

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on
WATER AND LAND
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, March 19, 2025
1:01 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1220, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

House Bill 1220, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to support the efforts of the Division of Aquatic Resources of the Department of Land and Natural Resources in the removal of the invasive majano anemone from Kāne'ōhe Bay. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this bill, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget Request.**

Background

Kāne'ōhe Bay is a unique and ecologically important marine environment that hosts a diverse range of marine species, including endemic coral species such as the finger coral (*Porites compressa*). These coral reefs not only support marine biodiversity but also provide essential services, including fish habitats, coastal protection, and recreational opportunities for our residents and visitors.

Unfortunately, the majano anemone (*Anemonia majano*), an invasive species, has recently been detected in Kāne'ōhe Bay, specifically in areas that were previously impacted by non-native coral introductions. First introduced as a hitchhiker on these non-native corals, the majano anemone has spread aggressively, blanketing an area of approximately 950 square yards. This invasive species poses a severe threat to the delicate coral reef ecosystem of Kāne'ōhe Bay.

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

The majano anemone is known for its rapid growth and ability to outcompete native coral species for space and resources. If left unchecked, the majano anemone could decimate coral populations in Kāneʻohe Bay, destabilize the ecosystem, and negatively impact marine life, including the fish populations that depend on healthy reefs.

Proposed Multi-Phase Removal Strategy

The Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) has developed a scientifically informed, multi-phase strategy for the removal of the majano anemone. This plan includes chemical control methods, as well as physical removal and smothering techniques that are tailored to the biology of the species. By using a combination of methods, we aim to effectively remove the majano anemone, reduce its spread, and restore the health of Kāneʻohe Bay's coral reef ecosystem.

In addition to the technical aspects of removal, DAR will prioritize ongoing monitoring and data analysis to track the progress of our efforts and adjust strategies as needed. It is also essential that we engage the community and stakeholders in this process, and we will dedicate resources to outreach and education efforts to raise awareness about the invasive species and the importance of reef conservation.

Funding Support for Continued Efforts

The appropriation of \$200,000 for fiscal years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 will provide the necessary funding to carry out this important work. These funds will support personnel costs, materials, equipment, data management, analysis, and outreach efforts. Continued support for these activities will help ensure that we can address the majano anemone infestation in a comprehensive and sustained manner, preventing further damage to Kāneʻohe Bay's coral reefs.

Conclusion

The removal of the majano anemone from Kāneʻohe Bay is a crucial step in protecting the health of Hawai'i's coral reefs and the biodiversity they support. The Division of Aquatic Resources is committed to ensuring the success of this initiative and appreciates the legislature's consideration of this bill to fund these efforts. We urge you to support this measure, as it will play an integral role in preserving the marine ecosystems that are essential to Hawai'i's environment, economy, and communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND AND
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025
1:01 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

HOUSE BILL NO. 1220 HD1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Elefante and Richards and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 1220 HD1 that appropriates funds to support the efforts of the Division of Aquatic Resources of the Department of Land and Natural Resources in the removal of the majano anemone from Kaneohe Bay. The Department of Agriculture (Department) supports this bill.

Biosecurity programs to prevent invasive species from entering the state and programs to control and mitigate the pests that are in-state is an interagency effort. The Department appreciates and supports the work of the Department of Land and Natural Resources to improve the quality of life and for the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



JOSH GREEN
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

1151 PUNCHBOWL ST, #325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

VOTING MEMBERS

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RESOURCES

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UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

MARY ALICE EVANS
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
TOURISM

DEXTER KISHIDA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**Chelsea Arnott, HISC Coordinator on behalf of
HISC Co-Chair Sharon Hurd and Co-Chair Dawn N.S. Chang**

**Senate Committees on
WATER & LAND
AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

**Wednesday, March 19, 2025
1:01 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229, and Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1220, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

House Bill 1220 House Draft 1 appropriates funds for equipment for the Division of Aquatic Resources in the removal of the majano anemone from Kaneohe Bay. **The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (Council) supports this measure.**

In early 2023, a biologist performing survey work at Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam discovered several sea anemones that were later identified as *Anemonia majano* or majano anemone. It is likely the anemone was an aquarium release and subsequently the same species was confirmed in Kāne'ohe Bay by biologists with the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR).

This anemone species is not native to Hawai'i and can quickly reproduce and spread, smothering reefs and displacing native species. This anemone can also readily detach and reattach to new reef structures. Right now, the infestation of majano anemone is relatively contained and could be eradicated with increased resources and effort. Currently, DAR has no dedicated resources for this work because it is a newly detected species.

The Council recognizes the importance of protecting Hawai'i's marine ecosystems and the importance biosecurity plays for preventing new marine invasive species incursions. The Council provides funding to support research into detection and management of marine invasive species and supports the planner position under the Ballast Water and Hull Fouling coordinator.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

By

Dr. Megan Donahue, Interim Director
Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1220 HD1 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Elefante and Richards, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) **supports HB 1220 HD1** for appropriation to the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) of the Department of Land and Natural Resources to eradicate the invasive majano anemone from Kāne'ōhe Bay.

The majano anemone can outcompete native coral species, as it has in the Philippines and Vietnam. Spread of this alien invasive species can precipitate a significant decline in reef ecosystems and threaten a resource of great cultural, ecological, and economic value.

Hawai'i's coral reefs are central to Native Hawaiian culture and support high levels of endemic biodiversity, with 25% of reef life found only here in Hawai'i¹. Reefs protect our coastlines, generate nearly \$850 million annually via tourism and recreation, and act as an essential seafood source^{2,3}. The reefs of Kāne'ōhe Bay are particularly valuable, as they have persisted despite extreme natural and anthropogenic stressors, providing information on how to enhance the resilience of reefs globally⁴.

The removal of majano anemone from Kāne'ōhe Bay will ensure that coral reefs can continue to provide essential services at local and state levels, and advance coral preservation internationally. For these reasons, HIMB supports this important bill, and looks forward to working with DAR, in consultation with the Kāne'ōhe Bay community, to safely eradicate this alien invasive.

References:

1. NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program – **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**
2. DLNR DAR – **Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources**
3. NCRMP Socioeconomic Monitoring Component – **National Coral Reef Monitoring Program**
4. Bahr, K.D., Jokiel, P.L., & Rodgers, K.S. (2015) – **"The resilience of Hawai'i's coral reefs under climate change"**



COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

The Senate
Committee on Water and Land
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, March 19, 2025
1:01 PM Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1220 HD1

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

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in support of HB 1220 HD1**, which appropriates funds to support the removal of the majano anemone from Kaneohe Bay.

Appropriating funds for fiscal year 2025-2026 and for fiscal year 2026-2027 to support the removal of majano anemone from Kaneohe Bay is an essential investment of State funds. The majano anemone is an invasive species with the potential to significantly impact coral reefs in Kaneohe Bay and beyond if it is not controlled. This species can live in sand, rubble, within coral branches, and it can also overgrow, smother, and kill coral. It easily fragments, with each fragment able to grow into a new anemone. This anemone can also move locations by detaching its “foot”, moving to a new open space, and reattaching. Many marine aquarium hobbyists refer to this as an invasive species and recommend against keeping it due to its invasive habit.

The multi-phase removal strategy proposed by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources, could control this invasive species in Kaneohe Bay. Without this targeted control, the anemone will spread to other coral reef areas in the State and control actions will become more expensive and less effective.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support HB1220 HD1.

Aloha,

Christy Martin
CGAPS Program Manager

Stephanie Easley
CGAPS Legal Fellow

HB-1220-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2025 7:16:19 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire	Testifying for Ohana Unity Party & Kingdom of The Hawaiian islands	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Hawaii House of Representatives
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I strongly support House Bill No. 1220 (H.D. 1), "Relating to Invasive Species," and urge your vote to fund the Division of Aquatic Resources' efforts to remove the invasive majano anemone from Kaneohe Bay. Here's why this bill is essential:

- Urgent Threat to Kaneohe Bay:
 - Majano anemone has invaded 950 square yards—about two basketball courts' worth—since its accidental introduction as a hitchhiker on non-native corals.
 - It's aggressively outcompeting native finger coral (*Porites compressa*), threatening a phase shift to a degraded, anemone-dominated ecosystem, as seen in the Philippines and Vietnam.
- Protects Vital Ecosystems:
 - This invasive species smothers native corals, degrades fish habitats, and disrupts biodiversity—endangering Kaneohe Bay's role as a cornerstone of marine life.
 - Healthy reefs support over \$800 million annually in tourism, fishing, and cultural value; H.B. 1220 defends this economic and natural lifeline.
- Funds a Smart, Tailored Solution:
 - Appropriates funds for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 to support the Division of Aquatic Resources' multi-phase strategy: chemical controls, physical removal, and smothering techniques.
 - Covers personnel, equipment, data analysis, and outreach—ensuring a thorough, community-supported response to stop the anemone's rapid spread.
- Safeguards Our Future:
 - Prevents irreversible harm to reef health and ecosystem services that coastal communities rely on daily.

- Reinforces Hawaii's commitment to environmental stewardship, preserving our natural legacy for generations to come.

Please vote YES on H.B. 1220 to protect Kaneohe Bay and invest in Hawaii's ecological and economic future. For further discussion, contact me at [Your Phone Number] or [Your Email Address]. Mahalo for your leadership!

Sincerely,

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM

Ohana Unity Party, Chairman

www.Ohanaunityparty.com

Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I.

In Support of HB 1220 WTL/AEN 03-19-25 1:01 PM; in Conference Room 229

HB 1220 and SB 1072 presentation of facts are prime examples of anti-aquarium fishery misinformation!

It has been illegal to import invertebrates and corals into Hawaii since the 1970s. The Majano Anemone was never used for aquariums in the worldwide aquarium trade. It is considered a bad aquarium species that has always been avoided.

Majano is also considered a pest that all aquarists avoid.

This anemone, along with other introduced ships and ocean debris hitchhikers, has been around K bay since at least the early 1980s.

[Navy Identifies Invasive Species and Partners with ...](#)



[DVIDS](#)

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/navy-identifies-invasi...>

Jul 5, 2023 — The species, identified as *Anemonia manjano*, is an *invasive* species with the potential to negatively impact Hawai'i coral reefs.

“Coppentrath also highlighted the sea anemone’s trait as a “hitchhiker,” with its ability to survive in new environments hidden in the nooks and crannies of rocks or woody marine debris”.

It is an invasive that caught the ride from other locations on ships, not from aquariums released into the wild.

This is a prime example of bias and prejudice based on ignorance.

There is no proof of an invasion introduced or established in Hawaii by any aquarium trade import, and laws prevent such introductions.

Why do people lie? Even though they know the truth. Financial gain? **But in this case, there is no financial gain!**

The Oahu Aquarium Fishery EIS reviewed tourism economic gains before and after the fishery's shutdown. There is **no significant statistical link between the closure of the fishery and an increase in ocean tourism**, and in fact, tourism declined slightly after the shutdown.

Below, activists attack the Maui Ocean Center with **proven lies**, knowing better scientifically! The proof is attached and below.

So, I guess they think viewing any fish in an aquarium will make tourists not want to do their snorkel or dive tours, thus losing money.

When in fact: If tourists see the amazing fish in aquariums, they will be likelier to join in on a snorkel or dive tour!

Recent News:

<https://mauinow.com/2024/12/15/maui-ocean-center-touts-marine-conservation-but-nonprofit-says-it-repeatedly-violates-fish-taking-permits-with-high-mortality-rates/>

What makes it even worse is the news publishing it without fact-checking! Uneducated activists continue the lies:

Public aquariums have the lowest mortality rates; aquarium collectors have a mortality rate of less than 1% or less. Studies and DAR have tried correcting these people with emails to no avail; the misinformation continues. So, who will you believe, an uneducated activist with profit in mind or a Marine Biologist with a PhD? I've attached an email. Activists ignore science, constantly change the science, and extensively pervert the truth! Even misquoting the Researcher here over and over!

By doing so, they harm the environment. True ecological concerns go by the wayside, and much-needed, valuable, sustainable fisheries are shut down. Seafoods where you kill fish are OK to them! But keeping one alive is Immoral and should be shut down. Does that

make sense? In 47 of the 50 states, fishing permits do not even distinguish between dead and live fish! Only three states require an aquarium fish permit.

The lies they create have now come back to haunt them. Tourist groups now have to do environmental reviews and have been shut down costing many jobs and much need income for Lahaina businesses.

“Below is Dan Polhemus' response about Rene Umberger's (Maui activist) statement regarding aquarium collectors under reporting and she likes to quote him directly. Umberger is Claiming 99% mortality!

Proof of the lies:

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dan.A.Polhemus@hawaii.gov
Date: December 23, 2009 8:25:16 AM HST
To: Rene Umberger
Subject: Re: Your quote is being used is it accurate?
Hi Rene,

Thanks for the dialog. Let me see if I can address your questions.

I haven't seen any work to support the figure of 99% mortality rate within one year for captive marinelife.

As far as aquarium related mortality in Hawaii goes here's a quote from a Cesar 2002 study “Mortality rates of aquarium fish are low and have gone down considerably since the last survey in 1984. Currently, mortality rates from collection to wholesaler are estimated at 0 to 1 percent. In the wholesalers tanks, mortality rates range from close to 0% up to 2%. During shipment, rates range from 0.75% to 2%. This give a current total of between 1% and 5%, down from a range of 5% to 8% in the early 1980's (van Poolen and Obara, 1984; estimates of wholesalers and collectors, own study).”

The difference in yellow tangs reported caught and sold was 2,233, which if it does represent mortality, suggests a collector to dealer mortality of 0.8% - quite similar to what Cesar found.

So, in the grand scheme of things, the aquarium take on Maui (2009) is literally a drop in the bucket, representing less than 2% of the total mortality of reef animals that year. This serves to point out that undue focus and hyperbole about aquarium collecting and its impact on the reefs is dangerously shortsighted and counterproductive. We need to think and act holistically.

Hope I didn't overwhelm you with numbers. “

- Dan Polhemus
Dr. DAN A. POLHEMUS
Division of Aquatic Resources
State of Hawaii DLNR
1151 Punchbowl St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 587-0100
e-mail: Dan.A.Polhemus@hawaii.gov

By William Walsh Ph.D., Ivor Williams Ph.D., Brian Tissot Ph.D.; Leon Hallacher Ph.D.; Bruce Carlson Ph.D.; Charles Birkeland Ph.D.; Jeremy Claisse Ph.D.; Mark Christie Ph.D.; Richard Pyle Ph.D.; Leighton Taylor Ph.D.; Randy Kosaki Ph.D.; Cynthia Hunter Ph.D.; Brian Bowen Ph.D.; Brian Zgliczynski Ph.D.; Jeff Ebel Ph.D.; Alan Friedlander Ph.D.; Kosta Stamoulis Ph.D.; Delisse Ortiz Ph.D.; Jan Dierking Ph.D.; Rob Toonen Ph.D.; and Jim Beets Ph.D. My Turn | Thursday, June 25, 2020, 12:05 a.m.

“We are concerned with the **level of false information and lack of data these individuals have used to support their assertions, and the havoc they have created over a well-managed fishery that has benefited from the aforementioned good-will partnerships”.**

THE BIG LIE

“there are no fish left, aquarium fishermen have taken them”

From the [2020 DLNR West Hawaii Report To the Legislature](#):

Page 28 “Overall **Yellow Tang** abundance in the 30’-60’ depth range over the entire West Hawai’i coast is estimated to have increased by over 3.4 million fish from 1999/2000 to 2017/2018 (**150% increase**) to a **current population of about 5.7 million fish within this depth range alone.**” (5.7 million yellow tangs, 30-60ft depth alone, times 1.14 million fry per spawn per pair results in 6 trillion 260 billion fry per year result in a potential 62 billion new fish on reefs every year at a 1% survival rate.)

Page 37 “Overall **Kole** abundance in the 30’-60’ depth range over the entire West Hawai’i coast is estimated to have **increased 118%** (>5.1 million fish) during this time period with a **current estimated population of almost 9.6 million fish.** As with Yellow Tang, summer 2014 recruitment for Kole

in many areas was very strong. Recruitment at the Manuka survey site for example was 254% higher than on any other previous survey at the site over the last 20 years.” (Kole produces more fry per spawn than yellow tangs.)

Pager 17 “the marine aquarium fishery has been the most economically valuable commercial inshore fishery in the State of Hawai’i with FY 2017” (the **206-billion-dollar a year U.S. pet industry** economic benefits could be a great sustainable boom for exports from Hawaii)
<https://files.hawaii.gov/dlnr/reports-to-the-legislature/2020/AR20-WHRFMA-Rpt-FY19.pdf>

“aquarium fishers are worse than child molesters”
This statement has no merits, it has been published in books by Snorkel Bob “Some Fishes I have Known”, no one catching aquarium fish has ever been prosecuted or proven to do such terrible acts and is pure slander going to show the true nature of the zealots opposing the aquarium fishery.

“aquarium fishers break corals”

Corals and The Aquarium Fishery;

Dr. Bill Walsh Recognized as an Outstanding Natural resource manager by the United States Coral Reef Task force and head of the 20-year West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area Report to the Legislature 2020 showed **no differences between coral damage in open versus closed areas related to the Aquarium Fisheries coral impacts.** Dr. Brian Tissot a member of the CRAMP (Coral Reef Assessment and Monitoring Program) in a multi-year West Hawaii study on impact and damage on the coral reef found **“there was no difference between areas closed to aquarium collecting and areas opened. In fact, the highest impact area studied with the most damage was in a MPA”**, Marine Protected Areas, where aquarium fishermen do not fish. The closed MPA areas are mainly used by tourist groups.

Clearly long-term science studies prove the aquarium fishery does not cause coral damage.

Dr. Bill Walsh DAR study Link: <https://files.hawaii.gov/dlnr/reports-to-the-legislature/2020/AR20-WHRFMA-Rpt-FY19.pdf>

Dr. Brian Tissot study link p.68: <https://www.malamamaunlua.org/wp-content/uploads/DLNR-DAR-2010.pdf>

“aquarium fishers are Human traffickers”

This statement has no merits, no one catching aquarium fish has ever been prosecuted or proven to do such terrible acts and is pure slander going to show the true nature of the [zealots opposing the aquarium fishery.](#)

“aquarium fishers are wildlife traffickers”

This statement has no merits, all fish taken by aquarium fishers are not endangered species, in fact the IUCN, [International Union for Conservation of Nature](#) has deemed all species targeted by aquarium fishers in Hawaii as species of **“least concern.”** See each species can be reviewed in [“Fish Base”](#) search results and all species taken have been fully reviewed in the [West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery full 1585 page HEPA](#). This is not a true statement!

“aquarium fishers use crow bars”

No aquarium fisherman has ever used a crowbar, it is pure slander. [See proof of no coral damage](#) from 20 years of research, corals and the aquarium fishery with more links above.

“the netting of aquarium fish are like the slaughter of dolphins near the Japanese town of Taiji,”

What? we do not kill Marine mammals or any fish, [there is no bycatch, larger breeders are not taken](#), fish replenish fully in just a few months, and no lasting environmental damage is done.

“aquarium fishers take money from tourist groups”

[Act 306 gave West Hawaii tourists in 1999 a MPA](#) (Marine Protected Area) system where 33% of West Hawaii for tourist use only. Science, in two recent studies, has shown that tourist activities have caused fish decline. It was clearly not the aquarium fishers responsible for the lack of fish in tourist areas.

“the ocean is worth billions and aquarium fishers cost tourist groups money”

This is an unproven statement. [Tourist groups have their own areas](#) where aquarium fishers do not go. Tourists who have aquariums at home are more likely to visit ocean activities, supporting local tourist ocean users. Aquarium fishers have historically helped support and left tourist areas alone. No user conflict even occurred on Oahu until activists spread their propaganda!

“aquarium fishers are inhumane”

Aquarium fishers do not even kill fish but care for and love fish as pets. How is that inhumane? **Emily S. Munday, Veterinarian also with M.S. Washington State University:** In conclusion, we determined that the [methods commonly used by aquarium fishers in Hawaii do not cause mortality](#) in Yellow Tang. *As far as aquarium related mortality in Hawaii goes here’s a quote from a Cesar 2002 study “Mortality rates of aquarium fish are low and have gone down considerably since the last survey in 1984. Currently, mortality rates from collection to wholesaler are estimated at 0 to 1 percent. In the wholesaler’s tanks, mortality rates range from close to 0% up to 2%. During shipment, rates range from 0.75% to 2%. This give a current total of between 1% and 5%, down from a range of 5% to 8% in the early 1980’s (van Poolen and Obara, 1984; estimates of wholesalers and collectors, own study).*

“aquarium fishermen take fish from Hawaiians and reduce food for eating fish”

[West Hawaii 2020 report to the legislature](#) and **“My Turn: We expect better”** show no decline in any adult fish in open or closed areas throughout West Hawaii, only small abundant fish are taken not effecting adult breeders or larger fish used for cultural Hawaiian uses. Fish taken replenish within a few months! Because, they have no science indoctrination and buying off the West Hawaii Hawaiian community has been their goal to keep the aquarium fishery shut down. The problem is many Hawaiians in the fishery were making good money sustainably. Now that has ended, and even more, [Hawaiians are out of jobs and leaving Hawaii](#) due to biased activist minority lies and misinformation. Eating fisheries are now at risk and lawsuits and testimony from the same people are now trying to shut down or severely restrict cultural eating fisheries. Closing fisheries hurts Hawaiians, and tourism does not provide enough income or well-paid jobs to support Hawaiians living in Hawaii.

I support HB 1220 HD1 and SB 1072, but please get your facts straight and **stop the lies!**

Ron Tubbs B.S.N.D. UHM

HB-1220-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2025 9:09:04 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathryn Takakuwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and members of the Committee on Water & Land. Aloha also to Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

My name is Kathi Takakuwa and I live in Waikalua, Kāneʻohe. I strongly support HB1220, which would appropriate funds to support the efforts of the Division of Aquatic Resources of the Department of Land and Natural Resources in the removal of the majano anemone from Kāneʻohe Bay.

The majano anemone is an invasive species which according to reporting by Civil Beat, most likely was introduced to Kāneʻohe Bay by people illegally planting coral which is in itself a separate issue for the legislature and DLNR to contend with. Currently, the anemone inhabits a 950 square yard area of the reef and because it is introduced, has no natural predator. If not eradicated, it could imperil the bay's coral ecosystem by smothering native corals and could spread to other reefs.

A plan for eradication using chlorine has been developed by researchers at UH's Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology. It is critical that funding be appropriated immediately so that the anemone can be eliminated before it becomes too extensive to manage.

I deeply resent the abuse of our ʻāina for short-sighted monetary profit that is at the root of this problem. Please allocate the funding necessary to protect our reefs from this invasive anemone.

Mahalo nui.
Sincerely,

Kathi Takakuwa

LATE

HB-1220-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 8:48:49 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2025 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this measure.