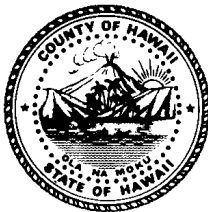


REBECCA VILLEGAS  
Council Member  
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267  
FAX: (808) 323-4786  
EMAIL: [Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov)

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

March 28, 2022

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS  
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON SR169, SUPPORTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES'  
DIVISION OF BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION'S EFFORTS TO EXECUTE ITS  
IMPROVEMENT MASTERPLAN FOR THE HONOKOHAU SMALL BOAT HARBOR  
Committee on Water and Land  
Wednesday, March 30, 2022 1:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Inouye and Members of the Committee:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of SR169. The Honokohau Small Boat Harbor, under the stewardship of the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, has become a significant gathering place for the West Hawai'i community, where local fishermen launch their boats to fish the world-famous Kona Coast and small, local businesses conduct their commercial operations including fishing charters, manta ray dives, glass bottom boat cruises, and snorkel cruises, in addition to many other ventures.

The Honokohau Small Boat Harbor sustains two hundred local businesses, making it the largest single contributor to West Hawai'i's gross domestic product (GDP), generating \$2 million directly to the State annually and over \$100 million to Hawai'i's GDP.

The Honokohau Small Boat Harbor Working Group is an important resource to boat operators, harbor users, and the ocean-going public at large, and has greatly assisted the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation to craft its improvement masterplan for the heavily-used resource, with a focus on providing a strong sense of place, supporting the local ocean economy, perpetuating the cultural heritage of the State, protecting the health and vitality of the nearshore ecosystem, preparing for the impacts of climate change.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Water and Land to SUPPORT this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

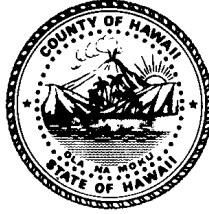
Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Villegas".

Rebecca Villegas  
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council

*Hawai'i County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.*

**Dr. Holeka Goro Inaba**  
Council Member, District 8, N. Kona



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Email: holeka.inaba@hawaiicounty.gov

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i  
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

March 28, 2022

Committee On Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

Re: **Support** for SCR176 & SR169 - SUPPORTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES' DIVISION OF BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION'S EFFORTS TO EXECUTE ITS IMPROVEMENT MASTERPLAN FOR THE HONOKOHAU SMALL BOAT HARBOR.  
Videoconference Hearing: March 30, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the above referenced Committee,

On behalf of myself and constituents of Council District 8 in North Kona, I express our support for the above referenced resolutions, and submit a brief testimony as follows:

We support these resolutions that would support the ongoing efforts by the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation to execute its priorities for Honokōhau Small Boat Harbor as outlined in its improvement masterplan; and in collaboration with the informal Honokōhau Small Boat Harbor Working Group, they are requested to submit a report outlining recommendations regarding steps necessary to execute the improvement masterplan, including proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior to convening of the State Legislature's Regular Session of 2023.

Thank you, as we express our support for SCR176 and SR169.

Sincerely,

---

DR. HOLEKA GORO INABA, Council Member  
District 8, North Kona

**SR-169**

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 2:42:13 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/30/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rick Gaffney	Testifying for Hawai'i Fishing & Boating Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For those of us who have spent decades trying to plan for improvements in our Honokohau Small Boat Harbor, this resolution supporting the work of the Honokohau Small Boat Harbor Working Group, is a breath of fresh air.

This harbor, essential to the economic, cultural and recreational well being of the people of West Hawaii was built in 1970, but never completed. We are planning: 1) to finish the harbor; 2) for essential upgrades and critical improvements; 3) to consider what this SBH needs to look like and support in 2050.

This work is being accomplished by volunteers with decades of near daily experience in and around the facility, at no cost to the State. The Senate's recognition of the essential nature of our work and efforts on behalf of the Division and the DLNR are appreciated, and we would hope will help to support our continued efforts on behalf of this essential resource.

Please pass this SCR176 as it makes an important statement regarding the value of citizen involvement in government decision making and the management of government facilities.

**SR-169**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 9:26:11 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/30/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
STEPHEN ARNETT	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honokohau Harbor has needed upgrades for a long time. This bill will begin the process of making our harbor on equal status with other harbors around the state.

Please support this bill introduced by Senator Kanuha and pass it.

Mahalo!