

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2575 HD1
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.**

REPRESENTATIVE LINDA ICHIYAMA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Hearing Date: 03/19/24

Room Number: 430

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



SB2575 HD1
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

March 19, 2024

9:30 a.m.

Conference Room 430

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.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 7:00:23 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support our ocean floor and overall environment, and vote yes.

Mahalo



Testimony Before The
House Committee on Water and Land (WAL)
IN SUPPORT OF SB2575 HD1
March 19, 2024, 9:30AM, Room 430 & Zoom

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

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

KUA supports SB2575 HD1 as a critical step toward ensuring 'āina momona.

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

The communities we work with are committed to ensuring the long-term health of our biocultural resources. They have depended on them for generations. **We believe our environment, the foundation of our very existence, is about long-term protection and steps in the interest of once again achieving 'āina momona.** Mahalo nui loa for considering our testimony and please **PASS** SB2575 HD1. **Aloha 'Āina Momona no nā kau ā kau.**



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

March 19, 2024

9:30 AM

Conference Room 430

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

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, 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.



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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Douglas McCauley

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

Director, Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory



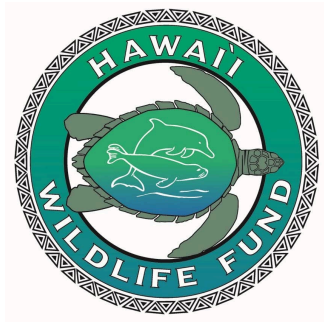
TE IPUKAREA SOCIETY
Caring for our Environment



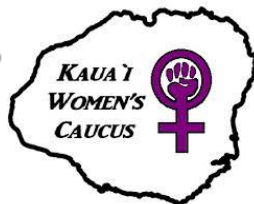
HULI PAC



Environmental Caucus of
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i



PARLEY



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

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Koda Daily
Executive Director
Sustainable Ocean Alliance Hawai'i

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

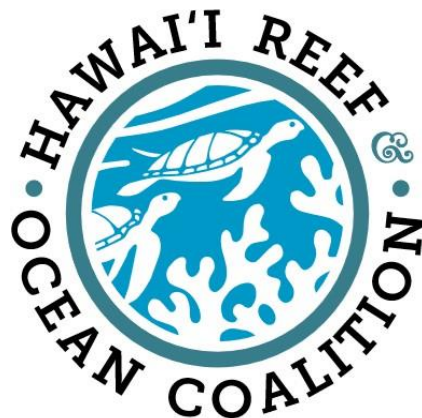
Jeff Boehm
Chief External Relations Officer
The Marine Mammal Center

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



To: The Honorable Chair Linda Ichiyama, Vice-chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the House Committee on Water and Land

From: Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: **Hearing SB2575 HD1 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice-chair Poepoe, and members of the House Committee on Water and Land:

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (HIROC) is a group of scientists, educators, filmmakers and environmental advocates who have been working since 2017 to protect Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean. The Climate Protectors Hawai'i seeks to educate and engage the local community in climate change action, to help Hawai'i show the world the way back to a safe and stable climate.

**The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i
STRONGLY SUPPORT SB2575 HD1!**

This Act would prohibit the mining, extraction and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters.

Seabed mining poses an unacceptably high risk of damage and disruption to the marine environment, including our globally significant ecosystems that host thousands of species. It also **may threaten ocean-dependent industries such as commercial and recreational fishing and tourism**.

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

The Legislatures of California, Oregon, and Washington have all passed similar legislation.

We thank the committee for hearing this important measure! We respectfully urge your passage of SB2575 HD1 in order to protect our marine ecosystems and ocean-dependent industries.

Mahalo!

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, 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: 3/17/2024 6:02:16 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

On behalf of the Green Party of Hawai'i, as well as all future generations we stand in Very Strong Support of SB2575 HD1. Seabed mining poses an unacceptably high risk of further damage and disruption to the marine environment of our Island home, 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. Do not sell our precious seabed to the highest bidder. We are watching.

Please support this important measure and put the people of Hawai'i ahead of any profits for the very few.

Mahalo nui,

Susan RobertsEmery

Co-chair GPH



To: The House Committee on Water & Land (WAL)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 9:30am

In strong support of SB2575 HD1

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the WAL 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

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 7:42:49 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

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: 3/18/2024 5:53:56 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, & 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



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 18, 2024

TO: Chair Ichiyama & Members of the WAL Committee

RE: SB 2575 HD1 Relating to the Environment

Support for hearing on March 19

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

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:43:58 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Friends of Hanauma Bay strongly supports this bill!
With Aloha,

Lisa Bishop

Friends of Hanauma Bay I President



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

March 17, 2024

To: House Committee on Water and Land
Hon. Linda Ichiyama, Chair
Hon. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Re: SB 2575 relating to SEABED MINING
Hearing: Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 9:30 a.m., Room 430 & videoconference
Position: Strong support

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

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

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

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

Hawai'i cannot afford to risk losing our social, cultural, and economic connections to the sea. The seafloor and ocean underpin Hawai'i's ecosystems. Seabed mining would harm commercially and recreationally important species such as tuna/ahi, mahi-mahi, billfish and other species as well as the overall health of our ocean. **It is simply not possible to conduct seabed mining in a manner that avoids destroying the affected seabed and creating massive plumes of polluted water in the water column above the seabed.**

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

Melodie Atsija legislativepriorities@gmail.com

Alan B. Burdick burdick808@gmail.com

Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Support for SB 2575 HD1, Relating to the Environment – Seabed Mining
Committee on Water & Land
March 19, 2024, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 430 & Videoconference**

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, 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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Matt Emerson Hon. Judith Epstein Dr. Alan M. Friedlander Benjy Garfinkle Sean A. Hehir Puni Jackson
Brett MacNaughton Janet Montag Alicia Moy Bradley E. Smith Julie Smolinski Vern M. Yamanaka

Ihupani Advisory Council: Paul D. Alston Christopher J. Benjamin Kenton T. Eldridge Eiichiro Kuwana
Duncan MacNaughton Jean E. Rolles Crystal K. Rose Nathan E. Smith

Founders: Samuel A. Cooke Herbert C. Cornuelle



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

March 19, 2024

COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, 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 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 unknown consequences on marine life.

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



3/19/2024

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

Dear Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Water and DLand,

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

THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

28 March 2024

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the WAL Committee,

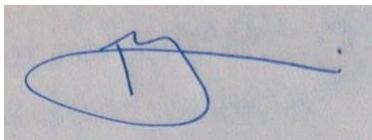
We write to express our thanks and support for SB2575 which prohibits the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters, under certain conditions and also prohibits the issuance of any permit for or in connection with the development or operation of any facility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

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

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

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

Thank you.



Bobbi-Jo Dobush, Legal Officer
The Ocean Foundation

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 6:40:43 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

The minerals being used in present day technology will not be used for long. Already batteries using water and others using glass are being developed. Present day mineral usage will be obsolete and Hawaii will be having to clean up our environment. Please prohibit any mineral mining in Hawai'i. Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 4:06:03 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Yes to- prohibiting the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters, with certain exemptions. 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

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:36:04 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Legislature,

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.

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

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

Mahalo.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 7:48:50 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tia pearson	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.**

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 7:50:36 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	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. Isn't it bad enough that we rape and plunder the earth leaving toxic tailings, air and water pollution. Now they want to do it to the ocean. It is time for the circular economy where we reuse and recycle and leave virgin materials where they are.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 8:15:33 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ninon Rynerson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote to save the sea beds, coral reefs, Ocean floor

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 9:36:32 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Dinner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is our kuleana to protect our ocean and it's inhabitants. Mining in the is a criminal act and must be prevented. Thank you for standing strong against this practice. SUPPORT!!

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 11:19:11 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senator Kidani,

My name is Ttaloc tokuda,

*Please schedule and pass **HB1969 HD2** which has been assigned to your EDU Committee. **HB1969 HD2** establishes the shade tree program in the Department of Education to support educational activities and encourage propagation of native shade trees for planting in department schools. This would have multiple benefits, including lowering the temperature on campuses through shade, contributing to clean air, and campus beautification, and will help us fight the growing climate crisis.*

Please schedule and pass this very important measure.

Mahalo

Ttaloc tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:16:26 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TOM DIGRAZIA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support!

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:24:46 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

support

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:48:03 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Deepsea mining is destructive for the ocean health which is already seriously compromised from pesticides runoffs, overfishing and the climate warming. The coral reef are damaged and face extinction. We cannot continue to abuse the ocean which 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.

It is urgent to pass this bill for better protection of our ocean!

Mahalo for considering my testimony,

Milena Kari,

Kahului, HI

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 11:31:40 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hello,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for SB2575 HD1, a crucial measure that aims to prohibit the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed within all state marine waters. This bill is of utmost importance in safeguarding our oceans and marine ecosystems from irreversible damage caused by deepsea mining activities.

Deepsea mining poses a grave threat to the delicate balance of marine life and the overall health of our oceans. The extraction of minerals from the seabed would have catastrophic consequences, disrupting fragile ecosystems and jeopardizing the biodiversity upon which countless species rely. The potential ramifications of this form of mining extend far beyond the immediate vicinity of extraction sites, with far-reaching impacts on oceanic ecosystems globally.

Furthermore, the prohibition outlined in SB2575 HD1 is particularly timely given the urgent need to combat climate change. Our oceans play a critical role in mitigating the effects of climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide and regulating the Earth's temperature. By preventing deepsea mining, we can protect these vital ecosystems and preserve their capacity to act as carbon sinks, thereby contributing to global efforts to address climate change.

Moreover, SB2575 HD1 represents a crucial step towards fulfilling our responsibility as stewards of the environment and ensuring the well-being of future generations. By enacting this measure, we demonstrate our commitment to sustainable practices and the preservation of our natural resources for the benefit of all.

In conclusion, I urge you to lend your unwavering support to SB2575 HD1 and to stand on the side of conservation and environmental protection. By banning deepsea mining in our state marine waters, we can uphold the integrity of our oceans and reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding the planet for generations to come.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō‘ili‘ili, O‘ahu

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 11:55:42 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

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

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 1:13:35 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB2575!

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 1:59:16 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

I am in support of SB2575.

Extractive processes like seabed mining will have negative environmental effects that we are not able to foresee till it is too late, similar to other extractive processes, such as oil and coal. This will be no different. The possibility of releasing negative substances into the ocean environment near our islands could also have devastating effects. For these reasons I support the banning of minerals from our seabed.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

Keoni Shizuma

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 2:45:16 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

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: 3/17/2024 2:59:11 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

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

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

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

Please support this important measure!

Mahalo, Marilyn Mick, Honolulu

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:33:00 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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

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

Mahalo,

Bobbie Best, Wailuku

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 9:47:59 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 11:03:00 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha

THIS IS A MUST!

Please support for Senate Bill 2575 to;

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

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

Hawai‘i cannot afford to risk losing our social, cultural, and economic connections to the sea.

The seafloor and ocean underpin Hawai‘i’s cultural heritage and multi-billion dollar tourism and fishing industries. As the extractive industry grows, seabed mining activities pose a large-scale disruption to these important ecosystems. Seabed mining would harm commercially and recreationally important species like tuna/ahi, mahi-mahi, billfish, and other species, as well as the overall health of our ocean.

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

same and ensure the passage of SB2575 to protect our coastal waters.

Mahalo

Maki Morinoue

Holualoa, Hawai'i Island

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 6:26:57 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:39:35 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Helen Cox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chairs and Members,

As one of many, many residents and tourists who care deeply about our marine environment, I am asking you to please pass SB2575 Deepsea mining is an **extremely destructive form of mining that would damage the oceans beyond repair, threatening their ability to help fight climate change.** Ocean health is already severely stressed and threatened due to overfishing and the climate crisis. The rising ocean temperatures and increased acidification have already damaged Hawaii's coral reefs and marine ecosystems.

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

Kalaheo, Kauai

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:14:47 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you support SB2575 HD1 that prohibits mining, extraction and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state amrine waters. This is extremely destructive to our ocean.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:49:58 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
matthias kusch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 2575, the prohibition of seabed mining. As a long time commercial marine logistics provider in Hawai'i, I have seen the decline in our marine resources. More importantly, I have learned and witnessed over 35 years the intricate and sometimes unintuitive relationship between species and habitats. Seabed mining is similar to ocean acidification, in that it is out of sight and out of mind, but is a slow creep that can be okay, right up until it is a disaster that will take years, if not decades (likely significantly longer!) to reverse. No mining in Hawai'i.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:55:41 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of this bill. 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: 3/18/2024 8:59:10 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill. Deepsea mining is an extremely destructive form of mining that would damage the oceans beyond repair, threatening their ability to help fight climate change.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:14:13 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly King	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. We need to be spending our time and resources protecting and restoring the health of the ocean as it is imperative to the health and well-being of our `aina and our residents!**

Please vote for this important measure to stop the mining of our public resources.

Mahalo,

Kelly T. King

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.

BKamaiPhD@gmail.com