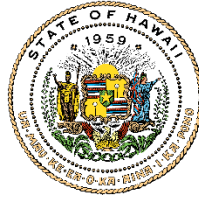


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

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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 Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND**

**Monday, February 12, 2024
1:00 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3167
RELATING TO THE PACIFIC MARINE FISHERIES COMPACT**

Senate Bill 3167 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.

SB-3167

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 9:46:07 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Culbertson	Testifying for Big Island Reef Keepers hui	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators!

We oppose this legislation on the grounds that it removes or dis-empowers or own local community representation and authority in managing local marine resources.

A cursory check of this organization (PSMFC.ORG) has revealed deficiencies in their own internal controls and accounting practices.

Please defer this bill!

R A Culbertson

member, Big Island Reef Keepers hui

Honokaa

SB-3167

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 9:15:26 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha

I OPPOSE SB3167!

We should NOT risk opening up a commercial interest representative for Hawai'i. As we stand, we are always in battle with *dual value systems*. One that values perpetuating life for our ocean ecosystem for generations to come and one that values profit over sustainability at all costs. **The aquarium trade is a perfect example. Not cultural and not even for sustaining human life. This industry continues taking our vital reef fish for personal, selfish, visual gain as a hobby. It disregards the catastrophic impact it has created over decades of aquarium fish collections, leaving our reef on the verge of collapse.**

This would invite opportunities and political bodies of Hawai'i to create even more complicated regulations without the consent and alignment of our Native Hawaiian practitioners.

Furthermore, I am concerned with this outside entity based in California, Idaho, Oregon, Alaska, and Washington that doesn't understand our laws and cultural practices. The [commissioners](#) are made up of individual and commercial fishing industries and grossly lack, if any at all, indigenous representation in all states they represent. ***I find this a big red flag and a major concern.***

Here in Hawai'i, we must allow our CBSFA practitioners and those with long-standing care for our bays to have more authority in decision-making regarding how our ocean is utilized and harvested instead of collaborating with an outside entity not vetted by our trusted cultural practitioners.

This is a commercial interest bill; we CAN NOT have them representing Hawai'i oceans. Not in alignment with our cultural practices, state motto and Hawai'i State Constitution.

Please OPPOSE this bill.

Thank you
Maki Morinoue
Holualoa, Hawai'i Island

SB-3167

Submitted on: 2/8/2024 6:59:09 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laa Poepoe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

hawai'i already has centuries of proven native traditional management that seems to be disregarded in favor of non-native concepts. this measure is unnecessary if we instead prioritize traditional fishery/ahupua'a management.

SB-3167

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 12:58:23 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I appreciate the intent and primary focus to combine Hawai‘i’s conservation efforts with other states of West Coast.

However, I have strong reservations that our voices and work that we do as kānaka maoli, traditional & customary practitioners, marine managed area co-managers, and hoā‘āina will not be reflected equitably by Hawai‘i representatives and commissioners in the compact.

We, marine stewarding communities have been working diligently with DAR and the BLNR is demonstrating their firm commitment to understanding and support community partnerships reflecting place based knowledge and traditions. We continue to struggle for equitable voices in rulemaking to protect our cultural and natural resources against commercial interests, but remain steadfast.

Page 7, line 17-22, begins with "An advisory committee to be representative of the commercial fishers, commercial fishing industry," followed by a catch-all - "and other interests of each state". Hawai‘i is unique in its cultural views of our marine resources and shall not be considered "other". Of all participating states, it is not clear how indigenous knowledge and cultural value is currently applied in the work within the compact.