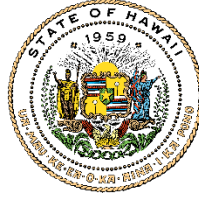


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

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
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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 House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Tuesday, February 6, 2024
10:15 AM**

State Capitol, VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, Conference Room 430

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2478
RELATING TO THE PACIFIC MARINE FISHERIES COMPACT**

House Bill 2478 proposes to authorize the Governor to execute a compact on behalf of the State to cooperate in the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) and establishes procedures for selection and succession of commissioners. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this bill.**

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) is an interstate compact agency that helps state resource management agencies and the fishing industry sustainably manage Pacific Ocean resources. The PSMFC's mission is "to promote the better utilization of fisheries – marine, shell, and anadromous, which are of mutual concern, and to develop a joint program of protection and prevention of physical waste of such fisheries in all of those areas of the Pacific Ocean over which the compacting states jointly or separately now have or may hereafter acquire jurisdiction." This mission closely aligns with the mission of the Department to work with the people of Hawai'i to manage, conserve, and restore the state's unique aquatic resources and ecosystems for present and future generations.

Although the PSMFC has no regulatory or management authority, it serves a number of vital functions that are relevant to Hawai'i. These include providing a forum for the discussion of interstate fisheries resources management; coordinating research and management projects related to interstate fisheries and making this data available to the public; and dispersing federal fishery disaster funds.

The State of Hawai'i would greatly benefit from becoming a member of the PSMFC as membership would facilitate improved management of state and regional marine fishery resources through increased collaboration with other Pacific states. This increased collaboration increases access to other fisheries scientists and managers with expertise in matters that the state currently lacks. Membership in the PSMFC could also potentially open avenues for federal funding that could be used directly to enhance the management of Hawai'i-based fisheries projects.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

HB-2478

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:34:52 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
michelle Herrin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2478.

HB-2478

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:04:29 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I firmly oppose this measure.

- U'ilani Naipo

HB-2478

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:52:08 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shyla Moon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the State's efforts to help with management of our local fisheries. Hawaii needs more access and open management of our local fisheries. We should be eating from our lands and oceans. It's so important.
aloha

Shyla Moon and Ohana

Kauai

Fishing family 🐟