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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Wednesday, March 27, 2019
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 124/HOUSE RESOLUTION 114
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
ESTABLISH THE HAULA BEACH PARK MARINE LIFE CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

House Concurrent Resolution 124/House Resolution 114 requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to establish the Hau‘ula Beach Park Marine Life Conservation District. **The Department appreciates the intent of these measures and offers the following comments.**

Marine Life Conservation Districts (MLCDs) are useful tools for conserving marine life and protecting the marine environment. However, MLCD’s or any designated marine management area (MMA) should include extensive scoping in the local area to gain input and feedback on the potential benefits or impacts of a proposed managed area before making such a designation. For example, the Department recognizes the rural nature of Hau‘ula and has concerns that establishing an MLCD may have adverse impacts on both the community and the nearshore environment. Feedback from the local community would be vital to address these concerns.

MLCDs and other MMAs have historically been designated on a piecemeal basis, with little consideration of ecological connectivity. As part of the Department’s Division of Aquatic Resources’ (DAR) 30x30 Marine initiative, DAR plans to develop a network of MMAs to provide better protections for the State’s nearshore marine resources, while ensuring the continuation of sustainable fishing practices. This process will involve extensive stakeholder input and incorporate the best available scientific data to ensure that the resulting MMA network benefits our nearshore marine resources, our local communities, and our visitors. We encourage all Hawaii residents and stakeholders to engage in the 30x30 planning process to help sustain Hawaii’s marine resources

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.

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

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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

HR-114

Submitted on: 3/22/2019 9:46:33 PM

Testimony for WLH on 3/27/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Gray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you so much for doing the right thing and setting aside some areas for preservation, and to let our ocean recover fish stocks. These areas are really the kitchens for our offshore fish to grow and our lagoons in Punaluu and Hauula are critical areas in trouble. Many locals and tourists enjoyed these areas as protected areas to snorkle in the past. There were many fish, corals, shells, turtles and limu of all kinds. Now there is hardly any living thing left. It is really shocking to me that this has been allowed to happen. There should be no opposition as there is nothing left to catch. After a fishing tournament for big money recently, the lagoon in Punaluu was littered with dead Tako rotting on the beach. This is all wrong. We have a chance to make it right and leave a wonderful legacy, just like the Three Tables Preserve. Mahalo, Laura Gray