

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1930

February 10, 2022
8:30 a.m.
Room 430 and Videoconference

RELATING TO FISH AGGREGATION DEVICES

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1930 provides one-time funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to bring the State's Fish Aggregation Device (FAD) program up to full capacity and appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 23 to support the FAD program.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

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
WATER & LAND**

**Thursday, February 10, 2022
8:30 AM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 430

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1930
RELATING TO FISH AGGREGATION DEVICES**

House Bill 1930 proposes to provide funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to support the deployment, replacement, and maintenance of fish aggregation devices (FADs). **The Department strongly supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

The Department's Division of Aquatic Resources, in partnership with the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, maintains a system of FADs to enhance pelagic fishing opportunities for Hawaii boat-based fishers. As noted in the bill, some fishers rely heavily on FADs to locate targeted pelagic species. A missing FAD can result in less fish for personal or community consumption and increased operational costs as fishers shift to targeting distant FADs or to untargeted open ocean trolling. Therefore, it is highly important that the State maintain funding to sufficiently carry out timely upkeep and replacement of the FADs, thereby minimizing the time off-station and resulting lost fishing opportunities.

An average of about 15 FADs go missing each year. Due to COVID impacts and a recent issue with faulty materials supplied by a vendor, the Department has not been able to keep up with replacing missing FADs. There are currently 23 FADs off station with 9 scheduled for replacement in the near future. A one-time infusion of \$350,000 to replace the 14 remaining off-station FADs and to cover the anticipated need to replace 15 FADs in the coming year (29 total) would bring the FAD program back to full capacity.

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

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February 8, 2022

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Patrick Pihana Branco, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

DATE: Thursday, February 10, 2022
TIME: 8:30AM

Regarding: HB 1930 RELATING TO FISH AGGREGATION DEVICES.

Strong support

HFACT is a not-for-profit, IRS 501c(5) organization, that advocates for small boat commercial, non-commercial, and recreational fishermen throughout Hawaii. HFACT board members sit on a number of federal fisheries management and endangered species advisory committees as well as state marine and coastal zone advisory committees; and, HFACT is thoroughly familiar with and participates in ocean and marine resource management in Hawaii and the central Pacific.

HFACT supports HB 1930. The first fish aggregating devices (FAD) were deployed on an experimental basis in 1977, and based on these first FADs, the state of Hawaii developed a FAD program in 1980. For the last 42 years, the FAD program has been a success for the marine ecosystem and for fishers throughout the state.

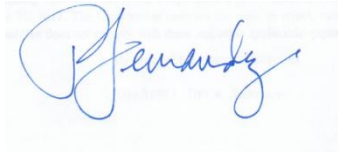
The simple fact that the FAD system has been in place for more than 40 years without damaging the tuna biomass is a testament of the program. The FAD system has been responsible for, literally, tens of millions of meals for local families. Thus the FADs are very important for subsistence fishers. Rather than spending valuable fuel searching for fish, FADs are reliable areas to find fish (catching the fish requires skills, however). FADs are more likely to hold fish, but is it never a certainty – fish move on to other areas and continue their migration.

Species such as aku (skipjack tuna) are often found at or around the FADs. These fish are short-lived, highly reproductively productive fish, with high protein content. The World Wildlife Funds notes that “Skipjack tuna are abundant throughout their range and populations appear healthy.”¹

¹ <https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/skipjack-tuna>

HFACT thanks the chair, vice-chair, and committee members for this opportunity to provide comment and to assist in providing food to the people of Hawaii and to assist in the conservation of Hawaii's natural resources.

Sincerely and Aloha,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phil Fernandez", is centered below the text "Sincerely and Aloha,". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Phil Fernandez
President

HB-1930

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 8:12:44 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kim Holland	Individual	Comments	Yes

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas and committee. My name is Kim Holland and I am the Principle Investigator for the University of Hawaii's component of the state's FAD system which is operated on a collaborative basis with DLNR DAR. I will make myself available via Zoom if the committee has any questions regarding the FAD program.

HB-1930

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 7:43:44 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

FADs are devices which have proven their effectiveness, and many local fishermen depend upon them to enhance fishing success while reducing the amount of fuel which must be burned in the pursuit of fish. This program deserves continued funding. Without it, we will only have illegal private FADs which pose navigational hazards while providing enhanced fishing only to those willing to break the law.

HB-1930

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:09:02 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Darrell Tanaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

If you like poke and sashimi, better keep this program going.

HB-1930

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:15:49 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Randy Cates	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in full support of HB 1930 which provides financial support for the fishing fad program, this program is vitally important to many residence of Hawaii, especially those on the outer Islands. As costs increase for fishers, the FAD program is key in providing locations near shore for fishers, they also provide food for our Residence as well as an important source of fresh fish for our tourism industry. Another important aspect of FAD's are for our visiting tourist and the Charter vessel industry, they are used daily by all. It is important to note that the FAD program has not recieved any increase in funding by the tax program (dingle/Johnston), this is a user pay/user benefit program, so for every dollar provided by State funds, three dollars come from the program.

Please support Hawaii's fisherman by supporting this program.

Randy Cates

HB-1930

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 6:24:52 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sean Roback	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I fully support HB1930. I am a part time fisherman in Hana on the east side of Maui. The state FAD program plays such an important role in our community. Fresh fish plays a huge role in many peoples diets and especially those of Native Hawaiians. I've been fishing in the waters off of Hana for close to 40 years and IMO there has been a huge decline in near shore fish populations. We can no longer go 2 miles out to find the birds in hopes of bringing home dinner like back in the day. It's now a minimum 9 mile journey to the closest FAD "M" buoy.

These FADs are the lifeline for the fishing community and the Hana community in general, who enjoy fresh Ahi, Aku, Mahi, Ono etc. What would our Friday Farmers market be without fresh fish available? The local restaurants and many food trucks in Hana also rely on the fish caught at our state FADs. The bird piles just don't work like they used to and if not for these FADs there would definitely be a lot more "whitewash" (zero catch) days.

Please pass HB1930 as it is VITAL to the people of our state and is an important tool for the local fishing community.

Mahalo

HB-1930

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 5:32:01 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support