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GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE  
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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
WATER AND LAND

Friday, February 2, 2018  
9:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2419  
RELATING TO PORT INFRASTRUCTURE

House Bill 2419 proposes to: (1) Require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to create a strategic plan for maintenance dredging of important port and harbor locations and report the plan to the Legislature; and (2) Appropriate funds for maintenance dredging of harbor and port locations, as identified by the Department. **The Department offers the following comments on this measure.**

The Department acknowledges that the process to implement dredging in state small boat harbors and ramps can be very lengthy. The Department believes that with dedicated funding, the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation can create an in-house strategic plan that would include (1) identification of all state small boat harbors and ramps that require routine maintenance dredging; (2) determination of the frequency of dredging for each location; (3) establishment of a cost estimate for dredging that would include design, permitting, and construction; and (4) identification of the permitting requirements, as set forth by the United States Army Corp of Engineers, the State Department of Health, and all Hawai'i Counties.

Creating the strategic plan required by this measure would be the first step in the permitting process. In order for the plan to have any useful effect, the Department would need guaranteed funding to start the planning for all of these projects. Currently, funding becomes available only when a need exists, and due to the time it takes for the permitting to be processed, the resulting shoaling and accumulation of sand ends up interfering with vessel navigation as well as the launching and retrieving of vessels at state boat ramps.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**HB-2419**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 7:33:39 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shyla Moon		Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2419**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:34:12 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu	Support	No

## Comments:

I support the Department of Land and Natural Resources to create a strategic plan for maintenance dredging of important port and harbor locations and report the plan to the Legislature.

I recommend the report also detail the estimated time for environmental approvals needed for each project to reach completion.

**HB-2419**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 4:44:09 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Antoinette M Davis	Activities & Attractions Association of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2419**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 6:00:38 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chris Kasper	Calypso Charters	Support	No

Comments:

Section 1 of the bill is accurate and more proactive (not reactive) management to dredging harbors is necessary. We strongly support this bill.



January 31, 2018

Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair  
Representative Chris Todd, Vice Chair  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Hearing Date: FRIDAY  
Hearing Time: 9:30 am  
Place: Conference Room 325  
Regarding: HB 2419 RELATING TO PORT INFRASTRUCTURE

**STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2419 Relating to Port Infrastructure**

HFACT is a not-for-profit, IRS 501c(5) organization, that advocates for small boat commercial, non-commercial, and recreational fishermen throughout Hawaii. HFACT board members sit on a number of federal fisheries management and endangered species advisory committees as well as state marine and coastal zone advisory committees; and, HFACT is thoroughly familiar with and participates in ocean and marine resource management in Hawaii and the Western and Central Pacific.

HFACT **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB 2419 because of fishermen's ongoing concern regarding the delayed and oft deferred maintenance of small boat ports, harbors, and channels under the jurisdiction of the DLNR/DOBOR due primarily to funding issues. A case in point is the mid-channel shoal at Channel Marker 1A of the Maunalua Bay channel serving the Hawaii Kai Marina and Maunalua Bay boat launching ramp. Several vessels have suffered catastrophic drive train damages that could have resulted in severe injuries especially during the summer south swell should the vessel lose propulsion and be subject to broaching or capsizing. The shoal amplifies wave heights in the channel further increasing the hazardous condition. Additionally, drive train damages resulted in thousands of dollars in repair and replacement costs to these boaters.

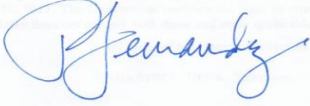
Problems similar to the Maunalua Bay problem exist on every island. Of the many concerns that the boating and fishing community has, boat ramps and small boat ports are consistently on the top of the list.

While there has been progress on the maintenance at some of these facilities the establishment of a prioritized strategic plan is badly needed and HFACT recommends that the correction of critical safety hazards be given the highest priority. Additionally, such a plan would provide the user communities with information that maintenance is planned, prioritized and being budgeted.

***Hawai'i Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition, Inc.***  
***75-796 Hiona Street, Holualoa HI 96725***

HFACT thanks the chair, vice-chair, and committee members for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely and Aloha,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fernandez", is written over a light blue grid background.

Phil Fernandez  
President



COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair

Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen

Rep. Sam Satoru Kong

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey

Rep. Chris Lee

Rep. Cynthia Thielen

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, February 2, 2018

TIME: 9:30 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 325

**TESTIMONY OF THE OCEAN TOURISM COALITION IN SUPPORT HB2419**

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd and Members of the WAL Committee:

My name is James E. Coon, President of the Ocean Tourism Coalition (OTC),  
**speaking in Support of HB 2419 Relating to Port Infrastructure**

The OTC represents over 300 small ocean tourism businesses state wide. All of them operate from State Boating Facilities managed by DLNR/DOBOR.

Several of our Small Boat Harbors and Boat Launch Ramps are subject to periodic buildup of sand at the harbor entrance. When this happens it becomes very dangerous to enter or leave the harbor and will ultimately make the harbor inaccessible until it is dredged. There is a serious need to plan for this ahead of time instead of waiting until it is an emergency to dredge. HB 2419 is correct in its evaluation of the problem and we support the language in the bill.

Please pass HB 2419 so that the critical maintenance of our harbors can be planned for in a systematic manner.

Sincerely,

James E. Coon, President OTC

[captcoon@gmail.com](mailto:captcoon@gmail.com)

808-870-9115



**HB-2419**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 6:22:00 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Zachary LaPrade	Quicksilver Charters	Support	No

Comments:

We operate from Lahaina harbor, and we have experience severe shoaling. The bill's Section 1 accurately explains the situation.