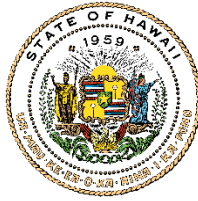


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

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

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER AND LAND

Thursday, February 1, 2024
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 430

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1809
RELATING TO OCEAN RECREATION COMMERCIAL PERMITS

House Bill 1809 proposes to require that any newly established ocean recreation management area include the same or greater number of commercial use permits (CUPs) as the number of permits applicable to the area before the establishment of an ocean recreation management area. **The Department respectfully opposes this measure and recommends supporting the administration's bill package regarding ocean commercial use permits.**

The purpose of designated Ocean Recreation Management Areas is to reduce user conflicts. One of the main factors contributing to user conflicts is the proliferation of commercial activities occurring in the State's nearshore waters originating from the adjacent shoreline. The Department believes that the number of authorized CUPs is better regulated by administrative rules because the rulemaking process in Section 91-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, ensures a *Ka Pa'akai* analysis for any impacts on Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, as well as ensuring that the community as a whole provides comment, rather than select special interest groups.

The Department has prepared a comprehensive bill package to address environmental impacts, user conflicts, and user safety in our state's ocean waters and recommends that the Legislature support this package. These bills are House Bills 2474, 2475, 2476, and 2477.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

DEAN D. UYENO
ACTING 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

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:53:39 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessie croft	Explore Kauai Scuba	Support	In Person

Comments:

Thank you chair and members of the committee for giving me the opportunity to testify before you today. I support hb1809. My name is Jessie Croft. My husband and I have a commercial ramp permit out of Kikiaola small boat harbor on the west side of Kaua'i.

It's only fair that once a permit is given to an individual to create a business that it is not taken away for no fault of their own.

It is not cheap to start a commercial boating operation. Our small 6 pack scuba company cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to get it where it is today. We follow every rule and pay our taxes.

I can't imagine what other companies with bigger and/or multiple boats have invested to get where they are today. Millions I'm sure.

The stress of following all of these bills trying to hurt commercial operators is overwhelming. This bill would give us all some peace and reassurance that us and our businesses/jobs will be okay.

Thank you again for taking the time to hear me out!

Mahalo

Jessie croft

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:10:49 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blake Moore	Teralani Sailing Adventures	Support	In Person

Comments:

Support for HB1809 - Relating to Ocean Recreation Commercial Permits

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 1809, titled "Relating to Ocean Recreation Commercial Permits," which proposes to require that any newly established ocean recreation management area includes the same or greater number of commercial use permits as the number applicable to the area before the establishment of the ocean recreation management area.

This bill represents a crucial step toward maintaining the balance between conservation efforts and the sustainability of our ocean recreation industry. By ensuring that the number of commercial use permits is maintained when establishing new ocean recreation management areas, we can uphold the economic vitality of businesses while promoting responsible and sustainable practices.

The ocean recreation industry plays a vital role in our local economy, offering employment opportunities, supporting small businesses, and contributing to the unique character of our coastal communities. HB1809 aligns with the goal of fostering a thriving industry while safeguarding the environment through effective management practices.

I believe that this bill demonstrates a thoughtful approach to the evolving needs of our communities and the preservation of our natural resources. By proactively addressing the allocation of commercial use permits in new ocean recreation management areas, we can strike a balance that benefits both businesses and the environment.

I urge the committee to consider the positive impact that HB1809 can have on our local economy and the sustainability of ocean recreation. Thank you for your dedication to our community, and I look forward to witnessing the positive outcomes that this legislation can bring.

Sincerely,

Blake Moore

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:13:01 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Kersten	Sea Paradise Scuba Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support for this bill! The state should be responsible while they issue permits to ocean operators, so that enough permits are issued to ensure all operators have equal opportunity.

Richard Kersten

President

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:51:48 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James E. Coon	TRILOGY EXCURSIONS	Support	In Person

Comments:

Speaking in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1809. This will help ensure that long standing Ocean Tourism companies do not arbitrarily get put out of business through no fault of their own.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:01:33 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Wood	Sailing Maui Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support this bill.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:26:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Inca Robbin	Hula Girl Sailing Charters	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support this bill.

Thank you,

Inca Robbin - Hula Girl Sailing Charters

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:49:50 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
George F. Garnes III	Gemini Charters	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Support Testimony for HB1809

George F Garnes III, 142 Kupuohi St Unit F5, Lahaina, HI 96761 808-283-8043

To whom it may concern,

RE: HB 1809

I am writing to express my support to HB1809.

I understand the importance of effective ocean recreation management, and I appreciate efforts to strike a balance between conservation and commercial activities and this bill does that.

Sincerely,

George F Garnes III, Vice President Gemini Charters

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:25:12 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tadashi Muratake	Na Pali Experience	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Tadashi Muratake, and I strongly support this bill as it would ensure that companies currently operating in areas for decades, do not get unfairly denied access to operate in those same areas should they be deemed ORMA's.

Mahalo and Aloha

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:02:35 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Kasper	Malolo Charters	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I strongly oppose this bill. It will put undue financial stress on impacted businesses and their employees. It will not solve any commercial recreation issues.

Mahalo

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:03:09 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Colombo	Hawaii Ocean Rafting	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY (HB1809):

Subject: Support Testimony for HB1809

**Peter Colombo, 5095 Napilihau Street, 109B #242, Lahaina, HI, 96761.
peter@hawaiiocceanrafting.com. (808) 446-2492. January 30th, 2024.**

RE: 1809 HB RELATING TO OCEAN RECREATIONAL PERMITS

I am writing to express my strong support of 1809 HB RELATING TO OCEAN RECREATIONAL PERMITS, ensuring that when the DLNR-DOBOR establishes a new Ocean Recreation Management Area (ORMA), the state will issue sufficient permits to safeguard the interests of commercial operators within the designated area. As a small native Hawaiian business owner with a tour boat operation, these proposed regulations would give me the chance to try to rebuild after losing our home, shop, place of business and small boats in the Lahaina Fire.

As a small native Hawaiian owned commercial ocean business my recovery would be near impossible if I were to go to auction with big businesses with deep pockets to try to attain a permit to operate my small group tours. This is the issue I see over and over again. The persons submitting these bills are out of touch with who is actually operating commercial business, many are like me (local, small businesses) that are eco-conscious and sustainable. When changes are made to support smaller operations, we will know decisions are being made for the people that live and work in the community, not just for the state's profit.

I am asking that this bill is supported to ensure small businesses like me can at least continue to operate and hopefully recover after all the losses we have experienced.

As a native Hawaiian, I would be forced to leave my home and island because decisions are being made by a group that has no accountability to the people they are making the decisions for. There is no benefit to this bill for the community, especially native Hawaiian's like myself. Find a way for these positions to be elected and with a term instead of giving them more power.

I understand the importance of effective ocean recreation management, and I appreciate efforts to strike a balance between conservation and commercial activities. However, the current language of the bill fails to consider the practical implications on businesses like mine, which are unfairly targeted and constantly blamed for various issues.

The ocean recreation industry is often unfairly singled out for environmental concerns, safety issues, or other challenges that are not solely within our control. While we are a small, eco-minded native owned business committed to responsible practices, this bill unfairly places the burden on our industry without considering the broader context and the shared responsibility of all stakeholders.

I urge the committee to reconsider the proposed restrictions and work towards a solution that accommodates the interests of both conservation and the local business community. Collaborative discussions with stakeholders could lead to a more balanced approach that achieves the intended goals without unfairly scapegoating our industry.

I would appreciate the opportunity to further discuss my concerns during any upcoming hearings or meetings regarding this bill. Thank you for considering my testimony, and I hope that we can find a mutually beneficial resolution.

Sincerely,

Peter Colombo, President, Lahaina Charter Boats Inc. DBA, Hawaii Ocean Rafting.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:07:48 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Kasper	Malolo Charters	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:35:19 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Koa Fuller	Komohana charters	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:39:06 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nichlas holm	Hawaiian Rafting Adventures	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill which would not jeopardize already current permits to operate in the future.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:57:52 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keahi Ho	GungHo Sailing	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as both a longtime recreational sailor and commercial operator out of Lahaina Harbor to protect established commercial businesses.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:03:36 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ali Grimes	GungHo Sailing	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We operate a small family sailing business (1 boat, 6 passengers) and support HB 1809.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Rep. Cory M. Chun

Rep. Dee Morikawa

Rep. Sonny Ganaden

Rep. Gregg Takayama

Rep. Mark J. Hashem

Rep. Kanani Souza

Rep. May Besario Mizuno

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Thursday, February 1, 2024

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 430

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Water and Land:

The Ocean Tourism Coalition (OTC) represents hundreds of tour operators and charter boat businesses statewide. I am writing to express my strong support for bill HB1809, which aims to ensure that when the DLNR-DOBOR establishes a new Ocean Recreation Management Area (ORMA), the state will issue sufficient permits to safeguard the interests of commercial operators within the designated area.

Economic Stability: Commercial operators are vital contributors to our local economy, providing valuable services and employment opportunities. HB1809 acknowledges the importance of their role and seeks to protect their livelihoods by ensuring that adequate permits are issued in new ORMAs.

Prevention of Business Disruption: Establishing new ORMAs without considering the impact on commercial operators could result in business disruptions, financial losses, and potential business closures. HB1809 addresses this concern by proactively planning for the issuance of permits, mitigating adverse effects on established businesses.

Balancing Conservation and Economic Interests: The bill reflects a balanced approach by recognizing the need to protect our ocean environments through ORMA designation while simultaneously acknowledging the economic interests of commercial operators. Striking this balance is crucial for sustainable management and the well-being of both our environment and economy.

In conclusion, I urge this Committee to advance HB1809. By doing so, we can safeguard the interests of commercial operators, maintain economic stability, and ensure the coexistence of vibrant businesses within new Ocean Recreation Management Areas.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I appreciate your dedication to fostering a thriving and sustainable ocean recreation industry in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Denver S. Coon', written over a horizontal line.

Denver S. Coon
President
OTC



Testimony Before the House Committee on Water & Land
Tuesday, February 1st, 9:00 a.m. HST
Conference Room 430 & Via Video Conference
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Support for Bill HB1809

To the Honorable Chair Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Kauai Chamber to express our strong support for HB1809. This legislation represents a thoughtful and balanced approach to managing Hawaii's ocean recreation areas, ensuring that both the interests of commercial operators and the need for environmental stewardship are addressed.

HB1809 is critical for the future of Hawaii's ocean tourism sector, offering a framework that allows for sustainable growth while ensuring the protection of our state's invaluable marine ecosystems. By establishing guidelines for the issuance of permits within new Ocean Recreation Management Areas (ORMAs), this bill provides much-needed clarity and stability for businesses operating in these regions.

The introduction of HB1809 comes at a pivotal time when the balance between economic activity and environmental conservation has never been more important. Hawaii's natural beauty is a cornerstone of our tourism industry, and the responsible management of commercial activities in our ocean waters is key to preserving this asset for future generations. HB1809 acknowledges this by proposing a system that encourages responsible use of marine resources, while also supporting the livelihoods of those who depend on ocean tourism.

Moreover, HB1809 can serve as a model for sustainable tourism practices, not just for Hawaii but for coastal regions worldwide. By prioritizing both economic viability and environmental preservation, this bill sets a standard for how communities can thrive by harmonizing business interests with the imperative of ecological stewardship.

We believe that the successful implementation of HB1809 will lead to a healthier marine environment, enhanced visitor experiences, and a more resilient and sustainable tourism industry. It recognizes the importance of inclusive and equitable access to ocean resources, ensuring that small and local businesses have the opportunity to thrive alongside larger operators.

In conclusion, the Kauai Chamber urges your support for HB1809. We are committed to working with all stakeholders to ensure its successful passage and implementation. Together, we can ensure that Hawaii remains a global leader in sustainable tourism and marine conservation.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Mark Perriello
President & CEO

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:25:19 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kieran Oliver	Liquid Hawaii	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are opposed to this bill on the grounds it does not state that current business and activities already approved and operating cannot be affected and that it will only be used only for new activities that arise. This bill should specify it is only used for new and not historical activities that have been in operation.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:28:20 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Don Prestage	Sail Maui	Support	In Person

Comments:

This bill represents a crucial step in balancing the needs of environmental stewardship with the economic interests of commercial operators in Ocean Recreation Management Areas (ORMAs).

By ensuring the issuance of sufficient permits, HB1809 acknowledges the vital role commercial operators play in our local economy. This approach not only supports the livelihoods of numerous Hawaiians but also promotes responsible use of our ocean resources.

This bill strikes an ideal balance between sustainable environmental practices and economic vitality, fostering a mutually beneficial relationship between conservation efforts and commercial interests. I urge its swift passage.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:00:49 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose!

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 4:51:51 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyler Haines	South Pacific Ocean Tours, Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am support of HB1809. My name is Tyler Haines and our family of over 35 years operates out of the Haleiwa Boat Harbor. I agree that all commercial permits should be able to be transfered and that the number of permits should be the same or greater than it is now. Permits should not be taken away if they had been issued in the past and to be put out to an auction. We have worked very hard to establish a business and it should not be ripped away for greed and profit from DLNR. Mahalo Tyler Haines

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:32:27 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bill Murtagh	Li'i Makau Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Wasn't aware of this until now, not enough time to prepare testimony. Strongly Support



January 30, 2024

COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Subject: Supportive Testimony for HB 1809

Dear Chair Ichiyama and Vice Chair Poepoe,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB1809, which supports ORMA's to maintain the same number of permits and the rights to sell a business's assets, including the necessary commercial permits. As a 53-year-old, third-generation operated Kona snorkel business, this will protect our families' lifelong investments to remain viable.

The rights of American citizens to have a safe and profitable business and then sell its pertinent assets need to be protected in Hawaii. The ocean tourism industry deserves these rights. Our commercial permits are invaluable; without them, our businesses are worthless.

The ocean tourism industry is a vital part of our tourists' experience and pleasure, which is significant in their desire to return to the state on future vacations. Many of the businesses are small family-owned and operated multi-generation businesses. We take great pride and care in safety training our staff and stewardship to the ocean and coral reefs we visit.

This bill offers a framework that allows for sustainable growth while ensuring the protection of our state's invaluable marine ecosystems. By establishing guidelines for issuing permits within new Ocean Recreation Management Areas (ORMAs), this bill provides much-needed clarity and stability for businesses operating in these regions.

I ask the committee to vote YES on this bill.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

Mendy Dant
President
Fair Wind, Inc.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:57:23 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chandra Bertsch	Holo Holo Charters	Support	In Person

Comments:

I support HB 1809. When ORMA's are created it is critical that DOBOR will issue sufficient permits to safeguard the interests of commercial operators within the designated area. It is completely unfair and dangerous to give DOBOR the ability to eliminate permits with no support for the operators who have invested in their businesses.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:08:21 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debbie Patton	Captain Steve's Rafting	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Absolutely support DLNR issuing sufficient permits to safeguard the commercial operators who are already operating in any newly designated ORMA. Those small businesses have poured their life and money into those businesses need to be protected.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 5:02:46 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nick Croft	Explore Kauai Scuba, LLC	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

I support HB1809 because it's a bill that finally helps current small businesses and jobs. If a new ORMA is implemented, it could create a loophole for the DLNR to reclaim permits, which they have been attempting to do. This could result in the closure of many small businesses and many jobs lost. Finally a proposed plan to help let us breath again instead of always walking on egg shells, even though we follow every single rule given to us. Please support HB1809 with us.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Nick Croft

owner/operator, Explore Kauai Scuba, LLC

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 10:08:57 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeremy Selg	Adventure Time LLC	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 7:56:44 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Calvin Morse	Deep Blue Eco Tours	Support	In Person

Comments:

HB1809 support and HB2477 opposition

Cal Morse

Deep Blue Eco Tours

To whom it may concern,

As a permit holder, member of the Haleiwa Harbor ocean community, and a small business owner I am absolutely shook by bill HB2477. First of all, the proposed extreme increase in the rate of our harbor fees would very likely already put me out of business and the same goes for 99% of the other commercial permittees amongst the islands.

As an operator of a small 6 passenger tour charter, my margins are slim, and handling the recent 50% addition to our monthly fees was already a challenge.

I understand and support the implication of laws that provide increased protection to the Hawaiian sea life, the land and the native people, but this bill will most certainly do the opposite. I also understand that slight increases in fees are inevitable due to inflation, the economy, taxes, etc.

However, the way in which this bill is being handled seems quite frankly criminal. There has been no warning to this drastic possible change or end to our way of life. None of us were notified by the state, by DOBOR, or by the harbor master about our livelihood being at stake. On the other hand, we are emailed, texted, and emailed again in the same day being notified that we cannot use the water spickets to clean our boats, that an expected amenity on the other side of the

island is out of order, or are bombarded with fine implied warning signs at the wash down that we cannot use too much water (pressure too low to flush 70k engines).

Eliminating our ability to transfer ownership of our company is extremely biased and problematic. Imagine a local uncle who has been running a small fishing charter for the past 30 years, past the biz through their family and they are the last one left. They are unable to physically run their business and need to sell to pay for their medical bills.....nope that permit and business is now auctioned off to a billionaire that doesn't know or care about our duty to aloha aina gets the permit and that local person dies.

What me and my crew do on the water isn't just a job. It provides us the rare opportunity to vocationally do what we are truly passionate about. Not only are we able to educate guests and residents alike about Hawaii's marine life, we are able to connect with guests on a more intimate level, motivating them to protect Hawaiian waters and how to respect and give back to the land. The companies that would ultimately win these permits would absolutely not be able to or care to educate tourists on this level.

From the bottom of my heart I am asking for this bill to be dropped and to allow me and my crew, family, friends and fellow business owners to continue to do what we love in the place we love for as long as we are able.

HB 1809 will save hundreds of livelihoods and prevent backlash that is almost inevitable if HB2477 is passed.

I have been putting my blood sweat and tears into my business and for my ramp permit to be taken away would be absolutely devastating to me, my crew, my family and my crews family.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 12:34:15 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brooklyn Jolee Samm	Blue Water Rafting	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

When the DLNR-DOBOR establishes a new Ocean Recreation Management Area (ORMA), the state needs to issue sufficient permits to safeguard the interests of commercial operators within the designated area.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:07:17 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Bruner	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I am writing to oppose House bill 1809. My name is Ryan Bruner and I am the owner of Hawaii Ocean Adventure Tours. We started our company in 2016. I am a small family owned business operating out of Haleiwa Harbor. This bill along with others proposed here will effectively put me and many other small companies like mine out of business. These companies have been created and ran by people like myself who love the ocean, and do our best to show locals and visitors, our unique perspective. Many of us have young families, and we all rely on this income to feed and house those families. I personally have two young boys, three and seven years old, as well as my wife, who depend on this income to provide a living. Myself, as well as many of the other business owners that I know are not wealthy, in fact, we are just getting by at this point. Any increase in fees or restrictions on transferring commercial slip permits would be a debilitating and devastating to our livelihood. Please vote no and kill these bills. Sincerely Ryan Bruner.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:22:33 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Tinneney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stronly support this bill as it helps safeguard business owners from arbitrary regulations in an ever changing business environment for ocean tourism.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:56:28 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristy Ford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill, it helps ensure that permits will not be taken away from boat owners and their companies that employ locals.

there needs to be proper regulations in place for permits but to remove those that have been granted essentially kills a local business.

I support this bill.

kristy Ford

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 2:00:13 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Ford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 2:03:21 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Pierce	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 2:39:03 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Genova	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill, it is thoughtful and help safeguard business owners from arbitrary overreach and unnecessary regulations.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:03:10 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:09:35 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsey Elkington	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:35:41 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theo King	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Yes, 100% support

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:54:47 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adam lynam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it protects all of us in the commercial charter business.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
SUPPORT OF HB1809

Dear Committee on Water and Land.

I am in full support for HB1809, regarding when new ORMA's are established the state will issue allow for a sufficient number of permits to address the safe, professional and allowable guard of commercial operators within the designated area.

Reasons for Support:

Economic Stability: Commercial operators are vital contributors to our local economy, providing valuable services and employment opportunities. Bill HB1809 acknowledges the importance of their role and seeks to protect their livelihoods by ensuring that adequate permits are issued in new ORMAs.

Prevention of Business Disruption: Establishing new ORMAs without considering the impact on commercial operators could result in business disruptions, financial losses, and potential closures. HB1809 addresses this concern by proactively planning for the issuance of permits, mitigating adverse effects on established businesses.

Balancing Conservation and Economic Interests: The bill reflects a balanced approach by recognizing the need to protect our ocean environments through ORMA designation while simultaneously acknowledging the economic interests of commercial operators. Striking this balance is crucial for sustainable management and the well-being of both our environment and economy.

In conclusion, I urge this Committee to advance Bill HB1809. By doing so, we can safeguard the interests of commercial operators, maintain economic stability, and ensure the coexistence of vibrant businesses within new Ocean Recreation Management Areas.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I appreciate your dedication to fostering a thriving and sustainable ocean recreation industry in our state.

Sincerely,

Mike Kelley

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 5:47:45 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 5:52:41 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Scardaci	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:09:40 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Roussel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill represents a crucial step in balancing the needs of environmental stewardship with the economic interests of commercial operators in Ocean Recreation Management Areas (ORMAs).

By ensuring the issuance of sufficient permits, HB1809 acknowledges the vital role commercial operators play in our local economy. This approach not only supports the livelihoods of numerous Hawaiians but also promotes responsible use of our ocean resources.

This bill strikes an ideal balance between sustainable environmental practices and economic vitality, fostering a mutually beneficial relationship between conservation efforts and commercial interests. I urge its swift passage.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:26:51 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bailey Morris	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposed

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:34:47 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas gambino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No comments

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:36:19 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

This bill represents a crucial step in balancing the needs of environmental stewardship with the economic interests of commercial operators in Ocean Recreation Management Areas (ORMAs).

By ensuring the issuance of sufficient permits, HB1809 acknowledges the vital role commercial operators play in our local economy. This approach not only supports the livelihoods of numerous Hawaiians but also promotes responsible use of our ocean resources.

This bill strikes an ideal balance between sustainable environmental practices and economic vitality, fostering a mutually beneficial relationship between conservation efforts and commercial interests. I urge its swift passage.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:51:53 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phil Snyder	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposed

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:27:17 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ckessler00@gmail.com	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:32:45 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carrie Kinkade	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill represents a crucial step in balancing the needs of environmental stewardship with the economic interests of commercial operators in Ocean Recreation Management Areas (ORMAs).

By ensuring the issuance of sufficient permits, HB1809 acknowledges the vital role commercial operators play in our local economy. This approach not only supports the livelihoods of numerous Hawaiians but also promotes responsible use of our ocean resources.

This bill strikes an ideal balance between sustainable environmental practices and economic vitality, fostering a mutually beneficial relationship between conservation efforts and commercial interests. I urge its swift passage

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:39:59 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aspen Morrow	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposed

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:44:15 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin chadick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe this would be best for our community.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:52:44 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Silas Carpenter	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Silas Carpenter and as a naturalist and environmental enthusiasts I play a major part in teaching tourist and local about conservation, preservation, and positive action hesr in Maui.

I oppose of this bill as it restricts and negatively impacts commercial operating companies at Mala boat ramp.

I understand the actions are to help protect and manage land and natural resource however this will only hurt us more in the importance of teaching and sharing awareness to the tourism that our economy operate off of.

Sincerely Silas

I oppose

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:59:38 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Kessler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the bill.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:01:47 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chandler Countryman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:05:15 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support the bill.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:20:50 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill because it will allow many of the boating communtiy companies, who were active prior to the Maui Fires, to continue forward with their business, which will positively impact our rebuilding efforts.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:12:02 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Russell Keller Laros III	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support 1809

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:04:50 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KATRINA ZAVALNEY	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support this

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:15:21 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Freed	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

HB1809 is sensible and protects small business from loosing their licenses.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 3:51:42 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Hatzenbuhler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Lisa Hatzebuhler and I am the owner of South Pacific Ocean Tours, Inc in the Haleiwa Harbor and have been in business for over 35 years. I support HB1809 as I think all businesses in the State Boat Harbors should be fully transferable. We business owners work all our lives to build our businesses up for either our family to continue to run or to sell and finally retire. That should be at our option not the DLNR. We just rent the space to operate just as all other businesses do in this world. Most stores and restaurants don't own the land, they rent it. I do agree that there should be a cap, but do not take away anyones permit that was already issued. I ask that you support this bill. Mahalo Lisa Hatzenbuhler

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 5:26:44 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Hazen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of HB1809. I appreciate the care that small business owners and commercial operators have exhibited while taking care of our waters.

I don't believe that DOBOR (or DLNR for that matter) have taken measured steps in their permit grants. Realizing their own mistakes, they are punishing those that have been operating in these waters for years, for decades. With the recent permit grants over the last 5-10 years, the state has made little effort to improve the harbors from which these permittees operate. Now, we are all being punished for mistakes the government made. This overreach, combined with the governments plans for permit auctions is remarkably disappointing.

Please consider my support for HB1809 as it will benefit Hawaii, Hawaii's small business owners and their families, and our environment.

Mahalo,

Daniel Hazen

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 6:12:32 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kodi Toulon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our state should have controlled permit numbers from the beginning instead of backpedaling after they issue too many. Too much of peoples livelihoods are at stake once a business is established.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 6:30:10 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
chelsea toia-vaas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1809 - SUPPORT THIS OTC BILL. The bill tries to ensure that when the DLNR-DOBOR establishes a new Ocean Recreation Management Area (ORMA), the state will issue sufficient permits to safeguard the interests of commercial operators within the designated area.

Testimony:

This bill represents a crucial step in balancing the needs of environmental stewardship with the economic interests of commercial operators in Ocean Recreation Management Areas (ORMAs).

By ensuring the issuance of sufficient permits, HB1809 acknowledges the vital role commercial operators play in our local economy. This approach not only supports the livelihoods of numerous Hawaiians but also promotes responsible use of our ocean resources.

This bill strikes an ideal balance between sustainable environmental practices and economic vitality, fostering a mutually beneficial relationship between conservation efforts and commercial interests. I urge its swift passage.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 6:57:21 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carly Powell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, My name is Carly Powell.

I want to thank the chair and members of this committee for allowing me the time to testify before you today. I support HB1809.

I am and Captain and crew with the company Blue Ocean Adventures operating out of Kikialoa Harbor on the west side of Kauai.

I support this bill because it gives companies the security of having their permits without the threat of them being taken away for no reason. People invest everything they have into their businesses and this bill helps protect the owners and what they have worked hard to accomplish.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony today.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:28:07 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Dailey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Opposition Testimony for 1809 HB RELATING TO OCEAN RECREATION
COMMERCIAL PERMITS

Rachel Dailey

Lahaina, HI

01/31/2024

Chair Linda Ichiyama

House Committee on Water and Land

Dear Chair Ichiyama,

RE: 1809 HB RELATING TO OCEAN RECREATION COMMERCIAL PERMITS

I am writing to express support to 1809 HB RELATING TO OCEAN RECREATION
COMMERCIAL PERMITS.

Sincerely,

Rachel Dailey

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:54:08 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valentin Neamtu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:59:54 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maren Anka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Committee on Water and Land

Dear Chair Ichiyama,

RE: HB 1809

I am writing to support topics relating to recreational ocean permits.

Sincerely,

Maren Anka

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:01:33 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
abigail nulty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Support Testimony for HB1809

Abbi Nulty
Lahaina, HI
01/31/2024

Chair Linda Ichiyama
House Committee on Water and Land

Dear Chair Ichiyama,

RE: HB1809

I am writing to express support to HB1809.

Sincerely,

Abbi Nulty

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:37:56 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
victoria martocci	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Subject: Support Testimony for HB1809 Relating to Commercial Ocean Activity

Victoria Martocci
Lahaina, HI
01/31/2024

Chair Linda Ichiyama
House Committee on Water and Lana

Dear Chair Ichiyama,

RE: HB1809 Relating to Commercial Ocean Activity

I am writing to express support for HB1809 Relating to Commercial Ocean Activity. A healthy and resilient community *includes* locally owned small businesses, of which this industry is in the majority. Those which are compliant with rules, regulations and laws are well supported by this measure, which in turn will support of local communities of which they are a part of.

I appreciate the opportunity to further discuss these matters at any upcoming hearings or meetings regarding this bill. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Victoria Martocci

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:37:59 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Capt. J D DuShane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:43:53 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miranda Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: SUPPORT Testimony for HB1809

Miranda Miller

15 Papahi Loop

Kahului, HI 96732

mirandaleigh.paints@gmail.com

413.281.9918

1/31/24

Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair

COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

430 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Dear Rep. Linda Ichiyama,

RE: HB1809

I am writing to express my strong SUPPORT to HB1809 RELATING TO OCEAN RECREATION COMMERCIAL PERMITS, which proposes significant restrictions on commercial ocean activities in state waters, particularly on weekends and holidays. As a CHARTER SAILING COMPANY, these proposed regulations would have a severe impact on our operations and potentially jeopardize our ability to remain viable.

As a charter sailing business, we rely on tourism throughout the entirety of the year, weekends and holidays included. In order to make the money we need to keep the business successfully operating and having enough to pay harbor fees and taxes to the state, we need to be able to

operate as many days possible. There are certain times of the year that are slower than others so being able to operate 7 days a week helps.

I understand the importance of effective ocean recreation management, and I appreciate efforts to strike a balance between conservation and commercial activities. However, the current language of the bill fails to consider the practical implications on businesses like mine, which are unfairly targeted and constantly blamed for various issues.

The RECREATIONAL BOAT CHARTER INDUSTRY is often unfairly singled out for environmental concerns, safety issues, or other challenges that are not solely within our control. While we are committed to responsible practices, this bill unfairly places the burden on our industry without considering the broader context and the shared responsibility of all stakeholders.

I urge the committee to reconsider the proposed restrictions and work towards a solution that accommodates the interests of both conservation and the local business community. Collaborative discussions with stakeholders could lead to a more balanced approach that achieves the intended goals without unfairly scapegoating our industry.

I would appreciate the opportunity to further discuss my concerns during any upcoming hearings or meetings regarding this bill. Thank you for considering my testimony, and I hope that we can find a mutually beneficial resolution.

Sincerely,

Miranda Miller

Dive Instructor, First Mate

Kapalua Kai Sailing

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:45:33 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonny Riggs	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:52:33 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Davis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and Mahalo,

I oppose this bill because if ORMA's are to protect the resource then consideration should be given to lessen the number of permits, especially if permits accessible or issued are not in use. For instance, in the Waianae Boat Harbor there are permit holders that are not using their permits, and at times (in the past at least) have not even met permit requirements like having a boat in the permitted slip.

Victoria Davis

aka Tori Cullins

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:31:59 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Street	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Renee Street, 178 Hale St, Lahaina, HI 96761

renee_street@hotmail.com

31 January 24

Dear Legislative Committee,

RE: Opposition Testimony for HB1809

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1809, which proposes significant restrictions on commercial ocean activities in state waters, particularly on weekends and holidays. As a Scuba Diving Professional, these proposed regulations would have a severe impact on our operations and potentially jeopardize our ability to remain viable.

I have been an Open Water Scuba Instructor for the past decade. I have had the pleasure of working in a number of countries including Honduras, Indonesia, Samoa, Thailand, and Malaysia. Several years ago I returned to the United States to work in Maui. I joined Dive Maui in Lahaina, Hawaii and have been working there for over two years. Together with the owners, we have worked to create a successful scuba training facility helping to train not only recreational divers but also dive professionals. Always as a part of these courses, we emphasize conservation and ocean protection. We aim to create ocean ambassadors who will spread the word to others on saving and protecting the ocean and the importance of Hawaii in that mission.

We have been fortunate to have steady customers year around, without a measurable high or low season. Even during the pandemic, scuba diving was bringing tourists to Maui. This tourism brings money, jobs, and helps to cement Hawaii's reputation as a worldwide premier tourist destination.

In addition, between December and April, Dive Maui operates daily whale watching trips. I work as a whale naturalist on these trips. This business not only brings in tourists to Maui. But also educates thousands of people each season on the importance of conserving and protecting our ocean. We speak at great length about whales, the ocean, and the role of humanity in protecting both. Therefore, limiting, restricting or ending Dive Maui's ability to educate and train the public

will have a detrimental effect on tourism, conservation, and the public's perception of Hawaii's role in ecotourism.

I understand the importance of effective ocean recreation management, and I appreciate efforts to strike a balance between conservation and commercial activities. However, the current language of the bill fails to consider the practical implications on businesses like mine, which are unfairly targeted and constantly blamed for various issues.

The scuba industry is often unfairly singled out for environmental concerns, safety issues, or other challenges that are not solely within our control. While we are committed to responsible practices, this bill unfairly places the burden on our industry without considering the broader context and the shared responsibility of all stakeholders.

I urge the committee to reconsider the proposed restrictions and work towards a solution that accommodates the interests of both conservation and the local business community. Collaborative discussions with stakeholders could lead to a more balanced approach that achieves the intended goals without unfairly scapegoating our industry.

I would appreciate the opportunity to further discuss my concerns during any upcoming hearings or meetings regarding this bill. Thank you for considering my testimony, and I hope that we can find a mutually beneficial resolution.

Sincerely,

Renee Street

Open Water Scuba Instructor, and Course Director

Dive Maui, Lahaina, Hawaii

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 10:52:08 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezra wansor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposed.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 3:01:52 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anela Kealakai	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I am Anela, an elopement and wedding photographer based in Hawaii. My profession involves closely working with boat businesses to create unforgettable experiences for couples. Today, I am here to express my support for HB1809, a bill that I believe is vital for the sustainability of both our local economy and the cherished traditions of our Hawaiian culture.

- **Ensuring Business Continuity:** HB1809's commitment to issuing a sufficient number of permits in newly established Ocean Recreation Management Areas (ORMAs) is crucial. This ensures that existing boat operators can continue to run their businesses without the fear of losing access due to new regulations. As a photographer, the variety and availability of boat services are integral to the elopement packages I offer.
- **Supporting Local Businesses:** Many of the boat operators I work with are small, family-run businesses that contribute significantly to the local economy. By safeguarding their interests, HB1809 supports the broader community and helps maintain a thriving market for tourists and locals alike.
- **Promoting Hawaii's Unique Charm:** The unique experiences provided by these boat businesses are a part of what makes Hawaii an exceptional destination for weddings and elopements. Preserving their ability to operate ensures that we can continue to offer distinctive and memorable experiences that draw people to our beautiful islands.
- **Balancing Regulation with Tradition:** I appreciate the need for regulatory measures to protect our natural resources. HB1809 strikes a fine balance between regulation and supporting traditional businesses, ensuring the sustainability of both our environment and our economy.
- **Encouraging Responsible Growth:** This bill provides a framework for responsible growth. It allows for the development and implementation of ORMA regulations while acknowledging the importance of established businesses in these areas. This approach encourages a harmonious relationship between conservation efforts and economic activity.

HB1809 is a bill that thoughtfully considers the needs of local businesses, the community, and the environment. It is a step in the right direction for preserving the unique character of Hawaii's ocean-related activities, crucial for businesses like mine and many others that contribute to Hawaii's allure as a world-class wedding and elopement destination.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this significant piece of legislation.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 4:33:46 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madison Hampp	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as it is a reasonable, logical way to address the commercial use permits in our harbors without stripping families of their livelihoods.

HB-1809

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 4:20:29 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong **opposition** of this measure to automatically provision permits to (even existing) commercial operators and activities without conducting a proper carrying capacity to include Ka Pa‘akai Analysis and consultation with nearby managed area manager/co-managers, and community.

I understand the huge negative impact to ocean recreational businesses. Conversations are needed for all to best understand the complexity and the dire need to better manage boat facilities and recreational spaces as they impact natural and cultural resources, and communities. A business (to include its economic value to the community) still must give priority to the cultural and natural resources first, and the people of place and community.

This is a very difficult measure for the committee to decide all, however the big step to conduct a reassessment and carrying capacity of our ocean areas must be done with Ka Pa‘akai Analysis, and assessing the impact to natural and cultural resources of the immediate and neighboring communities. It has to start now, if not when?

I recommend the following amendment: modify/add the language pertaining pg1, lines 12 - 15 related to transfer of ownership of vessel from personal ownership to business. Any transfer of vessel from person to business operations, which in turn should trigger a permit update, should be re-evaluated into the carrying capacity model/assessment that DOBOR exercises. A personal vessel is likely to be less impactful to cultural and natural resources, as well to the community than a business vessel/operations. A boat owner has the option to transfer, but not be able to also (thru that transaction) to change the conditions of the use permit. All DOBOR issued permits should trigger this re-assessment just like that of an SAP.

Oppose HB1809, and support HB2477 w/ recommendations with these same amendments.

Mahalo,

U‘ilani Naipo

