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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 125/HOUSE RESOLUTION 115
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
ESTABLISH THE LANIAKEA BEACH MARINE LIFE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

House Concurrent Resolution 125/House Resolution 115 requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to establish the Laniakea Beach 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 has concerns that establishing an MLCD at Laniakea Beach would only increase ocean use in the area and exacerbate existing parking and crowding issues. 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-115

Submitted on: 3/22/2019 9:20:46 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:

Please give us this park to protect the turtles and give our wildlife some breathing space. We should have this designation for the whole island of Oahu for the purpose of rehabilitating our ocean near-shore and letting our marine life recover. As a child I remember healthy reefs and loads of soft corals, blooming corals, brain corals, shells, limu, and giant turtles. Everything has been over-fished and abused. Our lagoons have been stripped of every living thing. It is heart-breaking to me and everyone who knows what it once was. It could be this way again, if only we care enough.