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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 House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Thursday, February 4, 2021
9:00 AM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 430

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1023
RELATING TO A NONRESIDENT RECREATIONAL MARINE FISHING LICENSE**

House Bill 1023 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.

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
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LAND
STATE PARKS

LATE

HB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 9:49:20 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua DeMello	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill. Recreational fishing universe is unknown. This will be the first step in proper management of HAWAII's ocean resources. If you find resistance to a license, perhaps the legislature can amend the bill to require a registry for all recreational fishermen. While I would prefer the legislature provide DLNR-DAR the authority to implement licenses, as it provides a more transparent process for the community, it may be too late to do. The legislature may also consider providing DLNR-DAR to issue tags or stamps for popular recreational fish like marlin that could produce revenue and help protect the species. This is done in the states hunting program with the gamebird stamp and in other areas like Alaska for species like King salmon.