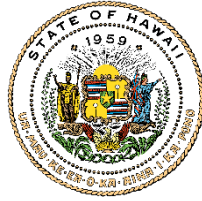


**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

**Before the Senate Committee on  
WATER AND LAND**

**Friday, March 24, 2023  
1:00 PM**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference**

**In consideration of  
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 229/SENATE RESOLUTION 167  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO  
CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE MARINE LIFE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
DESIGNATIONS**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 229/Senate Resolution 167 request the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to conduct a study on marine life conservation district (MLCD) designations to assess whether the MLCD program is achieving its objectives and investigate the effectiveness of the criteria for designating MLCDs compared to the International Union for Conservation of Nature protected area categories, especially for areas within existing MLCDs that may require additional protection and areas not within an existing MLCD that should be given the protections of such a designation. Furthermore, the Department is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024. **The Department appreciates the intent of these measures and offers the following comments.**

The Department's Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) is leading the Holomua Marine Initiative to improve marine management practices across the state to ensure healthy ecosystems and abundant resources that allow the people of Hawai'i to enjoy coastal waters, support local livelihoods, and feed our families. One of the four pillars of Holomua is monitoring to measure current conditions and track progress following implementation of new management approaches and to use data to identify areas where management actions need to be further adapted. One of DAR's priorities is to develop management plans and conduct monitoring for all designated marine management areas, including MLCDs, to assess whether current management approaches are effective. The Department plans to produce reports on its findings and make them available

**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

to the public, but this will take substantial time and resources. As reports are completed, the Department would be happy to provide them to the Legislature.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on these measures.



THE SENATE

THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, March 24, 2023  
TIME: 1:00 PM  
PLACE: Conference Room 229 & Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY OF THE OCEAN TOURISM COALITION IN OPPOSITION  
SCR229/SR167**

The Ocean Tourism Coalition (OTC) represents over 300 ocean tour operators statewide. We are speaking in opposition to SCR229/SR167. OTC is very supportive of MLCD's and have a good working relationship with DAR. Many of our members access MLCDs daily and have been the primary stewards of these resources for decades. While the intent of this resolution is honorable, we believe that DAR/DLNR is already in the planning process working with the stakeholders across the State to determine how they will manage the MLCD's as well as other near shore waters in the State.

We believe this measure is premature. DAR will complete their survey and master plan in a timely manner. This resolution, while being well intentioned, could micro manage and actually slow down the process already underway by DLNR/DAR.

Sincerely,

James E. Coon, President, OTC