



Ka Moku'aina 'O Hawai'i Aha Moku O Pae'Aina

State of Hawai'i Aha Moku

P. O. Box 621

Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Testimony of the Hawaii State Aha Moku
Before the Senate Committees on
Agriculture and Environment
Water and Land

Monday, January 30, 2023

1:00 PM

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

IN SUPPORT of Senate Bill 505

Relating to Environmental Protection

Senate Bill 505 relates to Environmental Protection and prohibits the harvesting of aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes, regardless of the method of collection.

The Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) strongly supports this measure.

Attached to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), the Aha Moku is comprised of forty-six (46) moku, and six-hundred and six (606) traditional natural and cultural resource districts within the eight main Hawaiian Islands. Working with the Public Trust and native Hawaiian communities, generational knowledge of these resources have been handed down generation to generation for centuries. The value of this knowledge, shared with all stakeholders and protectors of Hawaii's environment is the continued sustainability of Hawaii's unique ecosystem which differs island to island.

For decades now, native Hawaiian *lawaiia* (fishermen and gatherers) of all main Hawaiian Islands have reported critical declines of endemic marine resources due to the aggressive collecting of fish and marine species on coastal and offshore areas. One of the hardest hit areas is West Hawaii on Moku O Keawe (Hawaii Island). In 2018 the West Hawaii aquarium collecting ban resulted in the largest yellow tang abundance ever documented on those reefs. However, that is only one example of the success of an aquarium collecting ban on one island.

The fear now, if this statewide ban is lifted, is that the traditional subsistence species on which native Hawaiian traditional practices depend on all islands – will be wiped out sooner than later. One particular island that is in danger of continued illegal aquarium collecting is Ni'ihau.

*Pae'Aina: Moku O Keawe, Moku O Piilani, Moku O Kanaloa, Nana'i Kaula, Moloka'i Pule O'o, Moku O Kakuhihewa,
Manokalanipo, Ka'Aina O Kawelonakala*

Currently, *lawaiia* are contending with climate change within their ahupua'a. The unusual ocean heat waves are already impacting the normal life cycles of marine species. However, in anticipation of and preparation for the difference in ocean temperature, *konohiki* (resource managers) are taking steps in adjusting *kapu* and resting of the gathering of different marine species. While this works ahupua'a to ahupua'a, cautionary protection will be for nothing if the current aquarium ban is lifted.

Our understanding is that the bulk of aquarium collection is exported directly to the mainland or to other foreign countries as "pet" or for ornamental purposes. So the indigenous host culture asks "why will our traditional and cultural practices, protected by the Hawaii State Constitution, be put into a dangerous decline on all main Hawaiian Islands so that people from other places can benefit through their ornamental trade?" It is not only the native Hawaiians who will suffer if the current ban is lifted, but all Hawaii stakeholders in the protection of our ecosystems.

Hawaii is unique in that our endemic marine species can be found nowhere else in the world. We are unique in that all of us in Hawaii depend on our marine resources as a sustainable resource. We urge our Legislature to support SB 505 and continue to protect our marine resources from exploitation from those who would make money off of Hawaii. Please remember that they "take" but do not give back.

Respectfully yours,

Leimana DaMate, Luna Alaka'i/Executive Director

Hawaii State Aha Moku

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Attachment: Pae'Aina O Hawaii

Hawaii State Aha Moku 2023

PAE'AINA – HAWAII NEI

MOKUPUNI – MOKU – AHUPUA'A

Compiled by Kupuna of the eight (8) main Hawaiian Islands using generational knowledge.

MOKUPUNI	MOKU	AHUPUA'A
Moku O Keawe (Hawaii)	Kohala	<i>Wainanaliili, Waikoloa, Puako, Ouli, Kawaihae, Waika, Kahua, Kaalaala, Kipi, Kaiholena, Lamaloloa, Lapakahi, Mahukona, Awalua, Hihui, Honoipu, Opolu, Kokoiki, Puuipa, Kealahewa, Opihipau, Kahei, Hawi, Kapua, Paho, Kapaau, Laaumama, Honopueo, Iole, Halelua, Halaula, Halawa, Aamakao, Makapala, Niulii, Pololu, Honokane Nui, Honokane Iki, and Awini.</i> (41)
	Hamakua	<i>Manowaialee, Kealakaha, Kaula, Kaa, Kukalau, Kaholalele, Paauilo, Pohakuhalku, Opihilala, Kaumoali, Kaapahu, Papalele, Keahau, Kalopa, Kahawailiili, Paauhau, Papuaa, Nienie, Ahualoa, Honokaia, Kapoaula, Keahakea, Kapulena, Waikoloa, Waikoekoe, Kukuihaele, Waipio, Muliwai,</i>



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		<i>Wiamanu, Laupahoehoe, Naokooko, Apua, Ohiahuea, Kolealilii, Honopue, and Honokea (37)</i>
	Hilo	<i>Waiakea, Pueo, Kalalau, Wainaku, Honolii, Paukaa, Papaikou, Alakahi, Makahanaloa, Honomu, Kaiwiki, Hakalau, Mae'e, Umauma, Honohina, Waikamalo, Maulua, Puohai, Papa'aloa, Laupahoehoe, Humuula, and Ookala. (22)</i>
	Puna	<i>Apua, Kealakomo, Panau, Laeapuki, Kamoamoa, Poupou, Kii, Kalapana, Kaimu, Keokea, Kehena, Opihikao, Kauaea, Kaukulau, Keahialaka, Pohoiki, Puala'a, Kapoho, Kula, Puua, Kahuwai, Nanawale, Waikahekahe, Keonepoke, Mahuu, Waikhekhe, Keaau (27)</i>
	Ka'u	<i>Keawaiki, Pohue, Kahuku, Kapininui, Pakiniiki, Kalilikii, Kalae, Kawela, Kiolakaa, Waiohinu, Kamilo, Honuapo, Kaalaiki, Hiilea, Ninole, Wailau, Punalu'u, Makaha KopuMoaula, Paauau, Kahuuula, Kaalaala, Kapapala, Kaaha, and Keauhou (25)</i>

	Kona	<i>Puuanahulu, Puuwaawaa, Kiholo, Kaupulehu, Kukio, Awakee, Laemano, Kalupulehu, Koelehuluhulu, Kau, Kai'aoa, Ooma, Kaloko, Honokohauiki, Puapuaa, Holualoa, Kaumalumalu, Kahaluu, Keauhou, Honuaino, Kaumo'o, Kealakekua, Keei, Honaunau, Keokea, Kealia, Kalahiki, Hookena, Waiea, Honokua, Kaohe, Maunaoni Makuu, Kolo, Olelomuana, Opihihale, Kaapuna, Kipahoehoe, Alike, Papa, Ho'opuloa, Milolii, Honomalino, Okoe, Kapua, and Kaulanamauna. (45)</i>
Moku O Piilani (Maui)	Hamakuapoko	<i>Paihihi, Waiawa, Honohina, Waiopua, and Poniau. (5)</i>
	Hamakualoa	<i>Papaaea, Hanawana, Hanehoi, Huelo, Waipio, Mokupapa, Honokaia, Hoolawa, Honopou, Kealiinui, Kealiiki, Peahi, Opana, Ulumalu, Kapuakulua, Kuiaha, Pauwela, and Haiku. (18)</i>

Pae'Aina: Moku O Keawe, Moku O Piilani, Moku O Kanaloa, Nana'i Kaula, Moloka'i Pule O'o, Moku O Kakuhihewa, Manokalanipo, Ka'Aina O Kawelonakala

	Koolau	<i>Ulaino, Keaa, Mokupipi, Honoluluui, Hopenui, Puuhaehae, Kapaula, Puakea, Kaliae, Wailua, Pauwalu, Keanae, Honomanu, Keopuka, Loiloa, Kolea, Mooloa, and Makaiwa.</i> (18)
	Hana	<i>Kualuu, Koali, Muolea, Puuiki, Mokae, Hamoa, Haneoo, Oloewa, Wanalua, Palmo, Niumalu, Kawaiipapa, Wakiu, Kaeleku, and Honomaele.</i> (15)
	Kipahulu	<i>Koalii, Wailua, Puuhaoa, Papauluana, Kaumakani, Alae, Wailamoa, Kikoo, Maulili, Poponui, Kapuakini, Kukuula, Kaapahu, Kukuiulaiki, Popolua</i> (15)
	Kaupo	<i>Kukoa, Pahihi, Nuu, Kakou, Kaumahalua, Kaupo, Manawainui, Niumalu, Kahuai, Maalo, Mikiiki, and Kealepa.</i> (12)
	Kahikinui	<i>Lulaihia, Alena, Kipapa, Na Kaohu, Na Kaaha, Mahamenui, and Manawainui.</i> (7)
	Honuaula Note: Also connected to Kanaloa (Kahoolawe)	<i>Paeahu, Palauea, Maluaka, Mooloa, Moomuku, Kanehena, Kualapa, Kahili, Papaka, Kaloi, Kanaio, and Aualu.</i> (12)
	Kula	<i>Pulehunui, Kalepolepu, Waiohuli, Keokea, and Kamaole.</i> (5)
	Kealaloloa	<i>Oluwalu, Ukumehame, Papaiaua, Kumaalaea, and Pokahea.</i> (5)
	Lahaina	<i>Hanakaoo, Wahikuli, Molalii, Makila, Waiamahole, Pahoa, Polanui, Launiupoko, Koonepolaielaeia, and Awahia.</i> (10)
	Kaanapali	<i>Honokohau, Honolua, Honokahua, Napili, Honokeane, Alaeloa, Mailepai, Kahana, Mahinahina, Honokawai, and Makaiwa.</i> (11)
	Wailuku	<i>Waikapu, Iao, Waiehu, Ahikuli, Waihee, Makaliula, Wailena, Kahakuloa, and Nakalele.</i> (9)
Moku O Kanaloa (Kahoolawe)	Kona	<i>Lae O Kaka, Kamohio, Kaneloa, Wai Kahulu, and Kealaikahiki.</i> (5)
	Koolau	<i>Honokoa, Kii, Ahupa, Kaukamoku, Kuheia, Kaulana, Papaka, Lua O Kealialuna, Hakioawa, Owawahie, and Konapou.</i> (11)
	Honuaula* Note: Located on Piilani (Maui)	<i>Paeahu, Palauea, Maluaka, Mooloa, Moomuku, Kanehena, Kualapa, Kahili, Papaka, Kaloi, Kanaio, and Aualu.</i> (12) *
	Molokini	<i>No ahupuua</i>
Nana'I Kaula (Lana'i)	Kona	<i>Ka'a, Kamoku, Kalulu, Kaunolu, Palawai and Kamao.</i> (6)
	Koolau	<i>Kaohai, Paawili, Maunalei, Mahana, and Paomai.</i> (5)
Moloka'i Pule O'o (Moloka'i)	Kaluakoi	<i>Punakou, Makaolehua, Kuunala, and Paohaku.</i> (4)
	Koolau	<i>Kalaupapa, Kepuhi, Moomomi, Keapukukalooa, Halawa, Puaahaunui, Hakaaano, Papala, Wailua, Pelekunu, and Waikolu.</i> (11)
	Kawela	<i>Kaunakakai, Kapaakea, Kamiloloa, Makakupaia, Kawela, Makolelau, Kapuaokoolau, Kamalo,</i>



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		<i>Wawaia, Puahala, Kaamola, Kawanui, Ohia, Ualapue, Kaluaaha, Mapulehu, Puko'o, Kupeke, Ahaino, Homomuni, Kawaikapu, Kainalu, Puinuohua, Waialua, Moanui, Kumini, Honouliwai, Honoulimalo'o, Lepehu, Pohakupili, and Moaka'e. (31)</i>
	Palaau	<i>Iloli, Hoolehua, Naiwa, Kahanui, and Kalamaula. (5)</i>
Moku O Kakuhihewa (O'ahu)	Kona	<i>Moanalua, Kahauiki, Kalihi, Kapalama, Honolulu, Waikiki, Waiatae, Wailupe, Niu, and Kuliouou. (10)</i>
	Ewa	<i>Honouliuli (Puuloa and Kapolei), Hoaeae, Waikele, Waiawa, Waipio, Waimanao, Manana, Waiau, Waimalu, Kalauao, Aiea, Halawa (12)</i>
	Waianae	<i>Nanakuli, Lualualei, Waianae, Makaha, Keaau, Hikilolo, Makua, Kahanahaiki, and Keawaula. (9)</i>
	Waialua	<i>Kapaeloa, Punanue, Kuikuiloloa, Lauhulu, Kawaiioa, Paalaa, Kamananui, Mokuleia, Aukuu, Kihahi, Kawaihapai, Kealia, and Kaena. (13)</i>
	Koolauloa	<i>Waimea, Pupukea, Paumalu, Kaunala, Wailelea, Pahipahialua, Opana, Kawela, Hanaka'oe, Oio, Ulupehupehu, Punaluu, Kahuku, Keana, Malaekahana, Laiewai, Laiemaloo, Kaipapau, Hauula, Makao, Kapeke, Papaakoko, Haieaha, Kaiaha, Puheemiki, Waioho, Punaluu, Kahana, Makaua, Kaawa (30)</i>
	Koolaupoko	<i>Maunalua, Koko, Waimanalo, Kailua, Mokapu, Kaneohe, Heeia, Kahaluu, Waihee, Kaalea, Waihole, Waikane, Kikipuu, and Kualoa. (14)</i>
Manokalanipo (Kaua'i)	Koloa	<i>Mahaulepu, Paa, Weliweli, Koloa, Aepo, Lawai, Kaiaheo, Wahiawa (8)</i>
	Makaweli	<i>Hanapepe, Kupua, Makaweli (3)</i>
	Waimea	<i>Waimea, Kapena, and Kekaha. (3)</i> <i>Waiawa, Opelu, Kaawaloa, Nonomahiki, Kahelunui, and Kolo. (6)</i>

Pae'Aina: Moku O Keawe, Moku O Piilani, Moku O Kanaloa, Nana'i Kaula, Moloka'i Pule O'o, Moku O Kakuhihewa, Manokalanipo, Ka'Aina O Kawelonakala

	Napali	<i>Kauwila, Haelele, Hikimoe, Kaaweiki, Kauhao, Makaha, Milolii, Nualolo, Wawapuhi, Honopu, Kalalau, Pohakuau, Hanakoa, Hanakapiai (14)</i>
	Halelea	<i>Kalihiwai, Kalihikai, Pupoa, Waipa, Hanalei, Waikoko, Lumahai, Wainiha, Haena, and Limahuli (10)</i>
	Koolau	<i>Anahola, Aliomanu, Papaa, Moloaa, Kaakaaniu, Lepeuli, Waipake, Pilaa, Waiakalua, Kahili, Kilauea, and Namahana (12)</i>
	Puna Akau	<i>Kamalomalo, Kealia, Kapa'a, Waipouli, Olohena, and Wailua (6)</i>
	Puna Hema	<i>Kipukai, Kipu, Haiku, Niumalu, Nawiliwili, Kalapaki, Hanamaulu (7)</i>
Kawelonakala (Ni'ihau)	Kona	<i>Kaikane, Mauuloo, Nonopapa, Halo, Pauahula, Pu'uwai, Kaumuhonu, Keanauhi, Pohueloa, Nianiau, and Lehua. (11)</i>
	Koolau	<i>Koolaukani, Apu, and Oki'i. (3)</i>
	Puna	<i>Koahi, Haialii, Honuaula, Kalaoa, Nomilu, and Pueo. (6)</i>

SUMMARY

ISLAND	MOKU	AHUPUA'A
Moku O Keawe (Hawaii)	6	197
Moku O Piilani (Maui)	13	142
Moku O Kanaloa (Kahoolawe)	4	28
Nana'I Kaula (Lana'i)	2	11
Moloka'i Pule O'o	4	51
Moku O Kakuhihewa (O'ahu)	6	88
Manokalanipo (Kaua'i)	8	69
Kawelonakala (Ni'ihau)	3	20
Islands – 8	46	606

*The Honuaula Moku is listed on Piilani. But because it is directly connected to Kanaloa, it is listed there as a moku as well. It is the only Moku that is connected to two separate islands.

Note: No one living on the following moku

ISLAND	MOKU	AHUPUA'A
Moku O Kanaloa (Kahoolawe)	Kona	5
	Koolau	11
	Molokini	0
Manokalanipo (Kaua'i)	Napali	14
Islands – 2	4	30

Actual Working Moku (Less the Moku & Ahupua'a where no one lives in the district, and less the ahupua'a of Honuaula which is listed twice – once under Piilani and once under Kanaloa)



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For decades now, native Hawaiian *lawaiia* (fishermen and gatherers) of all main Hawaiian Islands have reported critical declines of endemic marine resources due to the aggressive collecting of fish and marine species on coastal and offshore areas. One of the hardest hit areas is West Hawaii on Moku O Keawe (Hawaii Island). In 2018 the West Hawaii aquarium collecting ban resulted in the largest yellow tang abundance ever documented on those reefs. However, that is only one example of the success of an aquarium collecting ban on one island.

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	Hamakua	<i>Manowaialee, Kealakaha, Kaula, Kaa, Kukalau, Kaholalele, Paauilo, Pohakuhalku, Opihilala, Kaumoali, Kaapahu, Papalele, Keahau, Kalopa, Kahawaiiili, Paauhau, Papuaa, Nienie, Ahualoa, Honokaia, Kapoaula, Keahakea, Kapulena, Waikoloa, Waikoekoe, Kukuihaele, Waipio, Muliwai,</i>



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	Puna	<i>Apua, Kealakomo, Panau, Laeapuki, Kamoamoa, Poupou, Kii, Kalapana, Kaimu, Keokea, Kehena, Opihikao, Kauaea, Kaukulau, Keahialaka, Pohoiki, Puala'a, Kapoho, Kula, Puua, Kahuwai, Nanawale, Waikahekahe, Keonepoke, Mahuu, Waikhekhe, Keaau (27)</i>
	Ka'u	<i>Keawaiki, Pohue, Kahuku, Kapininui, Pakiniiki, Kalilikii, Kalae, Kawela, Kiolakaa, Waiohinu, Kamilo, Honuapo, Kaalaiki, Hiilea, Ninole, Wailau, Punalu'u, Makaha KopuMoaula, Paauau, Kahuuula, Kaalaala, Kapapala, Kaaha, and Keauhou (25)</i>

	Kona	<i>Puuanahulu, Puuwaawaa, Kiholo, Kaupulehu, Kukio, Awakee, Laemano, Kalupulehu, Koelehuluhulu, Kau, Kai'aoa, Ooma, Kaloko, Honokohauiki, Puapuaa, Holualoa, Kaumalumalu, Kahaluu, Keauhou, Honuaino, Kaumo'o, Kealakekua, Keei, Honaunau, Keokea, Kealia, Kalahiki, Hookena, Waiea, Honokua, Kaohe, Maunaoni Makuu, Kolo, Olelomuana, Opihiale, Kaapuna, Kipahoehoe, Alike, Papa, Ho'opuloa, Milolii, Honomalino, Okoe, Kapua, and Kaulanamauna. (45)</i>
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	Hamakualoa	<i>Papaaea, Hanawana, Hanehoi, Huelo, Waipio, Mokupapa, Honokaia, Hoolawa, Honopou, Kealiinui, Kealiiki, Peahi, Opana, Ulumalu, Kapuakulua, Kuiaha, Pauwela, and Haiku. (18)</i>

Pae'Aina: Moku O Keawe, Moku O Piilani, Moku O Kanaloa, Nana'i Kaula, Moloka'i Pule O'o, Moku O Kakuhihewa, Manokalanipo, Ka'Aina O Kawelonakala

	Koolau	<i>Ulaino, Keaa, Mokupipi, Honoluluui, Hopenui, Puuhaehae, Kapaula, Puakea, Kaliae, Wailua, Pauwalu, Keanae, Honomanu, Keopuka, Loiloa, Kolea, Mooloa, and Makaiwa.</i> (18)
	Hana	<i>Kualuu, Koali, Muolea, Puuiki, Mokae, Hamoa, Haneoo, Oloewa, Wanalua, Palmo, Niumalu, Kawaiipapa, Wakiu, Kaeleku, and Honomaele.</i> (15)
	Kipahulu	<i>Koalii, Wailua, Puuhaoa, Papauluana, Kaumakani, Alae, Wailamoa, Kikoo, Maulili, Poponui, Kapuakini, Kukuula, Kaapahu, Kukuiulaiki, Popolua</i> (15)
	Kaupo	<i>Kukoa, Pahihii, Nuu, Kakou, Kaumahalua, Kaupo, Manawainui, Niumalu, Kahuai, Maalo, Mikiiki, and Kealepa.</i> (12)
	Kahikinui	<i>Lulaihia, Alena, Kipapa, Na Kaohu, Na Kaaha, Mahamenui, and Manawainui.</i> (7)
	Honuaula Note: Also connected to Kanaloa (Kahoolawe)	<i>Paeahu, Palauea, Maluaka, Mooloa, Moomuku, Kanehena, Kualapa, Kahili, Papaka, Kaloi, Kanaio, and Aualu.</i> (12)
	Kula	<i>Pulehunui, Kalepolepu, Waiohuli, Keokea, and Kamaole.</i> (5)
	Kealaloloa	<i>Oluwalu, Ukumehame, Papaiaua, Kumaalaea, and Pokahea.</i> (5)
	Lahaina	<i>Hanakaoo, Wahikuli, Molalii, Makila, Waiamahole, Pahoa, Polanui, Launiupoko, Koonepolaielaieia, and Awahia.</i> (10)
	Kaanapali	<i>Honokohau, Honolua, Honokahua, Napili, Honokeane, Alaeloa, Mailepai, Kahana, Mahinahina, Honokawai, and Makaiwa.</i> (11)
	Wailuku	<i>Waikapu, Iao, Waiehu, Ahikuli, Waihee, Makaliula, Wailena, Kahakuloo, and Nakalele.</i> (9)
Moku O Kanaloa (Kahoolawe)	Kona	<i>Lae O Kaka, Kamohio, Kaneloa, Wai Kahulu, and Kealaikahiki.</i> (5)
	Koolau	<i>Honokoa, Kii, Ahupa, Kaukamoku, Kuheia, Kaulana, Papaka, Lua O Kealialuna, Hakioawa, Owawahie, and Konapou.</i> (11)
	Honuaula* Note: Located on Piilani (Maui)	<i>Paeahu, Palauea, Maluaka, Mooloa, Moomuku, Kanehena, Kualapa, Kahili, Papaka, Kaloi, Kanaio, and Aualu.</i> (12) *
	Molokini	<i>No ahupuuaa</i>
Nana'I Kaula (Lana'i)	Kona	<i>Ka'a, Kamoku, Kalulu, Kaunolu, Palawai and Kamao.</i> (6)
	Koolau	<i>Kaohai, Paawili, Maunalei, Mahana, and Paomai.</i> (5)
Moloka'i Pule O'o (Moloka'i)	Kaluakoi	<i>Punakou, Makaolehua, Kuunala, and Paohaku.</i> (4)
	Koolau	<i>Kalaupapa, Kepuhi, Moomomi, Keapukukaloo, Halawa, Puaahaunui, Hakaaano, Papala, Wailua, Pelekunu, and Waikolu.</i> (11)
	Kawela	<i>Kaunakakai, Kapaakea, Kamiloloa, Makakupaia, Kawela, Makolelau, Kapuaokoolau, Kamalo,</i>



Ka Moku'aina 'O Hawai'i Aha Moku O Pae'Aina

State of Hawai'i Aha Moku

P. O. Box 621

Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

		<i>Wawaia, Puahala, Kaamola, Kawanui, Ohia, Ualapue, Kaluaaha, Mapulehu, Puko'o, Kupeke, Ahaino, Homomuni, Kawaikapu, Kainalu, Puinuohua, Waialua, Moanui, Kumini, Honouliwai, Honoulimalo'o, Lepehu, Pohakupili, and Moaka'e. (31)</i>
	Palaau	<i>Iloli, Hoolehua, Naiwa, Kahanui, and Kalamaula. (5)</i>
Moku O Kakuhihewa (O'ahu)	Kona	<i>Moanalua, Kahauiki, Kalihi, Kapalama, Honolulu, Waikiki, Waiatae, Wailupe, Niu, and Kuliouou. (10)</i>
	Ewa	<i>Honouliuli (Puuloa and Kapolei), Hoaeae, Waikele, Waiawa, Waipio, Waimanao, Manana, Waiau, Waimalu, Kalauao, Aiea, Halawa (12)</i>
	Waianae	<i>Nanakuli, Lualualei, Waianae, Makaha, Keaau, Hikilolo, Makua, Kahanahaiki, and Keawaula. (9)</i>
	Waialua	<i>Kapaeloa, Punanue, Kuikuiloloa, Lauhulu, Kawaiioa, Paalaa, Kamananui, Mokuleia, Aukuu, Kihahi, Kawaihapai, Kealia, and Kaena. (13)</i>
	Koolauloa	<i>Waimea, Pupukea, Paumalu, Kaunala, Wailelea, Pahipahialua, Opana, Kawela, Hanaka'oe, Oio, Ulupehupehu, Punaluu, Kahuku, Keana, Malaekahana, Laiewai, Laiemaloo, Kaipapau, Hauula, Makao, Kapeke, Papaakoko, Haieaha, Kaiaha, Puheemiki, Waioho, Punaluu, Kahana, Makaua, Kaawa (30)</i>
	Koolaupoko	<i>Maunalua, Koko, Waimanalo, Kailua, Mokapu, Kaneohe, Heeia, Kahaluu, Waihee, Kaalea, Waihole, Waikane, Kikipuu, and Kualoa. (14)</i>
Manokalanipo (Kaua'i)	Koloa	<i>Mahaulepu, Paa, Weliweli, Koloa, Aepo, Lawai, Kaiaheo, Wahiawa (8)</i>
	Makaweli	<i>Hanapepe, Kupua, Makaweli (3)</i>
	Waimea	<i>Waimea, Kapena, and Kekaha. (3)</i> <i>Waiawa, Opelu, Kaawaloa, Nonomahiki, Kahelunui, and Kolo. (6)</i>

Pae'Aina: Moku O Keawe, Moku O Piilani, Moku O Kanaloa, Nana'i Kaula, Moloka'i Pule O'o, Moku O Kakuhihewa, Manokalanipo, Ka'Aina O Kawelonakala

	Napali	<i>Kauwila, Haelele, Hikimoe, Kaaweiki, Kauhao, Makaha, Milolii, Nualolo, Wawapuhi, Honopu, Kalalau, Pohakuau, Hanakoa, Hanakapiai (14)</i>
	Halelea	<i>Kalihiwai, Kalihikai, Pupoa, Waipa, Hanalei, Waikoko, Lumahai, Wainiha, Haena, and Limahuli (10)</i>
	Koolau	<i>Anahola, Aliomanu, Papaa, Moloaa, Kaakaaniu, Lepeuli, Waipake, Pilaa, Waiakalua, Kahili, Kilauea, and Namahana (12)</i>
	Puna Akau	<i>Kamalomalo, Kealia, Kapa'a, Waipouli, Olohena, and Wailua (6)</i>
	Puna Hema	<i>Kipukai, Kipu, Haiku, Niumalu, Nawiliwili, Kalapaki, Hanamaulu (7)</i>
Kawelonakala (Ni'ihau)	Kona	<i>Kaikane, Mauuloo, Nonopapa, Halo, Pauahula, Pu'uwai, Kaumuhonu, Keanauhi, Pohueloa, Nianiau, and Lehua. (11)</i>
	Koolau	<i>Koolaukani, Apu, and Oki'i. (3)</i>
	Puna	<i>Koahi, Haialii, Honuaula, Kalaoa, Nomilu, and Pueo. (6)</i>

SUMMARY

ISLAND	MOKU	AHUPUA'A
Moku O Keawe (Hawaii)	6	197
Moku O Piilani (Maui)	13	142
Moku O Kanaloa (Kahoolawe)	4	28
Nana'I Kaula (Lana'i)	2	11
Moloka'i Pule O'o	4	51
Moku O Kakuhihewa (O'ahu)	6	88
Manokalanipo (Kaua'i)	8	69
Kawelonakala (Ni'ihau)	3	20
Islands – 8	46	606

*The Honuaula Moku is listed on Piilani. But because it is directly connected to Kanaloa, it is listed there as a moku as well. It is the only Moku that is connected to two separate islands.

Note: No one living on the following moku

ISLAND	MOKU	AHUPUA'A
Moku O Kanaloa (Kahoolawe)	Kona	5
	Koolau	11
	Molokini	0
Manokalanipo (Kaua'i)	Napali	14
Islands – 2	4	30

Actual Working Moku (Less the Moku & Ahupua'a where no one lives in the district, and less the ahupua'a of Honuaula which is listed twice – once under Piilani and once under Kanaloa)



Ka Moku'aina 'O Hawai'i Aha Moku O Pae'Aina

State of Hawai'i Aha Moku

P. O. Box 621

Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

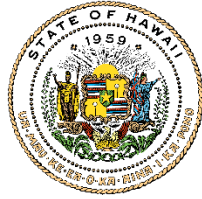
42

564

*Pae'Aina: Moku O Keawe, Moku O Piilani, Moku O Kanaloa, Nana'i Kaula, Moloka'i Pule O'o, Moku O Kakuhihewa,
Manokalanipo, Ka'Aina O Kawelonakala*

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
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
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

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

**Before the Senate Committees on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
and
WATER AND LAND**

**Monday, January 30, 2023
1:00 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 505
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Senate Bill 505 proposes to prohibit the harvesting of aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes, regardless of the method of collection. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this bill and offers the following comments.**

Pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapters 187A and 189, the Department has managed the Hawaii aquarium fishery for sustainable commercial use based on science and monitoring, gear restrictions, and in West Hawaii, Fish Replenishment Areas (FRAs), which have contributed to increased populations of the two most heavily collected aquarium fish species. For example, in West Hawaii, populations of yellow tang and goldring surgeonfish (kole), which together accounted for 91% of the total FY2017 aquarium catch, increased significantly within FRAs between 1999/2000 (when FRAs were first implemented) and 2021/2022.

Since the 2017 Hawaii Supreme Court ruling that aquarium fish permits are subject to the environmental review requirements of the Hawaii Environmental Policy Act (HEPA), aquarium collectors from Oahu and West Hawaii have gone through the onerous process of preparing Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements to analyze the impacts of aquarium collecting. This HEPA compliance requirement greatly reduces the number of aquarium collectors eligible to participate in the fishery. The Department is currently in the process of developing an aquarium fishery management plan for West Hawaii. This management plan will be used to inform decision makers prior to the issuance of

any aquarium permits, so that any authorized aquarium collection activity will be strictly regulated and monitored for compliance and sustainability. Regulations that the Department may impose include species restrictions, individual daily bag limits, total annual catch limits, area restrictions, and reporting requirements.

If the goal is resource sustainability and environmental protection, the Department believes that the environmental review process, the permit application and review process, and the community engagement process should be allowed to proceed to determine whether commercial aquarium collection is appropriate or inappropriate in Hawaii. The Department recognizes however that there may be other reasons to prohibit commercial aquarium collection based on cultural or social values, which the Legislature must consider.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 12:46:35 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Bishop	Testifying for Friends of Hanauma Bay	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha AEN Chair Gabbard, and WTL Chair Inouye,

Mahalo for hearing SB505 which will prohibit the harvesting of aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes, regardless of the method of collection.

Friends of Hanauma Bay stands in **STRONG SUPPORT** of this much needed legislation that is in the best interest of Hawaii's reef wildlife and which reflects the position of the majority of Hawaii residents for many years.

Please pass SB505!

Mahalo,

Lisa Bishop

Friends of Hanauma Bay



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
808.356.2200 • HawaiianHumane.org

Date: Jan. 29, 2023

To: Chair Sen. Mike Gabbard
Vice Chair Sen. Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Environment
Chair Sen. Lorraine Inouye
Vice Chair Sen. Brandon J.C. Elefante
and Members of the Committee on Water & Land

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Director of Community Engagement
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Support for SB 505: Relating to Environmental Protection
Monday, Jan. 30, 2023, 1 p.m., Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice Chairs Richards and Elefante, and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for Senate Bill 505, which prohibits the harvesting of aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes, regardless of the method of collection.

The Hawaiian Humane Society embraces pet ownership. But our mission – to promote the human-animal bond and the humane treatment of all animals – drives us to champion **humane** pet acquisition. Capturing wild animals and transporting them thousands of miles in conditions that are often fatal is not humane.

Upwards of 40 percent of wild caught fish bound for pet stores perish before they arrive on the sales floor. Collection methods include cruel practices such as puncturing swim bladders to bring fish to the surface more quickly. Fins and spines are cut before transport to enable the use of cheaper, thinner bags. Fish are starved before shipment so they don't foul the water in the bags.

We urge the committee to pass SB 505 and put an end to this inhumane trade. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 12:57:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Redfeather	Testifying for Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Fish studies that have been done along the Kona Coast of reef fish population areas that had prohibited aquarium catch show clearly that populations of reef fish return in as little as 1-2 year when you stop taking them from the ocean. Also, many of the people of Hawaii Island still depend upon the ocean, namely the reef for protein to supplement their families diet. Depletion of reef fish for any reason is not a good idea. We know that the larger fish come in to feed in the reef area and depend upon smaller fish for food. Supporting the complete ecosystem, and disallowing the catching of reef fish by the aquarium industry is an idea whose time has come. Visitors to our Island are drawn here by the diverse reef fish in areas where they can snorkle or swim. Protecting the reef is a long standing Hawaiian aquatic tradition that just makes good practical sense for the long term.

Aloha, Nancy Redfeather

Kawanui Farm, Honalo, Hawaii

Angela Crumpton

From: Jhanavi Pomerantz
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 2:56 PM
To: Angela Crumpton
Cc: Meg Turner
Subject: TESTIMONY: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT for SB505 Relating to Environmental Protection

From: Lisa Bishop <lisa.fohb@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Sen. Mike Gabbard <sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov>; Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye <seninouye@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT for SB505 Relating to Environmental Protection

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Aloha AEN Chair Gabbard, and WTL Chair Inouye,

Mahalo for hearing SB505 which will prohibit the harvesting of aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes, regardless of the method of collection.

Friends of Hanauma Bay stands in STRONG SUPPORT of this much needed legislation that is in the best interest of Hawaii's reef wildlife and which reflects the position of the majority of Hawaii residents for many years.

Our testimony is submitted directly to you because the Capitol website is having technical difficulties today and is not allowing us to submit testimony via that means.

Mahalo for considering our testimony.

Lisa

Lisa Bishop
President
Friends of Hanauma Bay
(808) 748-1819

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 7:29:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Moran	Testifying for Kihei Community Association (KCA)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair

It is long past time we stopped this natural resource from being exported around the world for someone's financial gain These creatures are a vital part of our coral reef infrastructure. Please pass this measure and keep Hawaii;s reef fish in our near shore waters. Mahalo

Mike Moran President

Kihei Community Association



To: The Honorable Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice-chairs Richards and Elefante, and members of the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment, and Water and Land

From: Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing SB505 **RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Hearing: Monday, January 30, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice Chairs Richards and Elefante, and members of the Committees:

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (HIROC) is a group of scientists, educators, filmmakers and environmental advocates who have been working since 2017 to protect Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean.

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB505!

SB505 would prohibit the commercial capture of Hawai'i's marine life for aquarium pet trade purposes, with exemptions for public aquariums, research, education and aquaculture.

Hawaii's healthy reefs are jeopardized by warming oceans and by the removal of herbivorous fish that clean algae off our reefs. The aquarium trade takes thousands of herbivorous fish from Hawaii's reefs for sale to mainland pet stores

and for home aquariums outside Hawai'i. Herbivores are critical to the survival of Hawai'i's coral reefs in the face of climate change, which, beginning in 2014, destroyed parts of our important reef ecosystems through a series of unprecedented ocean heat waves. **Scientists agree that 70% of Hawai'i's coral reefs could be lost by mid-century from these increasing ocean heat waves, and that herbivore abundance and biomass must be increased on Hawai'i's reefs if they are to survive, as herbivores are key to keeping algae under control on our coral reefs.**

By banning fish takes, SB505 would save the State hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. It costs taxpayers upwards of \$500,000 annually to administer and manage the aquarium trade, not including enforcement costs. According to an independent peer-reviewed cost-benefit analysis, ending the trade would also yield positive annual benefits by supporting over \$440,000,000 in the direct and indirect market value of reef tourism.

This bill would spur additional technology and jobs. The only sustainable aquarium trade in Hawai'i is one based on aquaculture. Thanks to years of aquaculture breakthroughs by O'ahu researchers and businesses, such as the Oceanic Institute and Biota, a number of popular Hawai'i species, such as the yellow tang, are now captive-bred and available to consumers without impacting wild species populations.

We thank the committees for hearing this important measure and respectfully urge your passage of SB505.

Mahalo!

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 6:35:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sylvia Dolena	Testifying for Aloha Animal Advocates	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB505 to save our marine life and their habitat.

Mahalo,

Sylvia Dolena

Aloha Animal Advocates



January 29, 2023

To: Honorable Chair's Gabbard and Inouye, Vice-chair's Richards and Elefante, and Senate Agriculture and Environment, and Water and Land Committee members

Re: STRONG SUPPORT SB505: Relating to Environmental Protection

As the co-founder of Legacy Reef Foundation, a coral preservation and restoration non-profit based in Kona, Hawaii, we believe this bill is in the best interest of our struggling coral reefs. Further, as a fifth generation Hawaiian I have seen our reefs decimated in my lifetime to a point that without intervention we will see our herbivores diminish to a point that our coral reefs will begin dying off to a point they can't recover.

We are at a point today that we must do everything we can to protect the little coral we have left before it is gone forever. Please put a stop the aquarium fishing trade for at least 10 years to allow the fish populations to return to the numbers I remember as a child. Do this for our reefs and our children.

This measure is urgently needed now because:

- For decades, local communities, and in polls, 83 percent of residents, have supported a complete end to aquarium collecting for the pet trade, due to numerous environmental, cultural and ethical concerns and conflicts with local values
- The aquarium pet trade has taken millions of culturally significant and ecologically critical reef animals, primarily herbivores, from our reefs for sale to mainland pet stores and for home aquariums outside Hawai'i. This "pet trade" in our reef wildlife yields astronomical mortality rates that would never be tolerated for any other animals sold as pets
- Herbivores are critical to the survival of Hawai'i's coral reefs in the face of climate change, which, beginning in 2014, destroyed parts of our important reef ecosystems through a series of unprecedented ocean heat waves, and which is forecast to drive annual ocean heat waves as soon as 2030
- Scientists agree that 70% of Hawai'i's coral reefs could be lost by mid-century from these increasing ocean heat waves, and that herbivore abundance and biomass must be increased on Hawai'i's reefs if they are to survive, as herbivores are key to keeping algae under control on our coral reefs.



- The most heavily targeted species (mostly herbivores) on O‘ahu reefs have been depleted by the aquarium pet trade by 90%, on average (Grabowsky and Thornhill 2020)

DLNR data show:

- Herbivore abundance significantly increases once aquarium collecting stops. Aquarium collecting has been prohibited under court order in West Hawai‘i since 2018, and statewide since January 12, 2021, given the decades long illegal issuance of permits and licenses for aquarium collecting without first requiring environmental review under Hawai‘i’s Environmental Policy Act (HEPA)
- The 2018 West Hawai‘i aquarium collecting ban resulted in the largest increase in yellow tang herbivore abundance ever documented on those reefs (DAR data)
- Spur additional technology and jobs: The only sustainable aquarium trade in Hawai‘i is one based on aquaculture. Thanks to years of aquaculture breakthroughs by O‘ahu researchers and businesses, such as the Oceanic Institute and Biota, a number of popular Hawai‘i species, such as the yellow tang, are now captive-bred and available to consumers without impacting wild species populations.

We thank the committees for hearing this important measure and respectfully urge your passage of SB505.

Sincerely,

Bill Coney

Legacy Reef Foundation
Co-Founder
808.960.1223223
bill@legacyreeffoundation.org
www.legacyreeffoundation.org

Angela Crumpton

From: Jhanavi Pomerantz
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 2:55 PM
To: Angela Crumpton
Cc: Meg Turner
Subject: TESTIMONY

From: Claire Trester <clairetrester@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 10:21 AM
To: Sen. Mike Gabbard <sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject:

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I support SB505.

It's time we recognize our fragile reef systems as State Legacy Treasures and not a for profit business.

I've been a Big Island resident and West Hawaii swimmer for 40 years, over time I've seen the fish population dwindling.

I support a complete ban on reef fish harvesting.

Pono Up.

Thank you

Claire Trester

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 4:17:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amelia Pickering	Testifying for Hale Puako Trust	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My family has owned and operated Hale Puako on Puako Bay since 1977. The house has been a vacation rental destination for hundreds of families during that time, all of whom are contributing to the Hawai'i economy. A huge draw for these visitors is the reef and the many tropical fish found there. However we all have seen a large drop in the number of fish in the reef. We are doing our best to control pollution in the bay and take other steps to protect and increase the current fish population. I urge you to pass SB505 as it is desperately needed in order to protect the current fish population and the reef, and will help this ecosystem rebuild. The waters and creatures that live in them throughout Hawai'i are a very precious resource for all Hawai'ians and a tremendous draw for visitors from around the world. With SB505 you have an opportunity to ensure that this resource is protected and allowed to flourish. Thank you.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 6:05:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Damien Kenison	Testifying for Kauhako Ohana Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting this testimony in support of SB505.

The aquarium fish trade has depleted the reef fish along the West Hawaii coastline to the point where the DLNR is now in the process of implementing rules limiting how much fish we can catch to feed our families. One pakuikui per person? Nobody else cares because the South Kona families are probably the only people who relish that fish for our tables. At the height of collecting in 80's and 90's several hundred thousand reef fish were taken from the West Hawaii coastline every year. Those are only the fish that survived and were counted. At one time several hundred discarded reef fish were found and reported.

Clashes between the collectors and our coastal communities escalated to the point where, after more than a decade of conflict, a task force was organized by the DLNR bringing together all stakeholders for a number of meetings to try and resolve this issue. However, the collectors refused to participate and although legislation was passed which allowed for 50 percent of the coastline to be protected, in good faith, we settled for 30 percent. Ho'okena settled for six miles instead of the 12 we originally requested.

10 Fish Replenishment Areas were established along the West Hawaii Coastline prohibiting aquarium fish collecting.

Throughout the years the collectors consistently violated the FRA's. The president of the Aquarium collectors lobby was apprehended fishing in an FRA shortly after the FRA's were created and his boat was confiscated along with his license. All he did was hire someone else to fish for him using the boat which was eventually returned to him.

The aquarium trade is very lucrative, maybe too profitable for collectors to follow any rules that are set in place to restrict their harvest. it would be better to grow fish in aquaculture systems for sale to aquariums instead of depleting the fish from the narrow West Hawaii reef system. We all know how important our coral reefs are to our island infrastructure, the fish are critical to its survival.

Finally, why must our lawai'a and their ohana suffer for the wrongs that the collectors have perpetrated upon our fishing grounds. One pakuikui to feed a family of four is a shame. Please

support this bill and stop this destructive practice before our mo'opuna forget how to catch and eat reef fish.

Damien Kenison - President

Kauhako Ohana Association

501 c3 Community Organization based in Kauhako/Hookena, South Kona, Hawaii Island



RE SB505

We strongly support the closure of all extraction of coral reef fauna. This issue has been opposed by small special interest groups for decades. It is time to end the taking of reef wildlife for sale as decoration.

Mahalo,
The Koolau-Wailua Alliance.



To: Honorable Chair’s Gabbard and Inouye, Vice-chair’s Richards and Elefante, and Senate Agriculture and Environment, and Water and Land Committee members, January 30, 2023, 1:00 pm, Rm. 224

Re: STRONG SUPPORT SB505: Relating to Environmental Protection

We are native Hawaiian, environmental, marine and animal protection organizations and businesses in strong support of SB505, to prohibit the commercial capture of Hawai’i’s marine life for aquarium pet trade purposes, with exemptions for public aquariums, research, education and aquaculture. We sincerely thank the Committee’s for considering this critically important matter that affects all who live in and care for Hawai’i.

This measure is urgently needed now because:

- For decades, local communities, and in polls, 83 percent of residents, have supported a complete end to aquarium collecting for the pet trade, due to numerous environmental, cultural and ethical concerns and conflicts with local values
- The aquarium pet trade has taken millions of culturally significant and ecologically critical reef animals, primarily herbivores, from our reefs for sale to mainland pet stores and for home aquariums outside Hawai’i. This “pet trade” in our reef wildlife yields astronomical mortality rates that would never be tolerated for any other animals sold as pets
- Herbivores are critical to the survival of Hawai’i’s coral reefs in the face of climate change, which, beginning in 2014, destroyed parts of our important reef ecosystems through a series of unprecedented ocean heat waves, and which is forecast to drive annual ocean heat waves as soon as 2030
- Scientists agree that 70% of Hawai’i’s coral reefs could be lost by mid-century from these increasing ocean heat waves, and that herbivore abundance and biomass must be increased on Hawai’i’s reefs if they are to survive, as herbivores are key to keeping algae under control on our coral reefs
- Food fishers are now paying the price for aquarium trade impacts even though the aquarium pet trade has historically taken 1.8 times more fish (mostly herbivores) from West Hawai’i reefs than all food fishers, combined (DLNR 2020 report to the legislature). The recent West Hawai’i prohibition on take of *paku’iku’i* (Achilles tang) came after years of DLNR repeatedly reporting that aquarium collecting was severely impacting *paku’iku’i* populations on those reefs (DLNR grant report to NOAA)

- The most heavily targeted species (mostly herbivores) on O'ahu reefs have been depleted by the aquarium pet trade by 90%, on average (Grabowsky and Thornhill 2020)

DLNR data show:

- Herbivore abundance significantly increases once aquarium collecting stops. Aquarium collecting has been prohibited under court order in West Hawai'i since 2018, and statewide since January 12, 2021, given the decades long illegal issuance of permits and licenses for aquarium collecting without first requiring environmental review under Hawai'i's Environmental Policy Act (HEPA)
- The 2018 West Hawai'i aquarium collecting ban resulted in the largest increase in yellow tang herbivore abundance ever documented on those reefs (DAR data)
- After the ban was enforced statewide beginning in January 2021, herbivorous and other fishes increased by at least 81,000 fishes each year on O'ahu's reefs (based on historical catch data)

Additional Benefits of SB505:

- Saves the state money:
 - DLNR estimates it costs taxpayers upwards of \$500,000 annually to administer and manage the aquarium trade, not including enforcement costs, yet it only receives a mere \$23,480 in permit fees and taxes: ending the trade would save taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars annually
 - According to an independent peer-reviewed cost-benefit analysis, ending the trade would also yield positive annual benefits by supporting over \$440,000,000 in the direct and indirect market value of reef tourism
 - Spurs additional technology and jobs: The only sustainable aquarium trade in Hawai'i is one based on aquaculture. Thanks to years of aquaculture breakthroughs by O'ahu researchers and businesses, such as the Oceanic Institute and Biota, a number of popular Hawai'i species, such as the yellow tang, are now captive-bred and available to consumers without impacting wild populations

We thank the committees for hearing this important measure and respectfully urge your passage of SB505.

Sincerely,

The Kapu AQ Hui:

For the Fishes, Moana Ohana, Kalanihale, The Center for Biodiversity, Kai Palaoa, Sierra Club of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawaiian Humane Society, Friends of Hanauma Bay, Conservation Council for Hawaii, Fair Wind Cruises, Surfrider Foundation | Hawai'i Region, Keiko Conservation, Legacy Reef Foundation, Haereticus Environmental Laboratory, Ocean Defenders Alliance | Hawai'i, Oceanic Preservation Society



Kapu AQ Hui

FAQ

SUPPORT

SB505 and HB910



Ending the Sale of Hawai'i's Reef Wildlife to the Global Aquarium Pet Trade

While protecting access for public aquariums, research, education, and aquaculture

Q: Why end the capture and sale of Hawai'i's marine life for the aquarium pet trade?

Hundreds of thousands of Hawai'i's fragile wild marine animals have been taken from our reefs every year for sale to the aquarium (AQ) pet trade outside Hawai'i. Numerous polls show that upwards of 84% of Hawai'i residents want to see an end to this destructive trade due to its negative impact on overall reef health and biodiversity, and high mortality rates that would never be accepted for any other animals sold as pets.¹

The take of Hawai'i's marine life for AQ purposes also is contrary to native Hawaiian cultural practices, traditions and values of taking only what is needed for subsistence, using only *pono* fishing practices, and respecting marine wildlife, as many of the animals taken by the trade are culturally significant. When left on their native reefs, these marine animals play a vital role in reef health and resiliency and protect the larger marine ecosystem.

In 2021, O'ahu's Kaneohe Bay Regional Council, Ko'olaupoko Native Hawaiian Civic Club, and the Kahu'u, Kaneohe, Kailua and Waimanalo Neighborhood Boards adopted resolutions Urging the Legislature to End the Commercial Capture of Reef Wildlife for AQ Purposes, following similar Resolutions adopted by the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i (2018, 2022), and the Kauai and Hawai'i Island County Councils (2011). In addition, Maui County enacted laws that have successfully deterred the trade from operating there (2010, 2011). The trade thus targets reef wildlife across Oahu and primarily in West Hawai'i.

Q: Aren't other threats to Hawai'i's reefs more important to address?

There are many reasons for ending the collection of our reef wildlife for the AQ pet trade. Herbivores, the algae-eating fishes that protect coral reefs from algal overgrowth, are critical to the survival of Hawai'i's reefs in the face of climate change. Increasing herbivore abundance and density and reducing land-based pollution are widely accepted by scientists as immediate actions to take if Hawai'i's reefs are to survive the catastrophic effects of climate change, which is forecast to cause the loss of 70% of Hawai'i's coral reefs over the next 25 years.²

Herbivores are so important to coral reef health, DLNR has asked food fishers to reduce or stop taking them, although many are prized food fishes.³ However, DLNR has excluded the AQ trade's massive take of herbivores



from its proposed herbivore fishing limits, and in fact, supported the trade's recent proposal to take more herbivorous reef fishes in West Hawai'i than are taken by all food fishers combined.^{4,5}

Q: How does the AQ trade harm subsistence fishers?

Numerous reef fish species that are important to local fishers are heavily targeted by the AQ pet trade, which historically takes almost two times as many fish as all reef food fishers combined (e.g. subsistence, recreational, commercial). One species, paku'iku'i (Achilles tang) has been particularly impacted by the AQ pet trade, which according to the Div. of Aquatic Resources (DAR) took upwards of 80% of their populations along 65% of the West Hawai'i coastline, an amount that was having a "major impact" on the species.^{25, 26} Since at least 2006, DAR documented paku'iku'i population declines due to AQ impact but took no action to protect paku'iku'i for food fishers. It was only in December, 2022, that DAR finally took action on the severe paku'iku'i population decline. Unfortunately for local fishers, DAR waited until populations were so critically low, a complete prohibition that included food fishing was required.

The mainland AQ pet trade profited for decades, and now Hawai'i residents, especially local fishers, pay the price. It's time the state prioritized local fishers by permanently prohibiting commercial AQ harvesting.

Q: What is the status of the trade and why is legislation needed?

As detailed below, there has been no legal commercial AQ harvesting since early 2018 in West Hawai'i and since early 2021 for the rest of the state. No jobs are therefore at stake. Noncommercial collection by public aquariums, for research, or education, or for captive breeding/aquaculture is allowed through DLNR's continued issuance of Special Activity Permits (SAP). Legislation is needed to make the commercial aspect of the closure permanent, before the AQ pet trade regains access to Hawai'i's reefs (while still allowing for the issuance of SAP's).

Failure to enact rules or state legislation to address the trade's significant environmental and cultural impacts led to litigation driven by native Hawaiian community leaders and marine protection organizations (2012). That suit resulted in a Hawai'i Supreme Court opinion and Environmental Court ruling (2017) that AQ collection permits were illegal and invalid because DLNR had failed to comply with the Hawai'i Environmental Policy Act (HEPA).⁶ This led to injunctions preventing DLNR from permitting and licensing any commercial AQ collection until a court determines that adequate environmental impact statements (EIS) and other legal HEPA requirements have been met.

BLNR has, thus far, reviewed three deeply flawed EISs prepared on behalf of the AQ pet trade by Virginia-based pet industry lobbyists known as the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC), which proposed reopening Hawai'i's reefs to 22 aquarium collectors (15 on O'ahu and 7 in West Hawai'i).^{7, 8, 9, 10} BLNR rejected the first EISs for each island, and then on a split vote, accepted by default a revised EIS for West Hawai'i (2020, 2021).^{11, 13, 14} Although that decision is being challenged, the AQ pet trade recently petitioned the court to dissolve the injunction across Hawai'i Island, and although their EIS was only prepared for West Hawai'i.¹²

Q: What evidence shows poaching is a major problem within the trade?

Seven AQ collectors operating illegally in West Hawai'i were caught in 3 separate incidents over a 7-month period in 2020 for nearly a thousand criminal violations involving the illegal take of over 1,100 animals.^{15, 16, 17} Among the five who were charged, two pleaded guilty and were convicted, two fled the state, failing to appear for their court dates, and the fifth collector, who originally pleaded not guilty to 344 counts, was recently convicted and fined just \$4,000 following a plea arrangement.^{18, 19} The criminal fines yielded less than 10

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percent of the market value of the illegally captured marine animals, which does not serve to deter future violations.

The secretive nature of the trade, occurring offshore and underwater, coupled with DOCARE's lack of staffing and resources, make enforcement nearly impossible. Enforcement actions have only occurred with support of NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement driven by numerous tips from the community, such as those received through 808-NO-POACH, a joint reward tip-line implemented by Kapu AQ Hui members to support DOCARE.

Q: What are the costs/benefits of the trade?

An independent peer-reviewed cost-benefit analysis (CBA) of four Hawai'i AQ collection scenarios found that a ban on AQ collection was the ONLY action that produced positive net economic benefits to Hawai'i. Banning the trade resulted in a \$440,294,770 benefit to Hawaii's 1.4 million residents from the direct and indirect market value of on-reef tourism which is dependent upon healthy, beautiful coral reefs and abundant fishes. Allowing collection only benefitted a small handful of collectors, marine dealers, and, notably, out of state wildlife pet trade dealers. The CBA also uncovered DLNR-DAR's cost to manage the trade at \$300,000 - \$500,000 annually, not including enforcement.²⁰

Comparing the management costs reported in the CBA to the state's revenues from the trade reveals that the state is operating in the red where AQ collection is concerned. If the trade were reopened to 22 collectors (who would take as much as 40 collectors), as proposed in the EIS's, DLNR would receive just \$2,200 in annual licensing fees which are \$100 per collector. Using the trade's average historical reported gross sales of \$532,000, by a similar number of collectors, the state would also receive approximately \$21,280 in general excise tax revenue.⁷ Combined, **the \$23,480 in revenue from the trade falls grossly short of the \$300,000 - \$500,000 required for the state's attempted management of the trade**, so taxpayers would continue to bear this cost—economically and environmentally.

Q: What does science say?

Recent statewide research found that the number of herbivores on a reef is *the* critical factor for Hawai'i's coral reef health in combatting climate change impacts. Researchers found that large numbers of smaller herbivores (i.e. abundance) are more effective at keeping algae from smothering corals than smaller numbers of larger fish (i.e. biomass).²¹

In areas protected from AQ collecting, yellow tangs are one of the most abundant herbivores on the reef. However, because yellow tangs are the most heavily collected species, they are far less abundant on reefs where collecting has occurred: averaging **60% less** abundant in West Hawai'i;²² and, **93% less** abundant on O'ahu.²³

The most heavily collected reefs are now among the most vulnerable to climate change. For example, South Kohala is in grave danger with coral bleaching around Puako and Kawaihae projected to occur annually by 2035.² Annual reported AQ take encompassing the Kohala area in the years just prior to the 2018 closure averaged 140,425 fish, which is more than the AQ trade is allowed to take from Australia's *entire* Great Barrier Reef, although it is hundreds of times larger than Hawai'i's total reef area.²⁴

Q: What is the best alternative to wild-caught reef wildlife?

Captive-bred (i.e. aquacultured) yellow tangs are now widely available to consumers via efforts of Hawai'i Pacific University's Oceanic Institute and the Biota Group in Waimanalo. There is no need to allow the take of

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wild yellow tangs and other species that are available via aquaculture for the pet trade. Polls show that 81% of Hawai'i residents agree that ONLY aquacultured fish should be kept as pets in home aquariums.¹

Now and into the future there will be many jobs in aquaculture and, already, numerous former collectors have joined efforts at reef recovery and aquaculture.



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- ³ DLNR Outreach Flyers: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/ih9xe244jq0ii4l/Outreach%20herbivore%20flyers.pdf?dl=0>
- ⁴ DLNR Herbivore Management Outreach: <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/holomua/herbivoremanagement/participate-in-the-process/>
- ⁵ For the Fishes et al. BLNR Testimony (2021) at pg. 11: https://www.dropbox.com/s/qco6987mxyzflzv/6.25.21_BLNR_Testimony_Item%20F.3_WH_AQ_RFEIS.pdf?dl=0
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SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 12:40:35 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna A Dale	Testifying for Both Citizen and Board Member of SAFE Worldwide (www.safeworldwide.org)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha.

I wish to register my strong support for the continued ban on the fishing of Hawaii's reefs for the purposes of selling to or for aquariums.

Our fish deserve this protection so that they may continue to repopulate areas where the variety of fish had been dessimated. The health of the reefs themselves are at stake, and what I have learned in my work for the preservation of wildlife, the ecosystem as a whole is affected by a variety of keystone species which live there. And as an activist in this arena, I can attest to the fact that we don't yet know all the facts -- we do not realize all the species which in fact hold the keys to a thriving reef.

I swim along the Puako Beach reef on Big Island on a daily basis, and the reef is clearly struggling to maintain the health it still has, due in part to the runoff from agriculture/farmland and golf courses, never mind the wastewater from cesspools that still flow into the waters there. The fish and other wildlife in Puako -- and along every other reef in Hawaii -- must be supported in their struggle for survival. It is a precious natural resource which the whole planet needs in order to thrive.

It is vital that you take action to continue permanently ban this type of fishing along our coastline. Aquariums have other resources to obtain fish, so require them to use those resources!

As a citizen of and spokesman for our planet's wildlife, I say we have a responsibility here: Let's end this form of legalized poaching, permanently.

Mahalo,

Donna Dale

Puako Community member and

Board Member, SAFE Worldwide

www.safeworldwide.org

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 12:43:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maki Morinoue	Testifying for HULI PAC	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha and mahalo for this opportunity,

We strongly support SB505 to prohibit the collection of aquatic life for commercial aquarium pet trade purposes.

We have and continue to be a cal year after year in favor of banning such extractive behavior and industry that doesn't allow the health of our coral reef to heal and one day bounce back again. For this herbivore species are EXTREMELY VITAL.

The time is now and the evidence is clearly marked in scientific data and our multi generational observation.

Please support this bill as it will allow our entities ocean eco system to heal. One day we hope to say it is thriving.

Mahalo

Maki Morinoue

96725



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

January 29, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Re: SB 505 – Aquatic Resources

Hearing: Monday, January 30, 2023, 1:00 p.m. Room 224 & videoconference

Position: **STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha, Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice Chairs Richards and Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment and the Committee on Water and Land:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i is in strong support of SB 505, which would prohibit the commercial collection of reef fish for the aquarium trade.

We want to emphasize that ending commercial collection for the aquarium pet trade HELPS local food fishers. During recent information briefings regarding this issue, non-commercial food fishers expressed their frustration with the Division of Aquatic Resources for pushing to enact regulations on herbivores taken by food fishers.

This bill builds on similar bills considered in the 2021 and 2022 sessions. It would add a section to HRS Chapter 189 that would prohibit the harvesting of aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes, regardless of the method of collection.

As the updated preamble in the updated bill very accurately notes, the commercial aquarium pet trade has taken millions of herbivore fishes and other important animals from Hawaii's reefs for pet stores and hobbyist tanks on the U.S. mainland, which has substantially reduced species diversity, abundance, and biomass. The aquarium pet trade has removed some herbivorous fish species by upwards of eighty per cent of their population in many areas, directly impacting food fishers and leading to the potential extinction of some fish species. And, as the bill notes, the Department of Land and Natural Resources estimates that taxpayers lose upwards

of \$500,000 every year to manage the aquarium pet trade, yet the trade annually generates less than \$25,000 in revenue for the State. Moreover, and of greatest concern, the aquarium trade has significantly depleted populations of some of these same herbivorous species yet face no regulations and have essentially been given special treatment for decades.

For these reasons, this bill really needs to pass. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this very important measure.

Alan B. Burdick and Melodie Aduja,
Co-Chairs of the Environmental Caucus,
Democratic Party of Hawai‘i
Burdick808@gmail.com/ 808-927-1500
Legislativepriorities@gmail.com 808-258-8889

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 1:51:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Francis Ruddle	Testifying for MAUNA LANI SEA ADVENTURES	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to continue to protect our oceans from over fishing and fish collections. Period.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 1:50:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David McGuire	Testifying for Shark Stewards	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We oppose the Aquarium Industry's efforts to bypass public sentiment and use loopholes under the DLNR rules to attempt to renew a cruel and unsustainable trade that has negative impacts on Hawaiian coral reefs and ecosystems. This industry does not benefit native Hawaiians and harms species that eat algae on coral, and provide food for local people and higher trophic level fish. Millions of reef fish die before reaching aquarium enthusiasts on the mainland. The profiteering and smokescreen put out by the industry belie the damage done to Hawaiian reefs and people. Shark stewards urges the legislature to protect Hawaii fish and reefs and stop this unsustainable and damaging trade that profits corporations at the expense of visitors who bring in income to see these fish, and the people of Hawaii.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 2:00:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass SB505. The aquarium industry rapes our reefs of millions of our herbivore fishes and provides a mere \$25k/year to the economy. These fish are an important part of the ocean eco system, keeping the reefs healthy. There are few things more important for an island state than a thriving surrounding sea.

The large number of Hawaiin fishes who perish in transport is not humane nor acceptable, especially when their fate is life in a tank, as ornamental entertainment.

Mahalo,

Cathy Goeggel

President, Animal Rights Hawai'i



KO`OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

P. O. Box 664 * Kaneohe, HI 96744 * Ph. (808) 235-8111 *

www.koolaupokohcc.org

January 29, 2023

Re: Testimony in support of SB505: Prohibiting the harvesting of aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes, regardless of the method of collection.

The Committee will hear testimony from other Hawaiian organizations as to the impact of such harvesting of resources on Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices. The testimony submitted here is primarily concerned with an industry that has rarely been reliably monitored; making the consequences of the removal of more than 450,000 fish over 5 years poorly understood.

The ornamental fish industry strives to be perceived as sustainable, but there are only a few case studies about sustainable fisheries, and sustainability is mainly understood only in terms of the livelihoods of the permit holders.

In a study published in November 2020, *MDPI*, an open-access, peer-reviewed journal, stated that “It is very surprising and concerning that in the 21st century an entire group of vertebrates (in particular, 4000 known coral reef fishes) can be traded with few regulatory and monitoring systems in place. For decades, conservationists and other scientists have demanded comprehensive regulation, monitoring, and control of the ornamental fish trade, and we agree that these measures are indeed long overdue and require urgent implementation.”

On its website, PIJAC states that the effects of a Hawaiian aquarium trade shut-down would be devastating. PIJAC has also expressed concern that CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) voted to undertake a comprehensive study of the marine ornamental trade.

PIJAC’s inability to provide population estimates for three of the finfish and four of the invertebrate species listed for take and its inability to provide thorough analysis of population trend data for the species proposed for take is insufficient information to enable a reasoned decision.

Hawaii’s fragile reefs have more than enough obstacles to contend with—agricultural runoff, to name one—and the last thing they and those of us concerned with health of Hawaii’s reefs need is to have our reef fish collected to satisfy a generally unregulated trade and hobby.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

The Koolaulopoko Hawaiian Civic Club was established in 1937 and is a not-for-profit community organization dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the history, heritage and culture of Native Hawaiians. One of the largest of the Hawaiian Civic Clubs, its membership is open to people of Hawaiian ancestry and those who are “Hawaiian at heart”

Angela Crumpton

From: Jhanavi Pomerantz
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 2:56 PM
To: Angela Crumpton
Cc: Meg Turner
Subject: TESTIMONY: Strong support for Bill SB 505 and it's companion bill

From: Diane Ware <volcanogetaway@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 11:59 AM
To: webmaster <webmaster@Capitol.hawaii.gov>
Cc: Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye <seninouye@capitol.hawaii.gov>; Sen. Mike Gabbard <sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov>; senelephante@capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: Strong support for Bill SB 505 and it's companion bill

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Honorable Chair's Gabbard and Inouye, Vice-chair's Richards and Elefante, and Senate Agriculture and Environment, and Water and Land Committee members

Re my **SUPPORT of SB505: Relating to Environmental Protection and Hawaiian wildlife**

I have been in strong support for decades of native Hawaiian, environmental, marine and animal protection organizations and businesses working to prohibit the capture of Hawai'i's marine life for aquarium commercial (profit) pet trade purposes, with exemptions for public aquariums, research, education and aquaculture. I sincerely thank the Committee's for considering this critically important matter that affects all who live in and care for Hawai'i and visitors who come here to experience the reef ecosystem. I have spoken directly to Ka'imi Kaupiko down in Miloli'i and Mike Nakachi about the negative effects on the Hawaiian community and subsistence practices of taking millions of reef fishes over decades leading to Lack where there was once Abundance.

This measure is urgently needed now because:

- For decades, local communities, and in polls, 83 percent of residents, have supported a complete end to aquarium collecting for the pet trade, due to numerous environmental, cultural and ethical concerns and conflicts with local values. In 2008 I gave testimony for an environmental group in the passage of a Hawai'i County council resolution to end the trade. I also supported the bill that passed both houses of the legislature in 2017 only to be vetoed by the governor in favor of DLNR and pet trade special interests.
-
- The aquarium pet trade has taken millions of culturally significant and ecologically critical reef animals, primarily herbivores, from our reefs for sale to mainland pet stores and for home aquariums outside Hawai'i. This "pet trade" in our reef wildlife yields astronomical mortality rates that would

never be tolerated for any other animals sold as pets. I have been snorkeling in Hawai'i since 1956 and have directly experienced the effects of the trade on numbers of fishes (Tang most prominent) and the ecosystem as a whole.

- Herbivores are critical to the survival of Hawai'i's coral reefs in the face of climate change, which, beginning in 2014, destroyed parts of our important reef ecosystems through a series of unprecedented ocean heat waves, and which is forecast to drive annual ocean heat waves as soon as 2030
- Scientists agree that 70% of Hawai'i's coral reefs could be lost by mid-century from these increasing ocean heat waves, and that herbivore abundance and biomass must be increased on Hawai'i's reefs if they are to survive, as herbivores are key to keeping algae under control on our coral reefs
- Food fishers are now paying the price for aquarium trade impacts even though the aquarium pet trade has historically taken 1.8 times more fish (mostly herbivores) from West Hawai'i reefs than all food fishers, combined (DLNR 2020 report to the legislature). The recent West Hawai'i prohibition on take of *paku'iku'i* (Achilles tang) came after years of DLNR repeatedly reporting that aquarium collecting was severely impacting *paku'iku'i* populations on those reefs (DLNR grant report to NOAA)
- The most heavily targeted species (mostly herbivores) on O'ahu reefs have been depleted by the aquarium pet trade by 90%, on average (Grabowsky and Thornhill 2020)

DLNR data show:

- Herbivore abundance significantly increases once aquarium collecting stops. Aquarium collecting has been prohibited under court order in West Hawai'i since 2018, and statewide since January 12, 2021, given the decades long illegal issuance of permits and licenses for aquarium collecting without first requiring environmental review under Hawai'i's Environmental Policy Act (HEPA)
- The 2018 West Hawai'i aquarium collecting ban resulted in the largest increase in yellow tang herbivore abundance ever documented on those reefs (DAR data)
- Without aquarium collection, O'ahu's reefs stand to benefit with a gain at least 81,000 herbivorous and other fishes each year (based on historical catch reports)

Additional Benefits of SB505

- Saves the state money:
 - DLNR estimates it costs taxpayers upwards of \$500,000 annually to administer and manage the aquarium trade, not including enforcement costs, yet it only receives a mere \$23,480 in permit fees and taxes: ending the trade would save taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars annually
 - According to an independent peer-reviewed cost-benefit analysis, ending the trade would also yield positive annual benefits by supporting over \$440,000,000 in the direct and indirect market value of reef tourism

With respect and aloha 'aina,

Diane Ware
808-967-8642
P. O. Box 698
99-7815 Kapoha
Volcano HI 96785

Angela Crumpton

From: Jhanavi Pomerantz
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 2:57 PM
To: Angela Crumpton
Cc: Meg Turner
Subject: TESTIMONY: Support for a continued ban on aquarium collecting

From: Eric Burkhardt <ericfburk@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 12:03 PM
To: Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye <seninouye@capitol.hawaii.gov>; Sen. Mike Gabbard <sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: Support for a continued ban on aquarium collecting

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I've been unsuccessful in submitting testimony on the website. Perhaps it is overwhelmed by the number of people trying.

I strongly support SB505 to prohibit collection of aquatic life for the aquarium trade.....and I hope you do too.

--

Eric Burkhardt
h 808-775-1414
m 808-895-3532
WH6FSG

Angela Crumpton

From: Jhanavi Pomerantz
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 2:56 PM
To: Angela Crumpton
Cc: Meg Turner
Subject: TESTIMONY: In support of SB505

From: GEORGE PATTERSON <g_patt@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 10:32 AM
To: Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye <seninouye@capitol.hawaii.gov>; Sen. Mike Gabbard <sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: In support of SB505

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Committee Chairs,

Today, Sunday, January 29, 2023, the Capitol website seems to be overwhelmed and can not function as a portal for receiving testimony for SB505. That is unfortunate. It is possible that persons in support of SB505 will not be successful in submitting testimony. Please accept my Testimony in support of SB505.

Testimony In Support of SB505

I support SB505 for a total ban on aquarium fish collecting in Hawaii. I am a long term resident and property owner of Hawaii Island in North Kohala. For many years, I have witnessed the negative impact of dwindling fish populations from aquarium collection. I am a swimmer and scuba diver in the ocean year around at least 3 - 5 days per week.

Yellow Tang and other herbivores are adapted to grazing on algae. The herbivores play a critical role in coral reefs, without which there would be no corals, no reefs to protect the islands shorelines. I continue to see that the balance between the algae growth and coral growth has already allowed the algae to expand at the expense of the corals.

Herbivores live about 30 years in the wild. In captivity those that survive one year, very few, on average die within five years. When I swim I see so few herbivores remaining. We must protect them.

Both visitors and residents of Hawaii look forward to seeing schools of Yellow Tang and other reef fish living in the wild. The Yellow Tang are the Kona Gold of west Hawaii. Without the schools of Yellow Tang the very reason for visitors to come to Hawaii is diminished. My brother visited Hawaii and remarked that the fish populations were not what he expected and will likely vacation elsewhere.

As a swimmer on the west side of Hawaii island I personally have seen the results of aquarium collectors. They decimate fish populations. The algae grows out of control. There is also direct conflict between residents and collectors. Aquarium collection is not Pono. It is in conflict with the Hawaiian culture. The Yellow Tang have a Hawaiian name - lau'ipala. The 'yellowed ti leaf'. That is not by accident. The Ti leaf is sacred to Lono, the Hawaiian God of fertility and Laka, the Goddess of Hula.

We must stand up to ward off the evil aquarium collectors and bring good to these islands. It is our ancient duty.

Mahalo from Kapa'au, HI

- George Patterson

Angela Crumpton

From: Jhanavi Pomerantz
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 2:55 PM
To: Angela Crumpton
Cc: Meg Turner
Subject: TESTIMONY: Support SB505

From: Keith Neal <windrider4002@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 10:16 AM
To: webmaster <webmaster@Capitol.hawaii.gov>; Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye <seninouye@capitol.hawaii.gov>; Sen. Mike Gabbard <sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: Support SB505

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am submitting my support of wild reef herbivore protection from aquarium trade collectors.

-Keith Neal

P.S. should the capitol website resume function before 13:00 HST, 1-29-23 I will submit written testimony.

Angela Crumpton

From: Jhanavi Pomerantz
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 2:55 PM
To: Angela Crumpton
Cc: Meg Turner
Subject: TESTIMONY: Testimony - SUPPORTING SB505 - WEBSITE DOWN!

From: Matthew Gurewitsch <matthew@alohaheights.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 9:55 AM
To: Sen. Mike Gabbard <sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov>; Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye <seninouye@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: Testimony - SUPPORTING SB505 - WEBSITE DOWN!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Aloha!

I wish to submit testimony in whole-hearted support of SB505, permanently ending the commercial harvest of marine life for the aquarium trade. Unfortunately, the website is down, and the deadline for testimony is today at 1:00 pm. I'm asking your assistance in reaching the legislators in time for my testimony to be recorded and considered.

Let me keep this short and to the point. I have been a permanent, full-time resident of Hawaii since 2011. Conditions permitting, I go snorkeling every day. Through a combination of factors, fish stocks have fallen off a cliff since the 1980s. Rising water temperatures, pollution, aquarium harvesting all have played their part. Aquarium harvesting is a commercial boondoggle our aina cannot afford.

Please bear in mind:

- The old claim that the industry creates jobs is now not only unethical but also false. There are no jobs for aquarium collecting.
- Aquaculture on O'ahu can supply hobby tanks with captive-bred specimens of the fish most in demand to collectors worldwide.
- There is no longer any excuse for stripping our reefs for the the mainland aquarium trade. Leave our fish where they belong—a joy to Hawaiian residents and a magnet to visitors from all over the world. The greener we are, the more attractive we are!
- Under SB505, Special Activity Permits will still allow collection for public aquariums, research, education, and aquaculture—likewise recreational collection by local residents (provided no fine-mesh nets are involved).

The aquarium trade continues to lobby against the injunction prohibiting aquarium collection. DLNR has been supporting the aquarium trade for decades. This policy has been a disaster for the aina and for all who love it. Gains have been made on the reefs in the last five years. For goodness sake, let's not sweep all this progress away! Let's start supporting our fish stocks with all the will power and integrity this job will take.

No more collection permits! Ever!

Mahalo for your attention.

M.

Matthew Gurewitsch
3415 Kuaua Pl.

Kihei (Maui) HI 96753

t/+1 (808) 874-8925

m/+1(646) 512-1973

www.beyondcriticism.com

Angela Crumpton

From: Jhanavi Pomerantz
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 2:56 PM
To: Angela Crumpton
Cc: Meg Turner
Subject: TESTIMONY: Support for SB505 (Prohibiting Collection of aquarium fish)

From: Ron Reilly <rrcomm@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 11:41 AM
To: Sen. Mike Gabbard <sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: Support for SB505 (Prohibiting Collection of aquarium fish)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Senator Gabbard,

Thank you for introducing SB505 prohibiting the collection of aquarium fish from Hawaii reefs.

I am opposed to this aquarium fish "vanity" trading. Our aquarium reef fish should not be subject to exploitation.

The protection of our reefs and the ecosystem they rely on to remain healthy is already stressed. The expected return of El Nino conditions in late 2023 will add to reef stressors. Let's stop harvesting aquarium fish.

Please note...

"As of early January, forecasts (by NOAA) suggest an 82 percent chance that La Niña will end by spring (March-May)".
(ref. <https://www.climate.gov/enso>)

Sincerely, Ron Reilly

Volcano Village, HI 96785

ps. Email submitted since Hawaii.gov website is experiencing technical difficulties.



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Angela Crumpton

From: Jhanavi Pomerantz
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 2:54 PM
To: Angela Crumpton
Cc: Meg Turner
Subject: TESTIMONY: SB 505 opposed testimony

-----Original Message-----

From: scott folsom <sfolsom1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2023 2:54 PM
Subject: SB 505 opposed testimony

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As a formal marine biologist with the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB), I am strongly opposed to SB505.

Marine fish are the most reproductive vertebrates on the planet. Making fish the most renewable resource there is. The state has greatly ignored the potential the 100-billion-dollar a year pet industry could offer. The state allowed Tourists to shut down the fishery with lawsuits.

The State of Hawaii public officers' oath is to uphold the states constitution. If decisions are made that are biased and not based in facts it violates that oath. It is unconstitutional (State, Federal and International Laws, UN resolution 2749) to shut out any ocean user group. Fishery management, not closure is the government's role in fisheries. No one group can lay claim to any part of the ocean, it is a public trust. The court's decision for the aquarium fishery to do an environmental review was not based at all in science but on legal interpretation.

Leading scientist spoke out in objection to these decisions. To favor the huge ecology impacts of tourism over a proven sustainable aquarium fishery is unconstitutional, a miscarriage of justice and poor decision making. The lies perpetuated by anti-aquarium fishery groups were used in lawsuits and even earth justice lawyers spouts this misinformation, to knowingly lie under oath in court or legislative testimony is perjury. Yet even the new bills this year continue the lies. Science if read will give the truth but few bother to read the lengthy data, believing instead in biased for profit propaganda from who-tourist groups not scientists.

Hawaii's Aquarium Fishery has been studied more than any other fishery in the world. Both the 2,400 page Environmental Review of the West Hawaii fishery, and the Oahu Environmental Review, (links removed by state why? But available upon request) based in State fish counts and reports covering nearly 20 years of data, scientifically prove Hawaii's aquarium fishery is eco-friendly, having low environmental impact. The head of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources

(DLNR) – Suzanne Case, stated Hawaii's Aquarium Fishery is a "Model Fishery". She later recanted this statement in favor of tourism. With many reef fish populations on the rise overall, Hawaii's Aquarium Fishery is the true definition of "Sustainability." Abundant small fish are taken leaving breeders to repopulate making the aquarium fishery a "Model Fishery".

Hawaii's leading scientist speak out in opposition to DLNR Land Boards decision not to approve the environmental review of the West Hawaii Aquarium fishery. This review was based on many of these scientist research and then they were not even questioned or consulted about the board decision. It was like the science did not matter.

Hawaii's top marine biologists William Walsh Ph.D., Ivor Williams Ph.D., Brian Tissot Ph.D.; Leon Hallacher Ph.D.; Bruce Carlson Ph.D.; Charles Birkeland Ph.D.; Jeremy Claisse Ph.D.; Mark Christie Ph.D.; Richard Pyle Ph.D.; Leighton Taylor Ph.D.; Randy Kosaki Ph.D.; Cynthia Hunter Ph.D.; Brian Bowen Ph.D.; Brian Zgliczynski Ph.D.; Jeff Ebel Ph.D.; Alan Friedlander Ph.D.; Kosta Stamoulis Ph.D.; Delisse Ortiz Ph.D.; Jan Dierking Ph.D.; Rob Toonen Ph.D.; and Jim Beets Ph.D. Thursday, June 25, 2020, all signed the letter condemning the BLNR land board decision not to approve fisheries environmental review.

Why? Because the fishery is sustainable.

Hawaii's aquarium fishery is an important part of a \$100-billion a year pet industry. This fishery has the potential to sustainably provide millions of much needed revenue to the State of Hawaii. This is what the State of Hawaii needs, a stable valuable industry. For too long Hawaii has allowed other businesses to take a back seat to a vulnerable tourist industry which has a high carbon footprint.

Scott Folsom

Angela Crumpton

From: Jhanavi Pomerantz
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 2:57 PM
To: Angela Crumpton
Cc: Meg Turner
Subject: TESTIMONY: Testimony in support of SB505 to ban commercial reef fish collection

From: S.A. Marek <alohamarek@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 12:43 PM
To: Sen. Mike Gabbard <sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: Testimony in support of SB505 to ban commercial reef fish collection

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Aloha Senator Gabbard,

I live on the Big Island and regularly snorkel/swim in the ocean. When the moratorium on collecting tropical fish went into effect a few years ago, it was a blessing for the entire reef ecosystem and the number of tropical fish slowly increased.

The outdated aquarium trade is particularly damaging to the west side of the Big Island, where the vast majority of tropical fish are commercially harvested. Most state residents believe reef fish collection should be banned, not managed.

Mahalo and happy swimming!

Sherry A. Marek
Big Island resident

Angela Crumpton

From: Jhanavi Pomerantz
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 2:59 PM
To: Angela Crumpton
Cc: Meg Turner
Subject: TESTIMONY: Aquarium collection

-----Original Message-----

From: Thomas Reppuhn <reppuhn2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 2:18 PM
To: Sen. Mike Gabbard <sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: Aquarium collection

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please do not allow commercial aquarium collection

Sent from my iPhone

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2023 9:15:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
R A Culbertson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators and members of the committees!

I, along with my fellow members of the ‘Big Island Reef Keepers hui’, urge you to pass SB505 at this time.

It is now widely understood that our reef fish are the “tools” for reef recovery we all are seeking.

The commercial collection of wild reef fish for purely ornamental purposes is at odds with what science and the akamai Hawaiian practitioners have been telling us for years now.

The fish may be just starting to come back...given a chance.

You can ensure this chance to ho’oponopono is finally realized!

Mahalo nui loa!

R A Culbertson

Honokaa

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/27/2023 10:35:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gregg Gruwell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB505!

Since I first snorkeled Kona in the 1980's, I have seen a huge reduction in reef fish populations! On the Kona Coast, I would estimate a loss of 80%.

No, I am not a marine biologist, but I am a retired military officer and my eyes don't lie!

Please move this bill forward and help stop this barbaric practice!

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 8:56:48 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james ward	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I've lived in south Kona and been a divier in the Milolii area for 15 years. I've had first hand experience with the effects of aquarium collectors on the local reefs. Certain species such as yellow tang and triggerfish have been all but wiped out from the continual harvesting of tropical fish for commercial use. Since the ban on collectiion (some is still done illegally) I've noticed certian tropical species start to reappear. I strongly support a permanent ban on commercial collection of tropical fish as they are vital to the local ecosystem, not to mention the enjoyment of visitors to Hawaii.

Mahalo Nui

James Ward

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 9:04:11 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole LeClaire	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support prohibiting the collection of aquatic life for commercial aquarium pet trade purposes. Let the fish be, leave them alone. Protect the natural balance of the ocean.

Strongly Opposed to SB 505 and HB 910 Prohibits commercial aquarium fish collecting.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT and COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

DATE: Monday, January 30, 2023

TIME: 1:00 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

TIMESLOT: 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Opposed to SB 505

This user conflict over our ocean continues, fishers versus tourist groups. Tourism not fisheries are the cause of global warming and huge impacts to our oceans! This is clear it is a grab to control the oceans by rich tourist companies. It has nothing to do with the environment. If you think it does you need to read all below.

The facts presented in the Bill are not true! Also, the idea that the fishery has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to pass a full HEPA environmental review to face a shut down bill is insulting at the least.

The fishery has only 7 fishers in West Hawaii and 14 fishers on Oahu left. The impacts proposed will be very small compared to the previous take and is recommended by the DLNR DAR and BLNR to be approved for permit issuance. The previous historical take in the past was sustainable and extremely small compared to seafood fishers. The fishery should be increased and expanded in the future to fight global warming and sustainability! Fish are the most renewable vertebrates on the planet producing up to 300 million fry per year per pair!

Small abundant smaller reef fish will be taken leaving the breeders to repopulate. Even with projected global warming Herbivore issues the

fishery will still be sustainable. HEMARC study with its 1200 fish counts showed reef fish targeted for aquarium fish purposes are not in decline.

Highly human populated areas with lots of seafood take are the fish in decline. Aquarium fishers differ in that they leave the breeders. Thus, the reason the fishery is called the “Model Fishery”.

The value of fish taken for aquarium purposes is 400 times the value of fish taken for seafoods purposes. Aquarium fishes are not killed, and they are treated humanely! The 100 billion dollar a year Pet Industry greatly relies on aquarium fish for many sales.

It would be a grave mistake to close any fishery environmentally, economically, and violates both the state and national constitution.

Please hold this bill- thanks, Ron Tubbs B.S.N.D.

A Hawaii Tourism Sustainability and Fisheries Review 2023, The truth, the science:

- A. Intro The Problem
- B. Conclusion Suggested Legislation needed.
- C. The Science
- D. Tourism High carbon Footprint
- E. Tourism High Tourist Death Rate
- F. Tourism Whale Strikes
- G. Tourism Manta Ray Strikes
- H. Tourism Dolphin Tours
- I. Tourism Corals Damaged
- J. Tourism Vulnerabilities
- K. Tourism Effects on Fish Populations
- L. Tourism Closing Sustainable Fisheries over “User Conflict”
- M. Tourism and Cultural Impacts
- N. Additional Sources

Intro The Problem

“Don’t Look Up” Netflix movie meaning: The climate crisis and the pandemic are the two most obvious metaphors for the film’s comet. Through *Don’t Look Up*, McKay points out that we live in a society that allows us to bypass scientific fact and ignore the threat of our own self-destruction for individual short-term gain. (Embedded Links in [Blue](#))

A satire about the foolishness of political officials ignoring science and believing misinformation for self-gain.

The point is that the State of Hawaii desperately needs to increase renewable sustainable resource use to fight global warming and meet Hawaii’s Zero net carbon footprint plans.

Instead, Hawaii allows rich lawyers to shut down opposing businesses with **Endless Environmental Litigation** using defective HEPA (Hawaii Environmental Policy Act HRS 343 Ch 189) laws. Even if you pass the HEPA you face endless environmental litigation and will never get permits just look at TMT. The Superferry knew it could not pass HEPA and just pulled out. Hawaii business is at extreme risk due to the defective laws.

Legally the aquarium fishery when **West Hawaii Passed its HEPA review in 2022 it should have received permits right away**. Instead, the state chose to delay giving out the aquarium permits. Why? Maybe the fact that every permit DLNR issues should also have to do an environmental review and pressure received by eco groups to sue is why. Blackmail! Justice is not being served!

The environmentally friendly Superferry was effectively shut down by tour boat, airline, and inter-island cargo businesses. It was a lower carbon footprint way of traveling. The scientifically proven sustainable aquarium fishery was closed by tourist businesses spouting misinformation for private gain and with tourist billionaire business (Michael Dell Four Seasons Kona) money paying off Earth Justice to perpetuate the continuing lawsuits.

Why is the aquarium fishery the only DLNR issued permit who must do a HEPA permit process? Legally all permits DLNR issues should have to do HEPA permit processes too, if they have any environmental impacts. Any lawsuit would force the issue very quickly. All DLNR permits are at risk to lawsuits. Suing tourist permits would be the right thing to do to protect the environment!

The states only argument fighting for the aquarium fishery permits was legal definition. The state lawyers did not use any of the science of the fishery. Unscientific opposing profiting tourist user group misinformation was allowed into depositions without any scientific opposition. The **miscarriage of justice** continues for the overly regulated highly proven sustainable “Model Fishery” when it was closed due to “User Conflict”.

Conclusion Suggested Legislation Needed

Instead of penalizing highly sustainable fisheries and depending on highly destructive tourism; Hawaii needs to support and develop renewable resources. Fishery laws are being made with out proper studies and fish counts. Over regulation of renewable resource use is being done every year! Do fish counts on every Island. Manage stocks with science.

Fisheries are the solution not the problem!

Step back, review and promote sustainable agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and look at Hawaii's renewable resources with a new perspective. The fate of the planet lies in the use of renewable resources and their sustainable use! More legislation against highly renewable resources is the worst thing Hawaii can do.

<https://www.hawaii.edu/news/2020/09/10/can-aquaculture-repair-hawaii-economy/>

The Science

Marine fish are the [most reproductive vertebrates](#) on the planet. Making fish the most renewable resource there is. The state has greatly ignored the potential the **100-billion-dollar a year pet industry** could offer. The state allowed Tourists to shut down the fishery with lawsuits. Opah Moon Fish produce 300 million eggs a year, many other reefs fish produce tens of thousands to millions of fry per spawn per pair. We need to support a managed sustainable fishery to create a more sustainable society.

The State of Hawaii public officers' oath is to uphold the states constitution. If decisions are made that are biased and not based in facts it violates that oath. It is unconstitutional (State, Federal and International Laws, [UN resolution](#) 2749) to shut out any ocean user group. Fishery management, not closure is the government's role in fisheries. No one group can lay claim to any part of the ocean, it is a public trust. The court's decision for the aquarium fishery to do an environmental review was not based at all in science but on legal interpretation.

Leading scientist spoke out in objection to these decisions. To favor the huge ecology impacts of tourism over a proven sustainable aquarium fishery is unconstitutional, a miscarriage of justice and poor decision making. The lies perpetuated by anti-aquarium fishery groups were used in lawsuits and even earth justice lawyers spouts this misinformation, to knowingly lie under oath in court or legislative testimony is perjury. Yet even the new bill this year continue the lies. Science if read will give the truth but few bother to read the lengthy data, believing instead in biased for profit propaganda from who-tourist groups not scientists.

Hawaii's Aquarium Fishery has been studied more than any other fishery in the world. Both the [2,400 page Environmental Review](#) of the West Hawaii fishery, and the [Oahu Environmental Review](#), (links removed by state why? But available upon request) based in [State fish counts and reports covering nearly 20 years of data](#), scientifically prove Hawaii's aquarium fishery is

eco-friendly, having low environmental impact. The head of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) – Suzanne Case, stated Hawaii’s Aquarium Fishery is a **“Model Fishery”**. She later recanted this statement in favor of tourism. With many reef fish populations on the rise overall, Hawaii’s Aquarium Fishery is the true definition of “Sustainability.” Abundant small fish are taken leaving breeders to repopulate making the aquarium fishery a “Model Fishery”.

Hawaii’s [leading scientist speak](#) out in opposition to DLNR Land Boards decision not to approve the environmental review of the West Hawaii Aquarium fishery. This review was based on many of these scientist research and then they were not even questioned or consulted about the board decision. It was like the science did not matter.

Hawaii’s top marine biologists **William Walsh Ph.D., Ivor Williams Ph.D., Brian Tissot Ph.D.; Leon Hallacher Ph.D.; Bruce Carlson Ph.D.; Charles Birkeland Ph.D.; Jeremy Claisse Ph.D.; Mark Christie Ph.D.; Richard Pyle Ph.D.; Leighton Taylor Ph.D.; Randy Kosaki Ph.D.; Cynthia Hunter Ph.D.; Brian Bowen Ph.D.; Brian Zgliczynski Ph.D.; Jeff Ebel Ph.D.; Alan Friedlander Ph.D.; Kosta Stamoulis Ph.D.; Delisse Ortiz Ph.D.; Jan Dierking Ph.D.; Rob Toonen Ph.D.; and Jim Beets Ph.D.** Thursday, June 25, 2020, all signed the letter condemning the BLNR land board decision not to approve fisheries environmental review. Why? Because the fishery is sustainable.

Since Honolulu is the most remote city in the world and our economy is [Hawaii imported](#) 179 million dollars in goods and exported only 24 million in goods. Hawaii is too dependent on tourism, imports, overseas food supplies and nonrenewable resources.

Hawaii’s leading exports are Iron steel scrap, aircraft parts, aluminum waste, copper waste from goods that were imported. Only one renewable export made the top ten export list, shrimp aquaculture. Aquarium aquaculture is a must for a sustainable Hawaii. Aquaculture and many other businesses depend on the aquarium fishery.

Hawaii’s major problem we face is that “Everyday 30,000 tourist flying to Hawaii creates more Global Warming CO2 gas emissions than if you drove your car for 13,000 years”.

Hawaii’s Tourism is the most unsustainable business activity with the highest carbon footprint produced. 80% of tourist also do ocean activities and create huge ocean impacts much more so than any Hawaii fishery. Tourism is also too vulnerable to be depended on, just look at what happened during covid and 911. Tourism crashes will happen again and may take many years to recover.

For Hawaii to become sustainable we must change to sustainable, low carbon footprints, and concentrate on renewable resources use for Hawaii’s major exports and businesses.

In ancient Hawaiian culture in order to survive with the only resources available on these tiny islands [you had to be sustainable, or you were dead](#). A major part of that renewable resource survival was fishing! Sustainable fishing is historically an important Hawaiian resource! Many Hawaiians and their families are supported by the aquarium fishery.

Ocean tourist groups have complained that there are no more fish at their dive and snorkeling sites. [News article](#) discusses the loss of fish in tourist areas. [Recent studies](#) showed the return of fish to Hanauma bay when tourism stopped due to covid. Now that tourism has returned to the bay, more research showed [fish are disappearing](#) again! The large groups of tourists have scared the fish out of these areas. Huge tourist snorkel and dive groups greatly impact fish feeding and reproduction behavior effecting fish populations. Unlike tourists Fishermen do not go to same areas day in and day out in large numbers, fishermen rotate their sites to prevent overfishing. Are tourism impacts being used to blame the aquarium fishery? Aquarium fishermen do not go to tourist areas, but more and more tourists are coming into and taking aquarium fishing areas away from fishermen. The 20 years of FRA fish replenishment aquarium fish [fish counts](#) off West Hawaii show increase in overall fish populations so why are tourist areas having less fish and why is the proven sustainable fishery closed?

Tourism High carbon Footprint

Hawaii's major problem we face is that **"Everyday 30,000 tourist flying to Hawaii creates more Global Warming CO2 gas emissions than if you drove your car for 13,000 years"**.

Over 10 Million visitors to Hawaii in 2019 created one of the biggest environmental impacts globally. It is not just the overseas travel on planes! Overseas travel to Hawaii emits over [two tons of carbon dioxide per passenger](#)! A one person Hawaii trip overseas produces as much CO2 as driving an average car (4 tons CO2 per year) for 6 months! Multiply that time 30,000 a day and that is 60,000 tons of CO2 per day in tourist air travel to Hawaii alone. Overseas tourism is one of the highest CO2 carbon footprint activities!

It is not just the overseas travel on planes! It is also the carbon footprint of tens of thousands of additional cars on the road and all the imported goods needed to support tourism.

8 million visitors on average per year participated in Hawaii Marine commercial activities and greatly impacted Hawaii's oceans. The impacts of these 8 million visitors to our oceans far outweighs impacts by fishermen. It is Global Warming not fishers that are the greatest threat to our oceans.

Tourism going up with no end in sight.

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/hawaii-tourism-way-just-getting-125047160.html>

<https://www.vox.com/the-highlight/2019/7/25/8881364/greta-thunberg-climate-change-flying-airline>

<https://airplanesandavocados.com/marine-tourism-hawaii-sustainable/>

<https://www.hawaiitourismauthority.org/news/news-releases/2020/hawai-i-visitor-statistics-released-for->

[2019/#:~:text=A%20total%20of%2010%2C424%2C995%20visitors,up%203.0%20percent%20from%202018](https://www.hawaiitourismauthority.org/news/news-releases/2020/hawai-i-visitor-statistics-released-for-2019/#:~:text=A%20total%20of%2010%2C424%2C995%20visitors,up%203.0%20percent%20from%202018)

<https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2021/06/11/hawaii-tourism-officials-call-more-sustainable-industry/>

Tourism High Tourist Death Rate

Ocean activities causes about 60 deaths a year. Most of those deaths being tourist. Most of those tourists who died were snorkelers. No ocean safety training was provided but everyone must sign liability release forms. Of the 60 ocean deaths every year most of them are tourists. It is OK to kill tourists, but God forbid you want to keep a fish alive as a pet!

[Snorkeling In Hawaii Is A Leading Cause Of Tourist Deaths ...](#)

<https://www.civilbeat.org › 2016/01 › stand-up-or-die-s...>

Jan 11, 2016 — Despite being touted as a leisure activity, snorkeling *deaths* are the most ... Stand Up Or Die: Snorkeling In Hawaii Is A Leading Cause Of *Tourist Deaths* ... *Snorkel Bob's*, the largest snorkeling outfit in the state, teaches ...

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=503782077721446&id=109509517148706

[News 2 | Snorkel Safety Study](#)

<http://www.snorkelsafetystudy.com › index.php › news-2>

Stand Up Or Die: *Snorkeling* In Hawaii Is A Leading Cause Of *Tourist Deaths* ... Lifeguards pulled Alexa DiGiorgio from Hanauma Bay just before 10am on a ...

[Researchers probe for answers to snorkel-related fatalities ...](#)

<https://www.mauinews.com › local-news › 2021/01 › re...>

Jan 22, 2021 — Maui had more *deaths* than other islands from 2009-2018 ... however the vast majority of *visitor* drownings are while snorkeling, yet very few ... While wearing the *snorkel gear* in his experiment using sensors, oxygen levels ...

[Hawaii Struggling To Find Out If Full-Face Snorkel Masks Are ...](#)

<https://www.civilbeat.org › 2019/10 › hawaii-struggling-t...>

Search for: [How many people have died from full face snorkel masks?](#)

How many people die snorkeling in Hawaii?

Search underway near Molokini Crater for missing snorkeler from California

<https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2021/09/15/search-underway-missing-california-snorkeler-off-molokini-crater/>

How many people have died from full face snorkel masks?

A **full-face mask** was worn in five drownings and a traditional two-piece **mask** and **snorkel** was worn in 11 drownings, according to state health department data. Oct 8, 2019

<https://www.mauinews.com/news/local-news/2021/01/researchers-probe-for-answers-to-snorkel-related-fatalities/>

<https://www.miamiherald.com › local › article251092309>

There is a class action lawsuit against snorkel tour groups. Snorkel rental companies do not provide any safety education and should be held responsible! They do however make you sign a liability release form.

Tourism Whale Strikes

Every day during whale season tourist boats chase down whales to increase tourist viewing. Tourists' tours from kayaks, sailboats to big tour boats all have been observed chasing whales. Many social media post shows these activities with no prosecutions for NOAA law violations. I have watched in horror as big tour boats drive right up on top of whale calves and moms to try and get a close-up view of the whales. The biggest Boats on Maui have the most horrendous violations and whale strike documentation. How many strikes have occurred that we do not know about! Tourists are loving our whales to death. Recent years have seen less whales visiting Hawaii, what role does tourist boats play in this. See links:

Boat strikes humpback whale calf off south Maui. 70 children on board watch as boat hits whale mom and calf!

<https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2019/03/30/boat-strikes-humpback-whale-calf-off-south-maui/>

<https://ftw.usatoday.com/2020/12/floppy-newborn-whale-and-man-overboard-caught-on-video>



Maui tourist whale watching tours hit whales and caves! Many of the nation wide 115 whales run into are done by Hawaii whale watching, dolphin tours every year! [NOAA: "Injury and death occurs"](#).

[Whales find boats a deadly hazard off Hawaii - NBC News](#)

[www.nbcnews.com › us news-environment › whales-find-boats-deadl...](#)

May 8, 2006 - Humpback *whales* are a popular tourist attraction in *Hawaii*, but this ... and 2005, there were 33 reported *strikes* involving *whales* and *boats* among the ... *Boat* captains are required to notify NOAA officials of any accidents by ...

<https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2019/03/30/boat-strikes-humpback-whale-calf-off-south-maui/>

<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/sentinel-site-program/hawaiihumpbackwhale/vessel-impacts.html>

over 115 whale strikes WOW!

https://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/res/vessel_collisions.html

<https://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/science/permittedresearch.html>

<https://www.staradvertiser.com/2018/12/19/breaking-news/noaa-reminds-people-to-watch-out-for-humpback-whales-as-they-migrate-to-hawaii/>

<http://oceanconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/lwssdata.pdf>

<https://iwc.int/ship-strikes>

<https://www.google.com/search?q=noaa+hawaii+boat+whale+strikes&tbm=isch&source=univ&client=firefox-b-1-d&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj6iYXdr5ToAhULqZ4KHa26AjAQ7Al6BAglEBk>

<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/sentinel-site-program/hawaiihumpbackwhale/vessel-impacts.html>

<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/sentinel-site-program/hawaiihumpbackwhale/vessel-impacts.html>

<https://www.kitv.com/story/41877870/whalevessel-collisions-nine-total-instances-reported-this-season>

<https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2019/03/30/boat-strikes-humpback-whale-calf-off-south-maui/>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/moon-humpback-whale-broken-spine-vessel-strike-last-journey-canada-hawaii/>

Whales Dolphin's, turtles and fish at snorkel and scuba dive sites are relentlessly pursued, harassed and hurt by large numbers of tourists. Corals are stepped on, trampled and anchors dragged through them. Tourists take corals and shells as souvenirs home with them [greatly impacting the environment](#).

The number of tourists has increased 65% over the last 20 years and is only expected to continue to rise. Over 80% of these tourists participate in marine tourism activities throughout the five main islands; Oahu, Maui, Kauai, the Big Island, and Lanai. Marine tourism includes active activities such as scuba diving and snorkeling, as well as passive activities such as dolphin and whale encounters on boats. **Hawaii's tourism.**

Corals damaged by Tourism

"Tourism and Recreational Impacts | Reef Resilience" <https://reefresilience.org/stressors/local-stressors/coral-reefs-tourism-and-recreational-impacts/>

"As Tourism Returns, We Can't Allow Cruise Companies to Destroy Coral Reefs for Profit - EcoWatch" <https://www.ecowatch.com/coral-reefs-destruction-tourism-conservation-2653139944.html>

"Division of Aquatic Resources | Coral Reefs" <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar/habitat/coral-reefs/>

"Coral Reefs | Recreational Impacts to Reefs" <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/coralreefs/recreational-impacts-to-reefs/>

<https://www.kitv.com/story/44090398/maui-sea-turtle-photo-causes-uproar-on-social-media>

Enforcement Action against John Joseph Barry III and Avalanche Adventures Corp. for Alleged Stony Coral and Live Rock Damage Resulting from the May 28, 2021, *Avalanche* Anchoring Incident Within the Waters of the Kaloko-Honokōhau Fish Replenishment Area / Netting Restricted Area, Hawai'i Island.

Enforcement Action against Kimberly Brady for Alleged Stony Coral Damage Resulting from the March 24-25, 2021, *Blaze II* anchoring incident outside the Māla Wharf, Lāhainā, Maui.

Enforcement Action against Anthony Hodgson and 2G Vessel Owner Limited for Alleged Stony Coral and Live Rock Damage Resulting from the September 29-30, 2021, *Endless Summer* Anchoring Incident within the Kailua Bay Fisheries Management Area, Island of Hawaii.

<https://www.seattletimes.com/life/travel/hawaii-tour-boat-company-to-pay-almost-400000-for-damaging-coral-reefs/>

<https://nypost.com/2020/09/05/yacht-owners-fined-after-extensive-damage-to-hawaiian-coral-reef/>

Tourism Manta Ray Strikes

Video shows serious Manta Ray injuries from boat prop strikes off West Hawaii, one person recently died from a boat strike there too.

<https://www.khon2.com/video/state-proposes-manta-ray-tour-regulation-amid-increasing-popularity/8117101/>

<https://www.khon2.com/local-news/second-manta-ray-in-less-than-a-month-has-been-found-injured-off-kona/>

<https://www.khon2.com/local-news/big-island-may-implement-new-manta-ray-viewing-rules/>

<https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2022/09/05/calls-more-protection-grow-after-beloved-manta-ray-dies-oahus-north-shore/>

<https://www.khon2.com/local-news/young-manta-ray-dies-after-apparent-anchor-line-entanglement/>

Wow how many manta rays have been hit by tourist boats in west Hawaii, so sad, these same people sued the aquarium fishery, we never had any whale or manta ray strikes effects like these.

<https://www.staradvertiser.com/2022/10/30/hawaii-news/the-state-is-proposing-the-first-ever-rules-for-manta-ray-viewing-at-two-popular-spots-off-the-kona-coast/>

<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dobor/nr15-161b/>

KAILUA-KONA —Manta ray viewing site rules have yet to be implemented nearly six years after the state set out to regulate the industry, and over a year after a draft of the proposal was published. <https://www.westhawaii.com/2019/12/14/hawaii-news/manta-ray-viewing-site-rules-still-a-ways-off/>

Tourism Dolphin Tours

Dolphins feed at night and rest during the day. Interrupting this can have huge impacts. Tour boats for years chase down dolphins endlessly daily with dozens of boats waiting in line to jump in the water with dolphin schools. It is now illegal but that does not stop them. Giving tourist a close view of whales and dolphins is always going to happen especially without enforcement. Pacific Whale foundation has received many tickets! They continue.

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2021/05/will-hawaii-spinner-dolphins-finally-get-a-rest-from-the-crowds/>

<https://www.dolphinsandyou.com/why-cant-we-swim-with-dolphins-in-hawaii/>

toxoplasmosis

<https://www.staradvertiser.com/2022/11/18/hawaii-news/hawaii-spinner-dolphins-at-risk-of-disease-study-finds/>

<https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/species-distribution-dolphins-hawaii>

Tourism Corals Damaged

Uneducated tourist will always step on corals. It has been going on for years. It is not just the divers and snorkelers it is also the ankors!

"As Tourism Returns, We Can't Allow Cruise Companies to Destroy Coral Reefs for Profit - EcoWatch" <https://www.ecowatch.com/coral-reefs-destruction-tourism-conservation-2653139944.html>

"Tourism and Recreational Impacts | Reef Resilience" <https://reefresilience.org/stressors/local-stressors/coral-reefs-tourism-and-recreational-impacts/>

"Division of Aquatic Resources | Coral Reefs" <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar/habitat/coral-reefs/>

"Coral Reefs | Recreational Impacts to Reefs" <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/coralreefs/recreational-impacts-to-reefs/>

<https://www.kitv.com/story/44090398/maui-sea-turtle-photo-causes-uproar-on-social-media>

Tourism Vulnerabilities

Hawaii was greatly impacted by the 911 terrorist attack, 2008 stock market crash, Covid, and God forbid airplane accidents. It is a leisure industry and not essential so highly dependent on economy. We must diversify! The state of Hawaii has a bad reputation for being a very difficult place to do business. When Covid hit: Hawaii Panics. Not Enough Tourists. Diversification Never Happened. Issues will soon arise again. The legislature needs to be the ones leading the way!

BH: ... Many in Hawaii travel are worried about the latest visitor statistics and data just starting to come in about our fast-cooling and non-diversified economy. It's becoming increasingly evident that managing tourism may not be as big an issue as was thought a month ago. Wasn't it just yesterday that people were complaining about too many tourists? And well, now, to be honest, we hear that far less frequently....

The latest forecast by the state's UH Economic Research Organization (UHERO) shows that the state of Hawaii's economy is worse than it had predicted six months earlier. That is due to high inflation, with the US heading towards a recession and a slipping global economy. The only bright light at this point is the return of Japanese visitors, which recovery is finally underway....

read ... [Hawaii Panics. Not Enough Tourists. Diversification Never Happened.](#)

<https://www.sfgate.com/hawaii/article/larry-ellison-blocks-lanai-beach-17446613.php>

... folks who seem to rank high on the milking list: tourists....

[read more...](#)

Hawaii's love-hate relationship with tourism

... It's not just Hawaii residents who are being priced out of paradise. Slowly but surely, tourists are also wondering whether they can still afford to visit here

[read more...](#)

Tourism Effects on Fish Populations

Ocean tourist groups have complained that there are no more fish at their dive and snorkeling sites. [News article](#) discusses the loss of fish in tourist areas. [Recent studies](#) showed the return of fish to Hanauma bay when tourism stopped due to covid. Now that tourism has returned to the bay, more research showed [fish are disappearing](#) again! The large groups of tourists have scared the fish out of these areas. Huge tourist snorkel and dive groups greatly impact fish feeding and reproduction behavior effecting fish populations. Unlike tourists Fishermen do not go to same areas day in and day out in large numbers, fishermen rotate their sites to prevent overfishing. Are tourism impacts being used to blame the aquarium fishery? Aquarium fishermen do not go to tourist areas, but more and more tourists are coming into and taking aquarium fishing areas away from fishermen. The 20 years of FRA fish replenishment aquarium fish [fish counts](#) off West Hawaii show increase in overall fish populations so why are tourist areas having less fish and why is the proven sustainable fishery closed?

Changes in the Behavior of Marine Life



Top: Tourists feeding native coral reef fish in Hawaii.

Bottom: A snorkeling tourist reaches to touch a sea turtle in Hawaii.

Photos © Ziggy Livnat, For the Sea Productions/Marine Photobank

Marine life interactions, such as fish feedings and encounters with charismatic or rare species, are increasingly popular activities for divers and snorkelers. Recreational impacts on marine ecosystems and species may be caused by diver presence or harassment, or from the feeding of marine life. In some cases, diving has been shown to reduce fish abundance at high-use sites (e.g., Kaneohe Bay, Oahu),^{ref} while in other areas, no significant effects on reef fish communities have been observed (e.g., Bonaire). ^{ref}

Fish feeding has been shown to result in a number of negative changes in fish behavior, including changes in time spent obtaining food, the size of the animal's home range, reproductive activity, population density, migration patterns, and species composition due to an increase in the larger, more aggressive species. ^{ref} Fish feeding has also been shown to greatly increase the aggressive behavior of the larger species and may result in divers being bitten.

Tourism Closing Sustainable Fisheries over “User Conflict”

Sources: Fishery info Sustainability proven but Aquarium fishery still closed.

Video links aquarium fish EIS you tube, **amazing video** of the environmental review:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xt8sRh493UI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z45Mzl Nkt8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=psTHLKfsdIA&t=8s>

<https://hawaiitropicalsaltwateraquariumfish.com/>

Tourism and Cultural Impacts

<https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2021/06/02/survey-majority-of-residents-prefer-limiting-the-number-of-visitors-coming-into-hawaii/>

<https://www.traveloffpath.com/hawaii-faces-overtourism-with-maui-planning-to-limit-number-of-tourists/>

<https://beatofhawaii.com/hawaii-summer-travel-starts-dizzying-influx-towering-frustrations/>

<https://beatofhawaii.com/kauai-tourism-plan-will-include-new-fees-and-enforcement/>

<https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2021/06/18/residents-east-maui-beg-relief-island-experiences-visitor-boom/>

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2021/06/its-time-for-hawaii-to-get-serious-about-managing-tourism/>

Hawaii's love-hate relationship with tourism

... It's not just Hawaii residents who are being priced out of paradise. Slowly but surely, tourists are also wondering whether they can still afford to visit here

[read more...](#)

Study: If Hawaii Tourism is Called 'Regenerative' Locals will Like Tourists

... regenerative tourism makes the tourism industry and tourists more attractive to residents. An overwhelming 96.3% of Kaua'i residents responded favorably

[read more...](#)

2022 links

<http://www.hawaiifreepress.com/Articles-Main/ID/33988/Is-Hawaii-is-being-run-for-tourism-at-the-expense-of-locals>

<https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/07/27/hawaii-news/covid-19-claims-900-honolulu-businesses-survey-finds/>

Additional Sources

Addition info on the subject:

Coral Reefs and the Unintended Impact of Tourism

<https://earthjustice.org/blog/2016-april/coral-reefs-and-the-unintended-impact-of-tourism>
<http://www.reefresilience.org/coral-reefs/stressors/local-stressors/coral-reefs-tourism-and-recreational-impacts/>

Recreational activities can harm coral reefs through:

- Breakage of coral colonies and tissue damage from direct contact such as walking, touching, kicking, standing, or gear contact
- Breakage or overturning of coral colonies and tissue damage from boat anchors
- Changes in marine life behavior from feeding or harassment by humans
- Water pollution
- [Invasive species](#)
- Trash and debris deposited in the marine environment

Snorkel, Scuba and Trampling



Top: Careless diver damaging corals in Manado, Indonesia. Photo © Shen Collazo/Marine Photobank

Bottom: Tourists trample over the reef in Ras Mohammed National Park, Egypt. Photo © Howard Peters/Marine Photobank 2011

A number of studies document impacts to coral reefs from divers and snorkelers. They can be caused by damage from fin kicks, pushing or holding coral, dragging gear, and kneeling/standing on coral. Not all divers cause the same amount of damage.

SCUBA divers typically have more impacts on corals than snorkelers, particularly divers wearing gloves and photographers with equipment. This is because snorkelers mainly float above the

corals on the surface of the water, and damage to corals is usually limited to shallow water areas where snorkelers can either stand directly on or kick corals. ref

Studies suggest inexperienced divers cause greater damage than more experienced divers, and only a small percentage of divers are responsible for a majority of the impacts. ref Other social factors have been identified which can influence damage to reefs. For example, a recent study showed that the nationality of visitors can have a greater impact on incidences of reef damage than other factors such as dive experience and ability. ref This suggests that user attitudes, perceptions, and beliefs are just as important as the actual impacts that recreational activities can have on reefs. It also suggests that in some places, management strategies may need to be targeted to specific user groups to reduce damage to reefs.



Brain coral showing damage from careless anchoring; photo was taken five years after event and shows little or no healing. Photo © Joe Bartoszek 2010/Marine Photobank

Trampling of corals is also common on shallow, near-shore reef flats and has led to extensive damage in areas with high levels of human use.ref Shoreline access points where people stand or wade to enter or exit the water can be particularly vulnerable to trampling; in such areas coral mortality from substrate contact can reach levels as high as 100%. ref Even in cases where high mortality does not occur, trampling can result in lower reproductive output for corals.ref

The incidences of coral damage from diver contact inspired the concept of diver carrying capacity. ref While this approach has been applied to numerous reefs throughout the tropics, some conservation organizations suggest assessing carrying capacity may have limited practical value. ref Quantifying carrying capacity ([pdf](#), 78k) can be challenging; it varies widely based on ecological conditions of a reef, potential resilience of a reef, and visitor behavior.

Anchor Damage

Boat anchors can cause considerable damage to coral reefs, including coral breakage and fragmentation. Larger ship anchors and heavy chains can break or dislodge corals, resulting in damaging vast areas of coral reef. While smaller ships cause less damage, areas of heavy recreational boating may also have serious consequences for coral reefs. Anchoring impacts

have been partially alleviated due to the installation of mooring buoys in many locations, but anchoring of small vessels on reefs remains a chronic problem over reefs in many developing countries. ref

Anchor damage on coral reefs can persist for many years. For example, anchor damage on a reef in the Virgin Islands resulted in a decrease in live coral cover, compared to coral cover on adjacent undamaged reefs which remained ten years after the damage occurred.ref Anchoring also damages reef-associated habitats such as seagrasses, which provide important nursery and juvenile habitats for many coral reef species.

Vessel Groundings

Vessel groundings can result in catastrophic effects on coral reefs, not only smashing and dislodging corals, but shattering the reef framework (e.g., in Florida and Bermuda ref). While much of the large-scale damage to reefs has been caused by freighters, similar damage is feasible from cruise ships. For example, in the Virgin Islands, a 200 ft. long cruise ship anchored in 4 meters depth had damaged coral communities over an area of 5,300 square meters. ref

Impacts from vessel groundings can range from a few hundred square meters to several hundred thousand square meters of coral reef. ref Such impacts are magnified when combined with associated impacts including fuel spills, leaching of toxins, and even sinking when the vessel cannot be salvaged. Factors that affect the extent of impact include the size of the vessel, the coral cover in the collision area, the socioeconomic capacity of the region to address the collision, weather conditions following the grounding, and [ecological conditions affecting recovery](#) (e.g., presence of factors that support coral settlement and growth). ref

Maui County prevails in keeping Big Oil Climate Change Lawsuit in State Court

(Yet the biggest environmental impact Hawaii creates is through tourism)

News Release from Maui County, July 7, 2022

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled today in favor of Maui County to keep its ongoing litigation against Big Oil in Hawaii state courts, instead of moving the lawsuit to federal court.

In an attempt to have their case heard in a friendlier forum, Shell Oil Company, Chevron Corp. and the other fossil fuel company defendants sought to move the County's case from state court to federal court. After the Hawaii U.S. District Court ruled against them in February 2021, the oil companies appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court. Today, the Ninth Circuit confirmed that Maui's case must be heard in state court, not federal courts.

"Keeping this case in our state court is important because it means we will have our claims heard here in Hawaii where the damage is occurring," said County Corporation Counsel Moana

Lutey. “We are looking forward to trying this case, laying out the significant evidence that we have of the damage these companies knowingly created.”

“The constant reminders of climate change are all around us,” said Mayor Michael Victorino. “We’re coping with another severe drought season creating ideal conditions for wildfires. Our rainy seasons have brought intense flooding. These changes came from using their products, while they withheld information on the environmental damage they cause. We are grateful for this victory, and Maui County will continue to pursue justice regardless of how long it takes.”

Water Pollution

Research demonstrates the adverse effects of [pollution](#) from sediment and chemicals on coral reefs, but limited studies address the role of recreational activities in exacerbating these effects. Tour boats can release human waste and gray-water discharge which can damage reefs, particularly in enclosed bays with limited water circulation. Antifouling agents may also cause damage to marine ecosystems. For example, tributyltin (TBT) is used as a paint additive on boat hulls, docks, and fishnets to discourage growth of marine organisms and is extremely toxic to some marine organisms. Sunscreen can also cause significant damage to corals in areas prone to high levels of recreational use by humans. ref

Invasive Species

[Invasive species](#) can be spread through tourism and recreational activities such as through transportation of ballast water, hull fouling of cruise ships, and fouling from recreational boating (e.g., from hulls, outboard motors, live wells, water lines, fishing gear and debris).

The main approaches to [managing recreational activities](#) in coral reef areas include reducing the level of use at certain sites (e.g., through restricting access) and reducing the impacts of use through modifications in human behavior (e.g., educating reef users to discourage destructive actions, and imposing regulations prohibiting certain destructive actions).

Resources

A Literature Review of Sources and Effects of Non-extractive Stressors to Coral Reef Ecosystems ([pdf](#), 168k)

Hawai'i Coral Reef Strategy: Priorities for Management in the Main Hawaiian Islands, 2010 – 2020 ([pdf](#), 2.6M)

Management Options to Prevent Anchoring, Grounding, and Accidental Impacts to Coral Reef and Hardbottom Resources in Southeast Florida ([pdf](#), 1.6M)

WIOMSA MPA Toolkit: Visitors and Carrying Capacity ([pdf](#), 78k)

This concept is based on a study in Bonaire that found that sites with high dive use had lower coral percent cover, whereas sites with low dive use had higher species diversity. Based on these findings, the authors developed a threshold for dive use per year.

Rodgers, K.S. and E.F. Cox. 2003

The effects of trampling on Hawaiian corals along a gradient of human use. *Biological Conservation* 112(3): 383-389.

<http://www.reefresilience.org/coral-reefs/management-strategies/managing-local-stressors/managing-recreational-use/> Recreation is an important use of many coral reef areas. Recreational uses can be extractive (fishing) or non-extractive (diving, snorkeling, boating and catch-and-release fishing). Such uses are both a source of pressure on coral reefs as well as a major source of income. Recreational users and commercial tourism operators play an important role in reef conservation and management, and are often key partners with reef management agencies in efforts to protect coral reefs.

[Risks from recreational activities](#) include anchor damage to corals and seagrass meadows, littering, boat strikes to marine mammals and turtles, changed animal behavior from feeding or diver interactions, fin damage to corals when snorkeling and diving, discharge of wastewater and introduction of invasive species.

These risks are generally easy to address with local management measures. Through a balanced approach focusing on sustainable use, recreational uses can be managed to minimize their impacts on coral reefs while strengthening the contributions of recreational users to reef management and the economy. Key approaches for managing recreation include setting limits, managing reef activities and encouraging best practices.

Setting Limits

- Carrying capacity — One approach to preventing unacceptable impacts from human use is to set limits on numbers of users and types of activity based on the capacity of the ecosystem to cope with expected impacts. In practice, it can be difficult to determine environmental carrying capacity, but limits can be set using best available knowledge and an approach inclusive of reef users. Social issues such as crowding, conflict, noise and other factors influencing user satisfaction (social carrying capacity) are important considerations for recreational users and commercial tourism operators. These often end up being major drivers of decisions about the carrying capacity of popular tourism sites.
- Limits of acceptable change — While environmental carrying capacity can be a useful approach to minimizing impacts from recreation, managers should be cautious about applying it too rigidly as the number of users that is sustainable for a particular site depends strongly on the behavior of the users. For this reason, the concept of 'limits of acceptable change' (LAC) can be a useful alternative for managing use. LAC can be a

powerful approach for getting users (especially commercial tourism operators) to adopt best practice, as the numbers of users is dependent on the size of their 'ecological footprint'. A key requirement of an LAC approach is a system for regularly monitoring reef condition as part of a dynamic management system with set thresholds and actions.

Managing Reef Activities



Mooring buoys are one management strategy to address recreational impacts. Photo © James Oliver

Once the amount of use that is sustainable at a site has been established, managers will need to put in place systems for managing activities. Where recreational use is managed through regulation and/or a permit system, enforcement can occur through a combination of self-regulation, spot-checks and surveillance. Non-commercial uses often do not require permission, so less regulatory approaches may be needed to reduce impacts such as anchoring, crowding and excessive vessel traffic. Installation of mooring buoys and associated education campaigns can reduce the amount of anchoring, while reduced shore-based infrastructure (such as limited vessel berths or car parking at boat launch sites) can help control the amount of boat traffic around a reef. User pay systems, such as day passes, can be used to cap numbers of visitors to a site or disperse use to a wider area and so reduce pressure on the most popular sites.

A range of other approaches can also be used to reduce concentration of use to a fewer number of 'hardened' sites, such as installing moorings or installing attractions (for example, artificial reefs or underwater sculpture parks, such as those in [Grenada](#) and [Mexico](#)).

Encouraging Best Practices

The impacts of recreational activities can also be reduced through environmentally sensitive behavior. There are many sources of information on best practices for tourism that help to codify behaviors that reduce risks to reefs. These include the [Tourism Operators Handbook](#) developed for the Great Barrier Reef and guidance provided by the [Coral Reef Alliance](#). Even for extractive recreational activities like fishing, impacts can be reduced through setting and enforcing bag and size limits, and by encouraging adoption of best practice fishing.

Coral reef managers can be important sources of information about best practices for recreational users. Building best practice principles and guidance into outreach and education programs can be a simple way to reduce pressure on popular reef sites. Adoption of best practices can be encouraged through systems of formal recognition such as [eco-certification programs](#) and [eco-rating schemes](#).

Marine tourism impacts on the Great Barrier Reef

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/233568910_Marine_tourism_impacts_on_the_Great_Barrier_Reef

About 1.6 million tourists visit the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) each year. Tourism on the reef and adjacent coast is worth over Aus\$4 billion per year and employs over 47,000 people. While sustainable tourism is a goal of management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, tourism has some negative environmental and social impacts on the reef and coastal environment. Australian residents who were surveyed ranked the impacts of reef tourism highly as a threat to the GBR. In contrast, a sample of people with professional experience in reef environmental issues ranked reef tourism as a much smaller threat than other widespread impacts such as coral bleaching, agricultural runoff, and fishing. This study reviews the impact of the major components of marine tourism on the GBR and tourism management, and concludes that reef tourism produces generally localized impacts and is intensively managed on the GBR relative to other reef uses. Industry and management agencies have included education of reef visitors and tourism staff as part of a planned framework for sustainable tourism and recreation, and this education program should include promotion of a greater understanding of reef environmental issues.

Marine tourism impacts on the Great Barrier Reef. Available from:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/233568910_Marine_tourism_impacts_on_the_Great_Barrier_Reef [accessed Aug 29 2018].

<http://www.reefresilience.org/case-studies/coral-triangle-tourism-recreation/>

Impacts of Diving Tourism on Coral Reefs

Ecotourism Impacts on Coral Reefs in Caribbean and Red Sea

<http://wp.auburn.edu/chadlab/impacts-of-diving-tourism-on-coral-reefs/>

Ecotourism is a major economic and social activity on coral reefs, and provides ecosystem services to humans in the form of income and jobs to local communities, as well as important recreational activities for reef visitors. However, tourism based on coral reefs can cause major damage to the ecosystems on which it depends, undermining the sustainability of this non-consumptive use of reef systems.



Since the 1990s, our group has investigated the types of damage to reef organisms caused in particular by the presence of scuba divers and snorkelers on coral reefs, in both the Caribbean and Red Sea. We also have documented that divers are more willing to pay to visit Red Sea reefs that are healthy, with abundant live corals and diverse fishes, than to visit degraded reefs with few corals or fish and high algal cover. These studies provide an estimate of the economic value of reefs for non-consumptive tourist use. We also have demonstrated that pre-dive briefings can reduce the negative impacts of divers on reefs in Florida, and are currently investigating the impacts of divers and snorkelers on the disruption of algal-foraging behavior by reef fishes in Mexico.



Most of these studies have involved the training of graduate students in the design and execution of field-based experiments and observations at coral reef field sites. Our group

continues to explore studies that provide a scientific basis for improved management of ecotourism activities on coral reefs.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 11:38:52 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vivian S. Toellner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I are among the majority of Hawai'i residents and communities that have long called for a complete end to the trade, citing environmental, ethical, and economic concerns and the trade's numerous conflicts with local and cultural values.

Tourism brings money to Hawaii. The Trade removes our beautiful natural resource, and causes loss of revenue to the State and its people. Keep Hawaii strong by being a Friend of the Fishes !!

The trade is working hard to regain access and drain our reefs for mainland hobby tanks. Their past excuses for this wildlife trade -- "jobs" and claims that our fishes are important ambassadors for Hawai'i -- have been washed away in the last 5 years:

- There are no aquarium collecting jobs to lose
- Aquaculture breakthroughs by O'ahu researchers and businesses mean that Hawai'i's most desired and beautiful fishes are now captive-bred and available to consumers worldwide
- Hawaii's reefs, residents, taxpayers, and fishers no longer have to lose so the mainland aquarium pet trade can profit

Collection for public aquariums, research, education, and aquaculture would continue under Special Activity Permits. Recreational collection by local residents would also be allowed (as long as fine mesh nets aren't used).

A legislative ban has never been more important: the trade has asked the court to lift the injunction prohibiting aquarium collection. All the gains made on the reefs these past 5 years could be lost because DLNRs decades-long support for the aquarium trade -- at the expense of all others and the reefs -- has not waned. No doubt they would soon start down the path of issuing collection permits again.

I are among the majority of Hawai'i residents and communities that have long called for a complete end to the trade, citing environmental, cultural, ethical, and economic concerns and the trade's numerous conflicts with local and cultural values

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 11:58:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB 505.

The Aquarium trade needs to leave the fishes where they belong, in the ocean.

Our reef's health depend on these colorful fish and they should not be caught and profited on.

many of the fish caught die before ever making it to a salt water aquarium.

Please support SB 505,

Mahalo,

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 12:01:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
benjamin garfinkle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly in favor of permanent ban there is no reason for the trade to exist

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 12:03:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Schacht	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong support of this vital wild reef fish protection measure. As a 30 year dive professional, and long time dive visitor with deep ties to Hawaii, I have personally witnessed the devastation caused by the Aquarium Trade. In a December 2022 two week dive trip along the Kona-Kohala coast I believe that species repopulation and resurgence are evident after the (temporary legal ban) on the trade. Please make it permanent. There are no compelling or convincing economic or political arguments advanced by the industry for its reinstatement. Act now!

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 12:12:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pamela Polland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please please PLEASE pass this Bill (SB505).

It's so important for our reefs and environment overall that we FINALLY end aquarium trade fishing permanently.

Having lived on Maui for close to 50 years, I have watched our reefs diminish before my eyes year after year. The one time things got better was the 7 months we spent in lockdown during 2020. Let's give this gift to our reefs, please!!

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Pamela

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 12:13:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynda Supanich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to protect our eco systems. Allowing people to harvest fish to be sold for aquariums will upset the balance of our precious ocean

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 12:16:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Urry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Cyndy Urry .I have lived in Hawaii for over 23 years and I have grandchildren born here on Hawaii Island. I cannot tell you how bad our reefs look from 35 years ago til now. We have lost all our Achilles Tangs where we swim . We need to save what fish we do have and over years , maybe we can return our reefs to the way they were before the poachers were stealing from the good citizens of Hawaii .

Please pass Bill SB505!

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 12:40:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lon Wallace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am very grateful to have the opportunity to express my support for this highly important bill and issue. I have been a resident of the Big Island the past 25 years, and am an avid water person via sailing, scuba, free diving, etc. Over the years I have seen a drastic decline in many reef fish along the South and North Kohala coastline, which I know from experience-i.e., direct observation and conversation, to be largely due to the aquarium gatherers. The past few years there has joyfully been a dramatic increase in most populations, again attributed largely to the slowing down of the aquarium trade. I feel it is unconscionable to have one of our most treasured natural resources plundered and abused for the sake of a very select few who derive their livelihood from this trade. I was involved in sailing charters for a number of years, and actually heard repeat clients comment sadly and incredulously on the dwindling reef fish we used to frequent. It is just not pono or justifiable to wreak such havoc and destruction on a natural resource that (1) ALL locals and visitors deserve to be able to enjoy, (2) creates such an imbalance in a delicate ecosystem, and (3) actually provides incentive and attraction to WAY more non-local people than the few who care to view fish in a glass container. I can only hope that those in the position to make this decision will see the wisdom in preserving this right for the majority of humans touched by these beautiful creatures as well as all the sea life involved.

Mahalo,

Lon Wallace

To: Hawai'i State legislature

From: Michael Gaulke

Date: January 28, 2023

Re: Written Testimony in Support of SB505

I am a resident of Hawaii and live on the west side of the Big Island. I am writing in support of SB505. I have been a long-time lover of the ocean and the life we find in it. My wife and I have completed over 600 dives all over the world. We have supported the ban on commercial aquarium collecting in Hawaii over the past several years and are very pleased with the resulting growth we have seen in reef fish populations. I strongly urge you to make this ban permanent!

Mahalo,

Michael Gaulke
72-3016 Kakapa Place
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 12:40:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shirley Spencer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote in favor of this bill to save our reef fish, and the reef. Fish can be raised in captivity for collectors, they don't need to raid the reef fish from our oceans.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 12:43:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erik Stein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The value to the Hawaiian community to have tropical fish left on the reef to do their natural jobs spent grazing and being a part of the ecosystem should be honored. They will live years and years if left alone. Let the aquarium trade raise fish in captivity that can survive. Fish taken mostly die in transit or shortly afterwards.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 12:52:35 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bianca Isaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

Please support SB505. Hawaii's fragile aquarium fisheries should not be sold out for commercial purposes.

Yours,

Bianca Isaki

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 12:57:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Fernley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I strongly oppose this bill. Aquarium fish collection has been proven to be sustainable and an economic plus to our local community. The people who oppose this tiny fishery have **no science** to back up their fictitious claims. Please listen to our reputable local marine scientists who continually claim that this fishery is a model that the rest of the U.S. should follow.

Over the past few years, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent on Environment Impact Studies proving its sustainability,

Please oppose this frivolous bill

Aloha,

Randy Fernley (past owner of Coral Fish Hawaii)

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 1:02:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
alexa hatton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In my 34 years on Maui as a long distance swimmer I've noticed the decline in our reef fish population. There is no reason to allow the harvesting of our beautiful fish to line the pockets of a few. This is an unacceptable practice and needs to stop immediately. Mahalo nui loa for listening to us citizens. Alexa Hatton

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 1:17:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eileen McKee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support the passage of SB505. This bill will help protect our precious environment. The population of fish in our waters has drastically decreased. Allowing the aquarium trade to return to selling our fish to the highest bidder is not only bad for our ocean, it also insults our host culture who rely on the fish for their subsistence.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Eileen McKee, Kihei

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 1:18:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert B. Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I snorkel on Maui all along the South Shore. I cannot believe it has ever been allowed for anyone to take fish from our reefs for the aquarium trade. They are an important part of the reef eco system. The only area of the South Shore where you can see a decent amount of fish is at the protected Kanahena preserve. The wisest thing is to allow the fish to flourish for the enjoyment of tourists and residents alike. I often talk to visitors who express their disappointment at the lack of sea life in Hawaii. It would really be something if Hawaiian bird collectors could get permission to collect rare birds on the mainland to sell elsewhere or dig up Redwoods for landscaping. The whole notion of depleting our natural habitats seems absurd.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 1:19:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
michael gilbert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please stop this disgusting practice our reefs are depleted i scuba dive in Maui every week and our reefs in the Makena are have been stripped by these people it's crazy to let them do this. Why are you destroying our reefs is there something you do not understand I have been do I g these waters for thirty years and have watched these people strip the reef just 50 yards from shore Disgustingly stupid practice Stop

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 1:20:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adrienne Hew	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STOP SELLING OUT HAWAII! The government pretends to care about environmental protections, while committing atrocities which will only ensure environmental destruction. Do not allow commoditization of our ocean wildlife!

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 1:30:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Allen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Not permanently ending the commercial harvesting of marine life by the aquarium trade is to ignore the insanity of allowing this practice to continue.

The reefs cannot sustain the continued, cyclic and unnecessary losses of these fish for the mainland aquarium trade. These fish should **ONLY** be allowed to be collected under the Special Activity Permits and by local residents.

Aquaculture, which has experienced many breakthroughs, would be an ideal **SUSSTAINABLE** solution to not only preserve Hawaii's beautiful fishes but also provide Aquarium collectors with gainful employment.

It is time for Hawaii to finally pass a bill to end the commercial harvet of marine life.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 1:46:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Koch	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Do not ban fisheries, let DAR manage them,

I will be giving zoom testimony.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 1:58:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Cadiz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB505 to eliminate aquarium collection in the wild. You are probably already aware that:

- There are no aquarium collecting jobs to lose
- Aquaculture breakthroughs by O`ahu researchers and businesses mean that Hawai`i's most desired and beautiful fishes are now captive-bred and available to consumers worldwide
- Hawaii`s reefs, residents, taxpayers, and fishers no longer have to lose so the mainland aquarium pet trade can profit

Collection for public aquariums, research, education, and aquaculture would continue under Special Activity Permits. Recreational collection by local residents would also be allowed (as long as fine mesh nets aren't used).

A legislative ban has never been more important: the trade has asked the court to lift the injunction prohibiting aquarium collection. All the gains made on the reefs these past 5 years could be lost because DLNRs decades-long support for the aquarium trade -- at the expense of all others and the reefs -- has not waned. No doubt they would soon start down the path of issuing collection permits again.

What you may not have heard is that healthy reefs are our best defense against sea level rise. A healthy reef is nature's way of dissipating wave energy before it's erosive effects can reach our shorelines. All of the reef fish are an essential part of a healthy reef eco system that must be protected. Reef fish clean the coral to keep it healthy. Our culture, recreation and the lands of Hawai'i must be protected. Protecting our reef fish is one of the most important things you can do to protect the reef health, and the beaches of Hawai'i. Please support SB 505

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 2:17:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Keller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Why would Hawaii ever want to sell out its environment to entrepreneurs trying to make monsy from our natural treasures?! It is obvious the state should ban ALL removal of any sort of sealife from Hawaii's waters. Leave our environment alone! We have a fragile eco-system that deserves meticulous respect.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 2:17:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mel Malinowski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill simply seeks to take Hawai'i back to the pono practice of keeping Hawai'i's reef fish in Hawai'i for the benefit of Hawai'ians. Like selling our sandalwood, selling off our reef fish was not good for Hawai'i.

During the time that collection has been prohibited, we have seen significant improvements in reef fish numbers along the Kohala coast. The economic value of having robust reef fish populations to attract visitors for snorkeling and diving far exceeds the minor income from allowing the practice to resume.

There are many factors now that threaten our reefs. This is one that we have control over. I urge you to approve this sensible restoration of protection to our reefs, as was traditional.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 2:24:35 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hugh Baker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT THIS BILL. Aquarium fishing as it has been practiced in the past in Hawaii is 1) a taking of a valuable resource owned by the citizens of Hawaii with compensation to the citizens at far below fair market value, 2) is environmentally unsound, and 3) is an unethical treatment of animals. PLEASE PUT AN END TO AQUARIUM FISHING IN HAWAII ONCE AND FOR ALL- PASS THIS BILL.

H BAKER

Kailua Kona

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 2:24:44 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamarin McCartin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support a permanent ban on the harvest of our marine life for the aquarium pet trade. There are adequate captive-bred options for aquarium enthusiasts, many of the captured fish die in transit, and it's devastating to our reefs. For the state that's known as the "extinction capital of the world", it's inconceivable that this ban hasn't been passed already. Please take this important step to help our reefs.

North Kona, Hawaii County

January 28, 2023

Dear Distinguished Lawmakers:

I am writing in support of SB 505, a complete ban on aquarium fishing, with rare exceptions for scientific and educational purposes.

I deeply care about the people of Hawaii, and I volunteer most of my time in their service, as co-chair of the Kukio Community Fund (of the Hawaii Community Foundation), Board Director of Vibrant Hawaii, part-time technology teacher and by supporting many local organizations serving our community with resources. I am also an avid ocean swimmer and enjoy weekly visiting with the fish, and what's left of the coral. My understanding is that Aquarium Fishing does not benefit the overwhelming majority of our residents. While the global pet trade has a huge financial incentive in plundering what's left of our majestic reefs, very few local fishers (some of them criminals and poachers) actually benefit. This resource is invaluable, unquantifiable, and should not be up for grab by a few.

Our reefs are under continual stressors: sunscreens, ocean warming and acidification, crowds, etc. we need to give them a break, and this one seems like a no-brainer! I hope that you will understand and agree with these points, and side with the children of Hawaii to protect our resources for the generation to come.

With Aloha,

Caroline Landry

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 2:31:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary True	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support State Bill SB505. Aquarium fishing needs to be 100% banned in the state of Hawaii. Global warming is more than enough stress on the local fish populations. Why would anyone even consider allowing the taking of fish when so many die before their arrival and those that don't, die during their first year of captivity. It's unjust to the snorkelers in Hawaii and deadly for the fish. These few jobs will never be missed in Hawaii and the cost is too great. Mahalo!

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 2:44:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
barbara steinberg	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i support SB505 !!

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 2:49:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
scott folsom	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a formal marine biologist with the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB), I am strongly opposed to SB505.

Marine fish are the [most reproductive vertebrates](#) on the planet. Making fish the most renewable resource there is. The state has greatly ignored the potential the 100-billion-dollar a year pet industry could offer. The state allowed Tourists to shut down the fishery with lawsuits.

The State of Hawaii public officers' oath is to uphold the states constitution. If decisions are made that are biased and not based in facts it violates that oath. It is unconstitutional (State, Federal and International Laws, [UN resolution](#) 2749) to shut out any ocean user group. Fishery management, not closure is the government's role in fisheries. No one group can lay claim to any part of the ocean, it is a public trust. The court's decision for the aquarium fishery to do an environmental review was not based at all in science but on legal interpretation.

Leading scientist spoke out in objection to these decisions. To favor the huge ecology impacts of tourism over a proven sustainable aquarium fishery is unconstitutional, a miscarriage of justice and poor decision making. The lies perpetuated by anti-aquarium fishery groups were used in lawsuits and even earth justice lawyers spouts this misinformation, to knowingly lie under oath in court or legislative testimony is perjury. Yet even the new bills this year continue the lies. Science if read will give the truth but few bother to read the lengthy data, believing instead in biased for profit propaganda from who-tourist groups not scientists.

Hawaii's Aquarium Fishery has been studied more than any other fishery in the world. Both the [2,400 page Environmental Review](#) of the West Hawaii fishery, and the [Oahu Environmental Review](#), (links removed by state why? But available upon request) based in [State fish counts and reports covering nearly 20 years of data](#), scientifically prove Hawaii's aquarium fishery is eco-friendly, having low environmental impact. The head of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) – Suzanne Case, stated Hawaii's Aquarium Fishery is a "Model Fishery". She later recanted this statement in favor of tourism. With many reef fish populations on the rise overall, Hawaii's Aquarium Fishery is the true definition of "Sustainability." Abundant small fish are taken leaving breeders to repopulate making the aquarium fishery a "Model Fishery".

Hawaii's [leading scientist speak](#) out in opposition to DLNR Land Boards decision not to approve the environmental review of the West Hawaii Aquarium fishery. This review was based on many of these scientist research and then they were not even questioned or consulted about the board decision. It was like the science did not matter.

Hawaii's top marine biologists William Walsh Ph.D., Ivor Williams Ph.D., Brian Tissot Ph.D.; Leon Hallacher Ph.D.; Bruce Carlson Ph.D.; Charles Birkeland Ph.D.; Jeremy Claisse Ph.D.; Mark Christie Ph.D.; Richard Pyle Ph.D.; Leighton Taylor Ph.D.; Randy Kosaki Ph.D.; Cynthia Hunter Ph.D.; Brian Bowen Ph.D.; Brian Zgliczynski Ph.D.; Jeff Ebel Ph.D.; Alan Friedlander Ph.D.; Kosta Stamoulis Ph.D.; Delisse Ortiz Ph.D.; Jan Dierking Ph.D.; Rob Toonen Ph.D.; and Jim Beets Ph.D. Thursday, June 25, 2020, all signed the letter condemning the BLNR land board decision not to approve fisheries environmental review. Why? Because the fishery is sustainable.

[Hawaii's aquarium fishery](#) is an important part of a [\\$100-billion a year pet industry](#). This fishery has the potential to sustainably provide millions of much needed revenue to the State of Hawaii. This is what the [State of Hawaii needs, a stable valuable industry](#). For too long Hawaii has allowed other businesses to take a back seat to a vulnerable tourist industry which has a high carbon footprint.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 2:50:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Grassi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident on Puako Bay I feel it is imperative to not allow harvesting of reef fish for commercial aquatic trade.

Our reefs are being decimated and need to be protected.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 2:57:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benny Vilorio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB505. Mining our reefs for aquarium fish is not necessary.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 2:58:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brooke J Hill	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support the ban on catching fish to sell for hobby aquariums. The Hawaiian native fish should be left alone to thrive on the reefs of Hawaii. Captive bred fish should be used for hobbyists.

Brooke and Scott Hill

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 3:14:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Bell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

Please pass this bill! We who swim often, and pay attention to the reef, have noticed a steady decline. Reef fish are a huge help in keeping the reef, and the whole ecosystem healthy.

The whole aquarium “trade” is based on faulty assumptions. For a state that relies so heavily on tourism and promotes itself as a clean destination, how can we in good conscience be anything but hyper-vigilant in protecting our reef fish and corals? We often call them a “resource”, a commodity, if you will. If we go down that path, then I ask for a much stronger balance, in favor of the ocean and its “resources”, when we look at legislation that can eliminate aquarium fish collecting.

I have watched in my 40 years in Hawaii, the fish counts go down dramatically, and the corals decrease significantly. It’s actually amazing that we have what we do. I’m reminded of the opening premises of Hamlet—where the players don’t even know that they are living in a massively degraded state. We can do better!

NATURE CAN HEAL HERSELF—IF SHE IS ALLOWED! Please pass this bill, SB505, to protect our ocean!

Aloha, Sincerely,

Barbara Bell

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 3:15:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Fuller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha our State of Hawaii Representatives into whose hands we have entrusted Hawaii's Care,

Please support Bill SB505.

This conscientiously is the proper decision for the health of Hawaii's ocean.

This conscientiously is the proper decision for the helath of Hawaii's people.

God Bless you,

Sara Fuller

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 3:24:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerd Winkler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Being a resident of the state of Hawaii, I am strongly supporting to keep marine wildlife wild. Please do not under false pretenses allow Hawaii's precious marine wildlife to be exported.

Please listen to the people who live here, who want to preserve as much of the amazing nature to be enjoyed by not only the residents but also by all the visitors who contribute to the Hawaiian economy. Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Gerd Winkler

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 3:24:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lesley Hammer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The reefs are under enough pressure from environmental pressure and climate change. The added stress on reef fish allowing for their collection for sheer amusement in tanks is not worth risking permanent damage or loss of reef aquaculture.

Support the preservation of reefs!

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 3:31:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeannette Heidrich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support a ban on AQ collection. Reef fish are a valuable resource for Hawaii and the fish should be kept on the reef both for the health of the reef as well as making money for the State of Hawaii by attracting visitors.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 3:34:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kerri ballard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Snorkeling in Maui is my favorite activity. I have kept a detailed log of the fish and other animals I see (what, where and when) since November of 2011. I like to take out friends and family and to educate them about fish behavior. The different reefs I visit have, for the most part, degraded since 2011 and I am sometimes more sad than joyful on my excursions. We have so much evidence that the fish help our reef that I encourage you to support this bill and to do everything humanly possible to help preserve and protect our reef.

Many Thanks,

Kerri Ballard, Makawao

I urge passage of the bill banning aquarium collecting. I am a diver and snorkeler and have dived and snorkeled in Hawaii, the Maldives, the Red Sea, and the Mediterranean. I have been snorkeling in Hawaii almost daily for the past 14 years and I live here full time. I have noticed a sharp decline in the number of reef fish both close to shore and within 100 yards of the shore in water 30 to 40 feet deep. There are so many fewer Yellow Tang than there were when I first arrived here in Hawaii. There are fewer cleaner wrasses, angel fish, Picasso Triggerfish, parrot fish, and all reef fish.

Fragile tropical fish, who were born to dwell in the majestic seas and forage among brilliantly colored coral reefs, suffer miserably when they are forced to spend their lives in glass tanks. Robbed of their natural habitats and denied the ability to travel freely, they must swim around endlessly in the same few cubic inches of water.

The popularity of keeping tropical fish has created a virtually unregulated industry that catches as many fish as possible with little regard for the animals themselves. Isn't it much better for everyone, the fish especially, and including the tourist trade that Hawaii depends upon to leave the colorful reef fish in the water for people to see and enjoy.

To put a religious slant on things, if we have dominion over animals, surely it is to protect them, not to use them for our own ends. There is nothing in the Bible that would justify our modern-day practices, which desecrate the environment, destroy entire species of wildlife, and inflict torment and death on billions of animals every year. The Bible imparts a reverence for life, and a loving God could not help but be appalled by the way that animals are treated today.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 3:42:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy Noritake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I swim most every day at Mahukona, and I've watched the resurgence of the Yellow Tangs, and they are so beautiful to see, as well as the other popular aquarium fish. Please do not fail the fish. They need to be free and live their life in the ocean, not a fish tank! Thank you for this opportunity to help them! -- Wendy Noritake

North Kohala, Big Island

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 3:54:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Girbino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I sttongly support the prohibition of the collection of aquatic life for commercial aquarium pet trade purposes, with the excemptions for continued issuance of Special Activity Permits for public aquariums, research, education, recreational collection and aquaculture. Hawai'i has a rich history of the stewardship of our water-dwelling ohana, and it is our responsibility to protect their populations from unstustainable harvest. As an ecologist and a master's student in the TCBES program it is my best assessment that we should support SB505.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 3:57:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Nakachi	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Strongly support

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 3:57:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grant Heidrich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to the extration of ornamental fish from all our reefs and oceans. II am in favor of a compleye ban onthis practice. It is violation of all our cultural, ethical and economic practices. It is in conflict with our local and cltural values. Wild fish belong on the reef, and in the ocean, not in acquariums.

Thank you for considering this testimony,

Grant Heidrich

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 4:00:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John von Schlegell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a taxpayer in Hawaii, as well as a former trustee of the Nature Conservancy and the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, I strongly support leaving these fish in their natural environment for conservation as well as economic reasons... the health of Hawaii's reef and aquatic wildlife are more valuable to the economy of Hawaii protected and available for all vs. the benefit of a few commercial collectors. The multiple threats to our reefs do need need commercial harvest to make things even worse. Thanks for considering my testimony.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 4:14:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marty Martins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass SB 505, which has my support. I have seen what aquarium trappers have done to the reefs I normally snorkel. Twenty years ago the reefs was teeming with yellow tang, an aauariu favorite, and within a few years they were all trapped.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 4:25:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Mercer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in full support of SB505.

As a Maui resident and a lifetime ocean swimmer I have seen the devastation done to the tropical fish and thus the coral reef due to the aquarium trade. Where there use to be abundant tropical fish and healthy coral reefs everywhere that can now only be found in protected marine areas. This is not good for the residents, the tourists, the tourist industry or the island.

Please pass SB505.

Mahalo

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 4:27:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Craig O Matkin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have been swimming, snorkling, and diving on the reefs of Hawaii Island since 1975 and lived on the island for various periods of time. I currently own and occupy a house on the island. The reefs (including the one in front of my house) under under intense pressure dut to warming water, runoff from goat denuded terrain, and spearfishing. One stressor we can remove is the collection of reef fish for aquariums and similar uses. I fully SUPPORT this bill and ask for the sake of the reef that is left that you move forward. Hawaii has made the choice to encourage tourism as the center of the economy. Reef fish collections flies right in the face on protection of the reef for viewing by visitors and fishing by locals. Thank you so much for your work. Craig Matkin

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 4:44:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raven	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not agree with the capturing of wild, marine life to be sold as pets. Please help us prevent this. Honor life. Mahalo.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 4:48:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
eleanor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please continue to ban commercial fishing of our reefs. these protected reefs are a valuable asset of our wonderful islands. in the area along the Kona coast, I have already noticed the fish are coming back. Thank you.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 5:17:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jo Alexander	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB505. I do not support removing protection for our reefs of Hawaii! There is no valid reason to remove the protection that has allowed the fishes on our reefs to begin to recover from being decimated by "pet harvesting" for profit. This activity must be banned permanently from Hawaiian reefs!! Passing SB 505 is the best way to insure that Hawaiian reefs and its inhabitants will survive for generations to come. PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THE HOBBY/PET TRADE TO BE ALLOWED TO DECIMATE HAWAIIAN REEFS EVER AGAIN!!!

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 6:51:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Olson Karen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly disagree with the harvesting of the remaining fish we have in our reefs. The septic and sewage issues are bad enough. Stop this hideous trade and bring our reefs back

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 5:07:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support a ban on commercial harvesting of Hawaii's precious marine life. Over the many years that I have lived here I've seen a marked decrease in reef fish. They are up against significant challenges of climate change and pollution. Let's not add the travesty of being hunted for the benefit of a relatively small number of people. Please protect our valuable resource before it is too late.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 6:18:44 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karie Wakat	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support the ban on AQ collection in the Hawaiian Islands. Since the temporary ban, I can testify that I have seen an increase in fish. Specifically the yellow tang and flame angel fishes; that are highly sought after by AQ collectors.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 5:39:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margarita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of Hawaii I stongly support bill SB505 because I care about wildife and the eco system and do not want to promote the fishing and selling of these animals/fish in order to benefit the stomachs of unconscious individuals.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 6:00:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Harter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kim Harter. I am a resident of Haiku Maui, and I support Senate Bill 505, and a permanent ban on the commercial harvest of marine life for the aquarium pet trade. I have been swimming in the ocean on our north and south shores for the past 30 years and have seen a dramatic decline in the reef and fish over that time period. If we do not do something now to protect it, the beauty and magic will be gone. Please support SB 505. Mahalo!

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 6:19:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Neil Frazer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB505, which I understand will end the commercial harvest of marine life for the aquarium pet trade.

If they are to persists, our reefs need all the help they can get, and wild fish are essential to their continued good health.

Mahalo to all Committee Members for your unselfish service to Hawaii

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 7:55:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aldomonick Samuseva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill that prohibits the harvesting of aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes, regardless of the method of collection. I oppose the action of harvesting aquatic life for the sake of selfish desire. Not only does this disrupt native species and other species, but there is noone monitoring/limiting or really knowing the true amount of aquatic life that is being harvested/disrupted and sold.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 6:21:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katy Grainger	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the permanent ban on commercial aquarium trade. Science has shown that this devastates reefs and near-shore waterways. We need to protect our reefs in Hawaii!

The loss of fish in our reefs will impact tourism dollars and is devastating our world ecology.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 7:14:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Worchel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We must permanently ban harvesting aquarium fish from Hawaii reefs. This natural resource is already imperiled by climate change and years of harvesting. There are no jobs to be lost. Any benefit from harvesting fish benefits very few individuals at the expense of all island residents and tourists who want to enjoy our natural aquatic treasures. Aquarium fish can be raised for commercial sale like the seahorse business on the Big Island. We must protect our reef fish for current and future generations. Pass SB505

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 6:45:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keirsten Smart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support a permanent ban on the commercial harvesting of marine life for the aquarium trade. Harvesting fish from our reefs is not necessary as fish are being captive bred, nor is it sustainable. Please support Hawaii's reefs and fish by permanently ending commercial harvesting.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 7:02:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Sweeney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our land and waters are sacred and interconnected. Pull even one fish out of it's environment, the entire ecosystem is affected. To mindlessly mine our waters for superfluous profit is beyond our respective community and individual kuleana.

Let's responsibly care for our planet. Thank you.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 8:53:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Toki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This law is urgently needed to protect our vulnerable reefs and fishes from further decimation by human activities. I am local diver, naturalist and conservationist. With over 50 years of diving experience in Oahu, I have witnessed the tragic depletion of many precious reef and marine life species over the past decades. We must do more to enforce protection with strict fines to prevent the raping of our beautiful ocean and ecosystems.

Sincerely,

Linda Toki

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 8:57:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators, No more decimating our reefs to benefit a few collectors! Mahalo.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 8:14:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy Abrams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are in total support of SB505. It is not a benefit to Hawaiiin residents or Hawaiian people. In fact it depletes the coral and reefs, it disrupts the ecological system of the ocean. All of the hard work that has been done in the last 5 years will be for nothing. Many studies have proven that the death rate of aquarium fish trade is as high as 98%. I urge you to ban commercial aquarium collecting for the the betterment of our community. Thank you so much !!

Kona Hawaii.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 9:32:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Roughly 25% of the marine life, including reef fish, in Hawaii is endemic - found nowhere else on earth. This is the highest rate of marine endemism on Planet Earth. The State of Hawaii, as legal caretaker of these resources bears a sacred kuleana and obligation to the entire world to care for these species and manage them optimally. Just as the world looks to Ecuador to manage the incredible natural resources of the Galapagos Islands and looks to China to conserve the Panda, it falls to Hawaii to preserve the many types of fish found only within its waters - some of which are of stunning beauty. Until recently, the chosen method of management was to allow the wholesale removal of these creatures from their natural habitat to be shipped to foreign countries where they would typically live extremely truncated lives in a private residence. A number of species became unavailable for viewing in their natural habitat because those within depths accessible to recreational scuba divers and snorkelers had either been collected or had become very wary and reclusive in order to survive. Just in the brief period since aquarium collecting has been paused, surveys conducted by the Hawaii Department of Aquatic Resources and by the Reef Environmental Educational Foundation both show that sightings of a range of endemic Hawaiian fish have increased - substantially in some cases. I believe that maintaining fish in their natural habitat where they can fulfill their natural ecosystem function, and where they can be viewed behaving in a natural way, is a higher value use than removing them from the reef, where many of them play essential roles, removing them from the State, and confining them to a small glass cage in private hands where they will likely die long before the end of their natural lifespan. Over many years of observing fish, particularly on Hawaiian reefs, I have been struck by how much of their time is spent in social interactions, both with their own kind and with neighbors of different species. Each fish that is removed affects every other creature around it. Whether they will miss it, or whether that fish might be happier in solitary confinement eating pelletized food, I cannot answer, but I can say that I am happier when I see an intact reef with all the fish that should naturally be there. Should China export pandas for sale as pets? Should the USA allow bald eagles to be sold abroad as hunting birds? Hawaii's native fish and forest birds are its equivalent iconic natural treasures, and it has done a miserable job of conserving them. Hawaii should be using its treasures to promote native species tourism, which would attract a more respectful and beneficial breed of tourists than the current mai tai, luau, and beach based promotion.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 11:58:50 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert P Thomas Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are frequent visitors to the island of Hawaii and lived in Kona for several years. We support the SB505 for visable reasons we have seen over the years. Yelloow Tangs for example. We would see schools larger than a SUV in 2007 in Kahaluu Bay and now you may see schools as big as a Fiat 500.

Ele and Robert Thomas

11650 N. Europa Pl.

Tucson, Az. 85737

Monday, January 30, 2023 at 1:00 PM
Via Video Conference; Conference Room 224

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Water and Land

To: Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon Elefante, Vice Chair

From: Cynthia Nakamura

**Re: Testimony in Support of SB 505
Relating to Environmental Protection**

I am writing in support of SB 505 which would prohibit the harvesting of aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes. Through the many years that I have snorkeled in the waters surrounding Oahu, I have seen a marked decline in the number of reef fish. These fish are an important element in sustaining the coral reefs which have suffered from climate change and have become increasingly unhealthy. The reef fish, primarily herbivores, feed upon the algae growing on the reefs, thereby maintaining the delicate ecosystem of the reef environment. The loss of our reef fish leads to an overgrowth of algae, causing irreparable harm, even death, to the reefs.

The aquarium trade has been relentlessly harvesting large numbers of reef fish over the years. As a result, there are fewer and fewer fish in our ocean. A case in point is the Potter's Angelfish, a fish that was once numerous is now rarely if ever seen.

SB 505 is a vital step forward in protecting Hawai'i's valuable reefs and ocean environment. Our reefs and ocean are part of the reason tourists travel to Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 5:59:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shauna Springer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to permanently end the commercial harvesting of marine life for aquarium pet trade. The harvesting of marine life is not in line with our cultural practice as well as a sustainable industry. Our coral reefs and all marine life are critical to our survival on the islands, if these systems are disrupted there are many detrimental effects to our ecosystems which function as our ice box to provide fish, protection against storms and much more.

I mahalo you all for your dedication to protecting our coral reefs and marine species for today and future generations.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 9:57:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Dennis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have been diving and snorkeling throughout Hawaii for nearly 40 years. Because of our love for the ocean here, we purchased a condo on the Kohala Coast of the Big Island 18 years ago. We are here 3 times a year and snorkel virtually every day. Our entire family, including 6 grandchildren are also avid divers and snorkelers.

The economic value of having robust reef fish populations to attract visitors for snorkeling and diving far exceeds the minor income from allowing the practice of fish collecting to resume.

In our California home we have a 300 gallon aquarium. All of our fish are tank raised. We have never gotten a fish for our aquarium that wasn't tank bred. There is absolutely no need to collect fish from the wild.

We urge support of SB505. Future generations are counting on you !

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 12:22:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kilihea Inaba	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

My name is Kilihea Inaba. I am a native Hawaiian who is concerned about the marine life of Hawaii. I am in strong support of SB505, to prohibit the commercial capture of Hawai'i's marine life for aquarium pet trade purposes, with exemptions for public aquariums, research, education and aquaculture. (Even at this I wish we did not have to collect any species for aquarium use). We sincerely thank the Committee's for considering this critically important matter that affects all who live in and care for Hawai'i.

This measure is urgently needed now because:

- For a long time now, the host culture and its people have supported a complete end to aquarium collecting for the pet trade, due to numerous environmental, cultural and ethical concerns and conflicts with local values
- The aquarium pet trade has taken millions of culturally significant and ecologically critical reef animals, primarily herbivores, from our reefs for sale to mainland pet stores and for home aquariums outside Hawai'i. This "pet trade" in our reef wildlife yields astronomical mortality rates that would never be tolerated for any other animals sold as pets
- Herbivores are critical to the survival of Hawai'i's coral reefs in the face of climate change, which, beginning in 2014, destroyed parts of our important reef ecosystems through a series of unprecedented ocean heat waves, and which is forecast to drive annual ocean heat waves as soon as 2030
- Scientists agree that 70% of Hawai'i's coral reefs could be lost by mid-century from these increasing ocean heat waves, and that herbivore abundance and biomass must be increased on Hawai'i's reefs if they are to survive, as herbivores are key to keeping algae under control on our coral reefs
- Food fishers are now paying the price for aquarium trade impacts even though the aquarium pet trade has historically taken 1.8 times more fish (mostly herbivores) from West Hawai'i reefs than all food fishers, combined (DLNR 2020 report to the legislature). The recent West Hawai'i prohibition on take of *paku'iku'i* (Achilles tang) came after years of DLNR repeatedly reporting that aquarium collecting was severely impacting *paku'iku'i* populations on those reefs (DLNR grant report to NOAA)

- The most heavily targeted species (mostly herbivores) on O‘ahu reefs have been depleted by the aquarium pet trade by 90%, on average (Grabowsky and Thornhill 2020). This directly affects the quality of life of people on O‘ahu most especially the people who are subsistence providers for their families.

DLNR data show:

- o Herbivore abundance significantly increases once aquarium collecting stops. Aquarium collecting has been prohibited under court order in West Hawai‘i since 2018, and statewide since January 12, 2021, given the decades long illegal issuance of permits and licenses for aquarium collecting without first requiring environmental review under Hawai‘i’s Environmental Policy Act (HEPA)
- o The 2018 West Hawai‘i aquarium collecting ban resulted in the largest increase in yellow tang herbivore abundance ever documented on those reefs (DAR data)
- o Without aquarium collection, O‘ahu’s reefs stand to benefit with a gain at least 81,000 herbivorous and other fishes each year (based on historical catch reports)

Additional Benefits of SB505

- Saves the state money:

o DLNR estimates it costs taxpayers upwards of \$500,000 annually to administer and manage the aquarium trade, not including enforcement costs, yet it only receives a mere \$23,480 in permit fees and taxes: ending the trade would save taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars annually

o According to an independent peer-reviewed cost-benefit analysis, ending the trade would also yield positive annual benefits by supporting over \$440,000,000 in the direct and indirect market value of reef tourism

- Spur additional technology and jobs: The only sustainable aquarium trade in Hawai‘i is one based on aquaculture. Thanks to years of aquaculture breakthroughs by O‘ahu researchers and businesses, such as the Oceanic Institute and Biota, a number of popular Hawai‘i species, such as the yellow tang, are now captive-bred and available to consumers without impacting wild species populations.

We thank the committees for hearing this important measure and respectfully urge your passage of SB505.

Me ka haahaa,

Kilihea Inaba (Kaloko, Kona, Hawaii)

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 8:50:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Barnes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: The variety and sheer numbers of reef fish has somewhat recovered in W Hawaii because of 3 La Niña years and reduced aquarium fishing. With climate change, pollution and warming ocean temps, they are under severe threat. It makes no sense to further challenge them with aquarium fishing! Please vote to ban it permanently. Our children deserve it.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 12:11:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Virginia Small	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Commercial collecting of aquarium fish in Hawaiian waters **MUST** be banned from now and into the future. Such fish should never have been allowed to be collected from our waters. There were soooo many more reef fish in the 1970's than there are now. Our fish are vital to our fragile ecosystems and also to our tourist trade. Do the right thing. **BAN ANY FURTHER COLLECTING IF OUR REEF FISH.** Thank you

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 12:26:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gigi Brisson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We live in Puako, HI (Kamuela) and have watched the severe decline of fish populations along the reef over the last 15 years. The populations 15 years ago had already declined significantly according to all the "old-timers" from 15-50 years earlier. We used to see yellow tangs, one of the most popular marine aquarium fish, fairly often, but never in great numbers. Now we do not see any. I could go on for every species of fish and octopus and conch and other "collectibles". All species' numbers have significantly declined. It is time we start protecting our reefs and the animals that live around them, as the reefs need these animals to survive. Even though reefs make up .25% of the oceans, they provide 25% of its biodiversity, and biodiversity provides resilience, and resilience protects us from the damages from climate change. Please be forward thinking and think about the future generations and their right and need for a healthy ocean. Please ban this practice and stop supporting the aquarium trade.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 12:24:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawika Winter, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha to the Chairs, Vice Chairs, and members of AEN/WTL,

I am strongly supportive of SB505. Removal of fish from our reefs for the commercial aquarium trade does immense harm to our reefs and our communities, and provides no benefits. Furthermore, due to advances in aquaculture techniques, these fishes can be made available in ways that neither inhibits the ecosystem function of our reefs, nor takes food out of people's mouths. I urge you to vote in support.

Mahalo,

Kawika Winter Ph.D.

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Inouye and committee members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support for SB505 aimed at putting Hawai'i's residents, fishers and reefs before the profits of the mainland pet trade that wants to sell Hawai'i's wild marine life for home aquariums worldwide.

In years past, the trade tried to justify their actions by citing "jobs" and by claims that Hawai'i's fishes in tanks are important ambassadors for Hawai'i.

But 2023 marks 5 years since a court order banned DLNR from issuing permits for aquarium purposes, so there are no jobs to lose. **The old aquarium trade no longer exists.**

It has been replaced by the Hawai'i aquaculture trade in Waimanalo thanks to HPUs Oceanic Institute and its partner Biota. **And they're hiring.**

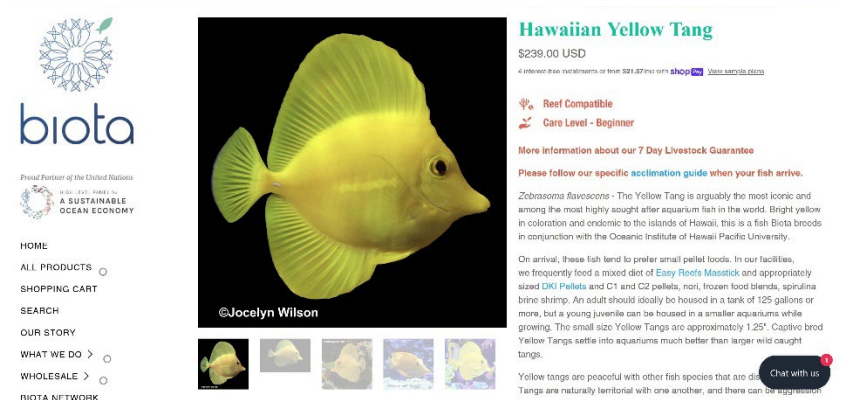
Thanks to aquaculture, home aquarists around the world can have their Hawai'i fishes without harm to Hawai'i's reefs or marine life and the million plus residents our reefs support.

Another benefit of forever closing the door on the old aquarium trade would be the continued absence of the significant poaching that has plagued the trade (and our reefs). That poaching problem was underscored in 2020 when 3 major illegal operations in West Hawaii were finally shut down. The citations and convictions only occurred with support of NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement driven by numerous tips from the community, because of DOCARE resource constraints. The issuance of even a single aquarium collection permit by BLNR would open the poaching floodgates because of the secretive nature of the trade, operating offshore and underwater.

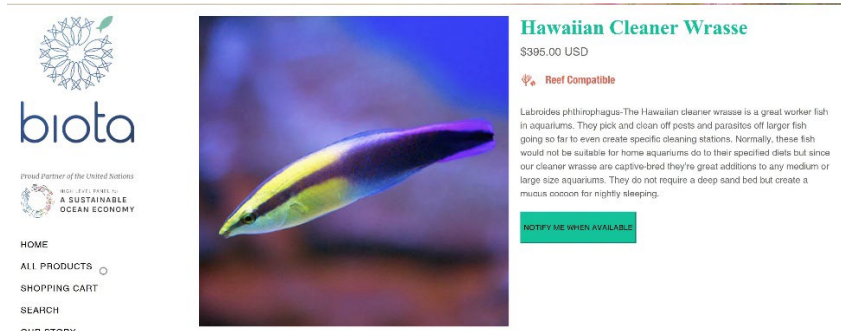
These are just a few of the many reasons underscoring the need for this measure.

Please support a truly sustainable aquarium trade – right here in Hawai'i – with SB505.

AQUACULTURED (CAPTIVE-BRED) HAWAI'I FISHES THAT WERE ONCE TAKEN FROM THE WILD IN THE TENS TO HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS EVERY YEAR:




The screenshot shows the Biota website interface. On the left is a navigation menu with links for HOME, ALL PRODUCTS, SHOPPING CART, SEARCH, OUR STORY, WHAT WE DO, WHOLESALE, and BIOTA NETWORK. The main content area features a large image of a bright yellow Hawaiian Yellow Tang. Below the main image are five smaller thumbnail images of the fish. To the right of the image is the product title "Hawaiian Yellow Tang" with a price of "\$239.00 USD". Below the price are icons for "Reef Compatible" and "Care Level - Beginner". There is a "Chat with us" button in the bottom right corner of the product area.






The screenshot shows the Biota website interface for the Hawaiian Cleaner Wrasse. On the left is the same navigation menu as in the previous screenshot. The main content area features a large image of a Hawaiian Cleaner Wrasse. Below the main image is a green button that says "NOTIFY ME WHEN AVAILABLE". To the right of the image is the product title "Hawaiian Cleaner Wrasse" with a price of "\$395.00 USD". Below the price is an icon for "Reef Compatible".

Oceanic Institute of Hawaii Pacific University
 August 11, 2022 · 🌐

We are so excited to share that we recently succeeded (again!) culturing the longnose butterflyfish (*Forcipiger flavissimus*), pictured here as a fully settled juvenile at 90 days old. This achievement extends the previous success in 2016 led by Avier Montalvo @rockfish82 who first got this species to 86 days old (last image and video on our IG). We are thrilled to be the first facility to have reported success in longnose butterfly aquaculture, a feat made possible due to ...
[See more](#)




Rising Tide CONSERVATION   

HOME AQUACULTURED FISH ABOUT RISING TIDE STAKEHOLDERS CONTACT US

POTTERS ANGELFISH | *Centropyge potteri*


🏠 > Rising Tide Conservation > POTTERS ANGELFISH | *Centropyge potteri*





[Rising Tide Conservation](#) · [May 24, 2016](#) · [Aquacultured Fish](#) / [Rising Tide Conservation](#)


SEARCH

Search



biota

Proud Partner of the United Nations
 HIGH LEVEL PANEL FOR A SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ECONOMY

HOME
 ALL PRODUCTS 
 SHOPPING CART
 SEARCH
 OUR STORY



Milletseed Butterflyfish Each
 \$65.00 USD

 Reef Compatible

Chaetodon miliaris- The Millet seed or lemon butterflyfish has a lemon-yellow body with tons of intricate black spots in vertical rows. These butterflyfish tend to be curious and outgoing in-home aquariums, but they do tend to pick at some corals so be very careful with invertebrate additions to the aquarium. Millet seed butterflies are incredibly abundant in Hawaiian waters and easily recognizable.

[NOTIFY ME WHEN AVAILABLE](#)

Mahalo,
 Rene Umberger

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 8:18:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crista	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I submit this testimony to support the protection of all aquatic life. It is essential that we protect wildlife, and not sell it off for human amusement! This is an inhumane, and completely unnecessary industry.

These fish belong in the sea, not imprisoned in tanks.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 12:56:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Ho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The state of Hawaii has asked us to help Hawaii be sustainable, take of it's natural resources and provide stewardship opportunities for visitors and our community members. Many of us are not paid and do so because we love Hawaii! Hawaii Tourism is promoted and marketed by the counties and state because tourism is our biggest industry. Why would we allow the take, sale and death of aquatic resources we need to be sustainable? Hawaiian aquatic resources play a large role in why visitors travel to Hawaii. Do not allow the collection and sale of our aquatic resources. Preserve and potect Hawaii's future.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 8:09:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern regarding SB505,

I am in support of SB505.

I am opposed to harvesting of Aquatic life for the Commercial Aquarium trade in any form of collection from Ocean Waters.

Adrienne Peck

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 1:30:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
karen anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: SB505

Monday, January 30, 2023

Dear legislators,

I am a resident of Puako/Wailea Bay. For over twenty five years we have had scientists from across the country and the of Hawaii on the Puako Reef every year studying its degradation. Ten years ago it was agreed that the Puako Reef is under severe attack and actions need to be taken quickly to save it. The three overwhelming factors of the reef's decline are:

1. Overfishing
2. Wastewater flowing onto the reef from the local community
3. Run off from lands mauka of the highway.

Scientists know that in order to save Puako Reef all of these need to be solved. Nine years ago the local community began working with non-profit organizations and the government to implement a sewer system in Puako that would completely remove wastewater from the reef. This work is still on going and over twenty community members are actively involved in this project in various capacities. Millions of community members' money have been spent on this issue.

At our annual meeting last week the community unanimously agreed to do our part to save our reef by finding a viable waste water solution.

Now we need YOU to do YOUR PART by permanently ending the commercial harvest of marine life for the aquarium pet trade on our reef and all reefs in Hawai'i.

I ask you to support Bill SB505!

Thank you for helping to save Puako Reef and all other reefs in Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Karen Anderson

9b Puako Beach Road

Davianna Pōmaika‘i McGregor
1942 Naio St
Honolulu, HI 96817
davianna.mcgregor@gmail.com

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB505 PROHIBITING THE HARVEST OF AQUATIC LIFE
FOR COMMERCIAL AQUARIUM PURPOSES

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT AND COMMITTEE ON WATER
AND LAND

Aloha Chairs, Senator Mike Gabbard and Senator Lorraine Inouye, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment and Committee on Water and Land, my name is Davianna Pōmaika‘i McGregor and I am testifying in support of SB 505 Prohibiting the Harvest of Aquatic life for Commercial Aquarium Purposes.

As a longtime steward of the island of Kaho‘olawe as a member of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana, I understand the importance of conserving the marine ecosystems of all of our islands. The harvest of aquatic life for commercial aquaium purposes is an unsustainable practice that is also unnecessary.

There have been significant breakthroughs by O‘ahu researchers and businesses to captive breed Hawai‘i’s most desired and beautiful fishes and make them available in Hawai‘i and worldwide.

Collection for pubic aquariums, research, education and aquaculture would continue under Special Activity Permits, as well as recreational collection by Hawai‘i residents.

The life of our reefs, the building blocks of life on our islands need to be protected and sustained.

Please pass SB 505.

Mahalo and Aloha

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 8:14:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suzanne Villeneuve	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the ban on commercial aquarium collecting.

This ban is important to me, cause I live here and I've been snorkeling for 35 years, admiring the variety of all the fish and their habitat. There are less and less fish, because of all the fisherman, there is no point of taking the aquarium fish too.

Please leave them in the ocean, where they live.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 2:09:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
George Patterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Today, Sunday, January 29, 2023, the Capitol website seems to be overwhelmed and can not function as a portal for receiving testimony for SB505. That is unfortunate. It is possible that persons in support of SB505 will not be successful in submitting testimony. Please accept my Testimony in support of SB505.

Testimony In Support of SB505

I support SB505 for a total ban on aquarium fish collecting in Hawaii. I am a long term resident and property owner of Hawaii Island in North Kohala. For many years, I have witnessed the negative impact of dwindling fish populations from aquarium collection. I am a swimmer and scuba diver in the ocean year around at least 3 - 5 days per week.

Yellow Tang and other herbivores are adapted to grazing on algae. The herbivores play a critical role in coral reefs, without which there would be no corals, no reefs to protect the islands shorelines. I continue to see that the balance between the algae growth and coral growth has already allowed the algae to expand at the expense of the corals.

Herbivores live about 30 years in the wild. In captivity those that survive one year, very few, on average die within five years. When I swim I see so few herbivores remaining. We must protect them.

Both visitors and residents of Hawaii look forward to seeing schools of Yellow Tang and other reef fish living in the wild. The Yellow Tang are the Kona Gold of west Hawaii. Without the schools of Yellow Tang the very reason for visitors to come to Hawaii is diminished. My brother

visited Hawaii and remarked that the fish populations were not what he expected and will likely vacation elsewhere.

As a swimmer on the west side of Hawaii island I personally have seen the results of aquarium collectors. They decimate fish populations. The algae grows out of control. There is also direct conflict between residents and collectors. Aquarium collection is not Pono. It is in conflict with the Hawaiian culture. The Yellow Tang have a Hawaiian name - lau'ipala. The 'yellowed ti leaf'. That is not by accident. The Ti leaf is sacred to Lono, the Hawaiian God of fertility and Laka, the Goddess of Hula. We must stand up to ward off the evil aquarium collectors and bring good to these islands. It is our ancient duty.

Mahalo from Kapa'au, HI

- George Patterson

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 2:42:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Warner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the passage of bill SB505. As a 30 year home owner in Puako I have seen the drastic decline of the reef fish - especially in the last few years. We need to save the reef and the fish that live there.

Julia Warner

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 2:51:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support. Thank you.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 2:55:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Harvey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our reefs and near shore areas are under sever pressure and the fish populations are in critical decline. PLEASE protect the remaining populations, including prohibiting the harvesting of fish fro the aquarium pet trade. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Save our fish. Save our state. This will even be beneficial to our snorkeling tourists as well as our Coral!

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 2:45:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Vandamme	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill to stop the degradation of our marine life regarding the aquarium pet trade in Hawaii. Thank you.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 7:57:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Allison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please finally stop the commercial aquarium trade. It is not a trade. You cannot replace the fish with money. The reefs need the fish to be healthy. We need healthy reefs in Hawaii for wave protection, a healthy ecology, tourism, food, fun, beauty and to uphold the state constitution and protect our precious resources! Please protect the fish and the reefs!!!

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 3:27:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Elliott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

One more example of pillaging the natural resources that make Hawaii special. The reefs are under enough stress as it is, due to climate change, unwillingness to legislate costly but cleaner wastewater disposal for decades, etc. I understand the argument of jobs (my degree is in economics), but jobs can never be the only consideration. There is no real value added here to the world - just theft and resale of the stolen goods. Also, it is cruel to put any animal into a little cage, detached from its family and home - as anyone who has spent any time around animals should clearly understand.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 3:33:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Klein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing to support SB505 to permanently ban the harvesting of reef fish for the commercial aquarium trade. As a homeowner in Puako I see everyday the income local dive shops and boat operators gain from from bringing visitors to enjoy this island treasure.

The trade is working hard to regain access and drain our reefs for mainland hobby tanks. Their past excuses for this wildlife trade -- "jobs" and claims that our fishes are important ambassadors for Hawai`i -- have been washed away in the last 5 years:

- There are no aquarium collecting jobs to lose
- Aquaculture breakthroughs by O`ahu researchers and businesses mean that Hawai`i's most desired and beautiful fishes are now captive-bred and available to consumers worldwide
- Hawaii's reefs, residents, taxpayers, and fishers no longer have to lose so the mainland aquarium pet trade can profit

Collection for public aquariums, research, education, and aquaculture would continue under Special Activity Permits. Recreational collection by local residents would also be allowed (as long as fine mesh nets aren't used).

A legislative ban has never been more important: the trade has asked the court to lift the injunction prohibiting aquarium collection. All the gains made on the reefs these past 5 years could be lost because DLNRs decades-long support for the aquarium trade -- at the expense of all others and the reefs -- has not waned. No doubt they would soon start down the path of issuing collection permits again.

As a reminder, over fishing is one of the top 3 reasons our lovely Puako Reef is in severe decline. The other two are our wastewater and run off from lands mauka of the highway.

We are working hard to do OUR PART to save our reef by finding a solution for our wastewater. Now the government can do ITS PART to save the reef by stopping over fishing. Thank you for your consideration-

Carol Klein

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 4:17:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Wayman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I live in Puako on the water and enjoy the beauty of the ocean and all of her living creatures. We do not want to deplete our fish by allowing commercial capture of our beautiful reef fish.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 4:25:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Matson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice-chairs Richards and Elefante, and Senate Agriculture and Environment, and Water and Land Committee members,

Please pass SB505, this is an important, and long overdue, bill to protect our marine life. Others are covering the scientific, environmental, and financial benefits to this legislation in their testimony. I am simply writing to you as a lover of our oceans, and as a mother who wants her keiki to grow up and be able to snorkel and scuba in the waters that I grew up in and learn to love and appreciate the beautiful abundance of interconnected life that lives on and around our reefs. This is just ONE bill of many that are important to me in protecting and caring for our precious land, ocean, and animals. I hope you will do the pono thing and support this bill.

Mahalo,

Shannon Matson

Hawai'i Island Resident

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 5:46:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Wallace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support banning aquarium fishing in Hawaii. Aquarium fishing kills a large number of by catch and it's harmful to our ecological system, our research system, and our tourism. We should not be allowing aquarium, fishing for the benefit of the few, and the harm of many.

I have been swimming in our oceans for decades, and the loss of fish is profoundly sad.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 2:42:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Treadwell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support banning permanently the commercial harvest of marine life for aquariums. This is draining our reefs.

sincerely, Lisa Treadwell

69-1614 Puako Beach Drive, Kamuela 96743

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 3:07:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Epstein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to protect our reefs for now and future generations. We do not need harvesting our ocean wildlife. I am supportive of this legislation.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 2:18:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Neal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Re: STRONG SUPPORT SB505: Relating to Environmental Protection

To: Honorable Chair’s Gabbard and Inouye, Vice-chair’s Richards and Elefante, and Senate Agriculture and Environment, and Water and Land Committee members

Native Hawaiian, environmental, marine and animal protection organizations and businesses are in strong support of SB505, to prohibit the commercial capture of Hawai‘ian marine life for aquarium pet trade purposes. Important exemptions should be included for public aquariums, research, education and aquaculture.

This measure is urgently needed now because:

- Herbivores are critical to the survival of Hawai‘i’s coral reefs in the face of climate change, which, beginning in 2014, destroyed parts of our important reef ecosystems through a series of unprecedented ocean heat waves, and which is forecast to drive annual ocean heat waves as soon as 2030
- Polling has shown 83 percent of residents support a complete ban of the aquarium pet trade.
- The aquarium pet trade has taken millions of culturally significant and ecologically critical reef animals, primarily herbivores, from our reefs for sale to mainland pet stores and for home aquariums outside Hawai‘i. This “pet trade” in our reef wildlife yields astronomical mortality rates that would never be tolerated for any other animals sold as pets
- Scientists agree that 70% of Hawai‘i’s coral reefs could be lost by mid-century from these increasing ocean temperature. Reef herbivores are key to keeping algae over growth under control on our coral reefs
- Hawai‘i’s food fishers are suffering impacts of the aquarium trade due to poor regulation See: DLNR 2020 report to the legislature and DLNR grant report to NOAA.
- The most heavily targeted species (mostly reef herbivores) on O‘ahu reefs have been depleted by the aquarium pet trade by 90%, See; Grabowsky and Thornhill 2020

DLNR data show:

- Herbivore abundance significantly increases once aquarium collecting stops. Aquarium collecting has been prohibited under court order in West Hawai'i since 2018, and statewide since January 12, 2021, given the decades long illegal issuance of permits and licenses for aquarium collecting without first requiring environmental review under Hawai'i's Environmental Policy Act (HEPA)
- The 2018 West Hawai'i aquarium collecting ban resulted in the largest increase in yellow tang herbivore abundance ever documented on those reefs (DAR data)
- Without aquarium collection, O'ahu's reefs stand to benefit with a gain at least 81,000 herbivorous and other fishes each year (based on historical catch reports)

Additional Benefits of SB505

· SB505 Saves the public money:

- DLNR estimates it costs taxpayers upwards of \$500,000 annually to administer and manage the aquarium trade, not including enforcement costs, yet it only receives a mere \$23,480 in permit fees and taxes. Ending the trade would save taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars annually
- Independent peer-reviewed cost-benefit analysis shows ending the trade would yield both direct and indirect market value in reef tourism in the amount \$440,000,000 annually.

If the reef dies, the waves take the land.

I respectfully urge the passage of SB505.

Sincerely,

Keith Neal

Waimea, HI

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 6:13:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tom Shaddick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Finally something is being done about the dwindling population of fish which keep the reef healthy. Have been enjoying the reef and multitude of fish for the last 30 years. However, the current population is a small fraction of what it was in the late 80's, So please pass sb505 to help ensure the health of the reef for future generations ! Thank You

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 12:28:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Fryar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Mayor, Comissioners & Legislators,

Please consider supporting this bill. The Aquarium trade has being determatal for the abundance of fish in Hawaii's reef ecosystem. Not only their practice and methods of harvesting the fish have damaged the reef but also the abundance of fish, specially yellow tanks. As a resident and conservationists of Hawaii natural resources I ask you to consider passing this bill to protect and preserve the reef. There are so many things already threatening our fragile ocean ecosystem like coral bleaching diseases, invasive species and pollution. By passing this bill you will help preserve our reef and our hospitality economy.

Mahalo nui loa,

Aloha

Angela Fryar

Big Iasland resident.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 5:56:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
candace christensen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 505. The fish population is just a fraction of what is was when I first came to Hawaii in 1985. Tourist come to see the reefs and the tropical fish. The aquarium fish collectors contribute almost nothing to the Hawaiian economy

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 9:55:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marie Addario	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Save our oceans! Save our fish!

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 12:33:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because I believe in the fishing communities that are trying to mpreserve the ocean's abundance for the benefit of generations to come. They support this bill and have the wisdom and legacy of time-honored practice guiding them. I defer to their wisdom that this bill is needed and should be supported. Please move SB505 and respect the indigenous voices that are calling for this ban. Mahalo.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 10:05:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Shields	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Senators Rhoads and Gabbard:

Thank you both for having the heart to write SB505. I am submitting herewith my testimony in support of this urgent Bill.

For years, commercial agents have harvested our oceans to remove our beautiful sealife for the sole purpose of profiting off the sale of these creatures for commercial and residential aquariums. To make a comparison, the capturing and selling of any form of life is no better than human trafficking - a practice that should involve serious repercussions such as a hefty fine, jail time and perhaps a loss of livelihood if rules aren't followed.

Another area that should be included in this Bill is the capturing and use of octopi in a "petting zoo" setting and farming them for sale to commercial entities. Any violation of any living creature's life for human profit should not be tolerated. Period.

Thank you both for your time and consideration and please let me know the outcome of tomorrow's hearing.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 5:48:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Douglas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The collection of aquatic life has decimated our reefs. We need a full stop to this practice state wide.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 5:32:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tom Wallace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The health of our reefs is so important. Aquarium fishing takes away the health of the reef that we all enjoy for the benefit of a small number of people. As you know a big percentage of the fish that are taken from the reef die before they put in aquariums anyway. I fully support a full band on aquarium fishing in Hawaiian Waters.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 5:27:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James M. Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our ocean and reefs are already overfished and overused. The aquarium trade depletes our reefs for the benefit of a few here and many people elsewhere. We have limited resources and need to protect them.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 6:14:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
david giff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support SB505, prohibiting collection of Hawai'i fishes for commercial aquarium purposes by any means.

I have two major concerns here, beyond simply the long term degradation of the reef fish populations that would occur if aquarium fishing were resumed:

First, there are too many stories regarding malpractice by licensed aquarium fishermen in the past. I remember stories of a dumpster in Kona that was full of dead Yellow Tang, and another where aquarium fishers dove overboard and swam to shore to avoid citation by DNLR personnel. If needed, I would be happy to research more on this aspect. Essentially, the fishery is not monitored as needed and the fishermen do not adhere to any rules the DNLR imposes, because there is no appropriate enforcement.

Second, as a diver who captures sea life solely with a camera, I must comment that I NEVER post some of these beautiful images on social media, especially with any comment about where I saw a certain fish, as I have been told the aquarium fishers monitor social media and will then go to said location to capture the fishes posted. This is simply abhorrent - to think posting a picture of a beautiful, perhaps rare, fish could lead to its capture to be sold for a dental office aquarium on the mainland. The diving community as a whole follows this practice, as I understand.

Please pass this bill - it is a step in the right direction toward caring for Hawai'i's reefs.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 5:26:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott grainger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

All commercial aquarium trade should be banned in state of Hawaii waters. The ecological devastation on nearshore fisheries in Hawaiian waters resulting from this practice is widely known. The aquarium trade is a major contributor to the nearshore fishery nursery destruction, The economic loss of tourism and recreational fishing interests due to nearshore reef biomass loss is exponentially greater than any supposed economic hardship (loss of jobs, spare me) which is claimed by the commercial aquarium trade proponents. Ban this destructive fishing practice.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 7:29:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy A. Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the ban as proposed in SB 505. The aquarium trade has directly caused serious damage to the Hawaiian coral reefs ecosystem. Coral reefs are the most important ecosystem on the planet- it makes sense to promote legislation to protect our reefs by banning the collection of marine life/animals, with the limited and regulated allowances as outlined in this bill. Allow our reef systems to recover and in time, with proper management, they have the chance to thrive. How could we as a society not support this ban crafted with the goal to improve the health of our nearshore and reef ecosystem? Any vote in opposition to this bill is a vote for the destruction of an ancient, complex, delicate and important ocean environment by allowing marine collectors to take life from our reefs/waters, many using cyanide, in order to make money-which makes no sense. I respectfully request that that you act to protect our reefs and pass SB505.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 4:53:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jon Hall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The reefs should not be disturbed, especially for commercial profit.

Aquarium fish enterprises can grow their own fish in their own tanks and should not be allowed to trespass on our reefs.

And humanitarian reasons: if you were born in the sea off Hawaii, how would you feel to be caught and removed?

-Jon Hall

resident of Puako

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 5:16:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RE: SB 505 Prohibits the harvesting of aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes, regardless of the method of collection.

Monday, January 30, 2023, 1:00 p.m., Conference Room 224 and by videoconference

Position: **STRONG SUPPORT OF SB505: Relating to Environmental Protection**

Aloha Honorable Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice-chairs Richards and Elefante, and Senate Agriculture and Environment, and Water and Land Committee members.

As a long-time kama'āina of Kona on the island of Hawai'i I have seen the depletion of our reef fish as a source of food for our families. The *paku'iku'i* is just one of the species that the aquarium collecting industry has severely impacted. It is time that we focus on protecting our environment and food sustainability.

We have made tremendous strides in Marine aquaculture research and funding should be made available to those companies to ensure they develop programs and farms that are sustainable and environmentally friendly rather than on the aquarium trade.

We are grateful for your consideration of this very important measure and respectfully ask for your strong support of SB 505.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 12:07:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura K. Legge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please please please, can we finally do the right thing and stop the taking of our Hawaiian reef animals for people on the mainland to enjoy in their living rooms?? This is beyond the pale. Our animals/fish are so desperately needed on our reefs so we can save not just the reefs but also so many jobs in the Islands that depend on healthy ocean.

Please, for our future, please do the right thing and stop this pet fish taking from Hawaii. There are so many alternatives that won't kill our reefs.

Mahalo for your time,

Malama Kai, Laura.

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 4:59:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pamela Small	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Pamela Small

PO Box 44413

Kamuela, HI 96743

Re: SB505

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing today to express my support of SB505. Please do not lift the injunction prohibiting aquarium trade collection. As a professional level scuba diver, I support a ban on aquarium collection on Hawaii's reefs. The aquarium collectors have decimated our reefs of aquatic life in the past. For the last five years, while there has been a collection ban, the reefs have been slowly recovering.

Under current conditions, there is no justification for lifting the ban. Most of Hawaii's prized fish can be captively bred via aquaculture. Aquarium consumers worldwide can acquire beautiful, healthy Hawaiian reef fish in a sustainable way. Captive bred fish have a significantly higher survival rate in an aquarium.

The industry would have you believe that aquarium collection jobs need to be saved by lifting the current injunction. That is simply not true. It has been five years since there was any sort of legal aquarium collection in Hawaii and there are no current collectors who need to have the legislature protect their existing profession. The only people who benefit from a lifting of the injunction are ILLEGAL collectors who profit from Hawaii's reefs with no regard to the effect that it has on the health and vitality of the reef system.

Hawaii coral reefs have a very long road to recovery after the decades of unlimited aquarium collection with no regard to its effects on the ocean and its reefs. Rising ocean temperatures and rising ocean acidity are only two of the challenges facing Hawaii's fish, coral, and aquatic life. Adding aquarium collection to the challenges could irretrievably damage our coral reefs. Lifting the injunction banning aquarium collection would be a giant step backwards.

Please do the right thing for Hawaii. Please do the right thing for our ocean. Please do the right thing for our coral reefs. Please support SB505.

Sincerely,

Pamela Small

Kawaihae, Big Island

Angela Crumpton

From: Anita Kelleher <anitakelleher@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 6:03 AM
To: webmaster
Subject: For the fishes

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Aloha,
Since the website is having a problem I am writing to you to get my testimony in.

I support the SB505 in regard to completely restricting aquatic life in and around Hawaii Island.

I am a scuba diver and enjoy all that is here. There is too much pressure and we no longer have the "Gold Coast" of days gone by when there were so many yellow tangs the coast did look yellow gold from above.

There is no need as there are plenty of unfilled jobs here for license to collect aquarium fish.

Please pass this and maybe we will see some recovery in the years to come and help the reefs heal.

Anita Kelleher

Angela Crumpton

From: Susan Rhymes <chowlee1@mac.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 9:59 AM
To: webmaster
Subject: SB505

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please forward our plea for Hawaii's reef fish - make commercial collection illegal!

Angela Crumpton

From: Ava Williams <avasgone2hawaii@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 10:05 AM
To: webmaster
Subject: SB505 Testimony

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Aloha - I grew up spending significant time in the waters of Puako in the 1970s. The change in the reef and aquatic life is astounding, and not in a good way. As a Hawai'i Island resident and Puako homeowner, I am writing to express my support for SB505. It is time to ban commercial aquarium collecting now before we loose a precious ecosystem any further.

Ava Williams
Kamuela, Hawaii

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 8:08:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
glenn fukuda	Testifying for aquarium fish collector	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

DLNR have robbed this industry of their career by not stepping forward to protect what they heavily manage and responsible for every aspect of this industry. With over 45 years of actual fishing they levied fishermen to do an EIS at fisher's cost to predict environmental modalities which management should acknowledge in order to allow any fishery to exist let alone to manage them. It is a travesty.

Angela Crumpton

From: Claire Trester <clairetrester@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 8:37 AM
To: webmaster
Subject: SB505

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I support SB505. It's time we recognize our fragile reef systems as Legacy State Treasures. Not a profit driven enterprise. I've been a Big Island Resident for 40 years, over that time I've seen with my own eyes the dwindling reef fish population.

I support a total ban on commercial tropical reef fish harvesting.

Thank you

Claire Trester

Angela Crumpton

From: Diane Shepherd <Diane.Shepherd@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 8:22 AM
To: webmaster
Subject: SB 505 Aquarium Fishery

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please relay this message to the appropriate committee since the website for testimony is not working.

Dear Sirs:

I oppose the taking of Hawaiian reef fishes for commercial sale. It is a frivolous waste of our reef resources, especially when our reefs are heavily stressed. Please pass SB505 to permanently ban commercial aquarium fishing.

Thank you, Diane Shepherd DVM

3329 Kehala Dr., Kihei, HI 96753

Sent from my iPad

Angela Crumpton

From: Diane Ware <volcanogetaway@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 11:59 AM
To: webmaster
Cc: Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye; Sen. Mike Gabbard; senelephante@capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: Strong support for Bill SB 505 and it's companion bill

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Honorable Chair's Gabbard and Inouye, Vice-chair's Richards and Elefante, and Senate Agriculture and Environment, and Water and Land Committee members

Re my **STRONG SUPPORT of SB505: Relating to Environmental Protection and Hawaiian wildlife**

I have been in strong support for decades of native Hawaiian, environmental, marine and animal protection organizations and businesses working to prohibit the capture of Hawai'i's marine life for aquarium commercial (profit) pet trade purposes, with exemptions for public aquariums, research, education and aquaculture. I sincerely thank the Committee's for considering this critically important matter that affects all who live in and care for Hawai'i and visitors who come here to experience the reef ecosystem. I have spoken directly to Ka'imi Kaupiko down in Miloli'i and Mike Nakachi about the negative effects on the Hawaiian community and subsistence practices of taking millions of reef fishes over decades leading to Lack where there was once Abundance.

This measure is urgently needed now because:

- For decades, local communities, and in polls, 83 percent of residents, have supported a complete end to aquarium collecting for the pet trade, due to numerous environmental, cultural and ethical concerns and conflicts with local values. In 2008 I gave testimony for an environmental group in the passage of a Hawai'i County council resolution to end the trade. I also supported the bill that passed both houses of the legislature in 2017 only to be vetoed by the governor in favor of DLNR and pet trade special interests.
-
- The aquarium pet trade has taken millions of culturally significant and ecologically critical reef animals, primarily herbivores, from our reefs for sale to mainland pet stores and for home aquariums outside Hawai'i. This "pet trade" in our reef wildlife yields astronomical mortality rates that would never be tolerated for any other animals sold as pets. I have been snorkeling in Hawai'i since 1956 and have directly experienced the effects of the trade on numbers of fishes (Tang most prominent) and the ecosystem as a whole.
- Herbivores are critical to the survival of Hawai'i's coral reefs in the face of climate change, which, beginning in 2014, destroyed parts of our important reef ecosystems through a series of unprecedented ocean heat waves, and which is forecast to drive annual ocean heat waves as soon as 2030

- Scientists agree that 70% of Hawai‘i’s coral reefs could be lost by mid-century from these increasing ocean heat waves, and that herbivore abundance and biomass must be increased on Hawai‘i’s reefs if they are to survive, as herbivores are key to keeping algae under control on our coral reefs
- Food fishers are now paying the price for aquarium trade impacts even though the aquarium pet trade has historically taken 1.8 times more fish (mostly herbivores) from West Hawai‘i reefs than all food fishers, combined (DLNR 2020 report to the legislature). The recent West Hawai‘i prohibition on take of *paku’iku’i* (Achilles tang) came after years of DLNR repeatedly reporting that aquarium collecting was severely impacting *paku’iku’i* populations on those reefs (DLNR grant report to NOAA)
- The most heavily targeted species (mostly herbivores) on O‘ahu reefs have been depleted by the aquarium pet trade by 90%, on average (Grabowsky and Thornhill 2020)

DLNR data show:

- Herbivore abundance significantly increases once aquarium collecting stops. Aquarium collecting has been prohibited under court order in West Hawai‘i since 2018, and statewide since January 12, 2021, given the decades long illegal issuance of permits and licenses for aquarium collecting without first requiring environmental review under Hawai‘i’s Environmental Policy Act (HEPA)
- The 2018 West Hawai‘i aquarium collecting ban resulted in the largest increase in yellow tang herbivore abundance ever documented on those reefs (DAR data)
- Without aquarium collection, O‘ahu’s reefs stand to benefit with a gain at least 81,000 herbivorous and other fishes each year (based on historical catch reports)

Additional Benefits of SB505

- Saves the state money:
 - DLNR estimates it costs taxpayers upwards of \$500,000 annually to administer and manage the aquarium trade, not including enforcement costs, yet it only receives a mere \$23,480 in permit fees and taxes: ending the trade would save taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars annually
 - According to an independent peer-reviewed cost-benefit analysis, ending the trade would also yield positive annual benefits by supporting over \$440,000,000 in the direct and indirect market value of reef tourism

With respect and aloha ‘aina,

Diane Ware
 808-967-8642
 P. O. Box 698
 99-7815 Kapoha
 Volcano HI 96785

Angela Crumpton

From: Donna Dale <ddale628@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 4:05 AM
To: webmaster
Subject: SB505:Unable to submit support for banning aquarium fish trade

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Aloha! I am sure that as webmaster for the state of Hawaii you are overwhelmed with requests, but I sincerely hope that you and your colleagues get the website back online ASAP, so that all of those who wish to register strong support (before 1pm today!) for the continued banning of fishing the reefs of Hawaii (for the purposes of selling to or for aquariums) can do so.

Please forward this mail to the appropriate staff. And thank you! You are appreciated.

Our fish deserve this protection so that they may continue to repopulate areas where the variety of fish had been dessimated. The health of the reefs themselves are in question, since we know that the ecosystem as a whole is affected by the keystone species which live there. And as an activist in the area of conservation, I can attest that we may not realize all the species which in fact hold the keys to a thriving reef.

I swim Puako Beach on the big island on the daily, and the fish and other wildlife there and along every reef must be supported in their struggle for survival. Please vote to continue the ban! Aquariums have other resources now to get their fish.

Mahalo,

Donna Dale
Board Member SAFE Worldwide
www.safeworldwide.org

--

Best,
Donna

[Lightness is the way to go... heavy objects/thoughts make poor life preservers!](#)

Angela Crumpton

From: James Kelleher <reprieve@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 6:06 AM
To: webmaster
Subject: SB505 Testimony

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Aloha,

I am unable to submit testimony in support of SB505 to prohibit the harvesting of any aquatic life for aquarium purposes. We need to protect our reefs, fishes and all the diversity that exists within our waters. The environmental damage done by the aquarium collectors has been catastrophic and need to be stopped now. As a resident of Kailua Kona, HI I fully support this ban and appreciate the opportunity to express my full support for this bill.

Respectfully,

James J. Kelleher Jr.
Kailua Kona, HI

Angela Crumpton

From: James Sturz <james@jamessturz.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 11:07 AM
To: webmaster
Subject: SB505

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Hawai'i State Legislature,

I am a Hawai'i County resident, and live in Kapa'au, North Kohala, and urge you to pass Bill SB505, permanently banning the collection of Hawai'i's fishes for the aquarium trade.

Hawai'i's fishes attract snorkelers and divers to its coasts, and decreasing the number of fishes so a select few can turn a profit damages the reef's health for us all. Despite its geographic isolation, Hawai'i's reefs do not have the same quantity of fishes as other comparable locations—I see this every time I scuba dive—and because of excessive aquarium collection in the past, they will take that much longer to recover. I urge you to enact a permanent ban on further collection.

On a separate note, our fishes are living creatures, and also do not deserve to be treated as property to be extracted from their natural environment and sold, in the same way that we wouldn't do that to Hawai'i's native birds.

Mahalo nui for your care,
James Sturz

53-3947 Pratt Road,
Kapa'au, HI 96755

Angela Crumpton

From: Jan Nores, R(S) <jan@hawaiilife.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 9:16 AM
To: Donna Dale
Cc: webmaster
Subject: Re: SB505:Unable to submit support for banning aquarium fish trade

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you Donna!

**Always my best,
Jan Nores, R(S)
808-895-5445 (cell)
Jan@HawaiiLife.com
License #64842**

**Hawaii Life Real Estate Brokers
69-201 Waikoloa Beach Dr 2F14, Waikoloa, HI 96738
Toll-Free: 800-667-5028
FAX 888-724-2390
<http://www.HawaiiLife.com>
JanNores.com**

It's a small world on the Big Island~

On Sun, Jan 29, 2023 at 4:04 AM Donna Dale <ddale628@gmail.com> wrote:

Aloha! I am sure that as webmaster for the state of Hawaii you are overwhelmed with requests, but I sincerely hope that you and your colleagues get the website back online ASAP, so that all of those who wish to register strong support (before 1pm today!) for the continued banning of fishing the reefs of Hawaii (for the purposes of selling to or for aquariums) can do so.

Please forward this mail to the appropriate staff. And thank you! You are appreciated.

Our fish deserve this protection so that they may continue to repopulate areas where the variety of fish had been dessimated. The health of the reefs themselves are in question, since we know that the ecosystem as a whole is affected by the keystone species which live there. And as an activist in the area of conservation, I can attest that we may not realize all the species which in fact hold the keys to a thriving reef.

I swim Puako Beach on the big island on the daily, and the fish and other wildlife there and along every reef must be supported in their struggle for survival. Please vote to continue the ban! Aquariums have other resources now to get their fish.

Mahalo,

Donna Dale
Board Member SAFE Worldwide

www.safeworldwide.org

--

Best,
Donna

Lightness is the way to go... heavy objects/thoughts make poor life preservers!

Angela Crumpton

From: Kevin McCann <kevinlmccann@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 12:05 PM
To: webmaster
Subject: Testimony in support of SB505

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Kevin McCann resident of Hawaii County and registered voter since 2005 residing at 65-1402, Kawaihae Rd, Kamuela submits testimony in support of passing SB505. Since the website is down (see message appended below) I am submitting this via email.

I support passage of SB505 prohibiting the harvesting of aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes.

Aquarium collectors can take advantage of captive bred prized colorful Hawaiian fish. Save the wild fish for Hawaii's fragile natural reefs.

Doing otherwise is not respectful of local environmental, cultural and ethical values.

Respectfully,
Kevin McCann

Due to a power outage, the Hawaii State Legislature website is currently unavailable.

We apologize for the inconvenience.

To submit testimony, please email your testimony to webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov and include the measure number with your submission. Mahalo.

Angela Crumpton

From: webmaster
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 12:43 PM
To: Jessie Brader
Cc: AEN Committee
Subject: RE: Problem signing bill SB505 pls help

Aloha Jessie,

We apologize for the technical problem with our website. There was a power outage at the Capitol. The Website is back up if you would like to try submitting your testimony that way again. You may also contact the committee directly for assistance. The committee staff email is copied in this message.

Mahalo.

From: Jessie Brader <808jessie@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 12:19 PM
To: webmaster <webmaster@Capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: Problem signing bill SB505 pls help

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Aloha,

I would like to sign the bill SB505

I thank the committees for hearing this important measure and respectfully urge your passage of SB505

However when I go to the site to sign the bill I get this message, which makes it very hard to communicate with our government when the government websites don't function.

Hawaii State Legislature

500 Error Occurred :(

Please add my name to the registry for the hearing Monday Jan 30th.

Jessie Brader
76-829 Hualalai Rd Kailua Kona HI 96740

Angela Crumpton

From: M Varrin <mvarrin@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 7:39 AM
To: webmaster
Subject: Please share my testimony

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

hello,

I support SB505. Please count my vote. Stop all aquarium harvesting.

Michelle Varrin
69-1728 Puako Beach Road
Kamuela, HI

Angela Crumpton

From: Kelly Rohlfs <karohlfs@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 11:26 AM
To: webmaster
Subject: SB505

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Do the right thing and pass SB505.

Kelly Rohlfs
68-1125 N Kaniku Dr Apt 202
Kamuela, HI 96743

Angela Crumpton

From: Lisa Shattuck <zeromeat@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 12:11 PM
To: webmaster
Subject: Our beloved fish

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

This is Lisa Shattuck, resident of Hawaii County and registered voter since 2005. I live at [65-1402, Kawaihae Rd, Kamuela](#) and I submit testimony in support of passing SB505. Website is down so submitting by email.

I support passage of SB505 prohibiting the harvesting of aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes.

Save the wild fish for Hawaii's fragile natural reefs.
Doing otherwise is not respectful of local environmental, cultural and ethical values.

With aloha,
Lisa Shattuck

Angela Crumpton

From: Marielis Jepson <marielisjepson@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 11:34 AM
To: webmaster
Subject: Please support SB505

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I'd like to submit testimony requesting that SB505 is supported. I'm a long time resident and Open Water long distance swimmer from Kihei, Maui. Our reefs are seriously in decline from bleaching events several years ago and run off from the last few years of flooding that has delivered tons of debris and silt into our Nearshore ocean. I have witnessed a serious decline in the amount and diversity of reef fish. There's no need to continue to allow fishing for and sale of the last of our reef fish for the aquarium trade. Please do the right thing and support this. Mahalo, Marielis Jepson

Angela Crumpton

From: Matthew Gurewitsch <matthew@alohaheights.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 9:34 AM
To: webmaster
Subject: Testimony - SUPPORTING SB505 - WEBSITE DOWN!
Importance: High

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Aloha!

I wish to submit testimony in whole-hearted support of SB505, permanently ending the commercial harvest of marine life for the aquarium trade. Unfortunately, the website is down, and the deadline for testimony is today at 1:00 pm. I'm asking your assistance in reaching the legislators in time for my testimony to be recorded and considered.

Let me keep this short and to the point. I have been a permanent, full-time resident of Hawaii since 2011. Conditions permitting, I go snorkeling every day. Through a combination of factors, fish stocks have fallen off a cliff since the 1980s. Rising water temperatures, pollution, aquarium harvesting all have played their part. Aquarium harvesting is a commercial boondoggle our aina cannot afford.

Please bear in mind:

- The old claim that the industry creates jobs is now not only unethical but also false. There are no jobs for aquarium collecting.
- Aquaculture on O'ahu can supply hobby tanks with captive-bred specimens of the fish most in demand to collectors worldwide.

- There is no longer any excuse for stripping our reefs for the the mainland aquarium trade. Leave our fish where they belong—a joy to Hawaiian residents and a magnet to visitors from all over the world. The greener we are, the more attractive we are!
- Under SB505, Special Activity Permits will still allow collection for public aquariums, research, education, and aquaculture—likewise recreational collection by local residents (provided no fine-mesh nets are involved).

The aquarium trade continues to lobby against the injunction prohibiting aquarium collection. DLNR has been supporting the aquarium trade for decades. This policy has been a disaster for the aina and for all who love it. Gains have been made on the reefs in the last five years. For goodness sake, let's not sweep all this progress away! Let's start supporting our fish stocks with all the will power and integrity this job will take.

No more collection permits! Ever!

Mahalo for your attention.

M.

Matthew Gurewitsch
3415 Kuaua Pl.
Kihei (Maui) HI 96753

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www.beyondcriticism.com

Angela Crumpton

From: Mouna Ghoussoub <mounaflor@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 10:00 AM
To: webmaster
Subject: SB505

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am testifying in support of Bill SB 505 banning commercial aquarium collecting. I am an airport employees and I would see come across me tubs filled with live fishes. They are never labeled properly, they are never handled properly in consequences, the chances of survival is at most 1% so in my opinion it doesn't justify the harvest. We have to protect Hawaii reefs otherwise we are shooting the whole tourist and dive (not to mention ecological) industry in the foot.

Thank you

Mouna Ghoussoub

Sent from my iPad

Angela Crumpton

From: P. Greenwell <greenkana1a@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 10:57 AM
To: webmaster
Subject: Testimony for SB505

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As a resident of Captain Cook, Big Island, HI I am urging a **permanent ban on the commercial harvest of marine life for the aquarium pet trade.**

Greed and stupidity are the only reasons Hawaii continues to allow the harvesting of our beautiful and important reef fish.

I have personally seen **hundreds** of delicate, colorful reef fish tossed into and around the dumpsters at Honokohou Harbor. These fish were dead, tossed aside, because the so-called permitted AQ rappers of our reefs could not keep their catch alive! Criminal and unforgiveable.

Pass SB505 and end this senseless and destructive waste!!
Mahalo,
P. McCoy Greenwell

Angela Crumpton

From: Patti <mauihawkins@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 10:41 AM
To: webmaster
Subject: SB505 submit testimony

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am in full support of passing bill SB505 permanently banning all forms of aquarium collecting. I have swum the southwest coast of Maui on a weekly bases for 25 years and have seen the devastating affect of the aquarium collection. The only remaining area of live coral an fish is in the Ahihi Preserve. This is proof to me that the aquarium trade has devastated our other non-protected shoreline. The fish need to remain living in our waters in order to be important "ambassadors to Hawaii" otherwise aquatic loving tourism will cease here and go elsewhere in the world where there are tropical fish to see!

Please ban all aquarium collection and trade. Pass Bill 505

Mahalo, Patti Hawkins
266 Alaume street, Kihei, HI 96753

Angela Crumpton

From: Robert Wintner <robertw@snorkelbob.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 10:08 AM
To: webmaster
Subject: SB 505 Testimony

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SB505

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I'm Robert Wintner, owner of Snorkel Bob's across Hawaii.

I support SB505 but request that some its exceptions be removed. Hawaii's two public aquariums have defended reef exploitation for many years, based on business efficiency. They want commercial aquarium collectors on Hawaii reefs, to avoid paying for their own collection campaigns. All reef-business interests must care for reef wildlife and habitat, not extract for profit.

Hawaii DLNR has a history of conflicted interests on aquarium-trade extraction, from Linda Smith, Chief of Staff in the Lingle administration who was an aquarium wholesaler, to William Aila, a card-carrying aquarium collector who directed DLNR for the Abercrombie administration, to Suzanne Case, who scoffed at the Hawaii Supreme Court ruling and injunctive relief on behalf of the aquarium trade.

The Supreme Court ruling called for an Environmental Impact Statement. A Washington, DC lobbying firm prepared that EIS, and it failed. The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, PIJAC, submitted over 500 pages based on livelihood to its personnel in the aquarium trade—to sacrifice Hawaii reef wildlife and habitat in order to support a mainland amusement industry. That's not right for Hawaii.

The Aloha industry supports Hawaii residents. The aquarium trade has long made a case for "user conflict" on Hawaii reefs. But reef wildlife extraction for commercial export is different from reef-based tourism with its exponentially greater tax base that shows reef wildlife without harming it or reef habitat. Taking is not the same as looking. And the billion dollars in annual revenue is worth protecting from the aquarium trade and its \$1-2 in claimed revenue annually.

Please end the aquarium trade in Hawaii. It serves very few at the expense of all others. The aquarium trade decimates species and habitat. The aquarium trade hastens the end of nature for money.

Thank you,

Robert Wintner



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Angela Crumpton

From: Sally Kerr <slfrdmn1@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 9:56 AM
To: webmaster
Subject: SB505

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Aloha,

We have lived on the Big Island for the past 38 years and have seen what climate change and illegal fishing has done to the ocean and its inhabitants.

We believe in protecting the fish and the ocean in all ways for the future of humanity. And so, we strongly support the passage of SB505 to prevent the fish from being taken for non-essential purposes.

Mahalo,
Sally Kerr

Angela Crumpton

From: Sam Rohlfs <samrohlfs@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 12:48 PM
To: webmaster
Subject: Prohibit reef fish harvesting for aquariums

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I can't believe this email is even necessary. Taking Hawaiian reef fish for aquariums is egregiously unconscionable. Ban this terrible practice once and for all.

Sam Rohlfs
68-1125 N Kaniku Dr 202
Kamuela HI 96743

SB-505

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 8:26:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rich Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB505, a full prohibition on the aquarium trade in Hawaiian waters. This industry has engaged in terrible practices and overharesting in the past. Given the fragile and declining state of our reefs in Hawaii, we cannot afford for this industry to get started again. Please fully ban aquarium collection in Hawaii.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Rich Wilson