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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 Senate Committee on  
WATER AND LAND

Monday, March 15, 2021  
1:00 PM

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 229

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1016, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO THE TAKING OF MARINE LIFE

House Bill 1016, House Draft 1 proposes to clarify that a valid commercial marine vessel license shall satisfy the commercial marine license requirement for all persons taking marine life for commercial purposes aboard a validly licensed vessel; and requires any person who provides fishing charter services to obtain a commercial marine license. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this Administration measure and offers the following comments.**

Currently each individual on a fishing vessel must have the individual's own commercial marine license (CML) to participate in a commercial fishing trip (where any portion of the catch may be sold). This places logistical and financial burdens on vessel captains when part-time crew members are needed for a commercial fishing trip, or when unscheduled or infrequent visitors are invited aboard. It also leads to confusion regarding who is responsible for submitting commercial catch reports for fishing activities onboard the vessel.

The Department intends to amend its CML rules to establish a new commercial marine vessel license (CMVL) category. The CMVL, which would cover everyone onboard under one license and eliminate the need for individual licenses, would be more convenient and cost-effective for Hawaii boat-based fishers. The CMVL rules would clarify who is responsible for submitting catch reports for the vessel.

The measure also provides clarification and consistency regarding the CML requirement for fishing charter services. Current statutory wording expressly requires vessel-based charters to obtain a CML. It is unclear however whether shore-based charters are also required to obtain a CML. The measure would clarify that any person providing fishing charter services, whether vessel-based or shore-based, must first obtain a CML. This will allow the Department to better understand and manage marine charter fishing activities in the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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  
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Senate Committee on WATER AND LAND

March 15, 2021 1:00 pm

**House Bill 1016, HD1: Relating to the Taking of Marine Life**

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee, my name is Brooks Takenaka, General Manager of the United Fishing Agency aka the Honolulu Fish Auction.

**We strongly support HB 1016, HD1.**

HB 1016, HD1 will allow Department of Land and Natural Resources/Division of Aquatic Resources to establish a “vessel” commercial marine license (“CMVL”) that will satisfy an individual’s licensure requirement if aboard a valid licensed vessel.

A vessel’s “CMVL” will simplify the licensing requirements, be a more efficient permitting system and improve catch reporting. We ask for your favorable consideration that will support Hawaii’s fishermen and commercial fishing enterprises which provide fresh, high quality seafood that’s critical to our local food security and provides many cultural and economic benefits to the state.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and share our views in support of HB 1016, HD1.

**HB-1016-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2021 8:09:20 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
William K. Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this Bill

Mahalo for allowing my testimony