



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

March 12, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Conference Room 325

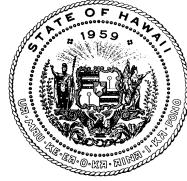
The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS SB2575**, which prohibits the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state waters, under certain conditions and prohibits the issuance of any permit for or in connections with the development of operation of any facility or infrastructure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

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

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

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII



KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

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

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

REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Hearing Date: 03/12/24

Room Number: 325

- 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.



To: The Honorable Chair Nicole Lowen, Vice-chair Elle Cochran, and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment

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

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

Hearing: Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and members of the Committee:

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 Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB2575!

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. 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 in order to protect our marine ecosystems and ocean-dependent industries.

Mahalo!

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



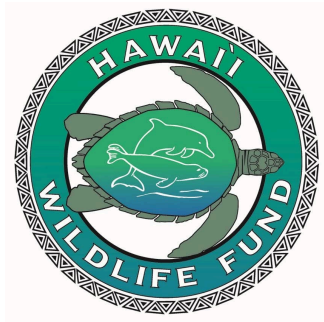
TE IPUKAREA SOCIETY
Caring for our Environment



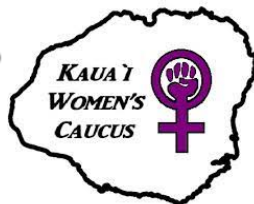
HULI PAC



Environmental Caucus of
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i



PARLEY



Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of the Energy & Environmental Protection 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 Nicole Lowen,
The Honorable Vice Chair Elle Cochran,
Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

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

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, 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



To: The House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection (EEP)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 9am

In strong support of SB2575

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and members of the EEP Committee,

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

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

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

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

Bottom line: Seabed mining poses an unacceptably high risk of further damage and disruption to the marine environment of the State, as well as to the stability of our climate system. It is

imperative that action be taken to ensure the protection of our environment for present and future generations. Please support this important measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



Support for SB2575: Relating to the Environment

E aloha nō kākou,

I am from several generations where people are descendants of the ocean and the stream and I identify as a person of that water, adopted by the shellfish, coral, clams, and all the dwellers of our seabed. While the seabed is not my creation story, I am testifying to safeguard against the forces threatening our existence. The seabed may not be part of my genealogy, yet it has informed my approach to how I come to present this testimony.

Intemperate Earth 501(c)(3), promotes ecological justice, advocating that all people should have fair, just, and equitable access to benefit from our interaction with restoring our environment. We provide an accounting program facilitating Environmental and Social Responsibility (ESR) of the rightful stewardship over our wellbeing and environment.

The biodiversity of our ocean systems does not begin and end with the EEZs (Exclusive Economic Zones), nor does it recognize that the High Sea areas beyond national jurisdiction is immune to the environmental impacts of decisions taking place within national boundaries. Our ocean systems are the totality of global biodiversity.

Deep seabed mining (DSM) represents the ultimate frontier. However, unlike terrestrial mining, where we witness devastation, turmoil, injustice, habitat loss, degradation, and depletion, the seabed demands reliance on precautionary science.

We mustn't risk irreversible impacts, absolving ourselves of responsibility, simply because industry prioritizes commercial ventures over our existential priorities. The lessons of climate change are that we can no longer feign ignorance.

Our fragile ocean and reef systems, while having some resiliency, is affected by changes to noise levels, carbon, oxygen, sulphur, acidification, temperature rises, etc. The DSM industry seeks to capitalize from what we do not see and hear, and leapfrogs us many steps closer towards environmental collapse.

Thank you for your time,
Arnie Saiki
Intemperate Earth, Managing Director



Testimony Before The
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection (EEP)
IN SUPPORT OF SB2575
March 12, 2024, 9:00 a.m., Room 325 & Zoom

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

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

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

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

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



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

March 12, 2024

9:00 AM

Conference Room 325

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

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of the Committee,

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

Consistent with the concerns outlined in this measure, the Sierra Club 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. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2575

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 3:22:08 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2024 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, & Committee Members,

On behalf of Greenpeace Hawaii's thousands of 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, Greenpeace Hawaii



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

March 10, 2024

To: House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Hon. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Hon. Elle Cochran, Vice Chair

Re: SB 2575 relating to SEABED MINING

Hearing: Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 9:00 a.m., Room 325 & videoconference

Position: Strong support

Aloha, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

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

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

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

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

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

Melodie Atejia legislativepriorities@gmail.com

Alan B. Burdick burdick808@gmail.com

Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus



March 12, 2024

EEP Committee 9am

RE: SUPPORT SB2575 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT; Seabed Mining

Dear Chair Lowen and Environmental Protection 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

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Support for SB 2575, Relating to the Environment – Seabed Mining
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
March 12, 2024, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference**

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of the Committee:

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

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

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

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Duke E. Ah Moo Kris Billeter Dr. C. Tana Burkert Anne S. Carter (Chair) Ka'iulani de Silva Dave Eadie
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Brett MacNaughton Janet Montag Alicia Moy Bradley E. Smith Julie Smolinski Vern M. Yamanaka

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Duncan MacNaughton Jean E. Rolles Crystal K. Rose Nathan E. Smith

Founders: Samuel A. Cooke Herbert C. Cornuelle



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March 12, 2024

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Rep. Ellie Cochran, Vice Chair
Committee Members

SB 2575
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 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.



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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

March 11, 2024

TO: Chair Lowen & Members of the EEP Committee

RE: SB 2575 Relating to the Environment

Support for hearing on March 12

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s 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



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

SB-2575

Submitted on: 3/8/2024 5:27:34 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2024 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Technology is developing at a fast pace. These minerals eventually will not be needed. But we will be on the hook for cleanup of the environmental devastation. Please ban this sort of industry from taking over our state! Mahalo.

SB-2575

Submitted on: 3/8/2024 7:43:49 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaulu Luuwai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2575. Hawai‘i cannot become the next fronteir for deep-sea mining for profit while our natural ocean resources are decimated.

Please pass SB2575.

SB-2575

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 11:36:08 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2024 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I realize we need these minerals but we need to be smart. Mining in the ocean seems to be something we don't want to do unless there is some way to limit the impacts to the surrounding ocean. Until we come up with a safe way to mine, let's keep looking elsewhere please.

SB-2575

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 2:26:29 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2024 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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

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

SB-2575

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 3:03:40 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2024 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strong support. Please vote yes and take a step towards stopping more destruction to our ocean.

Thank you for hearing this bill.

Melynda Dant

SB-2575

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 5:23:03 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2024 9:00:00 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

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 3:07:52 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2024 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

SB-2575

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 5:20:41 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2024 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha: **I strongly support SB 2575** to stop Hawaii from participating in deep-sea mining in any way, shape, or form. Deep-sea mining is unnecessary as new battery technologies are developing, and more importantly, the environmental cost of deep-sea mining is extreme to say the least. As a marine biologist who has participated in deep submersible dives, I am fully aware of the amazing biodiversity, untapped value, and extreme sensitivity of deep-sea species. Please pass this bill. Mahalo.

SB-2575

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 9:51:40 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittany Kamai	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

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

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

When the science enterprise states we do not know the implications of what this kind of impact will do, it is because there is no comprehensive understanding of the intricate web of life below the surface. For example, the ocean supplies 50% of the oxygen we breathe because of the life that lives below the surface. To date, deepsea activities, such as bottom trawling, have release thousands of tons of CO2 into the atmosphere because of the organisms and lifeforms at the bottom of the ocean that absorb CO2. **There is no amount of scientific research that can be done within the next few years that will be able to understand how devastating the destruction from deep-sea mining will be on the entire planet.**

It is imperative that we let the world know that the deep-sea mining industry is not welcome in our waters or on our lands. Our islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean 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.

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.



Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, 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

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 8:53:01 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT. MAHALO!

SB-2575

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 10:52:44 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2024 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

support

SB-2575

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 3:30:29 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2024 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is a very impprtant bill. Ocean mining will negatively impach ocean life.

Mahalo for doing the right thing.

Bob