

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 House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

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

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 430

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1150
RELATING TO FISHING**

House Bill 1150 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to license non-commercial marine fishing along with freshwater fishing, engage in public outreach prior to implementing the combined non-commercial freshwater and marine fishing license, and submit reports to the legislature. It would also prohibit enforcement of the requirement to obtain a license to catch marine life for non-commercial purposes until 6/1/2022. **The Department supports this bill and offers the following comments and suggestions.**

A properly implemented non-commercial marine fishing license could greatly benefit fisheries management in a number of ways. Licenses would provide a means for the Department to collect better information and data to improve fisheries management. A license program would foster more two-way dialogue between fishers and managers. It would also enhance fisheries enforcement by enabling enforcement officers to inspect for compliance. License revenues could fund fisheries monitoring, enhancement, and enforcement. 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.

While the Department agrees that robust public outreach prior to implementation is essential, the Department has concerns with the timing and requirements of the proposed bill. Specifically, considering COVID-19 related health and safety concerns, the Department suggests amending Section 3 to remove the mandate to hold at least one meeting on each of the seven inhabited islands of the State. Further, the Department suggests delaying the implementation date by one year to June 1, 2023 to provide adequate time for public engagement and rulemaking.

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

LATE

HB-1150

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 12:43:09 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Godfrey Akaka	The Native Hawaiian Gathering Rights Association	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Godfrey Akaka Jr. Native Hawaiian Gathering Rights President. I represent many families on the island of Molokai. We oppose the fishing liscence proposal in making it more difficult for our families to gather traditionally for subsistance.

HB-1150

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 11:12:42 AM

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

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

Comments:

This is not the right time

HB-1150

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 7:53:33 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward Clark	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Previous attempts at creating a non commercial fishing license have failed, and should fail again in this years Hawaii legislation. This program removes basic human rights from our citizens while conflicting with the history of fishing in our islands.

As a marine biologist and ecologist, daily oceanconserveriknalksf and advocate, who feeds his family from the ocean, and who has done museum shows on sustainable fishing in Hawaii, I know first hand how this proposed bill will have negative affects on our community, as well as being against the beliefs and morals of those individuals on our islands. .

I strongly oppose HB1150!

LATE

HB-1150

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 9:27:04 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marino carreira	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill! Fishermen should not have to pay a fee just to feed their family! Dlnr and the state are just trying to grab more money that will get dumped into god knows what! Fishermen already pay a sporting good tax as it is when they buy fishing gear and other sporting items that goes to the state Dlnr- where is all this money going? Why isn't this money being audited? Other states use this sporting tax to help develop programs and access for fishermen- so far all the Dlnr has done is close off access! That is not management! Dlnr lacks enforcement so their solution to everything is to close off areas. Look at Yokohama bay- it still has been opened since Covid! They are trying to close off all fishing in a large portion of Kaneohe bay! Why the hell would I support paying more money in a time where our economy is its worst ever and more people are jobless and rely on fish to feed their family! Dlnr has done nothing to support fishermen and have been holding hands with Sierra club and the nature groups! He'eia pier still has no tires replaced for boaters. Waianae boat harbor is over run by homeless and Dlnr does nothing! This is another money grab by the state when the public is hurting the most due to Covid! The state Dlnr doesn't even fund the tagging project in which fishermen have to buy their own tags to tag and release fish! Like is said I want an audit as to where the sporting good tax is going! That sporting good tax should be going to benefit the fishermen who pay into it! Tagging programs, artificial reefs, fad buoys, improved access to areas for fishermen only! None of this has ever taken place !

LATE

HB-1150

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 2:32:57 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
D. U'ilani Kiaha	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is D. U'ilani Kiaha. I oppose this bill because it's intent and as it is written infringes on all Native Hawaiians and their right to gather. Adding a license to non-commercial fishermen as a requirement taxes the people of Hawai'i and creates a barrier for families who fish as a means or main source of food for their families.

I respectfully oppose and believe that this bill is not for the people.

Na'u me ka ha'aha'a, (humbly)

D. U'ilani Kiaha

A Hawaiian Woman, student of nature, student of Hawaiian practices, and a voice for my 'ohana past, present, and future!

HB-1150

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 4:11:16 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roy Thomas Sokolowski	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose the bill to enact saltwater recreational fishing licenses. DLNR does nothing to improve salt water fishing stock, they don't raise fish in hatcheries, they don't stock fish in the ocean so what would the money be used for? At least on the mainland fees from fishing licenses are used to improve fisheries, where is the plan for improving fisheries in Hawaii? There isn't one and the fishing license will just be another way to suck money out of the people of Hawaii. Bad idea. DLNR also doesn't even do very much enforcement, unless you consider writing traffic tickets enforcement of fish and game regulations. This is a bad idea and will only restrict fishing access to the people of Hawaii and people least able to afford it.

HB-1150

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 9:52:58 PM

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

LATE

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

Comments:

The legislature should look at the Registry-Permit-License Study
<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar/announcements/feasibility-of-a-non-commercial-marine-fishing-registry-permit-or-license-system-in-hawaii/>

This would provide some background information. I would rather this bill provide DLNR-DAR with the authority or mandate to do this rather than developed by the legislature as it provides a more transparent consultative process. But this bill does accomplish the goal of knowing the non-commercial fishing universe and allows for inspection of coolers by DOCARE