

DAVID Y. IGE
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 1023, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO A NONRESIDENT RECREATIONAL MARINE FISHING LICENSE**

House Bill 1023, House Draft 1 proposes to establish a nonresident recreational marine fishing license requirement and fees to enable the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to more effectively manage the marine fisheries resources of the State. **The Department supports this Administration bill and offers the following comments.**

Hawaii's marine fishing opportunities attract thousands of visitors each year. With ever increasing pressure on the State's marine fishery resources, it is critical that the State identify and develop sustainable sources of funding to effectively manage its fisheries. Nonresident fishers directly benefit from the enjoyment of Hawaii's marine fishery resources without directly contributing to management of those resources.

The concept of a non-commercial marine fishing license has been introduced in the past, most recently in 2018 (House Bill 1752; Senate Bill 2052). Both measures met resistance from resident fishers, who indicated that a fee-based fishing license was financially burdensome, infringed on fishing rights, and needed more public outreach prior to legislation. A recreational marine license requirement that would only apply to nonresidents would avoid most of these concerns.

Given the increased budget constraints due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a nonresident recreational marine license and associated fees would provide a much-needed source of revenue to the State for marine fisheries management. License revenues could also be used as match for federal funds received through the Federal Sportfish Restoration Program. Current sources of State match have been adversely affected by budget reductions, and as a result, the Department risks not being able to maximize federal funding opportunities.

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 Department estimates that implementing a non-resident recreational marine fishing license as proposed would generate roughly \$1 million annually. Costs to implement this license would include a one-time investment of \$400,000 for IT hardware and software design and development, and annual operating costs of approximately \$100,000.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HB-1023-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 10:54:40 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In support

HB-1023-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 12:58:23 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair, the Honorable Senator Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land.

From: HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION – HIROC (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing HB1022 HD1 RELATING TO A NONREDIDENT RECREATIONAL MARINE FISHING LICENSES

Hearing Date: [Monday, March 15, 2021, 1:00 pm](#), by videoconference

Position: STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB1023 HD1!

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

The HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION – HIROC – was formed in 2017 by coral reef scientists, educators, local Hawaii environmental organizations, elected officials, and others to address the crisis facing Hawaii's coral reefs and other marine life. **HIROC STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1023 HD1!**

Our reefs and oceans are under great stress and need funding for protection! Coral bleaching, polluted runoff, unsustainable fishing, and invasive species are all degrading our reefs and oceans that are critical for protecting our aquatic life and shorelines and maintaining our tourism and recreational economy.

This bill would help the State identify and develop sustainable sources of funding to effectively manage its fisheries by establishing a nonresident recreational marine fishing license and associated fees. HIROC believes this bill would help the State manage its fisheries, which would help maintain our reef and ocean health.

Please pass this Bill!

Mahalo!

Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

HB-1023-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 9:45:08 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Inga Gibson	Testifying for For the Fishes	Comments	No

Comments:

March 15, 2021 WTL 1pm

RE: AMENDMENT TO HB1023 NONRESIDENT RECREATIONAL MARINE FISHING LICENSES

Dear Chair Inouye and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

We respectfully request your consideration of 1 amendment, to change "shall" to "may" below, so the Department may retain their appropriate discretionary authority in issuing these new permits. "May" is consistent with other statutes and chapters relating to the issuance of licenses and allows DLNR to reject an application if the applicant has lost their fishing or hunting license in another state for poaching or other wildlife offenses and as may be identified through the Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact.

Page 3, line 8, (b) change shall to may:

(b) Nonresident recreational marine fishing licenses ~~shall~~ **may** be issued by agents of the department upon written application...

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Inga Gibson, On behalf of For the Fishes

LATE

HB-1023-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 9:46:54 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Volker Poelzl	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the Senate Committee on WATER AND LAND

Testimony in support of HB-1023, RELATING TO A NONRESIDENT RECREATIONAL MARINE FISHING LICENSE

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB-1023. It is time to realize that our ocean resources are limited and that sharing our fisheries with 10 million tourists at no charge is not sustainable. We need to protect the resources we treasure. HB-1023 is a step in the right direction.

I fully concur with the testimony given by Suzanne D. Case, chairperson of DLNR. Her testimony clearly shows why this bill is necessary.

Mahalo nui,

Volker Poelzl