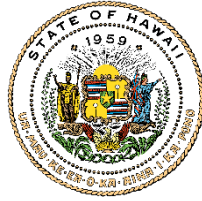


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

**Before the 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.