

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 Senate Committees on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
and
WATER AND LAND

Friday, January 28, 2022
2:00 PM

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2065
RELATING TO FISHING

Senate Bill 2065 proposes to prohibit the possession or use of unmanned aerial vehicles in state waters for purposes of fishing. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and offers the following comments and suggested amendments.**

The Department is responsible for managing and administering the aquatic and terrestrial wildlife resources of the State. The Department recognizes that as technology evolves, so too must the laws and rules that govern the use of technology. In recent years, the innovation of unmanned aerial vehicles has become a new tool within the fishing community. Drones allow shore fishers to deploy baited hooks farther offshore and more efficiently than traditional shore fishing methods. This has resulted in increased interactions with protected species, such as monk seals and turtles, as well as increased user conflicts with boaters, swimmers, divers, surfers, kayakers, and other offshore ocean users. This also impacts human health and safety—people have reported becoming caught by lines in places shore casting cannot reach, boaters have reported concerns with braided line becoming entangled in propellers. Similarly, the use of drones has vastly expanded the footprint of fishing-related tackle becoming debris in the ocean. Drone use is on the rise, and we expect these impacts to also increase. The Department supports the Legislature’s recognition that unmanned aerial vehicles should be regulated to ensure they are used in a safe and responsible way.

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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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

The proposed bill, as drafted, would prohibit the possession or use of “unmanned aerial vehicles” for the purposes of taking aquatic life and specifically excludes remote controlled airplanes from the definition of “unmanned aerial vehicle.” The Department recommends that the Legislature provide a definition of “remote controlled airplane” to clarify the Legislature’s intent in carving out this exception. Alternatively, the Legislature could remove the exception for remote controlled airplanes because it is unlikely that these would be used for fishing purposes (see highlighted language in attached Proposed SD1). The Department also notes that there are different applications for using unmanned aerial vehicles “for the purpose of taking aquatic life.” Unmanned aerial vehicles can be used to deploy fishing gear offshore, and they can be used to visually locate schools of fish or suitable fishing grounds. The Department recommends that the bill be amended to clarify whether the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle solely as a visual aid would be allowed.

Finally, the Department notes that the bill proposes to add unmanned aerial vehicles to the list of harmful and destructive fishing gears and methods listed in Section 188-23, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). The penalty for a violation of this section is a class C felony. The Department does not believe the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle for fishing warrants a felony penalty and recommends that the bill be amended to remove the unmanned aerial vehicle prohibition from Section 188-23. The Legislature could create a new section in Chapter 188, HRS, to prohibit the possession or use of unmanned aerial vehicles for fishing. A violation would be a petty misdemeanor with fines as set forth in Section 188-70, HRS.

The Department has attached a proposed Senate Draft 1 (the Department’s proposed changes highlighted in yellow), which would address the concerns raised above.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

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8 aquatic life, except under the terms and conditions of a permit
9 first obtained by the user from the department. The department
10 may issue special activity permits for the possession or use of
11 unmanned aerial vehicles for the purpose of taking aquatic life
12 pursuant to section 187A-6. For the purpose of this section,
13 "unmanned aerial vehicle" means any aerial vehicle that is
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15 within or on the aerial vehicle. "Unmanned aerial vehicle" does
16 not include a remote-controlled airplane. For the purposes of
17 this section, the term "remote controlled airplane" means a
18 small aircraft, usually made of cardboard, foam, or other flimsy

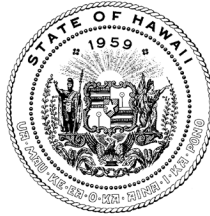
S.B. NO. 2065

1 and insubstantial material, that has fixed wings and one or
2 two remote-controlled, electric rotors. The use of an unmanned
3 aerial vehicle to transport or carry any fishing gear, such as
4 hooks, line, sinkers, or bait, is prima facie evidence of a
5 violation of this section."

6 SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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ROBERT K. MASUDA
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S.B. NO. 2065

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S.B. NO. 2065

Report Title:

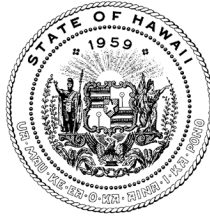
Unmanned Aerial Vehicle; Fishing; State Waters; Prohibition

Description:

Prohibits the possession or use of unmanned aerial vehicles in state waters for purposes of fishing.

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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S.B. NO. 2065

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S.B. NO. 2065

Report Title:

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle; Fishing; State Waters; Prohibition

Description:

Prohibits the possession or use of unmanned aerial vehicles in state waters for purposes of fishing.

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STATE OF HAWAI‘I
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender,
State of Hawai‘i to the Senate Committee on Agriculture
and Environment and Senate Committee on Water and Land**

January 28, 2022

S.B. No. 2065: RELATING TO FISHING

Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice-Chairs Nishihara and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees:

The Office of the Public Defender strongly opposes S.B. 2065.

This measure seeks to amend HRS § 188-23 by making it unlawful to possess “unmanned aerial vehicles” (hereinafter “drones”) for the purpose of taking aquatic life. The purpose behind the amendment is not clearly laid out in the proposed bill, but it can be assumed that one of the main purposes is to protect fish stocks and the marine environment. As the law currently stands, HRS § 188-23 prohibits the use of explosives, electrofishing, and poisonous substances to take aquatic life. The use of “unmanned aerial vehicles” or drones, hardly seems on par with those methods.

The ocean is one of our most precious resources here in the State of Hawaii. It is common knowledge that explosives and poisonous substances such as Clorox bleach do permanent harm to marine ecosystems and habitat by destroying coral reefs, plankton, and marine organisms that rely on the coral reefs for reproduction and protection. It makes sense to criminalize these destructive practices given that our marine resources already face threats due to over-fishing, pollution, and other environmental factors. On the other hand, the use of “unmanned aerial vehicles” for fishing is hardly in the same category as those practices which are set forth in HRS § 188-23.

Furthermore, the use of drones would most likely be limited to use by sport fisherman and outdoor enthusiasts, rather than by commercial fisherman. Thus, outlawing its use would have little to no effect on preserving fish stocks. Even if drones were to be used commercially for spotting large schools of fish, the use of nets, traps, or other devices would still be required to capture those fish. There are already laws in place which regulate the use of nets and traps. Thus, criminalizing the use of drones in the same way as explosives and pollutants seems unjust, overly

harsh, and would fail to achieve any of the objectives sought by HRS § 188-23. For these reasons, we respectfully oppose S.B. No. 2065.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Hawaii State Aha Moku
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of
Hawaii State Aha Moku

Before the Senate Committees on
Agriculture and Environment
Water and Land

Friday, January 28, 2022
2:00 P.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In **SUPPORT** of
Senate Bill 2065
Relating to Fishing

Senate Bill 2065 prohibits the possession or use of unmanned aerial vehicles in state waters for purposes of fishing.

The Hawaii State Aha Moku System encompasses the eight main Hawaiian Islands and supports the traditional and generational knowledge of the people who are connected to each of the 46 moku and 606 ahupua'a. The system was brought forward from the 9th century, a time where sustainability and protection of resources ensured existence. It was a time where the focus of the people of the land was on survival. The Hawaii State Legislature saw the wisdom and the need to incorporate Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights and practices into the fabric of state policy in 2012 through the passage of Act 288, SLH 2012 – the Hawaii State Aha Moku Act.

Today, the State of Hawaii is facing the same issues in ensuring the continued existence of its traditional subsistence fishing practices. While it is understood that Hawaii State waters and its resources must be shared with all, it is important to not forget that native Hawaiian fishing and gathering practices and rights are protected by Hawaii State law. Unmanned aerial vehicles used for purposes of fishing would either purposely or inadvertently pinpoint fishing ko 'a, gathering places of endangered limu, opihi and other marine coastal and deep-water species that have been preserved and maintained for generations by traditional Hawaiian *lawai'a*, fishers and gatherers in areas not easily accessible on every island.

Unfortunately, our marine and coastal species are slowly becoming devastated by an overpopulated ocean of commercial and recreational fishing, tourism and ocean traffic. This cannot be helped because Hawaii is a jewel of the Pacific and its appeal cannot be denied. However, we can help to balance the ocean environment and its uses in Hawaii by prohibiting the possession or use of unmanned aerial vehicles in state waters for purposes of fishing.

We **SUPPORT** the passage of SB 2065. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Leimana DaMate, Luna Alaka'i/Executive Director
Hawaii State Aha Moku
808-640-1214
Leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov

Rocky Kaluhiwa, Kahu Nui O Pae'Aina
Hawaii State Aha Moku
808-286-7955
rockykaluhiwa1122@gmail.com



January 27, 2022

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

DATE: Friday, January 28, 2022
TIME: 2:00 PM

Regarding: SB 2065 Relating to Fishing.

Support the intent and offer comment.

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 the intent of SB 2065 but finds that the bill may be interpreted too broadly in the statement in the prohibition of “unmanned aerial vehicles, for the purpose of taking aquatic life,”

The recognized problem with unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) is the use of drones to place fishing line with its terminal tackle out into the sea a far distance from land. The problem associated with drones is its ability to take fishing line well beyond the normal ability to cast a line with conventional rod and reel, thus terminal tackle can be placed hundreds of feet from shore. The consequence is that fishing line can cause user conflict with swimmers or boaters, and that large quantities of fishing line may end up in the ocean if the line breaks or is cut.

Fishers may possess drones while fishing, but for other purposes, including taking photos or videos of their fishing activity, viewing wave or current activity, surveying the shoreline to see where deep holes or schools of fish might be congregating, or flying drones for the simple fun of flying a drone.

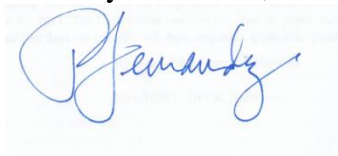
Because the words “taking of aquatic life” is broad, the prohibition may be too restrictive. Fishers may have the intent to take aquatic life when they are fishing and the mere possession of a drone may possibly be construed as an illegal act under SB 2065. Thus removal of any words that *relate to mere possession of a drone* is recommended for this bill.

Hawai'i Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition, Inc.
75-796 Hiona Street, Holualoa HI 96725

What needs to be prohibited is **the attachment of fishing line to a drone for the purpose of transporting terminal tackle (bait, hook and sinker) into water.**

HFACT thanks the chairs, vice-chairs, and committee members of both committees 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,



Phil Fernandez
President

SB-2065

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 12:46:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jenny Yagodich	Testifying for Malama Pūpūkea-Waimea	Support	No

Comments:

Support for SB2065 prohibiting the possession or use of unmanned aerial vehicles in state waters for purposes of fishing:

Although some fishers utilize unmanned aerial vehicles in a responsible manner, there are many more who do not and unfortunately, numerous plastic jugs and thousands of feet of fishing line (much more than traditional casting) are left behind causing problems for marine life and the marine environment.

In addition, using unmanned aerial vehicles to take out line and jugs pushes farther into the waters than is possible without them and increases the odds of lines getting snagged, cut and left in the water. These longer lines also impact marine animals such as endangered monk seals, sea turtles, dolphins, and sharks, as well as passing oceangoers and vessels whether the lines/jugs have been discarded or not.

We have seen an increase of unmanned aerial vehicles being used in the Waimea Bay area of the Pūpūkea Marine Life Conservation District, especially at night, for ulua fishing along with an increase of discarded fishing line/jugs both in the water and on the sand. This is different than what we see from traditional shorecasters.

We support prohibiting the possession or use of unmanned aerial vehicles in state waters for purposes of fishing until there is a way to ensure pono practices and standards are put in place along with a permitting system. Additionally, the use of unmanned aerial vehicles should be banned permanently in Marine Life Conservation Districts.

Mahalo

SB-2065

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 1:59:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Inga Gibson	Testifying for For the Fishes	Support	Yes

Comments:

RE: SUPPORT SB2065; RELATING TO FISHING

Dear Chairs Gabbard & Inouye and Members of the Senate AEN and WTL Committees,

Please accept our testimony in strong support of SB2065, to prohibit the possession and use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) for fishing, in the jurisdiction of state waters.

Nearly a dozen states have already enacted laws or administrative rules prohibiting this unsportsmanlike and unethical activity, that violates core hunting and fishing principles of fair chase and tracking of wildlife, among others principles. Drone "fishing" is akin to an earlier technological fad, where hunters could "point, click and shoot" game, also known as "remote-controlled hunting" from the comfort of their computer, and that was similarly banned in many states.

Drones used for fishing can extend 500 meters from the shoreline or a stationary boat/kayak, carrying hooks, line bait and even plastic jugs (to capture/entangle sharks). This gear all too often ends up lost or abandoned. This unattended and abandoned fishing gear then ends up entangling reefs and injuring or killing our reef wildlife. Fishing line has also caused injury to surfers, swimmers and ocean users who unknowingly end up encountering such unattended and derelict gear in the water.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this necessary, common sense, measure.

Inga Gibson

For the Fishes

808.922.9910

SB-2065

Submitted on: 1/25/2022 6:00:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carl M Jellings Sr	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Senators. My name is Carl Jellings Sr I have fished for akule for 50 years 45 of those years using fixed wing aircraft or cessna 152 aircraft with a hired pilot over the years we've been able to switch out for the last 4 years we have used drones to spot akule we have provided tens of thousands of pounds of akule annually there are 5 full time akule crews on Oahu and 3 or 4 part time all but one use drones for fish spotting State wide akule net guys provide in the hundreds of thousands of pounds of affordable fish for the people of Hawaii my son holds a certified drone pilots license Please exempt akule fishermen from this bill or please table this bill SB2065 , Hawaii imports over 90 percent of its food resources and there is an abundance of akule. I would have came in person THANK YOU.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING DATE: Friday, January 28, 2022 TIME: 2:00 pm

PLACE: TIMESLOT: Conference Room 229 & Videoconference WTL

COMMENTS ON SB2065: RELATING TO FISHING. Prohibits the possession or use of unmanned aerial vehicles in state waters for purposes of fishing.

Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, V-Chairs Nishihara and Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment and Committee on Water and Land:

My name is Roy Morioka a long-time fisherman who appreciates this opportunity to comment on SB2065. My comments are focused on the clarity of the measure being introduced. My experience with drones has been limited to seeing these unmanned "aircraft" being used in war, sporting events, drone air races, being used as a replacement for costly airplane and spotter services by akule fishermen, and most recently by shore caster fishermen to get their lines beyond normal casting ranges of their peers and to reach pelagic fishes such as tunas from shore.

My Comments:

- 1) Further specificity defining the term "unmanned aerial vehicle" is suggested as most lay persons like me view drones to be aircraft and excluding "remote controlled airplane" leaves a large gray area to interpretation. Example: Are helicopters airplanes? Since most drones are mini-helicopters.
- 2) As noted in my opening paragraph, akule net fishermen have finally found a solution to optimize their operations by eliminating the need to either keep an aircraft and spotter or hire an aircraft and spotter to locate the migrating schools of akule. Eliminating their access to this economical solution will again raise their operating costs that would be even higher today with the inflationary climate we are experiencing. The use of drones in akule net fishing has allowed these fishermen to limit the catch needed to be viable and benefits the akule biomass with fewer fish being taken.
- 3) The current language in SB2065 reads: "or unmanned aerial vehicles, for the purpose of taking aquatic life, except under the terms and conditions of a permit first obtained by the user from the department." Akule net fishing and shoreline fishing are *not subject to permitting* and additional language and rulemaking authority would become necessary to regulate either fishery as a permitted fishery. Or are permits going to required for the use of drones in either fishery?

Thank you again for his opportunity to offer comments on this bill. If further clarification is needed, I can be contacted by email. rnfishing@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Roy N Morioka

SB-2065

Submitted on: 1/25/2022 6:48:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carl Matthew Jellings	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Strongly opposed, I am a commercial fishermen as well as a FAA certified drone operator, this bill directly affects me, my family and business, as well as most if not all akule fishermen, who have switched from using manned aircraft to using drones to spot akule. The biggest reason for this switch is due to the massive cost of manned aircraft and pilot. Due to the cost reduction in overhead we are able to catch less and still do okay. Fishing is a tough job, DJI drones have been a massive benefit, in surrounding akule, at 400ft above the ocean, our operations do not affect the public at large, or manned flight. Most people don't even know it's there. The old commercials they used to have saying leave only your foot prints in the sand, drones allow us to keep our footprints as small as possible. I kindly ask that you do not allow this bill to pass.

SB-2065

Submitted on: 1/25/2022 7:44:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Reid T Nagai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill because it does not make any sense in forbidding unmaned ariel drones for fishing.

This is the safest and more economical way for boaters to observe our fishing grounds instead of using planes and endangering more people and wildlife.

SB-2065

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 2:36:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Oppose

SB-2065

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 5:34:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shyla Moon	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Prohibiting fishers of possessing a "**unmanned aerial vehicles,**" or drone while actively fishing would be unfair. The fisher might be using it for fun to video tape his family, surf, or action shots of fishing, etc. please make changes to support freedom of fun. Thank you, Shyla

SB-2065

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 4:29:06 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Martha Jellings	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I hope that you are having a wonderful day. I am submitting my opposition to SB 2065 in regard to drones or unmanned aerial vehicles. Drones have surprisingly become an important tool for many fishermen. It eliminates the need for a pilot to spot fish. This is incredibly important because using a pilot can be very expensive. The use of drones actually helps to lessen the amount of fish that fishermen need to catch because they do not have to pay a pilot. My family used a pilot for many years but when they didn't have a pilot they also would run up the mountain (the mountain would depend on which area they were looking for fish) to spot schools of fish from the top. My dad has done this type of spotting on and off over the years. My dad is getting older but even if it he was a young man, you can imagine how hard it would be to run up the mountain or to pay for a pilot to spot fish that may not even be there. Its just not feasible. When it comes to commercial nearshore fishing, a catch depends on weather, on if the schools of fish are in an area they are able to be caught, on the skill of the fishermen, on the fishermen's materials, and of the market. There are many factors to being able to catch fish for a living. It does not come easy. Please consider all of these things and do not pass this bill.

I have also heard of certain fishermen using the actual drones to take fish lines out to places they cannot go and possibly leaving their trash. I do not know much about this but if this is an issue, please look at this directly and do not make every fisherman suffer.

Thank you for your time. I very much appreciate it.

Mahalo,

Martha Jellings

SB-2065

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 8:50:46 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Evander Faletogo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha everyone,

I am writing today in strong opposition concerning this bill. I honestly dont see why this is even being proposed. As a commercial fisherman, drones have not only made it easier for us to spot fish, but it has made fishing a little more affordable. Because it is so efficient, we dont have to catch as much fish to pay a pilot. It is a key piece in our fishing operation! With that being said, I strongly oppose this bill. Thank you for your time and God bless!

Evander Faletogo

SB-2065

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 1:17:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michael Kirk-Kuwaye	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chairs and Members,

We are writing to support SB 2065, which will prohibit unmanned aerial vehicles in state waters. We believe that these unmanned aerial vehicles, i.e., drones, that take fishing line far offshore, and often with a plastic jug buoy attached, endanger marine life. These plastic jugs with trailing fishing line, get cut loose, drift around, and ensnare marine life causing injury and death. We have witnessed this endangerment firsthand.

On 9/18/21, we had to free a turtle that was caught in a drone buoy jug-fishing line about 30 yards offshore in Ka‘a‘awa. Initially we thought it was just a crab net that was attached to a floating plastic jug as it had been stationary for several days. Upon investigation, we found that a young turtle was entangled in fishing line attached to the jug, which had also become snagged on coral about 6 feet deep. Luckily there was enough slack in the line so that the turtle could come up to the surface to breathe. Also, because this happened in not too deep water, we were able to cut the line and free the turtle. We had first called the Hawaii Marine Animal Response hotline (NOAA’s marine life rescue contractor) to send their team to free the turtle, but they said they don’t do offshore rescues.

In talking to others in the fishing industry, we find that these rogue drone fishing line/buoy jug set-ups drifting around are common occurrences on Oahu.

Thank you for your support on banning unmanned aerial vehicles/drones from Hawai‘i waters.

Respectfully,

Andy King

Michael Kirk-Kuwaye

Ka‘a‘awa, HI

LATE

SB-2065

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 7:34:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2022 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill....but you can easily exclude commercial akule fishermen if the drone is registered to said fisherman...akule fishers aren't to blame for the problems associated with drones.

SB-2065

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 7:39:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2022 2:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Albert Nakaji	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Regarding SB2065, I strongly oppose the prohibition against the use of drones for the purpose of taking fish.

I have fished essentially my entire life here in Hawaii. Now at 70 I find I am unable to use the same methods as before. **I do not fish for sport. I fish to eat.** Being on fixed income and finding the cost of food increasing at an accelerated rate, I must fish, garden, and gather to supplement what can be purchased to a greater and greater extent.

Some years ago, while casting, I tore the tendons in my right shoulder and, while repaired, cannot cast anywhere near as well, in addition to being painful. Thus getting the line out using a drone has been a convenient and non-painful way.

To prohibit the use of a drone would take away an important option for me to catch fish. **Again, I do not fish for sport. I fish to eat what I catch in order to supplement our groceries.**

I urge the subject bill be filed. **Please do not take away one of the few ways for me to catch fish now.**

LATE

SB-2065

Submitted on: 1/28/2022 12:06:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/28/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
James Covington	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am one of the few that have recently gotten in to drone fishing. Not only did the drone cost thousands of dollars but the gear that is required is also thousands of dollars. I know complaining about the price to play isnt enough to stop the ban, but that is just one thing that many of us droners are at loss of if this ban goes in to effect. I was an avid fisherman before droning , and am very aware of all the dangers that come with drone fishing such as line polution and everything else that goes out on that line. How ever its not fair to say that just because of a few bad people that dont pick up there mess , that its game over for everyone else. There are more lines and leads and hooks left in the water by regular fishermen. If paddling out line is legal then droning should be as well. Making it inconvenient by not allowing drones doesnt solve any problems. people can easily tape up there drone lights and fly incognito.

I believe the best way to crack down on this is to have drone fisherman register their drones and have permits to drone fish. As well as tagging each rig they drone out with their license number. Just like any crab trap or any floating devices used for hunting. It should be tagged to the registered user. That way there will be accountability that goes with droning. It would be better to enforce accountability rather than banning the entire way of hunting.

Droning makes things more exciting and is a healthy hobby. Many drinkers are out fishing rather than drunk driving because of this new way of hunting, as well as many depressed people, going out and having fun with their lives.

Thank you for hearing me out, please dont take away this style of fishing. Strict parents, create sneaky kids. A parent that teaches accountability raises a responsible kid.