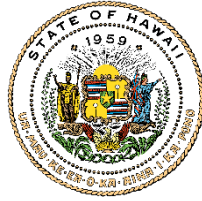


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
and
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Wednesday, March 1, 2023
9:30 AM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1264, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AQUATIC RESOURCES**

Senate Bill 1264, Senate Draft 1 proposes to authorize the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to establish limited entry commercial fisheries where appropriate or necessary to ensure certain commercial fisheries throughout the State remain healthy and sustainable while balancing the important economic role of commercial fisheries in the State. **The Department supports this bill and offers one suggested amendment.**

Pursuant to Section 187A-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), the Department is mandated to manage and administer the aquatic life and aquatic resources of the State. Successful aquatic resource management includes ensuring abundance while also allowing sustainable levels of take. Hawai'i's commercial and noncommercial fisheries require different management strategies. The Department currently uses management tools such as size limits, bag limits, closed seasons, gear restrictions, place-based rules, and permitting to regulate the State's commercial fisheries. However, to date the Department does not possess the authority to cap, or otherwise limit the number of entrants into a given commercial fishery thereby creating what is referred to as a limited entry fishery. Limited entry fisheries are common throughout the world, though in Hawai'i the federally managed Hawaii longline fishery remains the only example with a fixed cap of 164 permits.

Limiting participants is not necessary in all commercial fisheries, but it can be critical to effective management in certain circumstances. When the total amount of sustainable take allocated to a given commercial fishery is low or decreasing, limiting entrants can ensure that those possessing permits maintain an adequate and profitable share of the total harvest. Additionally, limiting entry can also prevent non-commercial fishers from purchasing a Commercial Marine License (currently \$100 for residents) for the sole purpose of gaining access to higher commercial bag limits. In short, the ability to place a maximum number of entrants into a commercial fishery can both provide the Department with more management capability and protect the interests of dedicated commercial fishers.

The Department is aware of concerns expressed by certain commercial bottomfish fishers that a limited entry program could adversely affect their fishing activities. The Department has no intention of establishing limited entry fisheries for federally co-managed commercial fisheries such as the deep-seven bottomfish fishery (known for the seven common bottomfish - onaga, ehu, kalekale, 'ōpakapaka, gindai, lehi, and hapu'upu'u). To address these concerns, the Department suggests amending the language of the bill to narrow the Department's authority to establish limited entry fisheries to apply only to fisheries for which there are no federal fisheries regulations.

The Department suggests amending Section 189-2(d), HRS, beginning on page 4, line 13, to read as follows (amendments highlighted in gray):

(d) The department may establish limited entry commercial fisheries for fisheries that are not subject to federal fisheries regulations as defined in section 187A-5.5 when appropriate or necessary to ensure sustainable fisheries.

The bill, as amended, will support the Department's continued management of Hawai'i's fisheries by authorizing the Department to implement a limited entry commercial fishery where appropriate or necessary.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

SB-1264-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2023 9:03:08 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brie Yamamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii State Legislature
Commerce and Consumer Protection
Rep. Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair; Rep. Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

March 1, 2023 - 9:30AM

SUPPORT OF SB 1264, RELATING TO COMMERCIAL FISHING

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 1264, related to commercial fishing. As an advocate for islanders who love swimming in our beautiful oceans and fishing, I have spent the past 16 years blessed with the privilege of frequently visiting these beaches. As time passed, I began to ask myself while snorkeling in the blue waters: “where have all the fish gone?” A study published in Ecological Application centered around the quantity of fish found in the waters of the Kona Coast found that fishing had been an integral component in dropping fish biomass by 48% between 2008 and 2018 along West Hawaii’s reef. Implementing this act would provide a way to ensure sustainable fishing while also managing the continuation of a necessary industry.

The preservation of fish species is essential to the survival of our oceans and our economy. Oahu is a place many people desire to visit, and according to the University of Hawaii, In 2019, over 10 million people visited our islands. In that same year, visitor spending reached \$22.4 million a day. The inviting, welcoming beauty of our reefs and shores, which are so appealing to tourists, depends on fish essential in providing food for other organisms and supporting aquatic ecosystems.

In closing, Hawaii is dependent on tourism and our diverse ocean life. Establishing limited entry commercial fisheries would help ensure that our state thrives.

Thank you for the consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,
Brie Yamamoto, Hawaii

SB-1264-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 1:59:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of SD1. Thank you.

LATE

SB-1264-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 1:06:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samuel Peck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Members of the Committee,

I fully support this measure. Protecting our nearshore fisheries is vital for the health of our reefs and our continued subsistence on reef fish. While DLNR must work with communities to establish lasting solutions that are supported by those affected, this bill is necessary for the protection of our reefs.

Mahalo,

Sam