



SB2575
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

February 28, 2024

10:00am

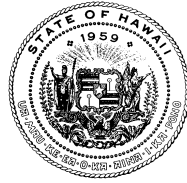
Conference Room # 016

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB2575, which prohibits the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state waters, under certain conditions and prohibits the issuance of any permit for or in connections with the development of operation of any facility or infrastructure associated with mining, extractoin, or removal of minerals from the seabed within state waters.

OHA commends the State Legislature, for its forward thinking and proactive response prohibiting seabed mineral extraction. SB2575 as written, protects Hawai'i's unique, precious, and delicate biodiversity and ecosystems from the nearshore waters of the main Hawaiian Islands to the farthest islands, reefs, shoals, and atolls of Papahānaumokuākea. We believe **any form of seabed mining—especially in specially designated marine management areas—must be done with purpose that is carefully considered.**

Hawai'i's waters, biodiversity, and vibrant marine ecosystems, provide sustenance and have for centuries. OHA, as co-trustee of Papahānaumokuākea, has long supported the creation, maintenance, and management of marine protected and designated areas to ensure we adequately care for these waters and ecosystems. Our agency has supported community-based subsistence fishing areas, marine life conservation districts and fish replenishments areas. These types of management models provide a way to bring forth the 'ike of our ancestors in managing and these vital ecosystems so they may thrive in perpetuity, for future generations.

For all the above reasons, OHA supports **SB2575**. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to provide written testimony on this important issue.



WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2575
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.**

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: 02/28/24

Room Number: 016

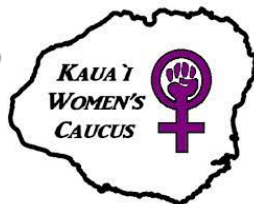
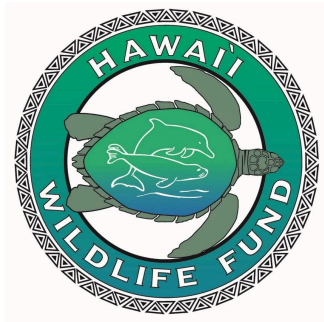
- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports this bill because the proposed
- 3 prohibition would eliminate the impact of water pollutants generated by seabed mining.
- 4 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.
- 5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



TE IPUKAREA SOCIETY
Caring for our Environment



Environmental Caucus of
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i



Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

We write to express our strong support for Senate Bill 2575 to 1) prohibit the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in Hawai'i's marine waters; and 2) prohibit the issuance of any permit for or in connection with the development or operation of any facility or infrastructure associated with the mining, extraction, or removal of minerals from the seabed within state marine waters.

Every new research dive to the seafloor reveals amazing wildlife and new discoveries about the role the deep sea plays in the health of our ocean and our lives. Seabed mining directly destroys whole communities of life on the seafloor, leaving behind habitat that may never recover. Mining also creates extremely large and potentially toxic sediment plumes; as well as noise, light, and thermal pollution that disrupt marine habitats. [More than 800 ocean scientists](#) have called for a halt to seabed mining citing the risks it poses to ocean health and the well-being of coastal communities.

Hawai'i cannot afford to risk losing our social, cultural, and economic connections to the sea. The seafloor and ocean underpin Hawai'i's cultural heritage, along with its multi-billion dollar tourism and fishing industries. As the extractive industry grows, seabed mining activities pose a large-scale disruption to these important ecosystems. Seabed mining would harm commercially and recreationally important species like tuna/ahi, mahi-mahi, billfish and other species as well as the overall health of our ocean.

The State of California passed a ban on seabed mining in state waters last year in 2022, following Washington's seabed mining ban in 2021 and Oregon's in 1991. The undersigned organizations urge Hawai'i to do the same and ensure passage of SB2575 to protect Hawai'i's coastal waters.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Koda Daily
Executive Director
Sustainable Ocean Alliance Hawai'i

Kahi Picarro
Director
Parley for the Oceans, Hawai'i

Wayne Tanaka
Director
Sierra Club of Hawai'i

Dyson Chee
Executive Director
Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition

Megan Lamson
President
Hawai'i Wildlife Fund

Denise Antolini
Director
Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea

Ted Bohlen
Co-founder
Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition

Arnie Saiki
Management
Deep Sea Mining Campaign

Sherry Pollack
Co-founder
350Hawai'i

Alan Burdick & Melodie Aduja
Co-chairs
Environmental Caucus of the Democratic
Party of Hawai'i

Nina Jensen
Chief Executive Officer
Rev Ocean

Lisa Bishop
President
Friends of Hanauma Bay

Carissa Cabrera
Chief Executive Officer
FutureSwell

Lance Morgan
President
Marine Conservation Institute

Laurel Brier
Chair
Kauai Women's Caucus

Donna Wong
Executive Director
Hawai'i's Thousand Friends

Rafael Bergstrom
Executive Director
Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i

Neal Desai
Senior Director of Field Operations, Pacific
National Parks Conservation Association

Courtney Vail
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Oceanic Preservation Society

Lauren Blickley
Hawai'i Regional Manager
Surfrider Hawai'i

Stan Rowland
CEO; Chairman
Blue Climate Initiative; Tetiaroa Society

Douglas McCauley
Director
Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory

Jeff Boehm
Chief External Relations Officer
The Marine Mammal Center

Bobbi-Jo Dobush
Legal Officer
The Ocean Foundation

John Hocevar
Oceans Campaign Director
Greenpeace USA

Rob Culbertson
Member
HULIPAC

Kelvin Passfield
Technical Director
Te Ipukarea Society



To: The Honorable Chair Karl Rhoads,
The Honorable Vice Chair Mike Gabbard,
Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: **SB 2575 – Relating to Environmental Protection; Seabed Mining; Permits; Prohibition**
Position: **Strong Support**

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for your leadership on this bill, SB 2575, prohibiting the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters; and the issuance of any permit for or in connection with the development or operation of any facility or infrastructure associated with the mining, extraction, or removal of minerals from the seabed within state marine waters. I appreciate the opportunity to testify and express my strong support for this bill. Every new research dive to the seafloor reveals amazing wildlife and new discoveries about the role the deep sea plays in the health of our ocean and our lives. Seabed mining directly destroys whole communities of life on the seafloor, leaving behind habitat that may never recover. Mining also creates extremely large and potentially toxic sediment plumes; as well as noise, light, and thermal pollution that disrupt marine habitats. [More than 800 ocean scientists](#) have called for a halt to seabed mining citing the risks it poses to ocean health and the well-being of coastal communities. [Major companies](#) including Google, BMW, Philips, Volkswagen, and more also support an international moratorium, [alongside major NGOs](#) such as World Wildlife Fund, The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, Pew Charitable Trusts, and many others.

This extractive industry of seabed mining poses many risks that are yet to be fully understood. The fishing and tourism industries are likely to feel the impacts of mining, even mining that happens in the high seas outside of the Hawaiian EEZ. I ask that you please pass this bill, reinforcing Hawai'i's role as leaders in environmental stewardship. Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,
Douglas McCauley

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas McCauley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Director, Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 7:53:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Haver	Testifying for Sustainable Ocean Alliance	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We write to express our thanks and support for your leadership in supporting SB3575 to 1) prohibit the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in Hawai'i's marine waters; and 2) prohibit the issuance of any permit for or in connection with the development or operation of any facility or infrastructure associated with the mining, extraction, or removal of minerals from the seabed within state marine waters.

Every new research dive to the seafloor reveals amazing wildlife and new discoveries about the role the deep sea plays in the health of our ocean and our lives. Seabed mining directly destroys whole communities of life on the seafloor, leaving behind habitat that may never recover. Mining also creates extremely large and potentially toxic sediment plumes; as well as noise, light, and thermal pollution that disrupt marine habitats. More than 700 ocean scientists have called for a halt to seabed mining citing the risks it poses to ocean health and the well-being of coastal communities.

Hawai'i cannot afford to risk losing our social, cultural, and economic connections to the sea. The seafloor and ocean underpin Hawai'i's cultural heritage, along with its multi-billion dollar tourism and fishing industries. As the extractive industry grows, seabed mining activities pose a large-scale disruption to these important ecosystems. Seabed mining would harm commercially and recreationally important species like tuna/ahi, mahi-mahi, billfish and other species as well as the overall health of our ocean.

The State of California passed a ban on seabed mining in state waters in 2022, following Washington's seabed mining ban in 2021, and Oregon's in 1991. We urge Hawai'i to do the same and ensure passage of SB3575 to protect Hawai'i's coastal waters.

**Thank you.
Sincerely,**

**Koda Daily
Executive Director
Sustainable Ocean Alliance Hawai'i**

&

Mark Haver

North America Regional Representative

Sustainable Ocean Alliance



2/26/2024

Judiciary Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Position: Support SB2575

The Surfrider Foundation Hawai'i region is testifying in **strong support of SB2575**, which would 1) prohibit the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in Hawai'i's marine waters; and 2) prohibit the issuance of any permit for or in connection with the development or operation of any facility or infrastructure associated with the mining, extraction, or removal of minerals from the seabed within state marine waters.

Every new research dive to the seafloor reveals amazing wildlife and new discoveries about the role the deep sea plays in the health of our ocean and our lives. Seabed mining directly destroys whole communities of life on the seafloor, leaving behind habitat that may never recover. Mining also creates extremely large and potentially toxic sediment plumes; as well as noise, light, and thermal pollution that disrupt marine habitats. [More than 700 ocean scientists](#) have called for a halt to seabed mining citing the risks it poses to ocean health and the well-being of coastal communities.

Hawai'i cannot afford to risk losing our social, cultural, and economic connections to the sea. The seafloor and ocean underpin Hawai'i's cultural heritage, along with its multi-billion dollar tourism and fishing industries. As the extractive industry grows, seabed mining activities pose a large-scale disruption to these important ecosystems. Seabed mining would harm commercially and recreationally important species like tuna/ahi, mahi-mahi, billfish and other species as well as the overall health of our ocean.

The State of California passed a ban on seabed mining in state waters in 2022, following Washington state's seabed mining ban in 2021 and Oregon's in 1991. We urge you to do the same and ensure passage of SB376 to protect Hawai'i's coastal waters.

The Surfrider Foundation is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our ocean, waves, and beaches. Surfrider maintains a network of over 150 chapters and academic clubs nationwide, including 3 chapters in the Hawaiian Islands. The Surfrider Foundation focuses on many aspects of the environment such as coastal protection, plastic pollution, and water quality.

Sincerely,

Lauren Blickley
Hawai'i Regional Manager
Surfrider Foundation



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

February 28, 2024

10:00 AM

Conference Room 016

In **SUPPORT** of **SB2575**: RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS SB2575**, which seeks to prevent the widespread and potentially irreversible impacts of seabed mining operations on our marine environment, and on our islands as a whole.

Consistent with the concerns outlined in this measure, the Sierra Club supports a nationwide moratorium on all deep sea mining activities, as well as on the issuance of mining exploration and exploitation contracts, “until and unless the environmental, social, and economic risks are comprehensively understood and can be well-managed to ensure effective protection of the marine environment.” As this measure emphasizes, seabed mining may be particularly harmful when conducted in the waters surrounding our islands, given our close cultural, ecological, and economic connections to marine resources that would be affected by mining activities.

Given the long-term if not irreversible impacts that may result from seabed mining in Hawai'i's waters, the precautionary prohibitions imposed by this bill would therefore be a prudent step to protect the integrity of our 'āina, communities, and ways of life.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** SB2575. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 9:02:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alex Filardo	Testifying for FutureSwell	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Alex Filardo and I am submitting written testimony in strong support of SB2575, which would help protect our marine environment by prohibiting the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters. As an avid waterman, marine biologist, and resource manager under contract with NOAA Fisheries, I urge the committee to pass this measure in order to protect our marine and coastal ecosystems.

Our ocean faces surmounting pressures from industrial fishing pressure, development, global shipping, and more. We cannot allow deepsea mining to add to these overwhelming challenges. Deepsea mining disrupts and destroys seafloor habitat, which is home to many slow growing animals such as corals, sponges, sea stars, fish, and crustaceans. These organisms play a crucial role in regulating and managing the organic matter that rains down to the seafloor and this disruption could cause catastrophic changes to our ocean biochemistry. Additionally, mining for minerals on the seabed can cause disruptions in the carbon cycle, emit intense noise and electromagnetic stressors, and cause changes in fluid flow. As an island state that is closely connected with the ocean, we cannot allow large companies to profit at the expense of our natural ecosystems.

This measure is a critical step to ensuring that our deepsea environment within state waters is protected. I strongly urge the committee to pass this measure that would prohibit deep sea mining and preserve this unique ecosystem.

Mahalo for reading this testimony. It is pertinent that we act with urgency as the race to plunder our seabed ecosystem has begun.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Alex Filardo



Testimony Before The
Senate Committee on Judiciary (JDC)
IN SUPPORT OF SB2575
February 28, 2024, 10:00 a.m., Room 016 & Zoom

We are Olan Leimomi Fisher and Kevin Chang, Kua'āina Advocate and Executive Director, respectively, testifying on behalf of [Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo \(or KUA\)](#). "Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo" stands for "grassroots growing through shared responsibility," and our acronym "KUA" means "backbone." **Our mission is to connect and empower communities to improve their quality of life through the collective care for their biocultural (natural and cultural) heritage, serving as a "backbone organization" that supports creative, community-driven solutions to problems stemming from environmental degradation.** Hawai'i's biocultural resources continue to be negatively impacted by political, economic, and social changes, and the increasing dangers of climate change make fostering and empowering resilient communities acutely critical.

Currently KUA supports three major networks of: (1) almost 40 mālama 'āina (caring for our 'āina or "that which feeds") community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together); (2) over 60 loko i'a (fishpond aquaculture systems unique to Hawai'i) and wai 'ōpae (anchialine pool systems) sites in varying stages of restoration and development, with numerous caretakers, stakeholders, and volunteers known as the Hui Mālama Loko I'a ("caretakers of fishponds"); and (3) the Limu Hui made up of over 50 loea (traditional experts) and practitioners in all things "limu" or locally-grown "seaweed." **Our shared vision is to once again experience what our kūpuna (ancestors) referred to as 'ĀINA MOMONA – abundant and healthy ecological systems that sustain our community resilience and well-being.**

KUA supports SB2575 as a critical step toward ensuring 'āina momona.

This bill would prohibit the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters, under certain conditions, and prohibit any related permits as well. **Our young people today are calling for a rebalanced approach to living on our isolated and fragile island ecosystems that have for decades been subjected to an overly extractive economic approach to life.** They want our government to rebalance this overuse and exploitation with better, thoughtful care for our 'āina that feeds us. At this point in time, we are uncertain how seabed mining, extraction, and removal of minerals would not only negatively affect the direct areas of such activities, but also negatively impact our precious and threatened nearshore resources.

The communities we work with are committed to ensuring the long-term health of our biocultural resources. They have depended on them for generations. **We believe our environment, the foundation of our very existence, is about long-term protection and steps in the interest of once again achieving 'āina momona.** Mahalo nui loa for considering our testimony and please **PASS** SB2575. Aloha 'Āina Momona no nā kau ā kau.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

February 25, 2024

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hon. Chris Lee, Chair
Hon. Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Re: SB 2575 relating to SEABED MINING

Hearing: Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 10:00 a.m., Room 016 & videoconference

Position: Strong support

Aloha, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, which has over 7,500 active members statewide, strongly supports Senate Bill 2575. This bill would prohibit the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in Hawai'i's marine waters. It would also prohibit the issuance of any permit for or in connection with the development or operation of any facility or infrastructure associated with the mining, extraction, or removal of minerals from the seabed within Hawaii's marine waters.

Research dives to the seafloor reveal amazing wildlife and new discoveries about the role the deep sea plays in the health of our ocean and our lives. Seabed mining destroys whole communities of life on the seafloor, leaving behind habitats that may never recover.

Mining also creates extremely large and potentially toxic sediment plumes that can smother corals. It also creates unwanted noise, light, and thermal pollution that disrupt marine habitats. More than 700 ocean scientists have called for a halt to seabed mining citing the risks it poses to ocean health and the well-being of coastal communities.

Hawai'i cannot afford to risk losing our social, cultural, and economic connections to the sea. The seafloor and ocean underpin Hawai'i's ecosystems. Seabed mining would harm commercially and recreationally important species such as tuna/ahi, mahi-mahi, billfish and other species as well as the overall health of our ocean.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on this very important measure.

Melodie Adyja legislativepriorities@gmail.com

Alan B. Burdick burdick808@gmail.com
Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus

THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

26 February 2024

Aloha Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

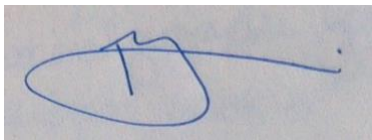
We write to express our thanks and support for SB2575 which prohibits the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters, under certain conditions and also prohibits the issuance of any permit for or in connection with the development or operation of any facility or infrastructure associated with the mining, extraction, or removal of minerals from the seabed within state marine waters.

Deep seabed mining (DSM) is not necessary to transition away from fossil fuels. DSM is not a smart and sustainable investment. DSM will not result in the equitable distribution of benefits.

We know more and more about the devastation that DSM would cause our ocean. Prospective miners tell the public that we have a hard choice: in order to decarbonize we must pillage the land, or the sea. They often [compare the negative effects of DSM](#) to terrestrial mining. There is no indication that DSM would replace terrestrial mining; there is much evidence that it would not. No terrestrial mining interests have agreed or offered to close or scale back their operations if someone else makes money on DSM. A study commissioned by the ISA found that [DSM would not cause overproduction of minerals globally](#). Scholars have contended that [DSM could end up exacerbating terrestrial mining](#) and its many problems. The concern is, in part, that a “slight decline in prices” could drive down safety and environmental management standards in land-based mining. Despite a buoyant public facade, [the same miners admit](#) that “[i]t may also not be possible to definitively say whether the impact of nodule collection on global biodiversity will be less significant than those estimated for land-based mining.

The State of California passed a ban on seabed mining in state waters last year in 2022, following Washington’s seabed mining ban in 2021 and Oregon’s in 1991. We urge Hawai’i to do the same and ensure passage of SB2575 to protect Hawai’i’s coastal waters.

Thank you.



Bobbi-Jo Dobush, Legal Officer
The Ocean Foundation



February 28, 2024 10am

RE: SUPPORT SB2575 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT; Seabed Mining

Dear Chair Rhoads and Judiciary Committee members,

For the Fishes, a Maui-based non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of coral reef wildlife urges your support of SB2575, to prohibit destructive seabed mining.

Opening our waters to ocean/seabed mining could have far-reaching detrimental impacts to many marine species, from fish to marine mammals. In addition to potential direct negative environmental impacts such as pollution and sedimentation clouds, the practice of mining itself could create noise pollution for many highly sensitive species, even disrupting larval dispersal.

Further, recent research suggests that deep-sea mining activities could impact species present from the surface of the ocean through the seabed, with deep-sea species being particularly vulnerable since they use natural sound to perform functions like detect food, and are not accustomed to anthropogenic noise at a close range.

Many deep-sea species are also sessile, which means they wouldn't be able to evade the noise created by deep-sea mining activities. Even migratory species like whales, dolphins and turtles could be impacted, even if only briefly passing through a mining area to feed or breed.

Our marine resources and their sensitive, interconnected ecosystems are far too valuable to be subjected to such dangerous, extractive activities. We urge the Committee's support of SB2575.

Thank you,

Inga Gibson

On behalf of For the Fishes



Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I submit written testimony supporting SB2575 as a marine biologist focused on the little-known habitats and animals of the deep ocean, and how our actions are impacting them. Although now based at the Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory at the University of California, Santa Barbara, I spent many years as a researcher at the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and express my strong support for SB2575 1) Prohibiting the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters; and 2) Prohibiting the issuance of any permit for or in connection with the development or operation of any facility or infrastructure associated with the mining, extraction, or removal of minerals from the seabed within state marine waters.

Most of Hawai'i's deep sea is unexplored and poorly understood, but despite this, we know it is home to incredible biodiversity. This includes some of the world's oldest gold and black corals, aged at many thousands of years old. The richness and diversity of life in Hawai'i's deep sea supports ecosystem processes necessary for ocean and planetary systems to function, and is connected to Hawai'i's shallow seas, coasts and land. It is also an integral part of the culture and well-being of local communities, as well as ocean-dependent industries.

Deep-sea mining would result in the irreversible loss of biodiversity, ecosystems and their functioning before we know, understand and value them. These impacts could have far-reaching effects, from the potential contamination of commercially important species of food fish, such as ahi and opah, to impacts on carbon sequestration dynamics and climate regulation.

As a scientist, I deeply value evidence-based decision making, especially in instances as consequential as a decision to open up an entirely new frontier of the ocean to large-scale industrial resource exploitation. This is why [more than 800 scientists](#) have signed a statement calling for a delay to the start of deep-sea mining in international waters. The sheer importance of the ocean to Hawai'i's planet and people, and the risk of large-scale and permanent loss of biodiversity and ecosystems necessitates a pause of all efforts to begin mining of the deep sea, in line with the precautionary principle, and an acceleration of research so that we can gain a better understanding of what is at stake.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diva Amon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Divya Amon, Ph.D.
Science Advisor
Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory & Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:05:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT!

Seabed mining is very damaging to the ocean and marine life!

Please pass this bill!

Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)



To: The Senate Committee on Judiciary (JDC)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 10am

In strong support of SB2575

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the JDC Committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org is in **strong support of SB2575** that prohibits the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters, under certain conditions. In addition, this measure prohibits the issuance of any permit for or in connection with the development or operation of any facility or infrastructure associated with the mining, extraction, or removal of minerals from the seabed within state marine waters.

Deepsea mining is an **extremely destructive form of mining that would damage the oceans beyond repair, threatening their ability to help fight climate change.** Ocean health is already severely stressed and threatened due to overfishing and the climate crisis. The rising ocean temperatures and increased acidification have already damaged Hawaii's coral reefs and marine ecosystems.

We depend on our oceans to absorb and store carbon, and as a result, the deep ocean is critical in the fight against climate breakdown. The ocean absorbs and stores over 90% of the excess heat and approximately 38% of the carbon dioxide generated by humanity. Risking this delicate system could have irreversible impacts on the climate.

Mining companies are saying they need to mine the seabed for the metals needed to make batteries for the energy transition away from fossil fuels. But deep sea mining won't end our addiction to fossil fuels, it will only destroy a critical ecosystem, and nothing about that is "green." There are far better alternatives to deep sea mining. Improving recycling and reducing dependence on cars will help use metals more efficiently.

Bottom line: Seabed mining poses an unacceptably high risk of further damage and disruption to the marine environment of the State, as well as to the stability of our climate system. It is imperative that action be taken to ensure the protection of our environment for present and future generations. Please support this important measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sherry Pollack

Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Support for SB 2575, Relating to the Environment – Seabed Mining
Committee on Judiciary
February 28, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 16 & Videoconference**

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) **supports** SB 2575, relating to the environment, which prohibits the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters, under certain conditions. It prohibits the issuance of any permit for or in connection with the development or operation of any facility or infrastructure associated with the mining, extraction, or removal of minerals from the seabed within state marine waters.

Environmental officials and advocates from around the world have called for a global moratorium on deep-sea mining unless marine ecosystems can be effectively protected. Deep-sea mining uses heavy machinery to remove from the ocean floor nodules that contain cobalt, manganese, and other rare metals used in batteries. The International Union for Conservation of Nature said in 2021 that it recognizes concerns that "biodiversity loss will be inevitable if deep-sea mining is permitted to occur, that this loss is likely to be permanent on human timescales, and that the consequences for ocean ecosystem function are unknown." Seabed mining directly destroys life on the seafloor, leaving behind habitat that may never recover. Mining also creates extremely large and potentially toxic sediment, disrupting pristine marine habitats. More than 800 ocean scientists have called for a halt to seabed mining citing the risks it poses to ocean health and the well-being of coastal communities.

We are in strong support of prohibiting the mining, extraction, or removal of minerals from the seabed within state marine waters.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2575.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Senate Committee on Judiciary

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB2738

Wednesday, February 28, 2024 10:00am, Conference Room 016

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committees,

HAPA strongly supports HB2738 HD1 Deep sea mining is an extremely destructive form of mining that would damage the oceans beyond repair, threatening their ability to help fight climate change. Ocean health is already severely stressed and threatened due to overfishing and the climate crisis. The rising ocean temperatures and increased acidification have already damaged Hawaii's coral reefs and marine ecosystems.

We depend on our oceans to absorb and store carbon, and as a result, the deep ocean is critical in the fight against climate breakdown. The ocean absorbs and stores over 90% of the excess heat and approximately 38% of the carbon dioxide generated by humanity. Risking this delicate system could have irreversible impacts on the climate.

Seabed mining poses an unacceptably high risk of further damage and disruption to the marine environment of the State, as well as to the stability of our climate system. It is imperative that action be taken to ensure the protection of our environment for present and future generations. Please support this important measure!

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 11:25:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Mulinix	Testifying for Greenpeace Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoades, Vice Chair Gabbard, & Committee Members Elefante, San Buenaventura, Awa,

On behalf of Greenpeace Hawaii's thousands of members statewide we stand in Strong Support of Senate Bill 2575 that prohibits the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in Hawai'i's marine waters; and prohibit the issuance of any permit for or in connection with the development or operation of any facility or infrastructure associated with the mining, extraction, or removal of minerals from the seabed within state marine waters.

Every new research dive to the seafloor reveals amazing wildlife and new discoveries about the role the deep sea plays in the health of our ocean and our lives. Seabed mining directly destroys whole communities of life on the seafloor, leaving behind habitat that may never recover. Mining also creates extremely large and potentially toxic sediment plumes; as well as noise, light, and thermal pollution that disrupt marine habitats. More than 700 ocean scientists have called for a halt to seabed mining citing the risks it poses to ocean health and the well-being of coastal communities.

Hawai'i cannot afford to risk losing our social, cultural, and economic connections to the sea. The seafloor and ocean underpin Hawai'i's cultural heritage, along with its multi-billion dollar tourism and fishing industries. As the extractive industry grows, seabed mining activities pose a large-scale disruption to these important ecosystems. Seabed mining would harm commercially and recreationally important species like tuna/ahi, mahi-mahi, billfish and other species as well as the overall health of our ocean.

The State of California passed a ban on seabed mining in state waters last year in 2022, following Washington's seabed mining ban in 2021 and Oregon's in 1991. We urge you to do the same and ensure passage of SB2575 to protect Hawai'i's coastal waters.

Mahalo, Dave Mulinix, CoFounder & Statewide Organizer

Greenpeace Hawaii



**Hawaii
Legislative
Council
Members**

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country
Market
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman
Island Naturals
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson
Niko Niko Family
Dentistry
Honolulu

Robert H. Pahia
Hawaii Taro Farm
Wailuku

Maile Meyer
Na Mea Hawaii
Honolulu

Tina Wildberger
Kihei Ice
Kihei

L. Malu Shizue Miki
Abundant Life
Natural Foods
Hilo

Kim Coco Iwamoto
Enlightened Energy
Honolulu

Chamber of
Sustainable
Commerce
P.O. Box 22394
Honolulu, HI
96823

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary

Wednesday, February 28, 2024
10:00 AM, Room 016 or via Videoconference

RE: **SB2575** Prohibiting Seabed Mining - **Strong Support**

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard and Committee Members,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents over 100 small businesses across the State that strive for a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity; we know Hawaii can strengthen its economy without hurting workers, consumers, communities or the environment.

This is why we are in strong support of SB2575, which prohibits the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters, under certain conditions, and prohibits the issuance of any permit for or in connection with the development or operation of any facility or infrastructure associated with the mining, extraction, or removal of minerals from the seabed within state marine waters.

We depend on our oceans to absorb and store carbon, and as a result, the deep ocean is critical in the fight against climate breakdown. The ocean absorbs and stores over 90% of the excess heat and approximately 38% of the carbon dioxide generated by humanity. Risking this delicate system could have irreversible impacts on the climate.

Seabed mining poses an unacceptably high risk of further damage and disruption to the marine environment of the State, as well as to the stability of our climate system. Deep sea mining is often an extremely destructive form of mining that could damage the oceans beyond repair, threatening their ability to help fight climate change.

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 12:23:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeanne Everett	Testifying for Blue Climate Initiative - Tetiaroa Society US	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Indigenous Voices for a Ban on Deep Sea Mining

"We, the undersigned Indigenous voices and those who support us, are joining together to protect our ocean.

For millennia our people have lived in a relationship with the natural world that is defined by respect, gratitude, responsibility, and love. Our genealogies, woven across space and time, connect us physically and spiritually to animals and plants from the highest mountains to the deepest ocean.

Cultures across the Pacific consider the ocean to be sacred space for creation, a provider, an ancestor, and a link to places and people across the horizon. We would no more harm the ocean than we would a member of our family. And as with our family, we depend on each other for survival.

Western culture's relationship with natural ecosystems of land, and sea and sky have proven to be deeply harmful for the only place we know as home, planet Earth. The ocean's health, people, and natural ecosystems are already reeling from pollution, overfishing, acidification and extreme weather events. These problems need serious attention.

With a ban on Deep Sea Mining, however, we see the chance to stop the needless damage before it starts. There is ample evidence that Deep Sea Mining will cause irreversible harm to our ocean. The arguments in favor of Deep Sea Mining, produced only by those that stand to profit from it, have been shown to be false. There is no reason to disturb the tranquil and life-supporting depths of our oceans, causing harm that will last forever, for the short-term economic gain of a very few.

We refuse to allow any further harm to our sacred ocean.

We refuse to further damage the intricate web of life that we are part of and depend on for our survival.

We refuse to allow governments and corporations to sell out the future of our children and life on our planet.

We call on [the State of Hawaii], the governments of the world and on the International Seabed Authority to enact a ban on Deep Sea Mining effective immediately. Our ocean and our lives depend on it."

*Petition signed by over 70 indigenous groups in over 50 countries
(<https://www.blueclimateinitiative.org/say-no-to-deep-sea-mining>), including:*

Nainoa Thompson, Polynesian Voyaging Society, Hawai'i

Sol Kaho'ohalahala, Maui Nui Makai Network, Hawai'i

Darienne Dey, Kanaka maoli, Hawai'i

Kaleolani DeSa, Kanaka Maoli, Hawai'i

In addition to the unequivocal threats that deep sea mining presents to deep ocean ecosystems as highlighted by nearly 800 marine scientists (<https://seabedminingsciencstatement.org/>), the simple fact is that **THE METALS FOUND IN THE DEEP SEA ARE NO LONGER CRITICAL FOR A GREEN TRANSITION.**

52% of batteries produced in 2023 across all applications combined were Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) Batteries, that use no deep sea metals. No cobalt, nor nickel. (<https://www.crugroup.com/knowledge-and-insights/insights/2024/china-corners-the-battery-energy-storage-market/>). This is a major increase from 2018 when LFP represented under 10% of the EV market.

With falling costs of LFP (<https://thedriven.io/2024/01/25/worlds-largest-ev-battery-maker-set-to-cut-costs-in-half-by-mid-2024/>), and the safety, lower long term degradation and easier to recycle advantages these represent, this share is expected to further increase in years to come.

We must not allow US federal and corporate interests dilapidate Hawaii's precious submarine bioiversity and spiritual origins. Neither in our own backyard, nor anywhere. It is simply not necessary.

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 3:52:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Hixon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha: As a professional marine biologist who has personally participated in deep-sea submersible dives, I strongly support SB2575. The deep ocean is a vast and largely unexplored treasure trove of remarkable and diverse sea life of unimaginable benefit to humanity. Seafloor mining is like collecting the rocks from a rainforest by clearcutting all vegetation and removing all animal life, then polluting the broader region with sediment, and doing no post-mining habitat restoration whatsoever. Doing so would be a tragedy never allowed on land, so we should afford the same protections to deep sea ecosystems. Besides, recent studies have indicated that we can obtain all the rare metals we need to electrify the future from land sources (Miller et al. 2021 *Frontiers in Marine Science* 8:706161. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2021.706161). Please pass SB2575. Mahalo--Mark Hixon

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 4:47:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

When this technology becomes obsolete Hawaii will be picking up the pieces after our environment is ruined. Already there is newer technology and these minerals will not be needed. Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 7:21:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Kidd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 11:26:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily-Ann Oshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Emily-Ann Oshiro. I am a Junior at James B. Castle High School in the Windward District on the island of Oahu. I am submitting a testimony in favor of SB #2575.

I agree upon the actions relating to the prohibition of “the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters, under certain conditions.” The ecosystem within the water that we humans know very little about should not be disturbed or interfered with in regards to the above destructive activities.

I further am in agreement with SB #2575 because it is important to keep seabeds the way they naturally are as creatures and many organisms in waters depend on the minerals of seabeds. Additionally, disturbing seabeds has an impact on native Hawaiians and their culture of being connected to the waters of Hawai‘i.

Organisms need seabeds because it is part of their survival and environment. Taking that away ensures the destruction of vital ecosystems and natural habitats. Moreover, noise from machinery used to extract minerals from seabeds disrupts the lives of aquatic creatures and their way of communicating with one another.

As a person of native Hawaiian blood, born and raised on the island of Oahu, I have always been connected to the waters of Hawai‘i. It is a part of my home and culture, so disturbing the seabed and mishandling the minerals in it would essentially be the same as disrespecting the land and its connection to Hawaiians.

Please, we need your help. Mahalo.

Emily-Ann Oshiro, WIndward District, Oahu

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 7:10:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ben Robinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The last thing Hawai'i and the ocean need is seabed mining. Support prohibiting it. Exploiting these resources is ridiculous.

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 10:27:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carissa Cabrera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Members of the Committee,

I urge you to pass SB2575 and join the leading nations across the world is safeguarding the deep sea from exploitation, an industry that would threaten the stability of our ocean health and leave our coastal communities vulnerable to the impacts of a local mining industry. Island nations across the world have taken a stand against deep sea mining (DSM), and we must join them.

With aloha,

Carissa Cabrera

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:51:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Rozendo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment and Water and Land Committees:

I strongly support for Senate Bill 2575 to 1) prohibit the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in Hawai‘i’s marine waters; and 2) prohibit the issuance of any permit for or in connection with the development or operation of any facility or infrastructure associated with the mining, extraction, or removal of minerals from the seabed within state marine waters.

Every dive to the seafloor reveals discoveries about the roles that deep sea environments play. Even though most of us will never visit or see it, sea floor ecosystems have a huge impact in the health of the oceans and our lives, especially in Hawai‘i. Seabed mining destroys natural systems of the seafloor, leaving behind habitats that may never recover. Mining also creates gigantic and potentially toxic sediment plumes; as well as noise, light, and thermal pollution that disrupt marine habitats. In the oceanography course I teach, I emphasize repeatedly that terrestrial and coastal systems share deep connections with cycles of the deep sea. I am adding my voice to the more than 800 ocean scientists have called for a halt to seabed mining, citing the risks it poses to ocean health and the well-being of coastal communities.

The State of California passed a ban on seabed mining in state waters last year in 2022, following Washington’s seabed mining ban in 2021 and Oregon’s in 1991. The undersigned organizations urge Hawai‘i to do the same and ensure passage of SB2575 to protect Hawai‘i’s coastal waters.

Mahalo. Respectfully,

Hannah Rozendo

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 11:38:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. Leilani DeMello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Kāko‘o piha au i kēia pila. I STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill to prevent the destruction of our seabed through extractive practices that will negatively impact our kanaloa.

Mahalo,

M. Leilani DeMello

‘Ōla‘a, Puna, Hawai‘i

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 5:47:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Scancella	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have worked in the marine industry for over 40 years and on deep ocean research ships for several of those years. There is no need to allow ocean mining in Hawaiian waters or any ocean waters. The small amount of minerals that ‘may’ be gained from this mining can be had by simply recycling what we currently have in our discarded computers. This was a comment made to me by one of the head scientists on one of the research ship cruises that I was an officer on several years ago. Not to mention that there is no truly tested and proven way to do the mining and the fact that it would not be economically feasible... should be enough but the most important thing is there would be permanent damage to the ocean floor. Just because the ocean floor is out of sight does not mean it should be out of mind—except that one is out of their mind to do this.

Thanks for your interest in my comment

Jim Scancella

Retired ships officer living in Hawi.

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 9:00:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Deepsea mining is an **extremely destructive form of mining that would damage the oceans beyond repair, threatening their ability to help fight climate change.** Ocean health is already severely stressed and threatened due to overfishing and the climate crisis. The rising ocean temperatures and increased acidification have already damaged Hawaii’s coral reefs and marine ecosystems.

- We depend on our oceans to absorb and store carbon, and as a result, the deep ocean is critical in the fight against climate breakdown. The ocean absorbs and stores over 90% of the excess heat and approximately 38% of the carbon dioxide generated by humanity. Risking this delicate system could have irreversible impacts on the climate.

- Seabed mining poses an unacceptably high risk of further damage and disruption to the marine environment of the State, as well as to the stability of our climate system. It is imperative that action be taken to ensure the protection of our environment for present and future generations. Please support this important measure!

Mahalo for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 1:54:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I live in Maalaea with a front row seat to erosion, sea level rise, destruction of reefs etc. But like all islanders, we can't afford to ignore the climate crisis. Please help!

Deepsea mining is an extremely destructive form of mining that would **damage the oceans beyond repair, threatening their ability to help fight climate change.** Ocean health is already severely stressed and threatened due to overfishing and the climate crisis. The rising ocean temperatures and increased acidification have already damaged Hawaii's coral reefs and marine ecosystems.

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 3:40:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full agreement. We only have one chance to save the planet. This will help.
Please support.

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:37:33 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

Please support for Senate Bill 2575 to;

- prohibit the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in Hawai‘i’s marine waters
- prohibit the issuance of any permit for or in connection with the development or operation of any facility or infrastructure associated with the mining, extracting, or removing minerals from the seabed within state marine waters.

Seabed mining directly destroys whole communities of life on the seafloor, leaving behind habitats that may never recover. Mining also creates extremely large and potentially toxic sediment plumes and noise, light, and thermal pollution that disrupt marine habitats. More than 800 ocean scientists have called for a halt to seabed mining, citing the risks it poses to ocean health and the well-being of coastal communities.

Hawai‘i cannot afford to risk losing our social, cultural, and economic connections to the sea. The seafloor and ocean underpin Hawai‘i’s cultural heritage and multi-billion dollar tourism and fishing industries. As the extractive industry grows, seabed mining activities pose a large-scale disruption to these important ecosystems. Seabed mining would harm commercially and recreationally important species like tuna/ahi, mahi-mahi, billfish, and other species, as well as the overall health of our ocean.

The State of California passed a ban on seabed mining in state waters in 2022, following Washington’s seabed mining ban in 2021 and Oregon’s in 1991. I am urging Hawai‘i to do the same and ensure the passage of SB2575 to protect our coastal waters.

Mahalo

Maki Morinoue

Holualoa, Hawai‘i Island

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 7:27:14 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniela Escontrela	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2575. Deepsea mining is an **extremely destructive form of mining that would damage the oceans beyond repair, threatening their ability to help fight climate change.** Ocean health is already severely stressed and threatened due to overfishing and the climate crisis. The rising ocean temperatures and increased acidification have already damaged Hawaii's coral reefs and marine ecosystems.

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:38:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom. I live in Mō'ili'ili. I'm writing in support SB2575.

- Deepsea mining is an extremely destructive form of mining that would damage the oceans beyond repair, threatening their ability to help fight climate change. Ocean health is already severely stressed and threatened due to overfishing and the climate crisis. The rising ocean temperatures and increased acidification have already damaged Hawaii's coral reefs and marine ecosystems.

- We depend on our oceans to absorb and store carbon, and as a result, the deep ocean is critical in the fight against climate breakdown. The ocean absorbs and stores over 90% of the excess heat and approximately 38% of the carbon dioxide generated by humanity. Risking this delicate system could have irreversible impacts on the climate.

- Seabed mining poses an unacceptably high risk of further damage and disruption to the marine environment of the State, as well as to the stability of our climate system. It is imperative that action be taken to ensure the protection of our environment for present and future generations. Please support this important measure!

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili, O'ahu

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 11:54:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maureen Brock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of this bill. We still don't know enough about deep sea mining, but I'm sure pillaging the deep sea for resources isn't the answer. More R&D on new battery technology is.

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 5:32:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tadia Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support **SB2575**. There are many reasons why. Here are a few:

- Deepsea mining is an **extremely destructive form of mining that would damage the oceans beyond repair, threatening their ability to help fight climate change**. Ocean health is already severely stressed and threatened due to overfishing and the climate crisis. The rising ocean temperatures and increased acidification have already damaged Hawaii’s coral reefs and marine ecosystems.
- We depend on our oceans to absorb and store carbon, and as a result, the deep ocean is critical in the fight against climate breakdown. The ocean absorbs and stores over 90% of the excess heat and approximately 38% of the carbon dioxide generated by humanity. Risking this delicate system could have irreversible impacts on the climate.
- Seabed mining poses an unacceptably high risk of further damage and disruption to the marine environment of the State, as well as to the stability of our climate system. It is imperative that action be taken to ensure the protection of our environment for present and future generations.

Please support this important measure!

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 7:47:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy St.John Johnson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

-Deepsea mining is an extremely destructive form of mining that would damage the oceans beyond repair, threatening their ability to help fight climate change. Ocean health is already severely stressed and threatened due to overfishing and the climate crisis. The rising ocean temperatures and increased acidification have already damaged Hawaii's coral reefs and marine ecosystems.

-We depend on our oceans to absorb and store carbon, and as a result, the deep ocean is critical in the fight against climate breakdown. The ocean absorbs and stores over 90% of the excess heat and approximately 38% of the carbon dioxide generated by humanity. Risking this delicate system could have irreversible impacts on the climate.

-Seabed mining poses an unacceptably high risk of further damage and disruption to the marine environment of the State, as well as to the stability of our climate system. It is imperative that action be taken to ensure the protection of our environment for present and future generations. Please support this important measure!

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:18:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Neal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT FOR HB2575 - Environmental Protection; Seabed Mining; Permits; Prohibition

Dear Chair Rhoads Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the committee.

I write in support of HB2575 as it Prohibits the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters, under certain conditions. Prohibits the issuance of any permit for or in connection with the development or operation of any facility or infrastructure associated with the mining, extraction, or removal of minerals from the seabed within state marine waters.

Humanity, and all life on the planet depends on healthy oceans, for it is food, modulates the weather, and many other things we have yet to discover. Seabed mining is very destructive. Seabed mining on a commercial scale may unleash perils not yet known. The oceans are stressed enough, best proceed with due caution by prohibiting seabed mining.

Please support HB2575.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Keith Neal

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:24:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittany Kamai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Dr. Brittany Kamai, from Wai'anae, Oahu and **I strongly support SB2575** to ban deep-sea mining in all Hawaiian waters.

Deep-sea mining is one of the most destructive industries to be thought of in all of human history. The intent of this industry is to gather metals from the seafloor on path for utilize within modern day technologies. **This tunnel vision thinking loses sight of what the catastrophic implications will be when the ocean is destroyed in this way.**

When the science enterprise states we do not know the implications of what this kind of impact will do, it is because **there is no comprehensive understanding of the intricate web of life below the surface.**

For example, the ocean supplies 50% of the oxygen we breathe because of the life that lives below the surface. To date, deepsea activities, such as bottom trawling, have release thousands of tons of CO2 into the atmosphere because of the organisms and lifeforms at the bottom of the ocean that absorb CO2. There is no amount of scientific research that can be done within the next few years that will be able to understand how devastating the destruction will be on the entire planet.

It is imperative that we let the world know that the deep-sea mining industry is not welcome in our waters or on our lands. Our islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean will be a target for both our waters and lands. This industry will try to extract within or near our waters and there will be many mining vessels that would be looking to restock in our harbors, lands and waterways. Additionally, the industry will be looking setup more infrastructure on our lands to support their work and this must not be done.

It is our responsibility to ensure that we and future generations have clean air to breathe, thriving marine life and a healthy ocean. I trust that you all will make the right decision to support SB2575.

I am available for follow-up at your earliest convenience.

Mahalo,

Brittany Kamai, Ph.D.

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:18:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jotis Russell-Christian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

-- Deepsea mining is an **extremely destructive form of mining that would damage the oceans beyond repair, threatening their ability to help fight climate change.** Ocean health is already severely stressed and threatened due to overfishing and the climate crisis. The rising ocean temperatures and increased acidification have already damaged Hawaii's coral reefs and marine ecosystems.

-- We depend on our oceans to absorb and store carbon, and as a result, the deep ocean is critical in the fight against climate breakdown. The ocean absorbs and stores over 90% of the excess heat and approximately 38% of the carbon dioxide generated by humanity. Risking this delicate system could have irreversible impacts on the climate.

-- Seabed mining poses an unacceptably high risk of further damage and disruption to the marine environment of the State, as well as to the stability of our climate system. It is imperative that action be taken to ensure the protection of our environment for present and future generations. Please support this important measure!

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:27:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samantha Elkins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 11:12:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We depend on our oceans to absorb and store carbon, and as a result, the deep ocean is critical in the fight against climate breakdown. The ocean absorbs and stores over 90% of the excess heat and approximately 38% of the carbon dioxide generated by humanity. Risking this delicate system could have irreversible impacts on the climate.

-- Seabed mining poses an unacceptably high risk of further damage and disruption to the marine environment of the State, as well as to the stability of our climate system. It is imperative that action be taken to ensure the protection of our environment for present and future generations. Please support this important measure!

Please don't let seabed mining take place in Hawaii!

Mahalo

tlaloc tokuda

Kailua Kona HI 96740

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 12:39:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha from Kauai,

I strongly support SB2575.

-- Deepsea mining is an **extremely destructive form of mining that would damage the oceans beyond repair, threatening their ability to help fight climate change.** Ocean health is already severely stressed and threatened due to overfishing and the climate crisis. The rising ocean temperatures and increased acidification have already damaged Hawaii's coral reefs and marine ecosystems.

-- We depend on our oceans to absorb and store carbon, and as a result, the deep ocean is critical in the fight against climate breakdown. The ocean absorbs and stores over 90% of the excess heat and approximately 38% of the carbon dioxide generated by humanity. Risking this delicate system could have irreversible impacts on the climate.

-- Seabed mining poses an unacceptably high risk of further damage and disruption to the marine environment of the State, as well as to the stability of our climate system. It is imperative that action be taken to ensure the protection of our environment for present and future generations. Please support this important measure!

Do the right thing.

Thank you.

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 9:47:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sage Keller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sage Keller

sagekeller07@gmail.com

Tuesday, February 27th, 2024

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi

President of the Senate

Thirty-Second State Legislature

Regular Session of 2024

Testimony in Support of S.B. No. 2575

State of Hawai'i

Aloha,

I, Sage Keller, a high school student from Kauai, strongly support S.B. No. 2575, which aims to prohibit seabed mining in all state marine waters. As a resident of Kaua'i, I understand the importance of protecting our marine environment for future generations.

Seabed mining poses a significant threat to our marine ecosystems and the industries that rely on them. It could cause irreversible damage to fragile underwater habitats and disrupt marine life. As someone with a deep love for the ocean, I am concerned about the potential impact of seabed mining on our local environment.

With widespread support for this bill from organizations and experts, including the Department of Health and Office of Hawaiian Affairs, it is evident that seabed mining is not in the best interest of our state.

I urge you to pass S.B. No. 2575 to protect Hawaii's marine environment and ensure its health for future generations.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sage Keller

Kapa'a High School

Kaua'i, Hawai'i

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 10:33:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Seabed mining poses an unacceptably high risk of further damage and disruption to the marine environment of the State, as well as to the stability of our climate system. It is imperative that action be taken to ensure the protection of our environment for present and future generations. Please support this important measure!

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 11:37:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taurie Kinoshita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB2575.

Deepsea mining is categorically, incredibly destructive.

We depend on our oceans to absorb and store carbon, and as a result, the deep ocean is critical in the fight against climate breakdown. The ocean absorbs and stores over 90% of the excess heat and approximately 38% of the carbon dioxide generated by humanity.

Risking this delicate system could have irreversible impacts on the climate.

Please pass SB 2575.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 12:18:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 5:02:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Gorman-Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee,

It is well known that deepsea mining is an **extremely destructive form of mining that would damage the oceans beyond repair, threatening their ability to help fight climate change**. Ocean health is already severely stressed and threatened due to overfishing and the climate crisis. The rising ocean temperatures and increased acidification have already damaged Hawaii's coral reefs and marine ecosystems.

We depend on our oceans to absorb and store carbon, and as a result, the deep ocean is critical in the fight against climate breakdown. The ocean absorbs and stores over 90% of the excess heat and approximately 38% of the carbon dioxide generated by humanity. Risking this delicate system could have irreversible impacts on the climate.

Seabed mining poses an unacceptably high risk of further damage and disruption to the marine environment of the State, as well as to the stability of our climate system. It is imperative that action be taken to ensure the protection of our environment for present and future generations. Please support this important measure!

Susan Gorman-Chang