquacultured are clownfish, gobies and dottybacks; invertebrates, especially clams, corals and shrimps are being commercially produced in large quantities. Everything else comes from the wild.

When it comes to marine fish, the aquaculture vs. sustainable harvest debate is very important. There are some who say the aquarium industry is destroying the planet — and are calling for complete bans on any fish for the aquarium hobby. We, as professionals in this industry whose livelihoods depend on there being fish for aquariums, cannot stand idly by. We need to be involved in the debate, and to make it very clear that the incidents of damage to the marine environment because of the hobby are rare. Education is what it is all about. “

**Again you can see / read where their concern is....their own pocketbooks....and nowhere else. No concern for ALL Hawaii Revenue, no concern for the animals, no concern for the ocean, no concern except for me mE ME....have we not heard enough of this selfishness. Please reduce the harvesting and increase the protection of Hawaii's Beautiful Colorful Amazing Reef. Aloha & Mahalo,**

**Most Sincerely, Vivian Toellner**

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**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017 6:10:09 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 3/1/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
William Mehls	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB 1240. As a visitor to Hawaii I was awed by the wildlife living on the reefs. This needs to be conserved and protected. This bill will do just that. Thank you.

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 4:22:38 PM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Zach wise	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Yes! I support SB1240. Stop live export of Hawaii reef wildlife now!

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**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Saturday, February 25, 2017 3:20:15 AM

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**SB1240**

Submitted on: 2/25/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 2, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ziggy Livnat	For The Sea Productions	Support	No

Comments: I support SB1240. The aquarium trade is about animal trafficking and greed. It is disrespectful of living animals and the Hawaiian Ahupua'a. Removing animals that are important for the health of the Hawaiian coral reef they damage the ecosystem forever. Please help to stop it once and for all!

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