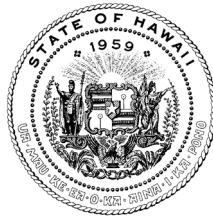


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**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 791, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1**  
**RELATING TO VESSELS**

Senate Bill 791, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1 proposes to amend various sections within Chapter 200, Hawaii Revised Statutes, regarding impoundment and disposal of unauthorized and abandoned vessels on state property and in waters of the State. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this measure and requests that the measure be amended to be effective upon approval.**

This measure would allow the Department to respond quicker and more effectively to unauthorized, abandoned, grounded, and derelict vessels under its jurisdiction. Current statutes require the Department to provide seventy-two-hour notice of intent to impound a vessel before being able to take control of the vessel. However, in some instances the condition of a vessel rapidly deteriorates within this time period, leading to increased costs on the Department for impounding and disposing of the vessel. A vessel may break into multiple pieces, requiring additional work for impounding the vessel and creating an increased risk to public safety as well as to our State's natural resources. A vessel may also drift from its initial position and end up in a situation that increases the difficulty in retrieving it.

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  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**SB-791-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 10:27:08 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair,

The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: **SB791 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO VESSELS**

Hearing: March 31, 2021 1:30 pm, by videoconference

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the House Finance Committee.

The HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION-HIROC- **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB791 SD2 HD1!** HIROC was formed in 2017 by coral reef scientists, educators, local Hawai'i environmental organizations, elected officials, and others to address the crisis facing Hawaii's coral reefs and other marine life.

Our reefs and oceans are under great stress and need funding for protection! Coral bleaching, polluted runoff, unsustainable fishing, invasive species, certain petrochemical sunscreens, and abandoned or grounded vessels 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 speed the removal from State lands, including coral reefs, of abandoned and grounded vessels, which can do great harm to coral reefs. HIROC believes this bill would do much to help maintain the health of our reefs and ocean.

Please pass this Bill! Mahalo!

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)