



SB2575 HD1
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT
House Committee on Finance

April 2, 2024

4:00 p.m.

Conference Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS SB2575 HD1**, 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 HD1**. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to provide written testimony on this important issue.



To: The Honorable Chair Kyle Yamashita,
The Honorable Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa,
Members of the House Committee on Finance

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

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, 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".

Director, Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory



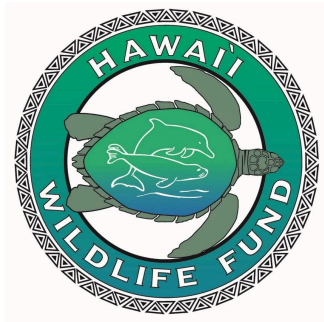
TE IPUKAREA SOCIETY
Caring for our Environment



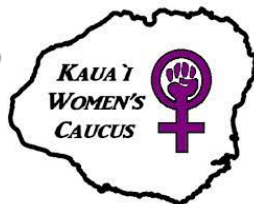
HULI PAC



Environmental Caucus of
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i



PARLEY



Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

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

Wayne Tanaka
Director
Sierra Club of Hawai'i

Kahi Picarro
Director
Parley for the Oceans, 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

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 7:35:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Bishop	Friends of Hanauma Bay	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and FIN Committee members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill. We urge your unanimous support!

With Aloha,

Lisa Bishop

Friends of Hanauma Bay I President

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Finance Committee,

As owners and operators of local businesses that depend on our healthy coasts and oceans, we write to express our concern about deep-sea mining and the risk it poses to Hawai'i's tourism and ocean-facing business sectors. The beautiful marine ecosystems surrounding our islands and the diverse wildlife that calls them home are incredibly important to Hawai'i's culture, economy, and reputation.

Tourism is the single largest contributor to our economy. [In 2022](#), total visitor spending reached \$19.8 billion with an additional \$2.24 billion of revenue coming in from state visitor taxes. Around 10 million visitors travel to Hawai'i every year, supporting nearly 200,000 livelihoods across our state. Gorgeous beaches, pristine reefs, productive sportfishing, thriving ocean life (including marine mammals, turtles, birds and corals), and world-class waves are all coastal features that continue to draw visitors from across the globe. However, these resources may be threatened by the controversial, emerging deep-sea mining industry.

Deep-sea mining is not poised to help Hawai'i's economy or community, but rather poses significant risk to both. These risks are clearly outlined by scientists here within Hawai'i and [over 800 scientists globally](#) that have expressed opposition to deep-sea mining. This extractive activity could cause irreparable harm to the deep seabed and the unique biodiversity that depends on it, including ancient Hawaiian corals that are thousands of years old. Marine noise from this mechanically-intensive activity could impact populations of important and charismatic species like humpback whales, which contribute \$11 million in revenue each year through the whale-watching industry, or a [total economic impact of \\$74 million annually](#). Deep-sea mining off our coasts would release potentially toxic sediment plumes that can travel for hundreds of kilometers. This could impact the productivity of our sport and commercial fisheries, while raising concerns about contamination of seafood. If such plumes were to travel inshore, they could threaten our vibrant reefs, which are another of our critical natural assets that draw in visitors to our state.

The States of California, Oregon, and Washington have all banned seabed mining within their waters for the above reasons and more, and we share their concerns.

We, the undersigned business owners, operators, and community members, thus express our opposition to an industry like seabed mining within our waters. We support SB2575, which aims to prohibit mining within state waters and protect Hawai'i's coastlines.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Rick Gaffney
President
Hawaii Fishing & Boating Association



Calvin Morse
Founder & CEO
Deep Blue Eco Tours



Lance Leaeno
Supervisor
Hotel Renew

hotel
renew.

Ricardo Taveira
Owner
Hawai'i Eco Divers & Surf Adventures



Ocean Ramsey & Juan Oliphant
Founders, Senior Researcher & CEO
One Ocean Diving



Joe Ibarra
General Manager, Vice President Resorttrust Hawai'i
The Kahala Hotel & Resort





Aloha Committee Chairs and Members,

I am testifying on behalf of Kauai Climate Action Coalition to support HB2575 HD1. We are a group of over 150 Kauai residents. KCAC recognizes the imminent and devastating effects of the climate crisis, and works through education, direct action, and supporting effective policy to mitigate this crisis and create a sustainable, thriving, and equitable future.

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. In addition, seabed mining poses an unacceptably high risk of further damage and disruption to the marine environment of the State.

For our ocean environment, for ourselves, and for our future generations, please pass this bill. Mahalo.

Helen Cox, Chair

Kauai Climate Action Coalition



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

OFFICERS	DIRECTORS			MAILING ADDRESS
John Bickel, President 23404	Melodie Aduja	Jan Lubin	Stephen O'Harrow	P.O. Box
Alan Burdick, Vice President	Juliet Begley	Shannon Matson	Maria Glodilet Rallojay	Honolulu, HI
Dave Nagajji, Treasurer	Stephanie Fitzpatrick	Jenny Nomura	Bill South	96823
Doug Pyle, Secretary	Robert Kinslow			

March 30, 2024

TO: Chair Yamashita & Members of the Finance Committee

RE: SB 2575 HD1 Relating to the Environment

Support for hearing on April 2

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1940s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support this bill as it would prohibit the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters, under certain conditions. We want to protect our 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.

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.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel
President



April 1, 2024

FIN Committee

RE: SUPPORT SB2575 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT; Seabed Mining

Dear Chair Yamashita and Finance 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



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

April 2, 2024

4:00 PM

Conference Room 308

In **SUPPORT** of **SB2575 HD1**: RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS SB2575 HD1**, 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 as a national organization 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 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the 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-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 6:00:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MELYNDA DANT	Fair Wind Cruises	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair and committee members,

Please save our fragile environment and support this bill.

Sincerely,

Melynda Dant

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 6:45:28 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

We write to express our thanks and support for your leadership in supporting SB2575 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.

Last but not least, SOA Hawai'i is a network for Hawai'i's young environmental leaders to support each other and actions for the health of the ocean. Here is what our young leaders have to say about SB2575 and the threat of deep-sea mining:

- “The ocean sustains all life on Earth, and how we treat the ocean in Hawai'i reflects how we treat the ocean around the world. Experts have clearly warned of the devastating consequences deep sea mining would have on our deep ocean, with regions like Hawai'i first to feel those consequences. Over twenty nations around the world have called on a moratorium to deep sea mining until we better understand how this industry would impact our health and well being.” - Carissa Cabrera, CEO of FutureSwell**

- **“The water in Hawai’i has already been contaminated by corrupt and immoral systems that value profit over life. Extracting from the sacred depth of the ocean floor for material that literally takes millions of years to form, in the midst of a global climate crisis, is the opposite of what is necessary to sustain humanity. Our generation and future generations deserve to witness a Planet Earth that is flourishing with life, love, and harmony. Leave the deep sea alone.” – Koda Daily, SOA Hawai’i Hub Leader**
- **“Deep sea mining in Hawai’i threatens the biodiversity and unity of our waters, community, and environment. It challenges the relationship between our island and its people, highlighting environmental harm impacts us all. We owe it to ourselves, our children, and future generations to come to choose a path that honors our land, ocean, and culture. Banning deep sea mining is essential not only for our environment, but to uphold our responsibility to sustain the world that sustains us in return.” - Jaleen Apana, SOA Hawai’i Hub Leader**

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 SB2575 to protect Hawai’i’s coastal waters.

Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Koda Daily, Executive Director, Sustainable Ocean Alliance Hawai’i

Mark Haver, North America Regional Representative, Sustainable Ocean Alliance

Carissa Cabrera, CEO, FutureSwell

Jaleen Apana, Hub Leader, Sustainable Ocean Alliance Hawai’i

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 8:30:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Representatives!

Our hui of ocean users are in strong support of keeping deep sea mining out of our waters!

Our reefs and the deeper reaches of the marine biosphere are extremely vulnerable to this kind of activity. And there is almost universal agreement about the nature of this threat from most if not all international conservation organizations.

Let's set another example of Hawaii leading with integrity based on our cultural and conservation values.

Mahalo nui loa!

R A Culbertson

member, Big Island Reef Keepers hui

Honokaa

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 9:05:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kahi Pacarro	Parley for the Oceans	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On behalf of myself and the organization I manage, Parley for the Oceans, I wholeheartedly support this bill and encourage our forward-thinking leaders to do the same. As a group working to protect our oceans, this bill represents a solid step in putting Hawaii at the forefront of the protection. Please do what is best for the environment and humanity's long-term sustainability by continuing to protect the oceans and not succumbing to corporate greed.

Do not fall for their false reasoning. We do not need to mine the oceans for minerals to power the green revolution. This has already been debunked. Mining the oceans is a cash grab for drilling and exploration companies, not a dire need for minerals.

We should be pushing the recycling of e-waste, better technologies, and alternative materials. Let's not fall into the status quo trap that has us contemplating the destruction of our oceans.



House Committee on Finance

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB2575 HD1

Tuesday, April 2, 2024 4:00 pm, Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committees,

I am writing to express the strong support of the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) for Senate Bill 2575 HD1. This crucial legislation aims to prohibit the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters, with certain exemptions, and prohibits the issuance of any permit associated with such activities.

HAPA firmly stands behind SB2575 HD1 due to the inherent destructiveness of deep-sea mining. This practice poses a grave threat to our oceans, which are already under immense stress from overfishing and the impacts of climate change. The rising ocean temperatures and increased acidification have severely damaged Hawaii's coral reefs and marine ecosystems, underscoring the urgency of protecting our marine environment.

Our oceans play a critical role in mitigating climate change by absorbing and storing carbon dioxide, thereby helping to regulate the Earth's climate. The deep ocean, in particular, acts as a vital carbon sink, absorbing over 90% of the excess heat and approximately 38% of the carbon dioxide generated by human activities. Allowing deep-sea mining to proceed would jeopardize this delicate balance and could have irreversible consequences for our climate system.

Furthermore, deep-sea mining presents an unacceptably high risk of further damage to our marine environment and the stability of our climate system. Given the gravity of these threats, it is imperative that we take decisive action to safeguard our oceans and the future of our planet.

Therefore, I urge you and the members of the House Finance Committee to support SB2575 HD1 and take a stand against deep-sea mining. By doing so, we can protect our marine ecosystems, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your commitment to protecting Hawaii's environment.

Respectfully,

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

Anne Frederick
Executive Director



335 Hahani Street #342132 * Kailua, HI 96734 * Phone/Fax (808) 262-0682 E-Mail: htf3000@gmail.com

April 2, 2024

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Committee Members

SB 2575 HD1

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Hawaii's Thousand Friends, a statewide non-profit water and land use planning organization dedicated to protecting the environment, human health, and cultural and natural resources **supports** SB 2575 HD1 that prohibits mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters.

Enacting legislation to prohibit deep-sea mining is a pro-active action to protect not only marine resources but prevent disastrous impacts on fishing and food security as the search for seabed metals increases.

Fishing is at risk as waste discharge from mining vessels could spread over large distances posing a threat to open ocean fish and invertebrates.

Light pollution and intense noise from mining activities could impair breeding and reproduction of deep-sea species.

Despite years of research, little is known about the deep ocean. Without knowledge of what exists in the deep-sea allowing the extraction of minerals could have disastrous and have unknown consequences on marine life.

Passage of this bill helps protect our ocean environment for future generations.



SB2575

Aloha Honorable Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our thousands of supporters at Keiko Conservation and Oceanic Preservation Society, we kindly ask you to **support SB2575**.

There are many risks associated with deep sea mining. The practice threatens reefs, underwater ecosystems, and biodiversity with irrevocable damage. Dredging and extracting minerals can result in the suspension of sediment, which can smother benthic organisms and disrupt critical behaviors of marine species. Mining itself can also be a source of chemical pollution, releasing harmful chemicals and heavy metals into the water column.

Scariest of all, we do not even understand the full extent of problems deep sea mining can lead to. Scientists estimate there are thousands of benthic species that we have not yet discovered and may never get to if we allow these destructive activities.

We believe it would be unwise to allow for the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed. Far more research needs to be done before allowing a mining operation to potentially cause irreversible harm. Therefore, we strongly urge you to **support SB2575**.

Natalie Parra
Co-Founder at Keiko Conservation
Campaign Director at Oceanic Preservation Society



April 1, 2024

House Committee on Finance
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

On behalf of The Marine Mammal Center (TMMC) with operations on the Islands of Hawai'i and Maui and coordination and response of monk seals with NOAA throughout the Islands, I 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 in 2022, following Washington's seabed mining ban in 2021 and Oregon's in 1991. TMMC urges Hawai'i to do the same and ensure passage of SB2575 to protect Hawai'i's coastal waters.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeff Boehm, DVM, DACAW
Chief External Relations Office

Sausalito 2000 Bunker Road, Fort Cronkhite, CA 94965 • P 415.289.SEAL • F 415.289.7333 • MarineMammalCenter.org

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Morro Bay, CA, 93442
P 805.771.8300 • F 805.771.8304

Anchor Bay-Fort Bragg
P 415.289.SEAL

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2575 (HSCR 1269-24):

“RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT: Prohibits the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters, with certain exemptions...”



Aloha mai kākou Committee on Finance,

My name is Claudia Kalaola and I am a Director for Nā Mamo O Mū'olea (NMOM) in Hāna, Maui. I submit this testimony in strong support of SB 2575 (HSCR 1269-24) to prohibit the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters...and globally for that matter!

As a Director of NMOM, I bring our organization's commitment and dedication to protecting healthy resource ecosystems and habitats. Since our founding in 2005 NMOM has urgently and regularly brought awareness about mālama 'āina, mālama 'opihi, mālama limu and mālama kaheka via community gatherings, board meetings, and our annual Hāna Limu Festival over the last 14 years. NMOM is a founding member of the Maui Nui Makai Network and has openly supported a BAN ON DEEP SEA MINING.

The Kumulipo is our Hawaiian creation chant, consisting of 2,000 lines that explain the genealogy of all creatures. The Kumulipo begins with cosmic darkness. The first lines of the chant tells us that we come from the deep seas, created from the “walewale”, synonymous with the primordial sludges of the ocean bottom. From the deepest depths, all the creatures that come up through the vertical water column into nearshore waters, the lands, hills and the mountains, and even taking flight into the sky - are all part of our creation genealogy.

We as a lāhui don't come into being until much later in the creation of this Honua, or shared island Earth. When we humans are ushered in, we inherit the kuleana of caring for those kupuna that precede us.

To mine from the seafloor is to enter the realm of our creation itself. If you intrude into this sacred place of creation, this is an ultimate destruction with no known timeline of recovery. That walewale” will never return. These observations are backed by science. To cite one study, Thiel et al found that after 7 years following deep sea mining, sediment-dwelling animals only returned to less than 15% of pre-disturbance levels (Thiel et al 2001).

It's now been 130 years since the translation of the Kumulipo and the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom as a sovereign nation, and the absence from the international arena means Hawai'i has never been seated at the table where these rules and regulations have been made by other world nations creating the Law of the High Seas. On the premise that they decide it's ok to draw lines across the ocean and separate us all into authorities and boundaries. It's clear to us as indigenous Hawaiians, there's no line across the ocean that separates us. In our mind, there is no division of the seas. The animals of the sea don't see a boundary any more than we humans see a boundary.

With the proximity of the Hawaiian Islands to the proposed mining zone, it would be foolish to only be concerned with our boundary and to think that everything on the other side of that boundary will have no impact on us.

The International Seabed Authority (ISA) has issued 19 licenses for mining exploration in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone - an area of the Pacific Ocean beginning 500 miles south of Hawai'i, covering 1.7 million square miles stretching all the way to Mexico. We continue to protest these permits at the ISA meetings in Jamaica, with testimony of our lāhui genealogical ties to the ocean.

There is a culture of the Deep Seas and I am here to be the voice for that place. I strongly oppose any form of deep-sea mining, and thus am in support of SB 2575 to protect our culture, our home, our ocean, and our island Earth.

Mahalo nui, 'o ke aloha nō,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Claudia Kalaola", written in a cursive style. The signature is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Claudia Kalaola – Nā Mamo O Mū'olea

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2575 (HSCR 1269-24):
“RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT:
Prohibits the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters, with certain exemptions...”**

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

April 2, 2024, 4:00 PM

Via videoconference, Conference Room 308, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Aloha kākou Committee on Finance,

My name is Alisha Shanti Chauhan, and I am from upcountry Maui, my environmental organization is New Earth Flow.

I submit this testimony in **strong support** of SB 2575 (HSCR 1269-24) to prohibit the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters.

Mining in Hawai'i's waters will be detrimental to Hawai'i's culture and economies.

It is simply not worth the risk. The Ocean supports life itself. What we do to the Ocean we do to ourselves. I strongly oppose any form of deep sea mining, and thus am in support of SB 2575 to protect our culture, our home, our ocean, and our island Earth.

- The Kumulipo is the Hawaiian creation chant, consisting of 2,000 lines that explain the beginning genealogy of all creatures. The Kumulipo begins with cosmic darkness. The first lines of the chant tells us that we come from the deep seas, created from the “walewale”, synonymous with the primordial sludges of the ocean bottom. From the deepest depths, all of the creatures that come up through the vertical water column into nearshore waters, the lands, hills and the mountains, and even taking flight into the sky - are all part of our creation genealogy. And we as a people don't come into being until much much later in the creation of this Honua, or shared island Earth. When we humans are ushered in, we have an inheritance of caring for those elders that precede us.
- The International Seabed Authority (ISA) has issued 19 licenses for mining exploration in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone - an area of the Pacific Ocean beginning 500 miles south of Hawai'i, covering 1.7 million square miles stretching all the way to Mexico. To mine from the seafloor is to enter the realm of our creation itself. If you intrude into this sacred place of creation, this is an ultimate kind of destruction with no known timeline of recovery and should not occur. That “walewale” will never return. These observations are backed by science. To cite one study, Thiel et al found that after 7 years following deep sea mining, sediment-dwelling animals only returned to less than 15% of pre-disturbance levels (Thiel et al 2001).
- It's now been 130 years since the translation of the Kumulipo and the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom as a sovereign nation, but the absence from the international arena means Hawai'i has never been seated at the table where these rules and regulations have been made by nation states - where nations created the Law of the High Seas and decided they could draw lines across the ocean and separate us all into authorities and boundaries. It's clear to us as indigenous Hawaiians, there's no line across the ocean that separates us. In our mind, there is no division of the seas. The animals of the sea don't see a boundary any more than we humans see a boundary. With the

proximity of the Hawaiian Islands to the proposed mining zone, it would be foolish to only be concerned with our boundary and to think that everything on the other side of that boundary will have no impact on us.

- I challenge the perception that culture can only be tangible artifacts. When we travel across the seas at great distances, we are intimate with observation and knowing the currents. We know the waves and their movements, the clouds and the weather. We know the resources that are in the deep seas. We are the culture of the people of the deep sea and our culture is intangible. The ocean is everything to us. It's what we depend upon for our sustenance. It's unacceptable to proceed with activities that will disrupt creations related to the deep sea, ultimately disrupting the food chain which now we have subsisted on for millenia. In those conversations of mining, there's no consideration that we come from this space. It's about minerals. It's about resources. It's about extraction with no regard for culture. It's that that bothers me about this process of deep sea mining.

There is a culture of the deep seas and I am here to be the voice for that place. I strongly oppose any form of deep sea mining, and thus am in support of SB 2575 to protect our culture, our home, our ocean, and our island Earth.

Mahalo nui loa for considering my testimony.

‘O ke aloha nō,
Alisha Shanti Chauhan
New Earth Flow



To: The House Committee on Finance (FIN)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 4pm

In strong support of SB2575 HD1

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the FIN 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 HD1** 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 HD1, Relating to the Environment – Seabed Mining
Committee on Finance
April 2, 2024, 4:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference**

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) **supports** SB 2575 HD1, 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 HD1.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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MAUI OCEAN CENTER

*Our Mission: To foster understanding,
wonder and respect for Hawaii's marine life.*

To: The Honorable Chair Linda Ichiyama,
The Honorable Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe,
Members of the House Committee on Water & Land

04/01/24

Re: SB 2575–HD1 Relating to Environmental Protection; Seabed Mining; Permits; Prohibition

Position: Strong Support



Tapani Vuori
General Manager

808.561.2022

tvuori@mauiocenter.com



192 Ma'alaea Road Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793 • mauiocenter.com • 808.270.7000

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 2:00:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Mulinix	Greenpeace Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, & Committee Members,

My name is Dave Mulinix, Co-Founder & Statewide Organizer for the Hawaii state chapter of Greenpeace, the largest environmental organization in the world, with an international membership of over 3 million members. On behalf of Greenpeace Hawaii's members and supporters 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



4/1/2024

House Committee on Water and Land
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Finance 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.

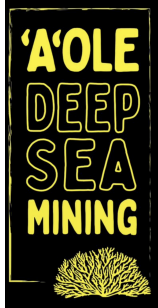
Hawai'i cannot afford to risk losing our social, cultural, and economic connections to the sea. The seafloor and ocean underpin Hawai'i's cultural heritage, along with its multi-billion dollar tourism and fishing industries. As the extractive industry grows, seabed mining activities pose a large-scale 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



HAWAI`I UNITY and LIBERATION INSTITUTE

The Hawaiian Unity and Liberation Institute (HULI) is writing in **SUPPORT of SB2575**, which proposes a ban on removing any materials from the seabed within our 3 miles from our shores. In addition to protecting our waters, this bill proposes to deny any infrastructure built on the lands that will enable the industry of deep sea mining the resources it needs to exist within our oceans.

Kanaka maoli have a deep relationship with Moananuiākea, Pacific Ocean, and a kuleana to protect the ocean from harm. The 3-mile jurisdiction exercised by the State of Hawaii over the nearshore waters are unceded lands held in trust until such time as the claims of Native Hawaiians to those lands are resolved. As such, HULI opposes the building of any infrastructure on those lands to support an industry that will cause as yet unknown and unspecified damage to deep ocean ecosystems that humans are only beginning to learn about. The impact of deep-sea mining on the ocean ecosystem and the ripple effect those activities could have on the planet as a whole has yet to be determined.

The deep-sea mining industry is in its infancy and we are on the verge of a gold rush that could have catastrophic effects as land mining activities have already had on our planet. The machines that will be used will generate sediment plumes, cause vibrations, and introduce light pollution that could destroy critical ecosystems. As kanaka and kama`aina to the lands and waters of Hawai`i, we understand that the ocean is our connection to other places and peoples and that the ocean has no boundaries. The impacts of deep sea mining cannot be contained or limited to one area or another. This is why we say `a`ole deep-sea mining.

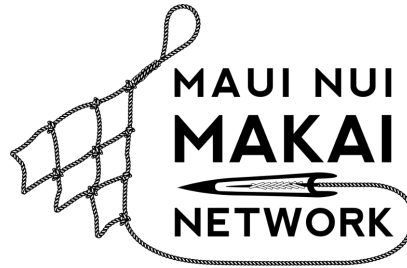
HULI stands with leaders willing to take a proactive stance and protecting our waters from future destruction by deep-sea mining industry. Passing SB2575 is an important step towards protecting our oceans and will send a clear message to the industry that Hawai`i will not be a stepping stone or haven for this destructive industry.

For the above reasons, HULI stands in **strong support of SB2575**. We respectfully request the committee move this measure forward.

Aloha `Āina,
Camille Kalama
Executive Director

Andre Perez
Program Director

Brittany Kamai
`A`ole Deep-sea Mining Lead



**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2575 (HSCR 1269-24):
“RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT:
Prohibits the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the
seabed in all state marine waters, with certain exemptions...”**

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

April 2, 2024, 4:00 PM

Via videoconference, Conference Room 308, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Aloha kākou Committee on Finance,

My name is Tate Keli'ihō'omalū, and I represent the **Maui Nui Makai Network**, a group of 9 organizations across Maui Nui (Maui, Lāna'i, Kaho'olawe and Moloka'i) focused on the protection of marine ecosystems here in Hawai'i.

I submit this testimony in **strong support** of SB 2575 (HSCR 1269-24) to prohibit the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters.

- The Kumulipo is the Hawaiian creation chant, consisting of 2,000 lines that explain the beginning genealogy of all creatures. The Kumulipo begins with cosmic darkness. The first lines of the chant tells us that we come from the deep seas, created from the “walewale”, synonymous with the primordial sludges of the ocean bottom. From the deepest depths, all of the creatures that come up through the vertical water column into nearshore waters, the lands, hills and the mountains, and even taking flight into the sky - are all part of our creation genealogy. And we as a people don't come into being until much much later in the creation of this Honua, or shared island Earth. When we humans are ushered in, we have an inheritance of caring for those elders that precede us.
- The International Seabed Authority (ISA) has issued 19 licenses for mining exploration in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone - an area of the Pacific Ocean beginning 500 miles south of Hawai'i, covering 1.7 million square miles stretching all the way to Mexico. To mine from the seafloor is to enter the realm of our creation itself. If you intrude into this sacred place of creation, this is an ultimate kind of destruction with no known timeline of recovery and should not occur. That “walewale” will never return. These observations are backed by science. To cite one study, Thiel et al found that after 7 years following deep sea mining, sediment-dwelling animals only returned to less than 15% of pre-disturbance levels (Thiel et al 2001).

- It's now been 130 years since the translation of the Kumulipo and the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom as a sovereign nation, but the absence from the international arena means Hawai'i has never been seated at the table where these rules and regulations have been made by nation states - where nations created the Law of the High Seas and decided they could draw lines across the ocean and separate us all into authorities and boundaries. It's clear to us as indigenous Hawaiians, there's no line across the ocean that separates us. In our mind, there is no division of the seas. The animals of the sea don't see a boundary any more than we humans see a boundary. With the proximity of the Hawaiian Islands to the proposed mining zone, it would be foolish to only be concerned with our boundary and to think that everything on the other side of that boundary will have no impact on us.
- I challenge the perception that culture can only be tangible artifacts. When we travel across the seas at great distances, we are intimate with observation and knowing the currents. We know the waves and their movements, the clouds and the weather. We know the resources that are in the deep seas. We are the culture of the people of the deep sea and our culture is intangible. The ocean is everything to us. It's what we depend upon for our sustenance. It's unacceptable to proceed with activities that will disrupt creations related to the deep sea, ultimately disrupting the food chain which now we have subsisted on for millenia. In those conversations of mining, there's no consideration that we come from this space. It's about minerals. It's about resources. It's about extraction with no regard for culture. It's that that bothers me about this process of deep sea mining.

There is a culture of the deep seas and I am here to be the voice for that place. I strongly oppose any form of deep sea mining, and thus am in support of SB 2575 to protect our culture, our home, our ocean, and our island Earth.

Mahalo nui loa for considering my testimony.

‘O ke aloha nō,
Tate Keli‘iho‘omalū,
Maui Nui Makai Network

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 10:59:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia L. Gardner	We Are One Ministries	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2575 for NO DEEP SEA MINING IN OUR HAWAII OCEANS!

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 11:01:28 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Pantukhoff	The Whaleman Foundation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On behalf of The Whaleman Foundation, I request your support of SB 2575 during the Finance Committee hearing as this is a very important issue to our organization, to all of Hawaii's citizens and for the future of Hawai'i. Mining in Hawai'i's waters will be detrimental to Hawai'i's ocean environment and to its economies.

It is simply not worth the risk. The Ocean supports life itself. What we do to the Ocean we do to ourselves. We strongly oppose any form of deep sea mining, and thus we are in support of SB 2575 to protect our ocean, our marine life, our islands and its citizens.

Thank you,

Jeff Pantukhoff - President & Founder of The Whaleman Foundation

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2024 9:15:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Lush	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi Chair Yamashita,

I understand Bill SB2575, preventing deep-sea mining in our state waters, was referred to the Finance Committee for scheduling and consideration after passing the House Committees for Energy & Environmental Protection (EEP) and Water & Land (WAL) and passing unanimously in the State Senate. I am aware that last year this bill similarly was sent to the Finance Committee, but that it was not scheduled for a hearing. Today I'm calling to request that Bill SB2575 be scheduled for a hearing by the Finance Committee as this is a very important issue to me and for the future of Hawai'i. Deep-seabed mining presents a huge fisheries risk, an environmental risk and a cultural risk!

It is simply not worth the risk. As a Hawai'i resident, I urgently ask you to schedule SB 2575 so it can be considered by the House. Mahalo.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2024 10:42:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dino Rivera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Dino Rivera support bill SB2575 and is against deep sea mining In Hawaii!

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2024 11:29:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 7:18:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Jackie Keefe and I am a resident of Lahaina. I am writing **in support of SB2575 HD1.**

The part of the bill that concerns me is that there is a pretty strict definition of just "minerals" being prohibited. **This seems to me to be a pretty large loophole**, as discoveries are constantly being made and it is not unlikely that people and corporations will try for seabed mining of other materials that may have yet to be discovered.

I feel that it would be more stringent to not have a definition of minerals or otherwise changed to "natural resources."

Thank you for your consideration.

Jackie Keefe

Lahaina, Maui

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 8:58:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Navarra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this measure to protect the marine environment.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 10:45:53 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 1:44:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oh my gosh, yes. Please ban mining in our oceans at least near Hawaii. If we need to be selfish about it, then it's because we cannot afford to lose our tourism dollars. If we just care about this place, we should ban seabed mining nearby.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 2:23:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikhil N/A Stewart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I opose SB 2575. Ecological damage is grave enough as it is.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 2:37:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily Hiʻilani Okimura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I am writing in full support of SB 2575. Mining in Hawaiian waters is detrimental to our culture, ocean, and economies. Our oceans are not only a vital part of our cultural heritage, but also home to a vast array of unique and fragile marine life. The extraction of materials from the ocean floor via heavy machinery can disturb the habitats and disrupt the balance of marine ecosystems.

Economically speaking, our state's tourism industry relies heavily on the pristine beauty of our 'āina and ocean, and so allowing deep sea mining to take place in our waters puts these livelihoods at risk and jeopardizes our economy.

To simply put it, it's not worth the risks regardless of any "financial gains."

By supporting SB 2575, you have the opportunity to demonstrate your commitment to protecting Hawai'i's natural resources for our future generations. This bill would send a clear message that our state prioritizes environmental conservation and sustainable development over short-term profits. It would also set an important precedent for other coastal states.

Mahalo for your time.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 2:42:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear members,

I am writing to express my support for SB 2575. As a resident of Hawai‘i, I am deeply concerned about the potential environmental and economic consequences of allowing destructive practices such as deep sea mining, to occur in our precious marine ecosystems. The use of heavy machinery to extract minerals from the ocean floor can cause harm to the marine life and the habitats they live in. This is **irreversible** harm.

Furthermore, this can also have negative effects on our local economy, such as tourism.

Please support SB 2575 and show that you are committed to protecting Hawai‘i's natural resources for this generation, and future generations.

Thank you for your time.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 3:37:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittany Dayton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support any offshore drilling or mining of any kind. Keep our oceans pristine and our sea life free of any further invasive action, mahalo!

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 3:53:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Marie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure protecting Hawaii's environment is important

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 5:24:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roberts "Bob" Leinau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This state should strongly support SB2575. Deep sea mining will adversely affect this unique habitat. New life forms are being discovered on a regular basis. Let us not damage a part of the sea we are just starting to study.

Mahalo, Bob Leinau

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 1:43:11 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L. Osterer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to limit deepsea mining, a destructive process that damages the oceans beyond repair. 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.

Seabed mining poses an unacceptably high risk of further damage and disruption to the state's marine environment. It is imperative that action be taken to ensure the protection of our ocean environment for present and future generations. This should not be abused for temporary profit.

Because of ocean currents and carbon sequestration, the deep ocean is a critical factor in stabilizing our climate. 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.

Please support this important measure!

Thank you for your consideration

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 5:24:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in strong supprt of this measure.

- U'ilani Naipo

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 6:12:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I fully SUPPORT SB2575 HD1.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 6:13:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Jorgensen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass SB2575 HD1. Mahalo for your kind consideration.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 9:14:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Micha'el Leventhal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Representative — I'm writing as your constituent to request that you please help to schedule and pass SB2575 HD1 as soon as possible.

SB2575 HD1 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.

Deep-sea mining is an extremely destructive form of mining that would **damage the oceans beyond repair, not only threatening fisheries, but threatening the ability of the ocean to help fight climate change.** It is imperative that action be taken to ensure the protection of our environment for present and future generations.

Mahalo for doing the right thing for our community!

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 10:24:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

strong support

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 11:39:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jendale Kahuanui	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this because deep sea mining is an unproven industrial endeavor and goes against my indigenous beliefs as a native Hawaiian. I believe it will be environmentally disastrous for the ocean, the animals & balance of the ecosystems in place. Please stop the current cycle and constant pollution and destruction of our oceans and planet. PLANET OVER PROFITS!!!!!!

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 12:43:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TERI SAVAIINAEA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2575 HD1.

Mahalo,

Teri Kia Savaiinaea

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 1:26:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
April Leventhal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Representative — I'm writing as your constituent to request that you please help to schedule and pass SB2575 HD1 as soon as possible.

SB2575 HD1 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.

Deep-sea mining is an extremely destructive form of mining that would damage the oceans beyond repair, not only threatening fisheries, but threatening the ability of the ocean to help fight climate change. It is imperative that action be taken to ensure the protection of our environment for present and future generations.

Mahalo for doing the right thing for our community!

April Leventhal

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 1:29:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jai Ceraso	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly in favor

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 4:08:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeannine Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for your support of SB2575 HD1.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 5:05:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Tadia Rice. I am a concerned citizen who cares about our oceans and our aina. I know that hundreds of local residents of our beautiful Hawaiian Islands, along with at least 26 ocean science and water protection organizations have submitted 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.

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 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.

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."

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.

I am 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 strong support of SB 2575 HD1.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 5:24:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dyson Chee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB2575!

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 10:05:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debbie Millikan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita and members of the committee,

I write in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2575 to prohibit seabed mining in Hawai'i waters. I have been to the deep sea as a scientist and there is not reason we need to mine the seafloor to extract even more resources than we need. Thank you for protecting this vital and fragile ecosystem.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Debbie Millikan

Honolulu, HI 96816

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2024 10:17:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support!

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 8:13:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Noelani Kiilehua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a native Hawaiian, Hawai‘i resident, board certified Nurse Practitioner, retired Navy Lieutenant Commander, voter, diver, surfer, canoe paddler, fisherman, and community member I am compelled to express my strong support for SB 2575. Mining would release hazardous materials into our pristine waters, destroying our already fragile ecosystem. Prohibiting deep-seabed mining in Hawai‘i is imperative for the health of Hawai‘i!

According to the kumulipo, the ocean is where my ancestors rose from. I come from a family of fishermen. Some of my earliest and fondest memories include picking limu with my grandmother in the shallow waters of Kaneohe. Fishing traditions are passed down through my family and part of our identity. My friends and family celebrate birthdays, weddings, memorials, and other events near the ocean. Now I spend at least 2 hours each day in or at the ocean, and I will continue to with my family and friends.

Deep-seabed mining would harm sea plants and animals through direct and distant contact with equipment, released water and undersea materials. Mining would increase noise pollution, human activity in more areas, and ocean acidification. Disruption of the ocean’s natural carbon sequestration process would acidify the water. Sea life would suffocate and result in rapid die off.

Releasing more carbon into our atmosphere will increase global warming and sea level rise. That will result in coastal habitat loss. We would lose homes, roads, fishing and farming lands. These are the places we have played in, received the bounty of our land and ocean, fed our families with, and shared precious memories with loved ones. Accommodations for coastal loss will cost us billions and will speed up before we’re able to prepare for the cost.

Deep sea mining may disrupt species migration and reproductive patterns. We will lose plant and animal biodiversity. That would mean even less commercial fishing. Most importantly, that would directly affect our most vulnerable populations, like Hawaiians who depend on the ocean and land to feed their families!

Hawai'i is known as the Endangered Species Capitol of the World and deep sea mining will likely speed up the loss of unique species we should be protecting. Deep-seabed mining could pose expected and still unknown health threats to all of us living within our small ecosystem. It would affect Hawai'i's major industries. This would directly impair Hawai'i's food security.

Too much has already been taken from our land and people. There are too many unknowns in this burgeoning industry to risk destroying our home. Please help us to malama i ke kai and prioritize SB 2575.

Mahalo,

Diane Noelani Kiilehua

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 8:35:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strogly support this bill.

SB2575 HD1 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, not only threatening fisheries, but threatening the ability of the ocean to help fight climate change.** It is imperative that action be taken to ensure the protection of our environment for present and future generations.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 10:08:27 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellie S. Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Ellie and I am a resident of O‘ahu and a marine scientist. I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB 2575 to prohibit deep-sea mining in Hawai‘i state waters. Previously, I have studied and published research on deep-sea ecosystems, and know that these are some of our most unexplored, fragile, and important habitats in the ocean. Deep-sea mining is an unnecessary threat to these habitats and could cause their irreversible destruction, leading to cascading issues as we disturb the deep and release stored carbon there. The manganese nodules being mined are not vital enough to warrant this destruction, nor is any economic gain from their mining. Deep-sea organisms are slow-growing and mining in this way would raze them to the ground.

As a supporter of the advocacy group ‘A‘ole Deep Sea Mining, I urge you to listen to the voices of Kanaka, the community, and scientists alike to put a stop to this destructive practice before it starts. We can follow the examples of Washington, Oregon, and California, all of which have already put moratoriums on deep-sea mining in state waters, to protect the Pacific from this destructive and unnecessary practice.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony in strong support of SB 2575.

Aloha,

Ellie S Jones

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 10:12:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Mahalo for supporting this bill for community-based subsistence fishing areas, marine life conservation districts and fish replenishment areas.

Bobbie Best

Wailuku

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 10:31:02 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2575, a bill aimed at prohibiting deep-sea mining. As a concerned citizen and advocate for environmental conservation, I firmly believe that the protection of our ocean ecosystems is of paramount importance.

Deep-sea mining poses significant risks to marine life, biodiversity, and the overall health of our oceans. The extraction of precious minerals from the depths of the ocean floor can lead to irreversible damage to fragile ecosystems that have evolved over millennia. The disruption caused by mining activities can result in habitat destruction, the release of toxic substances, and the loss of crucial biodiversity.

Furthermore, deep-sea mining exacerbates the already dire threats facing our oceans, including climate change, overfishing, and plastic pollution. By allowing this destructive practice to continue, we are further depleting the resources upon which countless marine species and coastal communities depend for their survival.

SB2575 represents a crucial step towards safeguarding our oceans for future generations. By enacting a prohibition on deep-sea mining, we can send a clear message that the preservation of our natural world takes precedence over short-term economic gains. It is imperative that we prioritize sustainable alternatives to resource extraction and invest in innovative solutions that minimize our impact on the marine environment.

I urge you to support SB2575 and take a stand against the destructive practice of deep-sea mining. By doing so, we can protect our oceans and ensure a healthier, more sustainable future for all.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō‘ili‘ili, O‘ahu - 96826

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 10:54:44 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of Committee,

As a global ocean conservationist who called O‘ahu home, I am testifying in strong support of SB2575 HD1, which would prevent the beginning of an extractive and exploitative industry in Hawai‘i that will harm our communities and the ocean ecosystem that surrounds us.

Around the world, 25 countries have joined the call to pause or ban deep sea mining. The past two weeks leaders from around the world joined in Jamaica to discuss this industry, and Denmark joined the moratorium. **Leaders around the world understand the threat this industry poses, and more than 800 ocean experts are urging us to stop deep sea mining.**

In Hawai‘i, we have a particular situation because we are the closest port to the Clarion-Clipperton Zone, where most of the wanted nodules are concentrated. This means Hawai‘i has a powerful position to protect the Pacific Ocean, the biodiversity it sustains, the carbon sink that protects us, and the ocean livelihoods our neighbors rely on, by banning DSM.

I urge you to make 2024 the year we say no to deep-sea mining.

With aloha,

Carissa Cabrera

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 11:31:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Water & Land,

My name is Kristen Lee, a resident of Los Altos Hills, California, and I strongly support SB2575 HD1.

This measure will make clear that the extractive exploitation of our ocean - to the detriment of rare, highly sensitive, and still-unexplored ecosystems and species - is off the table for corporate speculators and profit-driven interests. We simply cannot risk the permanent loss of some of our islands' most unique and intrinsically invaluable natural and native ecosystems for short-term, short-sighted, and unsustainable financial gain. Please pass this measure so that we can head off the temptation for deep sea mining interests to establish a foothold in our Hawai'i nei, and ensure our public trust ocean resources remain intact for present and future generations.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 11:33:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noah Paoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB2575 because I am against deep sea mining as we do not know how it will impact our oceans and environment.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 11:36:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kari Goodbar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support SB2575

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 11:40:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
joseph simpliciano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No deep sea mining! No one has the data or science to prove that any deep sea mining has negative and potentially harmful impacts to our environment, Marine life and water sources. The issuance of any permits to do anything related to mining must not happen. Mahalo!

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 11:53:21 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support ~ NO Sea Bed Mining

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 11:56:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chenoa Farnsworth	Blue Startups	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Finance Committee members,

I am requesting your support of SB2575 in the Finance Committee hearing as this is a very important issue to the future of Hawai'i. Deep-seabed mining presents a risk to tourism, economies, fisheries, and Hawaiian culture.

Tourism Risk:

Deep Sea Mining is a direct threat to Hawai'i's largest industry, tourism. Tourism represents roughly a quarter of Hawai'i's economy. Deep sea mining in Hawaiian waters would put at risk billions of dollars in annual Visitor Spending and in State Tax Revenue (in the first seven months of 2023, total visitor spending was \$12.83 billion and in all of 2022, visitor spending was \$19.29 billion). Tourism is dependent on Hawai'i's healthy waters, ocean life, and pristine beaches. Experts agree, the effects of deep sea mining are irreversible and devastating to marine ecosystems and the repercussions will be felt throughout the water column and beyond. Deep Sea Mining is a direct threat to our largest industry and state revenue and ensures permanent damage to our ocean, culture and economies.

I am aware that last year this bill similarly was sent to the Finance Committee, but that it was not scheduled for a hearing. SB2575, preventing deep-sea mining in our state waters, passed unanimously in the State Senate (25 votes yes) and passed the House Committees: Energy & Environmental Protection (EEP) (passed unanimously with 1 Representative Excused, Takayama) and Water & Land (WAL) (passed unanimously with 2 Representatives excused, Martinez & Nakashima). Now, it must be scheduled, heard, and passed by the Finance Committee (FIN).

Mining in Hawaiian waters would be detrimental to Hawai'i's culture and economies. It is simply not worth the risk. As a Hawai'i resident, I urgently ask you to schedule SB 2575 so it can be considered by the House.

Mahalo

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 11:58:02 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Morgan Medved	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stop deep sea mining

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 12:00:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To all in control of SB2575,

There is not supporting evidence to understand the impact deep sea mining will have on delicate ecosystems, especially ours in Hawai'i.

It's impact will not be limited to the sea.

Please stop any potential for deep sea mining anywhere near Hawai'i!

Mahalo,

MeleLani Llanes

Makakilo, O'ahu

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 12:04:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Fryer	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.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 12:30:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita and Finance Committee members,

I support this bill to prohibit deep-sea mining in Hawaii. Besides damaging the oceans beyond repair, in addition to threatening their ability to help fight climate breakdown, this extractive practice is contrary to the Circular Economy that has become a primary goal for our communities. Please support local, and let's keep our resources in the hands of our people!

Mahalo for your consideration,

Kelly T. King

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 1:11:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

As a resident of Honolulu and protector of our oceans, I fully support SB2575 to prohibit any infrastructure relating to deep sea mining from being build anywhere in Hawaii. The ocean, all its inhabitants, and the sea floor, is sacred. It is such a delicate ecosystem and our health and well being is directly related to the health and well being of the ocean.

I implore you to please help protect Hawaiian waters and NOT allow the exploitation of our oceans.

Mahalo for your time and support,

Keala Fung

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 1:28:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kip Touseull	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I, Kip Touseull, Hawaii Resident, am fully supportive of this bill. This is something that will protect our oceans, coastlines, residents, and wildlife and that is something that is imperative to the well-being and health of the islands. This is a bill that would help not only the ecosystem, but the residents as well as it has a direct impact on the fishing and food chain on the islands of Hawai'i.

Deep-sea mining has a lasting impact, affecting the underwater life around the islands, starting from the food source of many organisms that lie beneath the surface. This has a lasting impact on numerous things that creates a trickle-down effect throughout the ecosystem.

It would be inhumane to allow deep-sea mining to continue throughout the islands and would be a hazard for all living things that are living in this environment. I would hope our representatives would make a sound decision when it comes to a bill that would directly impact them, and I hope they see the consequences of what could happen when allowing deep-sea mining to continue.

Best Regards,

Kip Touseull

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 1:33:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB2575 and oppose the exploitation of Hawaiian seabeds for natural resources. The resources will always be there, but we currently have the most limited understanding of the impacts of deepsea mining, and early generations of industrial equipment in any industry are least likely to consider externalized costs.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 1:39:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support bill SB2575 which opposes deep sea mining in the pacific between Hawai'i and Mexico.

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 for use 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 that 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.** Metals embedded within rocks on the seafloor is what the deep-sea mining industry is after. Yet they do not understand how these rocks are a critical piece of the food chain and removing them will have devastating impacts. Moreover, the process of extraction will introduce chemical, noise and light pollution to lifeforms that are millions of years old who have evolved with any of this exposure. Sediment plumes generated in the process will have large impacts on water quality, especially if the industry carries on for the projected 30 years that is stated in the international arena.

All the marine life, including the larger marine animals such as the tuna, marlin, dolphins, whales, sharks, etc. will dwindle drastically from deep-sea mining activities. We may see devastating effects on our planet's oxygen supply because the ocean supplies 50% of the oxygen we breathe. This supply is generated from the lifeforms below the surface. Additionally, the ocean is a huge carbon sink and absorbs 30-40% of the greenhouse gasses emitted. Recent studies on deepsea activities such as bottom trawling, have shown that millions of tons of CO2 are released in the atmosphere from disturbing what is at the bottom of the ocean. 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 Hawaiian waters or on our Hawaiian lands. Our islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean not only will be targeted for extraction in our waters but there will be many ocean vessels part of these activities looking to restock in our harbors, lands and waterways. SB2575 is a bill that will create the exact protections for the waters three miles off our shorelines and prohibit any infrastructure built on our lands that will enable this international industry.

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-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 2:10:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Water & Land,

My name is Dan Lenoski. I am a resident of Los Altos Hills, California and a home owner on the BIg Island of Hawaii, and I strongly support SB2575 HD1.

This measure will make clear that the extractive exploitation of our ocean - to the detriment of rare, highly sensitive, and still-unexplored ecosystems and species - is off the table for corporate speculators and profit-driven interests. We simply cannot risk the permanent loss of some of our islands' most unique and intrinsically invaluable natural and native ecosystems for short-term, short-sighted, and unsustainable financial gain. Please pass this measure so that we can head off the temptation for deep sea mining interests to establish a foothold in our Hawai'i nei, and ensure our public trust ocean resources remain intact for present and future generations.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 3:08:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marija Colic	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi,

I support this bill!! We need to protect our waters and marine life.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 3:44:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Peterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please stop desecrating our ocean and focus on fixing the problems on land. Why are humans okay with making more problems for our future generations rather than fix the problems humans already cause. Take care of Kanaloa, the ocean is life!!!

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 3:54:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edwin "Ekolu" Lindsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita and Members of the State of Hawaii Finance Committee ,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2575 regarding Deep Sea Mining in Hawaii. As a concerned citizen, I believe it is crucial to address the potential destruction of our intangible underwater cultural heritage that could result from deep sea mining activities. The consequences of such actions could be devastating not only for our current generation but also for those who are yet to be born.

Our intangible underwater cultural heritage holds immense cultural and spiritual significance for the people of Hawaii. It is a part of our identity, our history, and our connection to the land and sea. The destruction of these resources would not only result in irreversible environmental damage but also in the loss of our cultural identity and heritage.

As stewards of this land and sea, we have a responsibility to protect and preserve our spiritual and cultural resources for future generations. It is our duty to ensure that our decision-makers prioritize the long-term well-being of our environment and communities over short-term economic gains.

I urge you to support HB 2575 and take a stand against deep sea mining in Hawaii waters. Let us come together to protect our underwater heritage, safeguard our cultural resources, and ensure a sustainable future for all who call Hawaii home.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

Edwin "Ekolu" Lindsey

Submitted By Organization Testifier Position Testify

Sage Keller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only
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Aloha,

I am writing to express my support for S.B. No. 2575, the Hawaii Seabed Mining Prevention Act. This bill is crucial for protecting our marine environment and preserving Hawaii's natural beauty.

Seabed mining poses serious risks to our marine ecosystems, including damage to coral reefs, disruption of marine life, and threats to indigenous rights. By passing this legislation, we can ensure a clean and healthy environment for future generations.

I urge you to vote in favor of S.B. No. 2575 and protect Hawaii's oceans. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Sage Keller, Kilauea, HI, 96754

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 4:20:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill and encourage the regulation and monitoring of seabed mining in Hawaii via the Clarion Clipperton Zone. Honolulu Harbor and the University of Hawaii cannot support this kind of activity when it has so little positive impact, when seabed mining has widespread deleterious effects on health and human wellness, as well as the ecosystem that we depend on for life.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 4:24:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kencho Gurung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill!

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 4:44:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessie Kekiwi-Aweau	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

**Jerome
Kekiwi,
Jr. -
President**

**Norman
Martin,
Vice-
President**

**Kupa'a
Luat -
Hueu -
Treasurer**

**Jessie
Kekiwi-
Aweau -
Secretary**

**Radford
Ka'auamo -
Sgt. at
Arms**



**Kanani
Fredrick**

**Earl
Inouye**

**Jennifer
Kekiwi-
Brown**

**Guy
Mahilani
Namahoe**

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2575 (HSCR 1269-24):

“RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT:

Prohibits the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters, with certain exemptions...”

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

April 2, 2024, 4:00 PM

Via videoconference, Conference Room 308, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Aloha kākou Committee on Finance,

My name is Jessie Kekiwi-Aweau, and I represent Na Moku Aupuni o Ko‘olau Hui, Ke‘anae - Wailuanui, Maui, Hawai‘i.

I submit this testimony in strong support of SB 2575 (HSCR 1269-24) to prohibit the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters.

Our deep sea Hawaiian waters is where we as Kānaka derived from. We believe that before man all things were made through our oli, “Kumulipo.” Each ocean (makai) life species has a land (‘āina) based counterpart. If deep sea mining is permitted, it will disrupt our ocean floors and all life from the floor to the surface of the ocean. Everything will be hazardous to consume, and we as kānaka will be affected by this hazard because we are ocean people who rely on the ocean to feed our people.

The Kumulipo is the Hawaiian creation chant, consisting of 2,000 lines that explain the beginning genealogy of all creatures. The Kumulipo begins with cosmic darkness. The first lines of the chant tell us that we come from the deep seas, created from the “walewale”, synonymous with the primordial sludges of the ocean bottom. From the deepest depths, all of the creatures that come up through the vertical water column into nearshore waters, the lands, hills, and mountains, and even taking flight into the sky - are all part of our creation genealogy. And we as a people don’t come into being until much much later in the creation of this Honua, or shared island Earth. When we humans are ushered in, we have an inheritance of caring for those elders that precede us.

The International Seabed Authority (ISA) has issued 19 licenses for mining exploration in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone - an area of the Pacific Ocean beginning 500 miles south of Hawai‘i, covering 1.7 million square miles stretching all the way to Mexico. To mine from the seafloor is to enter the realm of our creation itself. If you intrude into this sacred place of creation, this is an ultimate kind of destruction with no known timeline of recovery and should not occur. That “walewale” will never return. These observations are backed by science. To cite one study, Thiel et al found that after 7 years following deep sea mining, sediment-dwelling animals only returned to less than 15% of pre-disturbance levels (Thiel et al 2001).

It's now been 130 years since the translation of the Kumulipo and the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom as a sovereign nation, but the absence from the international arena means Hawai'i has never been seated at the table where these rules and regulations have been made by nation states - where nations created the Law of the High Seas and decided they could draw lines across the ocean and separate us all into authorities and boundaries. It's clear to us as indigenous Hawaiians, no line across the ocean separates us. In our mind, there is no division of the seas. The animals of the sea don't see a boundary any more than we humans see a boundary. With the proximity of the Hawaiian Islands to the proposed mining zone, it would be foolish to only be concerned with our boundary and to think that everything on the other side of that boundary will have no impact on us.

I challenge the perception that culture can only be tangible artifacts. When we travel across the seas at great distances, we are intimate with observation and knowing the currents. We know the waves and their movements, the clouds, and the weather. We know the resources that are in the deep seas. We are the culture of the people of the deep sea and our culture is intangible. The ocean is everything to us. It's what we depend upon for our sustenance. It's unacceptable to proceed with activities that will disrupt creations related to the deep sea, ultimately disrupting the food chain which now we have subsisted on for millennia. In those conversations of mining, there's no consideration that we come from this space. It's about minerals. It's about resources. It's about extraction with no regard for culture. It's that that bothers me about this process of deep-sea mining.

There is a culture of the deep seas and I am here to be the voice for that place. I strongly oppose any form of deep-sea mining, and thus am in support of SB 2575 to protect our culture, our home, our ocean, and our island Earth.

**Mahalo nui loa for considering my testimony.
'O ke aloha nō,**

Jessie Kekiwi-Aweau

Secretary

Na Moku Aupuni o Ko'olau Hui

Jessie Kekiwi-Aweau

Signature

Jessie Kekiwi-Aweau

Na Moku Aupuni o Ko'olau Hui

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 5:19:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tania victorine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This will mess up our very unique and fragile ecosystem. Leave it alone!

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 9:12:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Puppione	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Greg, a resident of Honolulu, and I strongly support SB2575 HD1.

This measure will make clear that the extractive exploitation of our ocean - to the detriment of rare, highly sensitive, and still-unexplored ecosystems and species - is off the table for corporate speculators and profit-driven interests. We simply cannot risk the permanent loss of some of our islands' most unique and intrinsically invaluable natural and native ecosystems for short-term, short-sighted, and unsustainable financial gain. Please pass this measure so that we can head off the temptation for deep sea mining interests to establish a foothold in our Hawai'i nei, and ensure our public trust ocean resources remain intact for present and future generations.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 9:30:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lei Tata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Lei Tata, a resident of Kahuku, and I strongly support SB2575 HD1.

This measure will make clear that the extractive exploitation of our ocean - to the detriment of rare, highly sensitive, and still-unexplored ecosystems and species - is off the table for corporate speculators and profit-driven interests. We simply cannot risk the permanent loss of some of our islands' most unique and intrinsically invaluable natural and native ecosystems for short-term, short-sighted, and unsustainable financial gain. Please pass this measure so that we can head off the temptation for deep sea mining interests to establish a foothold in our Hawai'i nei, and ensure our public trust ocean resources remain intact for present and future generations.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 10:30:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support a ban on deep sea mining.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 4:06:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danelle Guion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Danielle Guion, a resident of Makakilo, O'ahu, Hawaii, and I strongly support SB2575 HD1.

This measure will make clear that the extractive exploitation of our ocean - to the detriment of rare, highly sensitive, and still-unexplored ecosystems and species - is off the table for corporate speculators and profit-driven interests. We simply cannot risk the permanent loss of some of our islands' most unique and intrinsically invaluable natural and native ecosystems for short-term, short-sighted, and unsustainable financial gain. Please pass this measure so that we can head off the temptation for deep sea mining interests to establish a foothold in our Hawai'i nei, and ensure our public trust ocean resources remain intact for present and future generations.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 7:11:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marilyn Mick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a Hawai'i resident, I request your support of SB 2575 during the Finance Committee hearing as this is a very important issue to me and for the future of Hawai'i. Mining in Hawai'i's waters will be detrimental to Hawai'i's culture and economies.

It is simply not worth the risk. The Ocean supports life itself. What we do to the Ocean we do to ourselves. I strongly oppose any form of deep sea mining, and thus am in support of SB 2575 to protect our culture, our home, our ocean, and our island Earth.

Mahalo, Marilyn Mick, Honolulu

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 7:17:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlotte Frank	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Charlotte Frank, I am a resident of Hawaii living in Honolulu and I strongly support SB 2575. Deep Sea Mining is a direct threat to the precious, valuable and ecologically important ecosystems surrounding the Hawaiian Islands, our home. The following are reasons why we should stop deep sea mining in Hawaii:

- It is a direct threat to tourism, Hawaii's largest industry
- It presents significant financial risk fraught with technical, financial, and regulatory uncertainty
- It puts our fisheries at risk. Studies show if mining proceeds it could damage the \$5.5 billion Pacific tuna industry. It would impact breathing, feeding and stress hormone levels and release toxic metals during mining while noise and light threatens breeding and migration patterns.
- Many other states and countries have already opposed deep sea mining (with over 25 countries calling for a precautionary pause, moratorium or an outright ban)
- Deep Sea Mining could cause significant cultural heritage damage and risk

Please support this bill and ban Deep Sea Mining in Hawai'i.

Thank you,

Charlotte Frank

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 7:19:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Patton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawai'i resident, I request your support of SB 2575 during the Finance Committee hearing. This is a very important issue to me and for the future of Hawai'i. Mining in Hawai'i's waters will be detrimental to Hawai'i's culture and economies.

It is simply not worth the risk. The ocean supports life itself. What we do to the ocean we do to ourselves. I strongly oppose any form of deep sea mining, and thus am in support of SB 2575 to protect our culture, our home, our ocean, and our island.

Thank you.

Sara Patton

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 7:32:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

PROTECT Our Ocean environment !

NO drilling !!! NO Mining !!!

NO PGV / Geothermal !!!

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 7:32:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
harry ono	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill and i Oppose Deep Sea mining in any way

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 7:56:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Broderick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I support this bill. Our ocean is a precious resource for ourselves and all of our wildlife here. Please put a stop to deep-sea mining

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 7:58:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natasha Latta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Natasha Latta, a resident of Paauilo Big Island and I strongly support SB2575 HD1.

This measure will make clear that the extractive exploitation of our ocean - to the detriment of rare, highly sensitive, and still-unexplored ecosystems and species - is off the table for corporate speculators and profit-driven interests. We simply cannot risk the permanent loss of some of our islands' most unique and intrinsically invaluable natural and native ecosystems for short-term, short-sighted, and unsustainable financial gain. Please pass this measure so that we can head off the temptation for deep sea mining interests to establish a foothold in our Hawai'i nei, and ensure our public trust ocean resources remain intact for present and future generations.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 8:19:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Courtney Aldor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the bill to prohibit deep sea mining. It seems too risky to mine in Hawaiian waters, and possibly unsustainable for what it may do to the economy, environmental tourism, and food sources for the people and marine life. Thank you.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 8:33:28 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Yudis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawai'i resident, I request your support of SB 2575 during the Finance Committee hearing as this is a very important issue to me and for the future of Hawai'i. Mining in Hawai'i's waters will be detrimental to Hawai'i's culture and economies.

It is simply not worth the risk. The Ocean supports life itself. What we do to the Ocean we do to ourselves. I strongly oppose any form of deep sea mining, and thus am in support of SB 2575 to protect our culture, our home, our ocean, and our island Earth.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 8:39:28 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Becky Peet	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawai'i resident, ocean recreationalist, new mom as well as someone who makes a living utilizing the ocean, I request your support of SB 2575 during the Finance Committee hearing. This is a very important issue to me and for the future of Hawai'i and our keiki. Mining in Hawai'i's waters will be detrimental to Hawai'i's culture and economies.

It is simply not worth the risk. The Ocean supports life itself. What we do to the Ocean we do to ourselves. I strongly oppose any form of deep sea mining, and thus am in support of SB 2575 to protect our culture, our home, our ocean, and our island Earth.

Mahalo for considering my request to SUPPORT SB2575

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 8:50:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raphiell Nolin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose deep sea ocean mining in Hawaiian waters. It is an ecological disaster that must be prevented from happening.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 9:04:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
johnne peters	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawai'i resident, I request your support of SB 2575 during the Finance Committee hearing as this is a very important issue to me and for the future of Hawai'i. Mining in Hawai'i's waters will be detrimental to Hawai'i's culture and economies.

It is simply not worth the risk. The Ocean supports life itself. What we do to the Ocean we do to ourselves. I strongly oppose any form of deep sea mining, and thus am in support of SB 2575 to protect our culture, our home, our ocean, and our island Earth. Thank you for Protecting our greatest resource.

Aloha

Johnne Peters

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 9:25:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Araceli del Rio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawai'i resident, I request your support of SB 2575 during the Finance Committee hearing as this is a very important issue to me and for the future of Hawai'i.

Mining in Hawai'i's waters will be detrimental to Hawai'i's culture and economies. It is simply not worth the risk.

The Ocean supports life itself.

I strongly oppose any form of deep sea mining.

I am in support of SB 2575 to protect Hawaiian culture, our home, our Ocean and our island Earth.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 9:36:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Richardson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our industrial growth culture is destroying the ecological balance required for ecosystems to renew themselves and we are rapidly impairing the ocean's ability to support life, including ours! With the coral reefs disappearing globally from human impact and deep sea habitats being overfished, we are destroying our own ability to thrive in relationship with the other organisms that feed us. We cannot afford to exacerbate this crisis with further destructive resource extraction. I hope you will consider the importance of putting on the breaks to our highly destructive industrialization and be a part of the shift towards creating industry and technologies that support our oceans carrying capacity instead of depleting it. Thank you.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 10:53:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Conrad Morgan	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha mai Kākou,

I am testifying here today in strong support of SB2575. This is an opportunity for us to prevent the beginning of an exploitive, greedy, and destructive industry. The harm that deep seabed mining would bring to Hawai‘i, our communities, our ‘āina, our kai, and our already hurting marine ecosystems would be detrimental and irreversible. We have the opportunity before us to stop this before it starts.

Around the world, 25 countries have joined the call to pause or ban deep sea mining. The past two weeks leaders from around the world joined in Jamaica to discuss this industry, and Denmark joined the moratorium. Leaders around the world understand the threat this industry poses, and more than 800 ocean experts are urging us to stop deep sea mining.

In Hawai‘i, we have a particular situation because we are the closest port to the Clarion-Clipperton Zone, where most of the wanted nodules are concentrated. This means Hawai‘i has a powerful position to protect the Pacific Ocean, the biodiversity that sustains, the carbon sink that protects us, and the ocean livelihoods our neighbors rely on, by banning DSM.

I strongly urge you all to do what is right, to do what is pono, and to support SB2575 to prevent deep seabed mining here in Hawai‘i. The people of Hawai‘is say aole to deep sea mining and I hope that you can all stand with us.

**Mahalo and Aloha,
Conrad Johnie Ikaika Morgan**

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 11:23:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Wasserott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill the deep sea mining around Hawaii. Deep sea mining around Hawaii would be detrimental to the Hawaiian Islands ecosystem and would be a horrible decision. Any gains from deep sea mining would be minuscule compared to the havoc it would rain down on the ecosystem. Also, many industries in Hawaii would financially suffer from this decision. The biggest being tourism which is besides the military the Hawaiian Islands biggest cash cow. Also, I request that it be disclosed if any of the members voting on this bill have been lobbied by the deep sea mining corporations who would benefit from this bill.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 11:24:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Pence	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Deborah Pence, a resident of Kauai, and I strongly support SB2575 HD1.

This measure will make clear that the extractive exploitation of our ocean - to the detriment of rare, highly sensitive, and still-unexplored ecosystems and species - is off the table for corporate speculators and profit-driven interests. We simply cannot risk the permanent loss of some of our islands' most unique and intrinsically invaluable natural and native ecosystems for short-term, short-sighted, and unsustainable financial gain. Please pass this <https://youtu.be/sFVBqg41jms?si=Rr84MX5K5aWcg-Br> measure so that we can head off the temptation for deep sea mining interests to establish a foothold in our <https://youtu.be/sFVBqg41jms?si=Rr84MX5K5aWcg-Br> Hawai'i nei, and ensure our public trust ocean resources remain intact for present and future generations. PLEASE VIEW on YOUTUBE : "DEEP RISING" before calling for FINAL VOTE. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 11:39:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Clapper	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose deep sea mining which will have horrible and detrimental effects on the sea and sea life so am in full support of SB 2575. Please protect the ocean and the environment by not allowing deep sea mining.

Mahalo,

Elizabeth Clapper

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 12:08:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Irena Bliss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I request your support of SB 2575 during the Finance Committee hearing as this is a very important issue to many, and for the future of Hawai'i. Mining in Hawai'i's waters will be detrimental to Hawai'i's culture, ecology and economies.

It is simply not worth the risk. The Ocean supports life itself. What we do to the Ocean we do to ourselves. I and many others strongly oppose any form of deep sea mining, and therefore support SB 2575 to protect Hawai'i culture, ocean, and our island Earth.

The Ocean supports life itself. What we do to the Ocean we do to ourselves.

Please support SB 2575 and protect the well-being and thriving of all future generations.

Mahalo nui loa,

Irena Bliss



SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 12:17:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Soul	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawai'i resident, I request your support of SB 2575 during the Finance Committee hearing as this is a very important issue to me and for the future of Hawai'i.

Mining in Hawai'i's waters will be detrimental to Hawai'i's culture and economies. It is simply not worth the risk.

The Ocean supports life itself. The biodiversity of reefs is one of the most important ecosystems on the planet, Hawai'i has a chance to protect these gifts through legislation. This opportunity cannot be wasted in this urgent time of climate action and change.

What we do to the Ocean we do to ourselves.

I strongly oppose any form of deep sea mining. There is no justification for the continued use of non renewable energy, especially one that is so so so destructive to marine life.

I am in support of SB 2575 to protect Hawaiian culture, our home, our Ocean and our island Earth. Please support this measure to ensure a thriving habitable planet for generations to come.

Mahalo nui loa,

Natalie

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 12:52:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandra antonios	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to please support this bill to stop mining in the Hawaiian waters!!! Please for the sake of the whales and the reef and the coral and all the wild life that is already so sensitive to any imbalance in the system, it would be catastrophic to our environment!!!! please please support this Bill!!!

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 1:34:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily Gavagan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou e Committee on Finance,

My name is Kukui Gavagan and I am from Maui, Hawai‘i.

I submit this testimony in strong support of SB 2575 (HSCR 1269-24) to prohibit the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters.

As a kanaka maoli, along with countless others who call these waters home, we as a people place a strong infinite important values on our waters, especially the deep ocean. Not only does the deep ocean house one of the most delicate ecosystems on the planet, but it is where we believe our kūpuna (ancestors) reside alongside with many other spirits that we can connect to everytime we are out on the waters. Invading this realm will bring disrespect upon not only our culture but who we are at the core, being descendants from the deep blue.

Extracting material from this delicate environment will not only invite destruction, but it is a potential starting point to irreversible damage. Orcutt et al. highlighted some of the countless impacts in their study entitled "Impacts of deep-sea mining on microbial ecosystem services." Impacts from deep sea mining highlighted in this article included the potential substantial alteration of the seafloor including the bathymetry, an increase in sediment and waste release during the mining process, and potential changes in fluid circulation pathways through the basaltic crust. Furthermore, it is unclear on how much disturbance the seabed and overlying water column can take before critical points are reached and some ecosystem niches are negatively and/or critically impacted (Orcutt 2020).

There is a culture of deep seas stemming from the root of all creations here on Earth, and I am here to be the voice for that place. I strongly oppose any form of deep sea mining, and thus am in support of SB 2575 to protect our culture, our home, our ocean, and our island Earth.

Mahalo nui loa for considering my testimony.

Me ka mahalo nui,
Kukui

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 1:38:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maugana Stiastry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawai'i resident, I request your support of SB 2575 during the Finance Committee hearing as this is a very important issue to me and for the future of Hawai'i. Mining in Hawai'i's waters will be detrimental to Hawai'i's culture and economies.

It is simply not worth the risk. The Ocean supports life itself. What we do to the Ocean we do to ourselves. I strongly oppose any form of deep sea mining, and thus am in support of SB 2575 to protect our culture, our home, our ocean, and our island Earth.

The Ocean supports life itself. What we do to the Ocean we do to ourselves.

Let's come together to Defend the Deep!



Mahalo nui loa, M.Stiastry

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 1:45:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurel Tamayo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou Committee on Finance,

My name is Laurel, and I was born and raised in Honolulu.

I submit this testimony in strong support of SB 2575 (HSCR 1269-24) to prohibit the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters.

I have devoted my life to environmentalism and I owe part of that passion to growing up around the beauty Hawai'i has.

- The Kumulipo is the Hawaiian creation chant, consisting of 2,000 lines that explain the beginning genealogy of all creatures. The Kumulipo begins with cosmic darkness. The first lines of the chant tells us that we come from the deep seas, created from the “walewale”, synonymous with the primordial sludges of the ocean bottom. From the deepest depths, all of the creatures that come up through the vertical water column into nearshore waters, the lands, hills and the mountains, and even taking flight into the sky - are all part of our creation genealogy. And we as a people don't come into being until much much later in the creation of this Honua, or shared island Earth. When we humans are ushered in, we have an inheritance of caring for those elders that precede us.
- The International Seabed Authority (ISA) has issued 19 licenses for mining exploration in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone - an area of the Pacific Ocean beginning 500 miles south of Hawai'i, covering 1.7 million square miles stretching all the way to Mexico. To mine from the seafloor is to enter the realm of our creation itself. If you intrude into this sacred place of creation, this is an ultimate kind of destruction with no known timeline of recovery and should not occur. That “walewale” will never return. These observations are backed by science. To cite one study, Thiel et al found that after 7 years following deep sea mining, sediment-dwelling animals only returned to less than 15% of pre-disturbance levels (Thiel et al 2001).

- It's now been 130 years since the translation of the Kumulipo and the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom as a sovereign nation, but the absence from the international arena means Hawai'i has never been seated at the table where these rules and regulations have been made by nation states - where nations created the Law of the High Seas and decided they could draw lines across the ocean and separate us all into authorities and boundaries. It's clear to us as indigenous Hawaiians, there's no line across the ocean that separates us. In our mind, there is no division of the seas. The animals of the sea don't see a boundary any more than we humans see a boundary. With the proximity of the Hawaiian Islands to the proposed mining zone, it would be foolish to only be concerned with our boundary and to think that everything on the other side of that boundary will have no impact on us.
- I challenge the perception that culture can only be tangible artifacts. When we travel across the seas at great distances, we are intimate with observation and knowing the currents. We know the waves and their movements, the clouds and the weather. We know the resources that are in the deep seas. We are the culture of the people of the deep sea and our culture is intangible. The ocean is everything to us. It's what we depend upon for our sustenance. It's unacceptable to proceed with activities that will disrupt creations related to the deep sea, ultimately disrupting the food chain which now we have subsisted on for millenia. In those conversations of mining, there's no consideration that we come from this space. It's about minerals. It's about resources. It's about extraction with no regard for culture. It's that that bothers me about this process of deep sea mining.

There is a culture of the deep seas and I am here to be the voice for that place. I strongly oppose any form of deep sea mining, and thus am in support of SB 2575 to protect our culture, our home, our ocean, and our island Earth.

Mahalo nui loa for considering my testimony.

‘O ke aloha nō,

Laurel Tamayo

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 1:46:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abdine	EPA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Hawai'i 'Ohana 🌺

🌊 Mother Ocean needs Your help
with Urgent Action to Stop Deep Sea Mining!
Submit testimony today 4/2 online by 4pm HST.

👏 Support Senate Bill 2575, Hawai'i State Bill to Stop Deep Sea Mining in Hawai'i's Waters.

👏 Please take two minutes to Submit Testimony to the Finance Committee for SB 2575 by Tuesday April 2nd at 4pm HST.

The hearing of this Bill is at Capitol.Hawaii.gov

👏 Steps:

- Go online to capitol.hawaii.gov
- Search SB 2575
- Register & Submit

Sample Talking Points for Testimony:

As a government employee helping the Maui community for the 2023 Wildfire, I request your support of SB 2575 during the Finance Committee hearing as this is a very important issue to me and for the future of Hawai'i.

Mining in Hawai'i's waters will be detrimental to Hawai'i's culture and economies. It is simply not worth the risk.

The Ocean supports life itself.

What we do to the Ocean we do to ourselves.

I strongly oppose any form of deep sea mining.

I am in support of SB 2575 to protect Hawaiian culture, our home, our Ocean and our island Earth.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 1:51:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keili McEvelly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Ke'ili and I am an educator at Sea Life Park and volunteer with the Coral Conservancy. Corals and marine life is essential to Hawaii, to ocean health, tourism, and to the health of Kanaka. It is our duty to protect our corals. That means prohibiting all extraction, mining, and destruction of our corals, sea floor, and marine life.

Mahalo for your time. Do what is right.

sincerely,

Ke'ili

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 2:22:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Skylar Kuroda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree that there should be a moratorium on Hawaii Seabed Mining, at least until further research is conducted. Given that there is currently limited information on the deep sea and how disturbing this environment would impact surrounding ecosystems, governments should not rush into harvesting the deep sea for materials for human use. Although it is necessary for other sources of metals to be found to construct more "sustainable" batteries for electric cars and other electronic devices, this supply of deep sea polymetallic modules is finite and has taken millions of years to form; without further investigation, it is unknown what the effects of their extraction might be, and the hurried exploitation of yet another natural ecosystem for human benefit should not be undertaken lightly and without full consideration of potential negative implications.

Also important to consider are the social constraints: it is said that all people have equal rights or claims to the deep sea floor, which is often beyond the political boundaries of pre-established land territories. Unfortunately, it would be difficult to ensure that companies in charge would ethically and responsibly spread the benefits of the harvested resources over everyone. Given these social and environmental considerations, and the importance of maintaining the natural environment, especially here in Hawaii, deep sea mining should be prohibited until further non-biased research can be conducted.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 2:54:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Gelert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please protect the ocean from exploitation!

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 3:01:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sally Aldrin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawai'i resident, I request your support of SB 2575 during the Finance Committee hearing as this is a very important issue to me and for the future of Hawai'i. Mining in Hawai'i's waters will be detrimental to Hawai'i's culture and economies.

It is simply not worth the risk. The Ocean supports life itself. What we do to the Ocean we do to ourselves. I strongly oppose any form of deep sea mining, and thus am in support of SB 2575 to protect our culture, our home, our ocean, and our island Earth.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 3:23:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paula Phillips	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I am a resident of Haiku Maui. I would like to request your support of SB 2575 for the future generations of Hawai'i residents. Mining in Hawai'i's waters will be detrimental to Hawai'i's culture and economies. It is simply not worth the risk until more is known. The ocean supports our lives. What we do to the ocean we eventually do to ourselves. I strongly oppose any form of deep sea mining, and strongly support of SB 2575 to protect the ocean and our planet.

Mahalo piha,

Paula Phillips

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 3:26:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lucrezia Oddie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello.

This is an extremely important bill to support. As we know, ocean wildlife is extremely challenged already from plastic pollution, overfishing, ghost nets snagging animals, vessel collisions, deafening sonar and many more health hazards and fatalities caused by humans . Some ocean flora health is also important for providing oxygen to the air we breathe. Besides the interest of humanities health, It is our moral responsibility to protect all flora and fauna from the devastating effects that deep sea mining would incur. The support of this bill is urgent, especially for endangered species, but ultimately for all ocean life.

Thank you for your time,

Lucrezia Oddie

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 3:27:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kinsley McEachern	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

As a Hawai'i resident, I request your support of SB 2575 during the Finance Committee hearing as this is a very important issue to me and the future of Hawai'i. Mining in Hawai'i's waters will be detrimental to Hawai'i's culture and economies. It is simply not worth the risk. The ocean supports life itself. What we do to the ocean we do to ourselves. I strongly opposed any form of deep sea mining. I am in support of SB 2575 to protect Hawaiian culture, our home, our ocean, our islands, and our Earth. What we do to the ocean we do to ourselves.

Mahalo nui,

Kinsley McEachern

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 3:39:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maggie Costigan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a Hawai'i resident for almost 40 years, I request your support of SB 2575 during the Finance Committee hearing. Because of my love and respect for our 'āina, this is a very important issue to me and for the future of Hawai'i. Mining in Hawai'i's waters will be detrimental to Hawai'i's culture, environment and economies.

It is simply not worth the risk. The Ocean supports life itself. What we do to the Ocean we do to ourselves. I strongly oppose any form of deep sea mining, and thus am in support of SB 2575 to protect our culture, our home, our ocean, and our 'āina.

I strongly urge you to support this bill.

Mahalo,

Maggie Costigan, Ha'ikū Maui

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 4:09:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nalani Minton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I fully support SB 2575 to prevent seabed mining in Hawai'i;

1) because of all the reasons listed in SB 2575

2) because of the endangerment to the ocean, seabed and all ocean species and their habitats and ecosystems and to human beings and Indigenous and diverse cultures as well

3) because of the threats and risks of contamination and irreversible impacts to Papahānaumokuākea and other pristine environments

4) because of the size of the CCZ mining area, as large as the US continent, which attracts competing profit driven nations and companies to exploit the ocean to extract rare earth minerals to fuel the unending expansion of technologies and products operating on batteries

5) because of the domination of China and other countries who have not accepted environmental laws such as the UN Law of the Sea and any precautionary protections or prohibitions

6) because the aggressive conflicts over world domination of global economies may lead to conflicts and wars, disrupting PEACE, ABUNDANCE, SUSTAINABILITY, RESILIENCE and STABILITY, RECOVERY and REGENERATION

7) because there are conflicts of interest in moral and spiritual integrity by harming natural life systems for profit under the guise of green and renewable economies that do no harm and there are alternative options

8) because the whole ocean is one continuum of consciousness of intelligence and energy fields that support regenerative Life systems which HAWAIIAN culture evolves from and which is the source of all Life...Aloha i ke kahi i ke kahi...the Law of ONENESS

9) in the words of WISDOM from John Aini whose people in Papua New Guinea are already suffering the impacts and consequences of environmental destruction from seabed mining:

"there is one creation which must be protected including all species, for all are protectors of Life systems'

Testimony from Nalani Minton 4/2/2024

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 4:16:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurel Nakanishi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Laurel, a resident of Honolulu, and I strongly support SB2575 HD1.

This measure will make clear that the extractive exploitation of our ocean - to the detriment of rare, highly sensitive, and still-unexplored ecosystems and species - is off the table for corporate speculators and profit-driven interests. We simply cannot risk the permanent loss of some of our islands' most unique and intrinsically invaluable natural and native ecosystems for short-term, short-sighted, and unsustainable financial gain. Please pass this measure so that we can head off the temptation for deep sea mining interests to establish a foothold in our Hawai'i nei, and ensure our public trust ocean resources remain intact for present and future generations.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Laurel