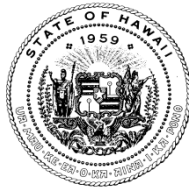


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



**TESTIMONY BY:**

EDWIN H. SNIFFEN  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
DREANALEE K. KALILI  
TAMMY L. LEE  
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO  
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 1, 2023  
9:30 AM  
State Capitol, Room 016

**S.B. 1505 S.D. 1**  
**RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

Senate Committee on Judiciary

---

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this measure that aims to restrict vessels that have been engaged in specific unpermitted or unlicensed activities from entering or departing ports in the state's commercial harbor system.

DOT supports the objective of limiting undersea mining that is harmful to undersea ecosystems and trafficking illegal commodities sourced from these mining activities. DOT also appreciates the amendment approved by the Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts to clarify that DOT will take action upon receipt of notice from a federal agency or law enforcement agency on vessels or crews engaged in specified unlawful activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**SB-1505-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 12:33:16 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lauren Blickley	Testifying for Surfrider Foundation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Surfrider Foundation strongly supports SB1505 that would prohibit the issuance of permits for the mooring of vessels engaged in certain activities, including seabed mining for minerals.

Every new research dive to the seafloor reveals amazing wildlife and new discoveries about the role the deep sea plays in the health of our ocean and our lives. Seabed mining directly destroys whole communities of life on the seafloor, leaving behind habitat that may never recover. Mining also creates extremely large and potentially toxic sediment plumes; as well as noise, light, and thermal pollution that disrupt marine habitats. [More than 700 ocean scientists](#) have called for a halt to seabed mining citing the risks it poses to ocean health and the well-being of coastal communities. Hawai'i cannot afford to risk losing our social, cultural, and economic connections to the sea.

The seafloor and ocean underpin Hawai'i's cultural heritage, along with its multi-billion dollar tourism and fishing industries. As the extractive industry grows, seabed mining activities pose a large-scale disruption to these important ecosystems. Seabed mining would harm commercially and recreationally important species like tuna/ahi, mahi-mahi, billfish and other species as well as the overall health of our ocean.

The State of California passed a ban on seabed mining in state waters last year in 2022, following Washington's seabed mining ban in 2021 and Oregon's in 1991. The undersigned organizations urge Hawai'i to do the same and ensure passage of SB1505 to protect Hawai'i's coastal waters.



To: The Honorable Chair Karl Rhoads,  
The Honorable Vice Chair Mike Gabbard  
Members of the Judiciary Committee

Re: **SB 1505 SD1 – Relating to Transportation: Mooring; Permits; Prohibitions**

Position: **Strong Support**

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for your leadership on this bill, SB 1505, prohibiting the issuance of permits for mooring of vessels engaged in certain activities including the collection or extraction of undersea minerals. I appreciate the opportunity to testify and express my strong support for this bill. Every new research dive to the seafloor reveals amazing wildlife and new discoveries about the role the deep sea plays in the health of our ocean and our lives. Seabed mining directly destroys whole communities of life on the seafloor, leaving behind habitat that may never recover. Mining also creates extremely large and potentially toxic sediment plumes; as well as noise, light, and thermal pollution that disrupt marine habitats. [More than 700 ocean scientists](#) have called for a halt to seabed mining citing the risks it poses to ocean health and the well-being of coastal communities. [Major companies](#) including Google, BMW, Philips, Volkswagen, and more also support an international moratorium, [alongside major NGOs](#) such as World Wildlife Fund, The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, Pew Charitable Trusts, and many others.

This extractive industry of seabed mining poses many risks that are yet to be fully understood. The fishing and tourism industries are likely to feel the impacts of mining, which is poised to happen on Hawai'i's doorstep in an area known as the Clarion-Clipperton Zone. This bill will help to protect Hawai'i and its resources from outside interests looking to profit on the common heritage of mankind. I ask that you please pass this bill, reinforcing Hawai'i's role as leaders in environmental stewardship. Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,  
Douglas McCauley

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas McCauley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Director, Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory

**SB-1505-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 8:00:27 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Neil Nathan	Testifying for Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

I **strongly support** this bill, SB1505, especially in its aim to reduce the emerging extractive industry of deep-sea mining's use of Hawaiian ports. Deep-sea mining will cause irreparable damage to the seafloor and the wealth of biodiversity it hosts. There is also great potential for mining activities to harm the surrounding environment given the sediment plumes that will be released both on the seafloor and at surface and midwater depths. Models have shown these plumes to travel great distances, and they could impact economically important fish species through smothering forage bases, etc. Preventing vessels engaged in this activity is key to preserving the long-term health of our oceans and marine resources, especially given that we do not know enough about the deep ocean and the extent of the impacts mining could have on the planet. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Neil Nathan

Scientist at Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory