

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
FINANCE**

**Wednesday, March 31, 2021
1:30 PM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 308

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1313, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO SPORT FISH**

Senate Bill 1313, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 2 proposes to require the Division of Aquatic Resources of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to establish a pilot project to restock the Wahiawā public fishing area with northern largemouth bass, butterfly peacock bass, or both. **The Department appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.**

Wahiawā public fishing area is an important sport fishery. The Department has supported and will continue to support responsible freshwater recreational fishing for introduced target species including the northern largemouth bass and butterfly peacock bass. Wahiawā is also an artificial reservoir, thus the Department approaches management differently at this reservoir compared to natural water bodies. Fishing opportunities have declined in recent years at Wahiawā and stakeholders, scientist, and managers have identified several factors that may have contributed to this decline. These factors include lowering of the reservoir due to safety reasons, loss of shoreline habitat, undesirable introduced species preying on target species, limited prey or food for target species, poor genetics, limited stocking, and the uncertain future status of the Wahiawā reservoir due to private ownership. The Department is committed to working with stakeholders and partners to improve and enhance sport fishing opportunities at Wahiawā reservoir.

Comments regarding establishment of a pilot project

The Department appreciates the opportunity to engage the Legislature and other stakeholders to address any of the perceived detrimental factors mentioned above, including an activity to establish a pilot project to restock the Wahiawā public fishing area with northern largemouth bass, butterfly peacock bass, or both.

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

At the moment, the Department does not have the resources to do this. The biologist that managed Wahiawā reservoir activities has recently retired, and we are unable to fill this vacancy due to COVID-19 related budget restrictions. Existing staff are already stretched too thin. Until we are able to fill this vacant sportfish biologist position, we lack the capacity to take on restocking operations at the reservoir.

Another hurdle the Department must overcome before this pilot project can be implemented is the fact that the northern largemouth bass is currently not on any of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture's (HDOA's) import lists, and thus import of the species is completely prohibited. Before the Department can apply to HDOA for a permit to import northern largemouth bass, we must first petition the Board of Agriculture to place it on one of its import lists. We do not know how long this process will take, or if the petition would even be granted. However, we recognize that this is a legislative priority, and we will work diligently to obtain any permits or approvals required for the pilot project.

Comments regarding importation and restocking

In natural freshwater settings, the Department prioritizes management activities toward the conservation of indigenous species and habitats. Non-native species are one of the primary threats to indigenous species and the Department is committed to the prevention of non-native species introduction. Northern largemouth bass and butterfly peacock bass are considered invasive in natural water bodies due to their predatory nature, and both species have the potential to adversely impact Hawaii's native stream species such as the 'o'opu and 'ōpae. Given that these species already occur in Wahiawā reservoir, we see little threat in importing northern largemouth bass and butterfly peacock bass solely to be stocked in Wahiawā reservoir, assuming best management practices are followed to prevent disease and parasite transmission.

Release of the northern largemouth bass and butterfly peacock bass should only occur under the supervision of the Department. State law currently prohibits the "release [of] any live non-native fish or other live non-native aquatic life being held in an aquarium or other confinement for scientific study, exhibition, display, sale, or for any other purpose, into any waters of the State."¹

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

¹ Hawaii Revised Statutes §187A-6.5

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
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TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND
COMMERCE

MARCH 31, 2021
1:30 PM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 1313, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO SPORT FISH

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1313, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 2, relating to sport fish. The Bill requires the Division of Aquatic Resources of the Department of Land and Natural Resources ("DLNR") to establish a pilot project to restock the Wahiawa Public Fishing Area with northern largemouth bass, butterfly peacock bass, or both. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture ("Department") offers the following comments.

The Department is appreciative that the bill recognizes the need to utilize the existing review framework in Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") Chapter 150A and Hawaii Administrative Rules §4-71 to determine the appropriate list placement and establishment of permit conditions for stocking the northern largemouth bass, *Micropterus salmoides salmoides*, and the butterfly peacock bass, *Cichla ocellaris*, into the Wahiawa Public Fishing Area. The existing regulatory process for importation of new species has improved significantly over the years, and barring any significant known or suspected adverse impacts, can be completed in a relatively timely manner through compliance with existing safeguards and review.



The Department would like to note that placement of the northern largemouth bass on the List of Conditionally Approved Animals (“CA List”) is not a pre-requisite for projects involving stocking of fish. The Department notes that the CA List is the least restrictive of the lists maintained by the Hawaii Board of Agriculture (“Board”), not the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and that during the review process, should the northern largemouth bass be placed on the Restricted Animal List, Part B (“RB List”), the Board could still allow DLNR the ability to import and subsequently stock the northern largemouth bass into Wahiawa Public Fishing Area. However, placement on the RB List would prevent private individuals or pet stores from importing, possessing, or selling it as a pet in the state, which could be permitted under CA List placement, thereby minimizing the risk of spread or possible introduction to other bodies of water. Based on the existing RB List, the Florida largemouth bass, *M. salmoides floridanus* is currently placed there and after review, a similar placement for the northern largemouth bass may also be appropriate and would not be an impediment to stocking of the animal for fishing. Additionally, there is already precedent for DLNR to import and stock organisms on the RB List as rainbow trout are currently on this list.

The Department is aware that both species of bass are present in the Wahiawa Public Fishing Area. The presence or establishment of a species within the State is not a reasonable justification for placement on the CA List and further importation without proper review and assessment of potential impacts on the environment as the review process is designed to manage those potential risks. If the notion that the presence or establishment of a species in the state could potentially lessen restrictions or increase the likelihood that future importation or possession may be allowed, this could result in an increase in illegal importation, unwanted movement between areas within the state, and illegal release of prohibited animals.

In recognition of the potential economic, recreational, and aquacultural benefits sought by this measure, modifications or enhancements to the review and approval process for new species could be considered. While maintaining the rigorous standards

of review under HRS Chapter 343, the criteria for assessing impacts could be clarified to allow a track record over a significant period that demonstrates no significant impacts have occurred or is likely to occur from the presence of a previously established but currently unlisted species, and can be a basis for eligibility under a categorical exemption. Such eligibility could be further conditioned upon appropriate precautionary conditions being imposed on the proposed activity to mitigate any potential for harm, which the Board is already authorized to do. Additionally, the Board could also adopt additional controls to disincentivize the illicit importation of potentially invasive animals by allowing the application of these provisions to actions initiated and performed by governmental agencies only.

Provided DLNR has the resources and capability to manage the risks for introduction of the two species of bass, the Department will continue to collaborate and work with DLNR to implement the purpose of this measure, such as with rainbow trout for Kauai.

The Department recognizes the need for aquaculture for food and other activities such as sport fishing, and supports these efforts provided they do not compromise the State's efforts to keep out harmful invasive species.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-1313-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 12:14:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Clinton Dingal	Hawaii Freshwater Fishing Association	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha All,

As a avid fisherman, registered voter, and a constituent, I ask you to please schedule, hear, and support SB1313, Relating to Sport Fish, which would help improve the pre-existing population of fresh-water sport fish that have been fished in our state for over a century.

With this bill, it can boost the economy in so many ways. It can create jobs in supporting industries/ local areas. It can create more fisherman to be motivated to fish in our lake and be beneficial to the surrounding business areas. This bill passing will also catch the attention of other fisherman worldwide. This will boost tourism thus boosting our economy.

The state could also implement a parking fee which I would not mind at all, if this bill goes through and our fishery gets stocked regularly, I personally would not mind paying a parking fee.

I have only been fishing the lake for about a year now, and hearing stories of how great the fishing was back then, makes me want to experience the joy of fishing a well stocked/maintained lake. Creating joyful and unforgettable memories with the family along with their generations to follow is priceless (not considering the parking fee stated above). Regular stocked fish will bring more people, with more people equals an economy boosted.

Northern Largemouth Bass and Peacock Bass are currently in the lake and have been for awhile now. They have been in the lake as long as 1896 (Largemouth) and 1957 (Peacock). But their population has dwindled which caused the catch rate to be very difficult.

On the environmental standpoint, a well stocked lake will assist the natural processes of an aquatic ecosystem, which will improve water quality and control of pest species.

Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this issue further

Clinton Dingal

Hawaii Freshwater Fishing Association

[808-673-1173](tel:808-673-1173)

clinton_dingal@yahoo.com

Aloha Chair Representative Luke , Vice Chair Representative Cullen, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kevin Hirokane, I am a resident of Wahiawa, avid fisherman, member of Hawaii Freshwater Fishing Association, and a registered voter. I humbly ask you to please support SB1313, relating to sport fishing, which would help improve our pre-existing population of freshwater sport fish that have been in Hawaii and fished for over a century.

I've been fishing Lake Wilson/Wahiawa reservoir for 35 years. I started fishing as a young kid with friends walking along the banks of Lake Wilson, I fish now a few times a week for recreation with my own children, and competitively with my Bass Fishing Club (HFFA) on bass fishing boats. I have seen a drastic decline in catch rates throughout the years, especially for largemouth bass. These days it's so rare to catch a largemouth bass, even after multiple outings, we are lucky to even catch one. Many generations of inbreeding and lack of genetic diversity, I feel, has been a detriment to the species, resulting in less fish.

One of the common reservations people have is the reluctance to bring in new species of fish to our island. I too am conscious of environmental impacts which is why I support this bill. SB1313 only seeks to remove the clerical barriers of bringing in additional stock of fish that are already pre-existing in Lake Wilson. The State, through DAR, has been supporting Wahiawa largemouth bass hatchery for many years, for bass restocking. However, the existing bureaucratic process means that the State Division of Aquatic Resources cannot import new breeding stock to improve current and future population. As a result, the largemouth and peacock bass population has been on a steady decline due to limited genetic diversity.

Keeping importation within the State departments and not open to public import is very important. This bill seeks only to release bass in the artificial reservoir of the Wahiawa public fishing area.

Brought in by the DLNR, SB1313 intends to increase the quality of existing and future fish by improving the genetic pool. Thus, creating a better fishing experience for families and sport fishermen. There are many potential economic benefits that will make a positive impact for our communities. Bass fishing is a billion dollar industry in the United States. Hawaii and Florida are the only 2 states where both species exist, and can be caught in the same body of water. Tourists travel to Florida and spend hundreds of millions of dollars each year to catch these species. Oahu's Lake Wilson, is a hidden gem. Hawaii, like Florida, could attract tourists from all over the county, Japan, ect. to catch one or both of our hard fighting sport fish. There are many communities in the U.S near public fisheries that are driven economically by recreational and sports bass fishing.

Improving bass fishing would have great economic value for the Wahiawa community and the State. This could potentially create opportunities for fishing stores, boat sales, retail shops, food establishments, and additional job creation. The state would have an opportunity to generate revenue through the sale of fishing licenses, boat registration, ramp

fees, tourism, etc. There are many communities in the U.S near public fisheries that are driven economically by recreational and sport bass fishing.

The State, through DAR, has been supporting a Wahiawa largemouth bass hatchery for many years. However, the existing bureaucratic process means that the State Division of Aquatic Resources cannot import new breeding stock to improve current and future population. As a result, the Largemouth bass and Peacock bass population has been steadily declining due to limited genetic diversity.

The best part is all of these improvements would be very low to zero cost for the State of Hawaii. Organizations such as the Hawaii Freshwater Fish Association (HFFA) are willing to fund the purchase of these fish. We just need your support of SB1313

In addition to the potential financial benefits and promotion of tourism this bill will benefit Hawaii Residents. Many residents of Wahiawa and across the island have been bass fishing at Lake Wilson for many generations. Now their kids and grandchildren continue this pastime and are creating lifelong memories of fishing themselves. I ask that you consider supporting SB1313 so myself, my children, and many others can share the love of bass fishing for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration, time, and effort. Mahalo and Aloha.

Respectfully,
Kevin Hirokane

As an avid freshwater fisherman, a registered voter, and the President of the Hawaii Freshwater Fishing Association, I ask you to please schedule, hear, and support SB1313, Relating to Sport Fish, which would help improve the pre-existing population of fresh-water sport fish that have been fished in our state for over a century.

A hidden gem in Central O'ahu, the Wahiawa Reservoir (commonly known as Lake Wilson) is the only public freshwater fishing resource on O'ahu. Visitors worldwide come to catch the hard fighting Largemouth and Peacock bass that live there. Some of these visitors come to the island specifically to fish there. Consider the Japanese tourist who has three precious days to spend in Hawaii, and who will dedicate a whole day to fishing on the Lake. These visitors spend generously at our shops and restaurants and are the backbone to our economy.

I can remember days of my youth, riding my bicycle to the "river" to fish for bass. I would save every penny I earned to buy that certain "hot" lure from Sawada Store on cane Street. Or hoping to receive that "Mitchell 300" spinning reel for Christmas. I spent many days on the banks catching bass and still do to this day. For reference, the year that they stocked Peacock Bass was the year I graduated from high school.

Largemouth bass were introduced to the islands in 1896, the Peacock bass in 1975. Somehow, these fish were not listed on any list of conditionally approved, restricted, or prohibited animals. It's like they don't exist! But we know better.

With the large interest in so-called eco-tourism, I think that it would be in the best interest of the State of Hawaii to promote, foster and nurture the multi-million-dollar bass fishing industry in this state by providing stocking opportunities with the passing of this bill.

Please support SB 1313.

Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

Paul Lacerdo
President, Hawaii Freshwater Fishing Association
1122 Kalauipo Place
Pearl City, HI 96782
(808)291-3856



WAHIAWA

Community Based Development Organization (WCBDO)

PO Box 861191, Wahiawa HI 96786 wahiawacbdo.org

March 29, 2021

LATE

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House Committee on Finance

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1313 RELATED TO SPORT FISH

Aloha Chair Luke and members of the Committee on Finance:

Thank you for your further consideration of SB1313, relating to sport fish. The **Wahiawa Community Based Development Organization dba Wahiawa Fresh!**, continues its strong support of this initiative, which would help restock Lake Wilson with imported sport fish to improve the existing population that has existed in the lake for decades.

This bill has important implications for our Wahiawa community, and specifically, we feel it can have an important economic impact for our historic plantation town. Like many towns that have had to pivot from their historic industries, we are seeking new diverse opportunities. Sport fishing, enhanced recreation, and the improvement of a real, natural gem (Lake Wilson) on the island will bring positive changes, including new business ventures and increased traffic to existing businesses.

Further, freshwater sports fishing will attract enthusiasts from around the world, and it will introduce the sport to residents, particularly our youth and seniors. It would have ecological benefits as well—diversifying the fish population, improving lake quality, and perhaps easing fishing activity from our ocean shores.

I know there are reservations about the importation of these species, but these fishes have been in the lake for decades. A larger gene pool will support a stronger population into the future. In addressing budgetary and logistical concerns of this proposal, please know that there are current hatchery resources at the lake, and that groups like ours stand ready to help with volunteer conservation and to support management of any restocking program.

Please note that we support the current amendments, including those recommended in SB1313 HD 2 addressing the concerns of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I urge your support of this important initiative for Wahiawa, and I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Darin Uesugi
Board Vice President

SB-1313-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 12:11:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arthur Hamabata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

All Representatives,

As a registered voter and avid freshwater fisherman, I would like you all to schedule, hear and support SB1313.

Ever since I was a little kid, my dad used to take me fishing there. I remember catching a lot of largemouth bass. This is where I learn to fish and learned about "catch and release".

However, ever since I've returned home from the military and just recently retired from the HIANG, I've noticed that there seems to be not many largemouth bass any more. Don't know why that is.

This would be great for Hawaii's economy by bring in tourist to fish for Hawaii's largemouth and especially the Peacock bass. The only other place the has Peacock bass in the U.S. is Fla. In fact, a lot of them probably don't know we even have freshwater fishing here.

A couple of our bass fishing club members are fishing tour guides. They take folks out on fishing tours from all over.

Other than here, When I go to Louisiana to visit one of my daughters, I also go bass fishing up there on either on my brother-in-law's 30+ acre lake or at some other lakes. We even drive an hour away just to go fishing, in a boat of course.

SB-1313-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 12:18:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As an active sport fisherman, I ask you guys to please support SB1313 and pass the bill, As it is relating to Sport Fishing which will help improve not only the current freshwater ecosystem but also improve freshwater sport fishing conditions. SB1313 can boost the economy, create jobs and support local businesses around Oahu. Bass fishing is a billion dollar industry in the US alone with a good freshwater lake that holds largemouth and peacock bass, it will bring more fisherman not only locally but from around the world. Peacock bass is considered a bucket list fish to many fisherman, to improve our lake would help motivate anglers to come to the islands and chase there dreams. The state could also implement a parking fee at the lake, if this bill goes through and our fishery gets stocked regularly and the fishing conditions improve anglers would not mind paying a fee to park with that, opening the lake up to boaters to fish at night is also something that should be implemented. I have been fishing the lake for a little over 5 years now and when talking to the older generation and hearing stories of how our lake was a top 10 fishery in the US is just crazy to think of how it could be and once's was. I would love to experience all the joys of fishing a well stocked and maintained home lake while creating unforgettable memories with friends and family. Thank you for your hearing me, and please consider passing bill SB1313.

Tight Lines,

Kevin Lo

SB-1313-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 12:54:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

OPPOSE

Reiterating that we should NOT be introducing invasive species or ones that are not part of our islands to our waters or land. To do this just so the military people can have sport fishing is especially egregious. There are many bills that I read, many that truly disrespect the islands and the people. This one ranks very high up on disrespect. There is plenty of fishing around the islands. Let them learn a way of the islands. JUST NO.

SB-1313-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 12:58:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vivian S. Toellner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Again this is not a necessity So if budget is tight, this is something that can be postponed or cut. Also generally against invasive species, even though these fish have already been introduced, Try return the islands back to nature as much as possible. Aloha.

SB-1313-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 1:46:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tony Waldo II	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing to request your support of SB1313. My Ohana enjoys the recreational use of Lake Wilson, and spend many hours fishing. During this time, my wife, kids and I not only enjoy time together, but spend a lot of time teaching/learning life lessons, and creating memories. SB1313 will assist in ensuring that this can't continue for generations to come.

Thanks for your support.

Tony Waldo

1373 Kupau St., Kailua

SB-1313-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 4:47:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heidi Waldo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

for stocking of lake Wilson

SB-1313-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 5:50:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Albert Gomes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello everyone!

I'm writing in support of bill SB1313 for sport fishing in Hawaii. Let's get this final push and finish strong on this bill!! I realize that not everyone is in favor of this bill, but I strongly feel that if you come in with an open heart and mind that in the long run you will not regret it. There is so much positives that can and will come out of this!! Please help us make our lakes and streams better than it has ever been. Not just for us, but for the future as well. I thank you in advance for letting our voices be heard.

ALOHA!!

Albert Gomes

alenboygomes@yahoo.com

(808)223-8035

SB-1313-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 5:51:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
brent young	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support and pass SB1313

Aloha, please pass SB1313 as we are in great need of a stronger gene pool of bass in lake Wilson. The stronger bass will help businesses island wide. Anglers will need tackle, they will shop at their favorite tackle shop. People will need snacks, food, drinks, apparel, and they will go visit their favorite shop for that. Having a nice strong bass population in lake Wilson will also give our service men and women who tropo, a little bit of "home".

Mahalo. Brent Young

SB-1313-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 6:02:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ralf G. Oide	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an avid fisherman, both ocean and fresh water I would like to express my support for SB 1313 to be considered for passage.

I have fished Lake WILSON for over 40 years and have enjoyed the facility immensely. In recent years I have noted a serious decline in the amount of large mouth bass that have inhabited the lake and know that at one time there were efforts in restocking the lake to enhance the bass population. That doesn't appear to be happening recently hence the decline in species population

An attempt at restocking would greatly enhance the popularity of the lake and encourage greater use of the facility. I'm sure that like myself there would be many in our community that have experienced many pleasant memories by having access to the bass when restocking occurs. There also a segment of our community that provides guide services at the lake. Restocking would enhance the demand for these people's services engaged in guiding tours.

My children and grandchildren also have fond memories of fish caught at the lake. Restocking would encourage many people to make use of the facility.

Please seriously consider scheduling a hearing for the bill and encourage your legislative colleagues to consider passing the bill also.

Your consideration in this matter would be greatly appreciated by me, my children, my grandkids and other fisher friends of mine.

Mahalo nui loa.
Ralf G. Oide

Sent from my iPhone

SB-1313-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 6:33:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I would like to address Representative Chair Luke, Representative Vice chair Cullen and members of the committee.

My name is Matthew “Matty” Wong. I grew up on the island of Oahu. Fishing Lake Wilson with my Dad is seriously some of my favorite childhood memories. I started fishing Lake Wilson at the early age of 2 and have fished it ever since. 31 years later I’m still a bass fisherman. I moved away to California back in 2013 to pursue a career in “show biz” but eventually got lead back to my roots, fishing. I return home to Oahu annually multiple times a year, every time I’m home I fish my home lake.

After spending 8 years in California, seeing the amount of bass fishermen / and women that are interested in fishing Lake Wilson is overwhelming! “You’re telling me I can catch bass in paradise!?” “Where do I sign” is the normal response. I’ve lead a few fellow anglers to Wilson and they all came back with pleasant experiences except for the lack of bass fish catches.

Lake Wilson has only had a single strain of Largemouth Bass in it for decades. Inbreeding with their close relatives, the species doesn’t thrive well compared to other types of fish that live in the body of water. By giving Lake Wilson the attention it needs, it could easily become an incredible bass fishery. I would love to see the state put some resources into the Lake and I promise it would pay dividends for years to come. Inspiring a younger generation to go out and enjoy some clean fun of freshwater fishing, also luring mainland anglers a trip of a lifetime.

I would love to see Lake Wilson become an amazing fishery, but if it stays on course now its going in a direction of negative inevitability. I want to share this body of water

with my children some day and I would love to get them hooked on bass fishing on the same body of water that sparked the love that holds strong in my life today.

SB-1313-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 6:53:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexander James	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Alexander James, I am a fisherman and a military resident.

I respectfully request that you schedule and hear SB1313.

I believe this bill is important for many reasons. I have been fishing at Lake Wilson since my first tour started in Hawaii in 2004. While the Butterfly Peacock Bass population has been in fairly decent shape, the same can not be said for the largemouth population. I feel genetic diversity SB1313 offers will greatly improve the long term health for this fishery.

Lake Wilson may not be one of Hawaii's main attractions, but I truly believe it is one of Hawaii's best kept secrets. I have spent countless days with family and friends on the lake. During this time however, I've seen the fishery decline, each and every year. While living in Hawaii I have always been a member of the Hawaii Freshwater Fishing Association (HFFA), the HFFA has done a lot of good for this lake, but are limited due to the genetic stock and resources currently available.

I recently just moved back to Oahu, and during our house search my family was able to find a house with shoreline access to Lake Wilson. Had it not been for the lake, I can't imagine that we would have purchased a home at all.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Alexander James

SB-1313-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 8:28:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Tolentino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Hawaii state legislators,

I ask you to please hear , schedule, & support SB1313 that would help improve the Bass fishing in lake Wilson. I've been fishing in this lake for over 20yrs and noticed a drastic change in the large mouth bass populations rarity, size , & aggressiveness. In the last 8yrs I've only caught 3 large mouth bass . And the ones I caught was really skinny, small , with barely any fight in them . I think the bass declining because of the inbreeding over last 50 plus years. I ask that you please reintroduced new bass families to the lake to save the fishing in lake Wilson. I take & teach my family , my sons baseball team, and coworkers how to fish in lake Wilson and they absolutely love it. I want whoever I take fishing to have everlasting memories of fishing for bass in Hawaii. Thank you so much for your consideration and feel free to contact me to further discuss this issue .

Sincerely,

Joseph Tolentino.

[39 California Ave](#) Wahiawa

[8084782799](#)

Joseph Tolentino.

To: House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Re: **SB 1313 SD2 HD2 relating to Freshwater Sport Fishing in Hawaii**

Aloha ! My name is Howard Araki and I am submitting written testimony in support of SB 1313 SD2 HD2. This Bill will help to streamline the process of importing live Northern strain Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides salmoides*) and Butterfly Peacock Bass (*Cichla ocellaris*) for the purpose of enhancing and supporting the pre-existing populations of these popular gamefish for continued recreational freshwater fishing opportunities in Hawaii.

“Pre-existing populations” are the keywords here. The Northern strain largemouth bass has been in the islands for 125 years, since 1896 ! The Peacock Bass or Tucunare was introduced here for sport fishing nearly 65 years ago. Both gamefish enjoy a faithful fan base in the islands, most notably on the Wahiawa Public Fishing Area, aka Lake Wilson on Oahu, and Waita Reservoir on Kauai. The populations of these two popular gamefish have been on a decline for many years now.

Over the years, Genetics or more exactly the lack of genetic diversity within the largemouth bass population was a topic of discussion between the fishing community and the Division of Aquatic resources. The Largemouth Bass in Lake Wilson has been inbreeding for 125 years, and perhaps an infusion of “new blood” is needed to bolster the existing bass population. However, any discussions pro/con could not proceed any further until the Northern strain largemouth Bass is added to the Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture’s conditional use permit list. SB 1313 SD2 HD2 seeks to add the Northern Strain of Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides salmoides*) to the Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture’s list of conditionally approved animals that require a permit for importation. If passed, this Bill will allow all of the stakeholders to move the discussion “down the road” so to speak.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Howard

SB-1313-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 1:56:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2021 1:30:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Albertina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Albertina Lindsey and I am testifying on general business meeting discussion item

SB1313 relating to sport fish and sport fishing itself. I am testifying in support of the bill. Please support SB1313 as it will:

- 1) improve the pre-existing population of fresh-water sport fish.
- 2) increase local and family fishery (more fishery, more stimulation in money for local businesses, local jobs, etc.)
- 3) will support hands-on real life experiences for education, especially at Wahiawa Middle School in which students can engage and explore fishery through its on campus hatchery. The hatchery itself. NGSS, STEM, and HCPSIII (educational science standards) all align to the implantation of SB1313.
- 4) SB1313 will benefit mental health, especially for our younger generations living through a pandemic. Sport fishing can help our younger generations to connect with nature, distress, and unplug themselves from everyday technology.
- 5) It will create life-long bonding experiences and memories for families for years to come. I for one, enjoy Sundays on the lake with my 4 year old son especially when and if my son catches a fish. The smiles and excitement for him is priceless.

Please consider supporting SB1313.

Thank you!

Regards,

Albertina Lindsey

Resident of Wahiawa, Oahu

LATE

SB-1313-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 7:44:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jose Mandawe, Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha.

As a registered voter, I am submitting my testimony in support of SB1313, Relating to Sport Fish, which would help improve the pre-existing population of fresh-water sport fish that have been fished in our state for over a century.

The subject sport fish are already established in the ecosystem of Lake Wilson (Wahiawa Reservoir) and been there for many years. As an avid bass fisherman, I can personally attest to the fact that the population has significantly declined in recent years. It won't be long before they disappear completely. Lake Wilson is the only bass fishery with public access in the entire state -- it would be a shame to let that slip away.

Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Respectfully,

Jose Mandawe, Jr.

Bass Fisherman and Registered Voter