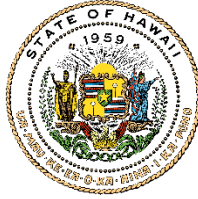


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

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 House Committee on
WATER & LAND

Thursday, March 14, 2024
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 430

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2156, SENATE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO PORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Senate Bill 2156, Senate Draft 2 proposes to provide a recurring general fund appropriation for maintenance dredging at state small boat harbors. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this measure, provided that its passage does not supplant or replace any of the Department's priorities identified in the Administration Package or the Executive Budget.**

The facilities around the State that require maintenance dredging on a regular basis are:

- North Kawaihae Small Boat Harbor, Hawai'i
- Wailoa Small Boat Harbor Channel, Hawai'i
- Kikiaola Launch Ramp, Kaua'i
- Waika'ea Canal Launch Ramp, Kaua'i
- Lahaina Small Boat Harbor Channel, Maui
- Mala Wharf Channel, Maui
- Maunalua Bay Launch Ramp, O'ahu

The estimated average cost of each maintenance dredging project is approximately \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000, which includes the costs of design, permitting, and the dredging work itself. With sufficient funding available, the Department anticipates being able to complete two or three dredging projects each year and estimates that a recurring \$3,000,000 appropriation would cover annual maintenance dredging needs.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony 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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



WENDY L. GADY
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 205
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

**TESTIMONY OF WENDY L. GADY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Thursday, March 14, 2024
10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 430 & Videoconference

**SENATE BILL NO. 2156 SD2
RELATING TO PORT INFRASTRUCTURE**

Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2156 SD2, which requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to create a strategic plan for maintenance dredging of harbors and port locations.

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) supports the Legislature's intent to create a strategic plan for improving and maintaining our ports and harbors to keep shipping channels deep and free of silt. Transportation of products from the various microclimates throughout the state is a critical component in the agricultural industry. Most of these shipments travel by ocean, simply because it's more economical than air transit.

Investing and improving Hawaii's key ports and harbors will improve efficiency, reduce costs, and increase competitiveness. As a major gateway to the

East and West, Hawaii's ports and harbors play a vital role in the handling of bulk and containerized food shipments to and from the state.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

SB-2156-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 9:43:21 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/14/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rhonda Burk	OHCRA (O'ahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Assoc.)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As the Committee Chair for Advocacy for OHCRA (O'ahu Canoe Racing Assoc.), we support this measure focused on upkeep of small boat harbors, channels, ramps and port infrastructure.

As passionate advocates for paddling, OHCRA represents over 3600 paddling practitioners and we are all in for this critical cause.

Our organization thrives on the waterways of O'ahu, hosting races that echo the heartbeat of Hawai'i through paddling. This measure is extremely important to ensure the vitality of our waterways for countless races and the safety and enjoyment of our paddling community.

Your support is the key to unlocking a vibrant and safe maritime environment for generations to come.

Mahalo nui,

Rhonda Burk, Ikaika Rogerson & Kekoa Kama - OHCRA Advocacy Committee.



Mar 12, 2024

Hawaii State Senate

Cc: Linda Ichiyama, Jennifer Kajiwada

From: Capt. Jerry Gillgren, Malama Charters Hilo LLC

RE: Bill SB 2156 SD

Aloha Hawaii State Senate and Colleagues,

Thank you for the opportunity for me to present my testimony regarding SB 1256 SD2. My name is Capt. Jerry Gillgren. I run a small charter and fishing boat operation out of Wailoa Harbor. Myself and countless other fishermen and tour operators make our living from the ocean. Our access through the channel is gravely impeded by the shoaling of sand and debris preventing us from taking tourists and going fishing, as we cannot get out due to impeded water depth in the channel and subject our vessels to eminent and expensive damage to our hulls and propulsion gear. Our situation is dire and we are impacted severely by the state's lack of maintaining the harbor and the dredging of the channel as we cannot go out and perform our jobs as fishermen and tour operators. Not only is this having a great economic impact on us, but it poses a great safety liability to the state and public.

My request today is that you will approve SB 2156 SD2 for dredging and continuous maintenance of the harbor channel so we can continue providing much needed services to visitors and tourists, as well as feed our local families with fresh seafood. I am urging you to please make this bill a priority. This bill will allow for the proceeding of desperately necessary work to be done.

Mahalo for your time in reviewing my testimony and for your immediate attention in this matter.

Respectfully and with much aloha,

Capt. Jerry Gillgren

Malama Charters Hilo LLC.

SB-2156-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 2:12:28 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/14/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ROBERT DUERR	Wailoa River and Reeds Bay Boating ans Users Association 501(c)(3)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT SB2156. “Appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to conduct maintenance dredging at state small boat harbors, boat launch ramp facilities, and waterways.”

Wailoa River the entrance to Wailoa River Small Boat Harbor is currently under a Coast Guard “Notice to Mariners” warning because of the dangerous Wailoa River shoaling situation. The river mouth is becoming increasing impassable with draft depths of less than 3 feet. Numerous vessels report being grounded on the sand shoal.

The University of Hawaii research vessel because of its deep keel draft is currently stuck in the Wailoa Small Boat Harbor after taking safe harbor refuge from a north wind storm. Moored Wailoa River harbor keeled sailboats haven’t been able to exit except on high tides if then.

DLNR and its Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation have many excuses of why this situation is allowed to continue. However, it was boater efforts along legislators not DLNR who initiated legislation and received the capital improvement project money last year to emergency dredge the Wailoa River entrance way.

Please pass SB2156. Besides a dangerous impassable river mouth, Wailoa Small Boat Harbor has a number of unresolved issues. Non working bathrooms. No bumpers on concrete docks. Ramp loading dock disrepair. Parking over crowded. Crime and missing street lights. And then of coarse there are no waterway signs alerting boaters of the Wailoa River’s shoaling danger.

Support. SB2156. And consider it’s time for a statewide Hawaii Boating Commission to oversee, consult and hold DLNR and DOBOR accountable to the Boating Special Fund and Hawaii boating needs, concerns and safety.



Captain Kimo's Hawaiian Adventures

Bringing You the Best in Hawaiian
Culture and Ethnic Awareness Tours

a

Hawaii Non-Profit Corporation
Registered Native Hawaiian Organization
Wailoa Small Boat Harbor, Wailoa River, Hilo



Testimony Submission – SB 2156

Dated: March 12th 2024 Tuesday

To: Linda Ichiyama – House Representative Dist. 3
Jennifer Kagiwada – Hawaii County Council Member Dist. 2

From: Captain Kimo Kāulahe‘a
Captain Kimo's Hawaiian Adventures
Owner / Operator

Re: SB 2156 – Sand Shoaling of Wailoa Small Boat Harbor channel – Hilo
Wailoa River, Hilo, Hi.

Aloha mai ‘oukou e Linda, Jennifer and Shannon,

Mahalo nui loa for scheduling this emergency issue for hearing. At this critical point in time, we as business operators out of Wailoa Small Boat Harbor are not able to accommodate our tourist visitors, safely as well as professionally due to enormous buildup of sand, that at low tide, prevents safe transit in and out of the channel. This is an EMERGENCY! The channel needs to be dredged now. July will be too late. The contract that was in place for the dredging and maintenance of the Wailoa channel was ignored and lapsed, it has been over 8 years.

We had to cancel paying tourist customers because the Wailoa Small Boat Harbor channel was too shallow and plugged up with sand. Trying to navigate through this causes the bottom of the boat to scrape initiating costly damage and repairs. This is an EMERGENCY!

I contacted the US Coast Guard, the reason, it is at many times so plugged with sand, emergency vessels are not able to enter or exit the channel in order to save lives and respond to emergencies. I'm not sure, I hope I'm wrong, but that drowning that happened at Hawaiian Paradise Park on February 18th 2024 of Ashley Kanekoa, rescue teams were very slow to arrive. Did they have to wait for a higher tide to get out of the Wailoa Channel?

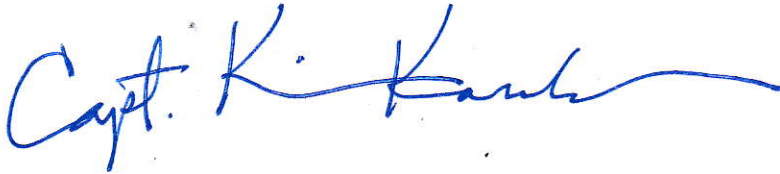
These are the questions that hold this type of project at the highest priority level. Not only do our tour boats need entry and exit, but most importantly first responders and the US Coast Guard. Let's not Delay, we need to dredge today.

It was mentioned to me by DLNR – DOBOR Administrator Ed Underwood that the Army Corps of Engineers were to design and coordinate the dredging project. If so, this hearing should also be directed, or they be included. We need to rush the permits, rush the design to begin the dredging project immediately. The funds are available for this dredging project to begin.

At low tide, I can comfortably walk across the channel in about waist deep water. The water level at low tide is usually around 8 feet with 12 feet being the normal depth at a higher tide. There is also no beach when the channel is operating normally, without this emergency situation.

Please accept this written testimony to address this emergency immediately. We as taxpayers and business owners contribute to the growth of Hawaii's economy. In situations like this where it is beyond our control, yet we are facing lost revenue and still obligated to pay all Hawaii State operating expenses, action needs to be taken immediately, to prevent later litigation to recoup lost revenue.

Mahalo Nui Loa,



Captain Kimo Kāulahe'a
Captain Kimo's Hawaiian Adventures
Hawaii Non-Profit Corporation
Registered Native Hawaiian Organization
Owner/Operator
capt-kimo@hotmail.com

SB-2156-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 9:57:43 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/14/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary P. Beals	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly in favor of SB2156 SD2

SB-2156-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 10:09:20 AM

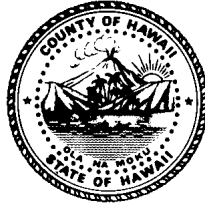
Testimony for WAL on 3/14/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Support

Jennifer Kagiwada
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



Office: (808) 961-8272
jennifer.kagiwada@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI‘I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720

DATE: March 13, 2024
TO: House Committee on Water and Land
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member
Council District 2
SUBJECT: SB 2156 SD2

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members,

I am in support of SB 2156 SD2 and am writing to you today to thank you for hearing this bill as it will provide critical relief to my community. This bill will provide essential and necessary funding to conduct maintenance and dredging at small boat harbors, including one in the district I represent, the Wailoa Small Boat Harbor in Hilo. Our local small businesspeople, who do boat tours and whale watches tours as well as those who rely on fishing for both a source of income and sustenance are suffering due to the current inaccessible condition at the entrance to the harbor. Safe access to our ocean through our harbors is an important way of life in all of Hawai‘i and this is one of the few places on the East Side of our Big Island where boat owners can easily launch from. Please see the attached article for more details about the issues boaters are facing: [Boaters plead with state to dredge ‘dangerous’ Hilo harbor \(hawaiinewsnow.com\)](https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com) I am requesting on behalf of my constituents that you please pass this bill and send to FIN with your recommendations to support all appropriations as needed to get our Hilo harbor safely and fully operational again.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenn Kagiwada'.

Jenn Kagiwada

SB-2156-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 7:08:59 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/14/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alfredo G Moreno Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

13 March 2024

Hawaii State Senate

To: Linda Ichiyama House Representative Dist. 3

Jennifer Kajiwada -- Hawaii County Council Member Dist. 2

From: Alfredo G Moreno Jr.

RE: Bill SB 2156 SD - Sand Shoaling of Wailoa Small Boat Harbor channel - Hilo

Wailoa River, Hilo, Hi.

Aloha,

As a United States Air Force retiree, a Veteran of Foreign Wars and a 100% Disabled Veteran I would implore you to pass the legislation before you to have the sand and debris buildup that's currently occurring at the access to the Wailoa small boat harbor in Hilo, Hawaii removed ASAP.

On two occasions, in the last month I've been a guest on a deep sea fishing charter going out of the harbor in the morning and returning in the afternoon.

On both occasions I recall getting very concerned about the boats propeller hitting bottom due to the shallow water. Luckily, the boat Captain was able to avoid that from occurring.

It's hard to believe that the boaters who store their boats in the harbor and pay Hawaii State dues are not getting the support they need from the State.

Again, please approve bill SB 2156 ASAP.

Mahalo,

Alfredo G. Moreno Jr., MSgt, USAF Ret