

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

SYLVIA LUKE
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STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
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 House Committee on
WATER & LAND

Thursday, March 20, 2025
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 411

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 465, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE KIKIAOLA SMALL BOAT HARBOR

Senate Bill 465, Senate Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds for a carrying capacity study of Kīkīāola Small Boat Harbor on Kaua'i. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) acknowledges the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.**

The Legislature appropriated \$4.1 million in Capital Improvement Project funds in the 2022 budget for design, permitting, and construction of a second boat launch ramp at Kīkīāola Small Boat Harbor. The Department is currently awaiting final permitting approval for the new boat launch ramp and anticipates starting construction later this year. The new boat launch ramp is expected to help alleviate concerns raised about ramp use by commercial operators and their guests.

Because the second ramp has not yet been constructed or evaluated, conducting a carrying capacity study at this time may be premature. The Department believes that assessing the harbor's capacity should occur after the new ramp is operational, allowing for a more accurate evaluation of its impact on harbor usage and congestion.

However, if the Committee decides to advance this measure, the Department supports the appropriation in this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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March 19, 2025

**TESTIMONY OF ADDISON BULOSAN
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON**

SB 465, SD 1, RELATING TO THE KIKIAOLA SMALL BOAT HARBOR

House Committee on Water & Land

Thursday, March 20, 2025

9:30 a.m.

Conference Room 411

Via Videoconference

Dear Chair Hashem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of SB 465, SD 1, Relating to the Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council.

I wholeheartedly support the intent of SB 465, SD 1, which would greatly affect the Kaua'i community.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 465, SD 1. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,

ADDISON BULOSAN
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

JY:ss



Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Rachele F. Lamosao, Vice Chair

Committee on Water and Land

Thursday, March 20, 2025
9:30 AM Conference Room 411

RE: **SB 465, SD1** Kikia'ola Small Boat Harbor - **Oppose**

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committee,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents over 460 small businesses and entrepreneurs across the state that strive for a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity.

As small business owners who believe we can strengthen Hawaii's economy without hurting workers, consumers, communities or the environment, we ask Committee members to oppose SB 465, which would require DLNR to conduct an unnecessary study of Kikia'ola Small Boat Harbor's carrying capacity.

Lack of Public Involvement

There is clear concern on the transparency of process and open communication with the community in the construction of this bill. Kikia'ola Boaters Alliance, commercial operators, local fishermen, recreational boaters and other community stakeholders were not communicated with or consulted in the writing of this legislation. Legislators should be community-directed to create appropriate legislation that stems from the needs of the people.

Implications for Harbor Users

SB 465 has vague language concerning carrying "capacity" and could set a statewide precedent that results in restricted access and a negative impact on local fishermen, commercial harbor users and recreational boaters.

Study Timing

Long awaited harbor improvements have already been approved and funded. The County Land Board recently approved the development of two acres of parking for trucks, trailers and recreational boat goers, and most harbor traffic will soon be on private property. Additionally, ongoing harbor improvements will triple the launch ramp size and add docking space, making the study's data outdated by the time it is completed. This is an inefficient use of resources and impractical response to the issues since changes already in the works will alter traffic patterns at the harbor.

We hope Committee members will see the prematurity of this legislation and defer SB 465, SD1. Thank you for your time and consideration.

www.ChamberOfSustainableCommerce.org

**Hawaii Legislative
Council Members**

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country Market
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman
Island Naturals
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson
Niko Niko
Family Dentistry
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Hawaii Taro Farm
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Maile Meyer
Na Mea Hawaii
Honolulu

Tina Wildberger
Kihei Ice
Kihei

L. Malu Shizue Miki
Abundant Life
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Hilo

Tanya Aynessazian
Principal Contractor

Chamber of
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SB-465-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 7:09:15 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nick Croft	Explore Kauai Scuba	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Member of the Committee,

My name is Nick Croft and I oppose this bill. Why waste state money on a survey when harbor improvements are in the works? This will instantly be an outdated survey. We are not against protecting our natural resources, we are here to help protect them. If you were building a house, would you get it appraised before you're done? This one seems like a no brainer to me.

Can this Committee maybe set the study for after improvements are finished? Also, who conducts the study and will it be open to public input?

Mahalo for your time,

Nick Croft

SB-465-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 7:14:53 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jessie croft	Explore Kauai Scuba	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Thank you for reading my testimony today. My name is Jessie Croft. My husband and I own a small scuba diving business out of Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor. I'm really worried about this bill impacting my livelihood. Dee Morikawa recently secured us 4 million dollars for harbor expansion. A private land owner is also in the process of building a parking lot behind the bathrooms which will accomodate many more local or tourist parkng. I think it possibly made sense before we went to great lengths to make the Kikiaoloa small boat harbor more accomodating for everyone. This bill seems targeted. Why is there a bill specifically targeting our harbor?

We join with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in opposition to this bill. If DLNR does not support it, we do not either.

While it is difficult to oppose a study outright, we have serious concerns about the bill's vague and subjective language. Terms such as “carrying capacity,” “effectiveness,” and “long-term management options” are open to broad interpretation and may be used to justify unnecessary restrictions rather than a fair, data-driven assessment.

At the very least, we strongly recommend that **stakeholders, including commercial operators and long-standing harbor users, be explicitly named as required parties DLNR must consult.**

The current language only mentions the county, community organizations, and other vague “relevant entities,” which risks excluding those with direct knowledge of the harbor’s operations.

Additionally, **any study should consider historical evidence of successful commercial and recreational operations at Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor.** Prior operations provide a clear demonstration that the harbor can accommodate current usage without harm to resources. Without this context, the study could lead to conclusions that ignore real-world experience and practical management considerations.

Finally, we urge the Legislature to **ensure that any study be conducted using clear, objective criteria rather than relying on subjective assessments** that may be influenced by external agendas. Without this safeguard, the study could lead to unnecessary and burdensome regulations rather than a balanced, fact-based approach to harbor management.

For these reasons, we believe this bill represents **bad law** and should not move forward in its current form.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jessie Croft
Explore Kauai Scuba

SB-465-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 7:07:48 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerry Ilo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

SB-465-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 9:01:12 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathaniel Fisher	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Nathaniel Fisher

Frequent Kikia'ola Harbor User

I strongly oppose this bill and fully agree with DLNR that it is premature. Moving forward before all approved harbor improvements are completed is unwarranted. It would be a waste of time and money.

There is overwhelming opposition, with only a small number in support. Most of the few in favor base their stance on incorrect assumptions, which I have respectfully corrected in my previous testimony.

Recommendation: Future bills like this should involve the general boating community, Kikia'ola Boaters Alliance (a group dedicated to Kikia'ola Small Boat Harbor), and DLNR from the start. Furthermore, the intended use of this study's results remain unclear, which should be a concern for everyone. If the study were explicitly aimed at guiding thoughtful and necessary expansion efforts (if determined), I believe it would garner much broader support.

The two biggest issues with this bill are **lack of public awareness and input, hidden or unclear intent, and poor timing.**

Mahalo,
Nathaniel Fisher

SB-465-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 9:17:53 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tony Coscia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong opposition to SB 465. As a dedicated professional in Hawaii's ocean tourism industry, I am deeply concerned about the negative impact this bill will have on small businesses, the broader tourism economy, and the people who rely on it for their livelihoods.

Hawaii's ocean tourism industry is not just a business sector—it is an integral part of our community and culture. We provide thousands of visitors with safe, enriching experiences on our waters, all while maintaining the highest standards of environmental stewardship and safety. SB 465 introduces unnecessary restrictions that would create significant operational and financial burdens, making it harder for local businesses to continue offering these services.

This bill threatens to drive up costs, reduce job opportunities, and ultimately diminish the quality of experiences that visitors seek when they come to Hawaii. We must also consider the ripple effect this will have on the local economy. Fewer boat tours mean fewer customers for local restaurants, shops, and other businesses that depend on tourism-related revenue.

Furthermore, the ocean tourism industry is already subject to extensive federal and state regulations designed to protect our marine environment and ensure safety. Instead of adding more restrictive measures, we should focus on strengthening enforcement of existing laws and fostering collaboration between stakeholders to achieve sustainable solutions.

I urge this committee to consider the unintended consequences of SB 465 and the harm it will cause to the many hardworking individuals who rely on this industry. Please reject this bill and work with those of us on the water every day to find balanced, effective policies that protect both our environment and our economy.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Tony Coscia

SB-465-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 10:50:41 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Oppose. This measure is 5 years to late. Two additional boat ramps will be installed making it three ramps. The adjacent land owner is making a commercial parking lot that the county approved.

Klayton Kubo

Waimea, Kaua'i

SB-465-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 11:16:37 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aria Juliet Castillo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With significant harbor improvements pending, the proposed study will be outdated and waste resources. Let's prioritize collaboration with the local community, all the small businesses, fishermen, ect, to address any issues before implementing any new regulations. Thank you for your consideration.

Aria Juliet Castillo

SB-465-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 3:47:46 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taryn Dizon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of SB 465, which requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to conduct a study on the carrying capacity of Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor in Kekaha, Kauai.

It is alarming that Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor holds approximately 60% of the commercial boat permits for the Island of Kauai. Housing such a large proportion of commercial activities at this small harbor has created constant safety concerns, limited recreational access, and strained resources.

The logistical challenges of hosting 60% of the island's commercial operations are compounded by permit holders frequently changing their vessels to increase their carrying capacity.

Our key concerns are:

- **Safety Risks:** The increased carrying capacity of commercial vessels without proper oversight poses significant safety risks.
- **Environmental Impact:** The increased commercial activity may harm marine ecosystems.
- **Community Impact:** The changes are negatively affecting the local community, particularly recreational fishermen and residents of Kekaha.

Conducting a comprehensive study on the carrying capacity of Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor will ensure sustainable and safe operations, balancing commercial and recreational activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Taryn Dizon

Kekaha, Kaua'i

