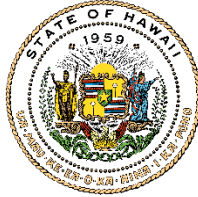


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of  
DAWN N.S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Thursday, March 23, 2023  
2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of  
**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 148/HOUSE RESOLUTION 150  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO  
INVESTIGATE, REVIEW, AND PURSUE ALL APPLICABLE CIVIL CLAIMS AND  
CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST THE OWNER AND COMMERCIAL OPERATOR  
OF THE YACHT "NAKOA".**

House Concurrent Resolution 148/House Resolution 150 request the Department of the Attorney General to investigate, review, and pursue all applicable civil and criminal actions against the owner of the vessel "NAKOA". **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the intent of these measures, and offers the following comments.**

The Department, with the support of the Department of the Attorney General, is investigating, reviewing and pursuing legal actions against the owner of the vessel "NAKOA". The Department appreciates the introducer and the Legislature's support to pursue legal actions when natural and cultural resources are harmed. Hawai'i's precious and fragile coral reefs need protection and support. The Department defers to the Department of the Attorney General (AG) on the substance of this measure and stands ready to assist the AG where needed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on these measures.

DAWN N.S. CHANG  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT  
LAURA H.E. KAAKUA  
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