

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

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

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

SENATOR LORRAINE R. INOUE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Hearing Date: 02/05/24

Room Number: 229

- 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.

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 2:59:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2024 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT!



To: The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN)
and
The Senate Committee on Water and Land (WTL)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Monday, February 5, 2024, 1:15pm

In strong support of SB2575

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice Chairs Richards and Elefante, and members of the AEN and WTL committees,

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



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

February 5, 2024

1:15 PM

Conference Room 229

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

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

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

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

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

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

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:55:06 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2024 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, & Committee Members,

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

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

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

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

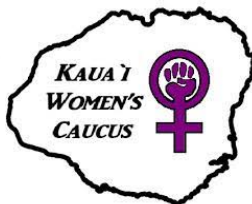
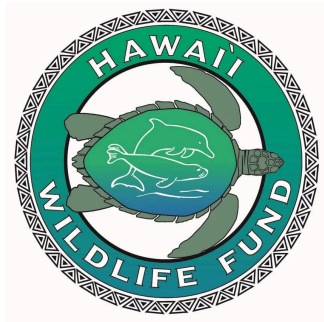
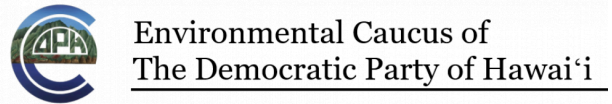
Mahalo,

Dave Mulinix, CoFounder,

Greenpeace Hawaii



TE IPUKAREA SOCIETY
Caring for our Environment



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

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Koda Daily
Executive Director
Sustainable Ocean Alliance Hawai'i

Kahi Picarro
Director
Parley for the Oceans, Hawai'i

Wayne Tanaka
Director
Sierra Club of Hawai'i

Dyson Chee
Executive Director
Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition

Megan Lamson
President
Hawai'i Wildlife Fund

Denise Antolini
Director
Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea

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

Arnie Saiki
Management
Deep Sea Mining Campaign

Sherry Pollack
Co-founder
350Hawai'i

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

Nina Jensen
Chief Executive Officer
Rev Ocean

Lisa Bishop
President
Friends of Hanauma Bay

Carissa Cabrera
Chief Executive Officer
The Conservationist Collective

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 Mike Gabbard,
The Honorable Vice Chair Tim Richards,
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
The Honorable Chair Lorraine Inouye,
The Honorable Vice Chair Brandon Elefante,
Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

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

Position: **Strong Support**

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committees,

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

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

Sincerely,

Douglas McCauley

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

Director, Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:56:06 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Culbertson	Testifying for HULI PAC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators!

We write to express our thanks and support for your leadership in moving 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 habitats 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.

Please do the same and ensure the passage of this bill to protect Hawai‘i’s coastal waters.

Mahalo nui loa!

R A Culbertson
HULI PAC



February 5, 2024 115pm

WTL/AEN Committees

RE: SUPPORT SB2575 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT; Seabed Mining

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Inouye and Members of the Committees on Agriculture & Environment and Water & Land,

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

For the Fishes

<https://FortheFishes.org>



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

February 5, 2024

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

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 possible 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 consequences for marine life.

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



SB2575
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT
Senate Committee on Water & Land
Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment

February 5, 2024

1:15 PM

Room 229

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

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

OHA thus supports this measure and the way it protects these delicate and precious ecosystems from extractive seabed mineral mining. We believe **any form of seabed mining—especially in specially designated marine management areas—must be done with purpose that is carefully considered.** This measure is a step toward ensuring our state protects these ecosystems proactively. We appreciate the forward thinking of the State Legislature to ensure we are keeping our nearshore resources thriving for future generations.

For the above reasons, OHA supports SB2575. We respectfully request the committee advance this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 3:38:24 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2024 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

These minerals are soon to be obsolete. As our technology progresses, they will not be used. But, our environment will be ruined forever. Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 2:46:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2024 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

Please support.

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 7:22:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2024 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

I stand in full support of this bill. I want to express my mahalo to the introducers of this bill and greatly appreciate the efforts to care for Hawai'i's resources. I applaud the effort to put Hawai'i's resources ahead of profits, especially when it comes to extracting resources that could affect our people and future generations of residents in Hawaii.

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 4:38:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We all know that this Enviromentl Crap is just that CRAP. Stop the BULL SHIT !!

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 11:31:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2024 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

support

SB-2575

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 2:49:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB2575, we need to enact protections against this extractive practice that could cause long lasting repercussions to our ocean environments, recycling of these minerals from existing electronics, etc would be the preferred method to move forward.

Mahalo for your commitment to our communities,

Tamara Paltin