

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Friday, February 21, 2020
12:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2591, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO MARINE RESOURCES**

House Bill 2591, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to provide the Department of Land and Natural Resources (“Department”) with necessary resources associated with the marine 30x30 initiative, including funds for team and staff travel, strategic communication and outreach, professional facilitation, and management plan development. **The Department supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

To reverse declines in its rich heritage and natural resources, in 2016 the State of Hawai‘i launched an ambitious initiative to increase sustainability for our environment and communities, including a commitment to effectively manage at least 30% of nearshore waters around each main Hawaiian island by 2030. Our goal is healthy nearshore ecosystems with abundant resources which allow the people of Hawai‘i to enjoy our coastal waters, support local livelihoods, and feed our families. Working closely with communities and guided by ecological and cultural knowledge, the Department’s Division of Aquatic Resources (“Division”) is leading this effort and actively working to identify areas where improved management will help meet our goals in consultation with scientists, fishermen, cultural practitioners, and other stakeholders.

Broad, inclusive outreach is key to ensure engagement of communities statewide in the initiative. The Division plans to conduct an initial series of 26 “open house” meetings this summer to inform communities about the initiative and seek input on management priorities. Existing Division funds are insufficient to meet the travel, communication, and facilitation support needs of a robust and inclusive public outreach process. This bill would provide funds for team and staff travel, strategic communications and outreach, and facilitation support.

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

The Division has also identified a need to better define management goals for existing and any new proposed management areas to ensure that the state is able to assess the effectiveness of marine resource management measures. Existing Division funds are insufficient to support professional review of the effectiveness of existing marine management areas and development of new marine management measures in consultation with scientific, cultural, and community experts. The bill would provide needed funds to support creation of management plans for existing and new proposed management areas.

The Department supports this bill, and appreciates the opportunity to devote additional resources to engage with communities to advance this important initiative.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HB-2591-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 1:45:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ron Tubbs	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support DLNR with the fundign they need for Ocean Mangement.

Ron Tubbs

Fisherman

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

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NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, February 21, 2020
TIME: 12:00 P.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

COMMENTS WITH SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS ON HB2591 HD1 RELATING TO MARINE RESOURCES

Aloha Honorable Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee on Finance:

While I support the fundamental intent of the bill as it does provide HDAR with the necessary funding to accomplish what has been long absent in its ability to effectively manage our marine resources. The key paradigm that HDAR has ignored has been to engage the user community's early in the management process instead of the after the fact holding of informational meetings and public hearings once the division has decided what the management plan is without the necessary verified science thus only allowing minor tweaking.

The key is the employment of transparent, inclusive, adaptive management based on good verifiable science both contemporary and empirical with established baselines from which to measure success or failure. A division paradigm that also facilitates scheduled reviews and assessments with communication to and engagement of the community, making adjustments or fine tuning of the management measure after analysis and discussion to improve its effectiveness, ensuring community buy-in, and most importantly having a stated "sunset" clause that terminates the management measure if it is not accomplishing its stated objective or revising or eliminating the management measure once the desired objectives are met.

The following are my concerns and comments related to HB2591:

Overview: The 30X30 Plan ASSUMES that the HDAR has NOT EFFECTIVELY MANAGED our marine resources when in actuality, the division has an extensive list of management measures but has not been able to perform the necessary verification and evaluation of these measures lacking the necessary resources to fulfill its fiduciary as prescribed in our State Constitution Article XI Conservation, Control and Development of Resources.

Additionally, it presumes that "marine managed areas" are THE ONLY EFFECTIVE solution. The term "area", is a spatial reference and fails to consider other EFFECTIVE temporal measures such as catch limits, bag and size limits, seasonal closures, kapus, gear restrictions, etc.

Amendments for consideration:

- 1) Page 2 lines 1-3 : Replace "where marine managed areas are proposed" as this presumes a spatial connotation, with "marine management measures". Marine management measures include effective temporal measures such as seasons, kapus, gear restrictions, size and bag limits, etc.
- 2) Page 3 lines 4-15: CRITICAL - Redirect these monies to perform the much-needed science to assess the status of our aquatic resources, establish baselines, identify and prioritize the top 30-percent of marine resources in need of action. Then engage the user community to begin review and analyze the status of the resource (overfishing, overfished, ecosystem impacts to habitat, etc.) toward the development of the best management strategy to employ whether spatial or temporal. The underfunded division has failed to properly initiate, monitor and review the status of our aquatic resources; (fortunately for some species the Federal NOAA Fisheries agencies have addressed the pelagic (tuna and currently addressing other keystone pelagic species) and demersal aquatic resources (Deep 7 Bottomfish; Precious Corals), scientific analyses and have established Stock Assessments and resultant Annual Catch Limits (ACL), and area closures to prevent user conflict between the smallboat and Longline Fleet
- 3) Page 3 lines 1-3: Redirect these funds to performing the necessary science to determine NEEDS if any; Only after the scientific assessment has determined the NEED, can the discussion move to hiring professional facilitators (which in my opinion who are not familiar with our aquatic resources and established management measures does not work in Hawai`i); fund travel expenses; and produce strategic communication and outreach.

Thank you, Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee for this opportunity to comment and offer amendments for consideration to this bill.

Sincerely,

Roy N. Morioka

HB-2591-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 8:50:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2591-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 11:30:55 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shyla Moon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Let them manage with science first before assuming we need more protections for Hawaii's waters. Why base your vote and change our rules on something that has no proof? No money is needed for more protections but more money is needed to have BETTER MANAGEMENT within already established management systems.

Isaac and Shyla Moon

Kauai District 16