

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 House Committee on
WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Friday, January 31, 2020
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2591
RELATING TO MARINE RESOURCES

House Bill 2591 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

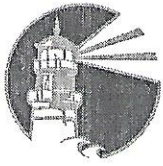
M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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.



Ocean Tourism Coalition

The Voice for Hawaii's Ocean Tourism Industry
1188 Bishop St., Ste. 1003**Honolulu, HI 96813-2938
(808) 537-4308 Phone (808) 533-2739 Fax
timlyons@hawaiiantel.net

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair

Rep. Sharon E. Har Rep. Tina Wildberger
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen Rep. Gene Ward
Rep. David A. Tarnas

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, January 31, 2020
TIME: 9:00 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 325

**TESTIMONY OF THE OCEAN TOURISM COALITION IN CONDITIONAL SUPPORT
HB2591 RELATING TO MARINE RESOURCES**

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd and Members of WLH Committee:

My name is James E. Coon, President of the Ocean Tourism Coalition (OTC),
speaking in CONDITIONAL SUPPORT of HB 2591 Relating to Marine Resources.

The OTC represents over 300 small ocean tourism businesses state wide. Most of these are family businesses which are locally owned and operated. All of them operate in waters managed by DLNR/DOBOR. In order for DLNR/DAR to effectively manage the State's nearshore resources in response to the Governor's Marine 30x30 initiative it is vital that funding be provided for this plan.

We are conditionally supporting this bill, however we want to also ensure that our important marine tourism industry is recognized for the stewardship role we have historically performed and work collaboratively with DAR in this planning process. Our concern is that our important needs will be minimized and that we have adequate representation in the stakeholder meetings.

Sincerely,

James E. Coon, President OTC

HB-2591

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 2:46:02 PM

Testimony for WLH on 1/31/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Fernley	Coral Fish Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2591

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 11:17:44 PM

Testimony for WLH on 1/31/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roy N Morioka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Honorable Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs And Members

I write in strong opposition as this measure would support the 30x30 Initiative that currently has not determined the status of the marine resources that it proposes to effectively manage by the creation of Marine Protected Areas. This is clear example of placing the cart before the horse. To effectively manage anything one must use the best available science to determine the need, define potential solutions, and strategies BEFORE engaging stakeholders.

Funding if any should initially go toward science-based assessment to determine the status of the marine resource in need of management. Thank you for this opportunity to testify and my apologies for not properly addressing the committee as I am at sea fishing and using my smartphone to submit. Respectfully yours, Roy Morioka

HB-2591

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 10:02:44 AM

Testimony for WLH on 1/31/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Cheung	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Existing state management measures are inadequate because of a lack of enforcement. We need to manage 100% of Hawaii's waters for the benefit of 100% of our communities. What we do not need is to spend \$42,120 on airplane tickets or \$150,000 on developing more unenforceable and inadequate management plans.