

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
WATER & LAND**

**Friday, March 13, 2020
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**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: 3/12/2020 10:12:19 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2020 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lisa Bishop | Testifying for Friends of Hanauma Bay | Support | No |

Comments:

Friends of Hanauma Bay strongly supports this bill!

Lisa Bishop

President



March 12, 2020

Dear Senate Water and Land Committee,

We are writing to support HB2591. The West Hawai'i Fishery Council (WHFC) enables a forum for public discussion and community engagement about the management of near-shore resources on the island.

A selection of the WHFC's accomplishments since being created by Act 306 are:

- Establishing ten Fish Replenishment Areas (FRAs) which prohibit aquarium fishing and fish feeding.
- Recommending amendments to the initial FRA rule to enhance enforcement and initiate the implementation of a sustainable, limited entry commercial aquarium fishery.
- Working with DLNR on the day-use mooring buoy program to site these buoys and inform communities of the value of such moorings to preserve our coral reefs.
- Developing rule amendments to provide limited kupuna harvesting of wana (sea urchins) within the Old Kona Airport Marine Life Conservation District (MLCD).
- Developing a set of gill net rule recommendations focused on limiting impacts of large-scale commercial netting while providing for subsistence netting. Six no-gill net refuges have been established as well as a Hawaiian cultural netting area (hand constructed, natural fiber nets only). The Council's approach served as a subsequent model for state-wide gill net management.

Our coastal resources are under increasing environmental pressure, and the time to act is now. Many types of management can take upwards of 10 years to be approved. At the end of 2013, the Board of Land and Natural Resources approved, and Governor Abercrombie signed, a significant package of rule amendments that WHFC had been working on for ten years. These issues relate directly to the mandates of Act 306 (re-designated as HAR §13-60.4) to ensure sustainability, enhance near shore resources and minimize conflicts of use on West Hawai'i's coral reefs. They are:

- Prohibition of SCUBA spearfishing within the WHRFMA
- Closure of an area fronting Ka'ohe (Pebble Beach), South Kona to aquarium collecting to reduce/eliminate longstanding user conflicts and resource concerns.
- Management of species of special concern. Eliminating the take of a number of vulnerable but ecologically and culturally important species and restricting aquarium harvesting to a limited number of species (40). Proposing size and/or bag limits for aquarium collectors for three species (yellow tang, kole, and Achilles tang).

"To provide for substantive involvement of the community in resource management decisions; encourage scientific research and monitoring of the nearshore resources and environment from Upolu Point to Ka Lae; to work toward and advise about the resolution of conflicts of use and the enhancement of nearshore resources; and to assist in the development and implementation of management plans for minimizing resource depletion; per legislative mandate to the Department of Land and Natural Resource."

For such an extensive statewide initiative as 30x30, funds will need to be allocated to enable effective community engagement in the process. We have seen this to be essential in the establishment and maintenance of effective management, and support HB2591 in doing this.

Mahalo nui,

WEST HAWAI'I FISHERY COUNCIL MEMBERS

For follow-up, please contact:

Lisa Vollbrecht
Co-Chair, West Hawai'i Fishery Council
808-343-5327
lisavollbrecht@live.ca

73-4618 Kaloko Halia Pl.
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

12 March 2020

To : Senate Committees on Water and Lands, and Ways and Means

R.e. HB 2591 HD1 RELATING TO MARINE RESOURCES.

To be heard on Friday, 03/13/20 1:15 PM.

At State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Sen. Kahele, Vice Chair Sen. Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Lands, and

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

I write in **strong suport** of HB 2591 HD1 RELATING TO MARINE RESOURCES, which appropriates funds to provide DLNR with necessary resources associated with the marine 30 x 30 initiative. Funding the 30 x 30 is an essential step to moving these community consultations forward. It is also an essential step for us accepting responsibility for the stewardship of our reefs and waters.

I am trained as a marine biologist, and have worked as a fisheries management researcher, and an aquaculture researcher. I have lived, dived, surfed and fished in Kona for the last 30 years. I pretty much gave up spearfishing about 15 years ago, because I was so saddened by the continuing decline of our local reef fish population.

I am also a member of the West Hawaii Fisheries Management Council.

Many of us, in our communities, often vocally assert our rights to exploit the common property of our marine resources. I would suggest that instead, we should all start to assert our responsibilities towards stewardship over these resources a lot more strongly. We have a responsibility to manage our reefs for the next generations. We also have a responsibility to manage our reefs because they are part of Creation – they are part of our wondrous planet, and any diminishing of the diversity, productivity and beauty of these reefs diminishes us all.

The State needs to assume these responsibilities, by first funding the 30 x 30 program. Anything less is an abrogation of those responsibilities.

The UN's Sustainable Development Goals set targets to "conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources". These include the target to "sustainably manage and

protect marine and coastal ecosystems” (SDG 14.2) and “By 2020, (to) effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing (and) ... implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible” (SDG 14.4), and to “conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas” (SDG 14.5).

I would also urge the Legislature to demand that the 30% of Hawaii’s state waters that are placed under management be placed under effective management, with adequate enforcement. The tragedy of ineffectual management, poorly enforced, was most recently highlighted in a Guardian newspaper article on the ecological destruction that has continued to occur in the Hauraki Gulf, in New Zealand, in spite of it being under management as a “Marine Protected Area”. (Please see link to the article, below – it is very much worth your reading).

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments, and for your support for managing our reefs, for the benefit of us all, and for the benefit of the reefs themselves.

Mahalo, and aloha,



Neil Anthony Sims, M.Sc.
Co-Founder, CEO, Ocean Era, LLC
President, The Ocean Stewards Institute
neil@ocean-era.com (808) 989 2438

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/mar/11/we-used-to-be-leaders-the-collapse-of-new-zealands-landmark-ocean-park>

cc. Sen. Lorraine Inouye: seninouye@capitol.hawaii.gov
cc. Sen. Dru Kanuha: senkanuha@capitol.hawaii.gov