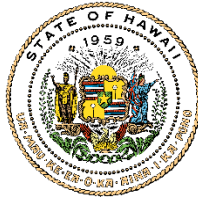


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

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 Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

Tuesday, February 18, 2025
10:01 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

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

Senate Bill 465 proposes to appropriate funds for a carrying capacity study of Kīkīaola 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 Kīkīaola 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
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



February 17, 2025

To: Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Moriwaki, and the Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Subject: SB465, Relating to The Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony in **support** of SB465 that requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to conduct a study of the carrying capacity of the Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor in the County of Kauai and submit a report to the Legislature. This bill is essential for keeping the Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor a safe viable resource for the community and environment.

First, this study will contribute to efforts protecting the environment. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) 2022 Coastal Water Quality report emphasizes the concerns of water quality in harbors like Kikiaola, where elevated nutrient levels and sedimentation have been linked to the increase in boating activities. A study will help DLNR find environmental pressures from overuse and enforce strategies to protect our coral reef, sea animal populations, and coastal areas.

Second, going through with this study will help ensure the harbor remains as a safe and functional space for boaters, fisherman, and community members who rely on it. The Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor is an access point for Kauai's coastal communities, and understanding its capacity will mitigate overcrowding, reduce safety risks, and avoid damage to infrastructure. The results from the DLNR can guide future development or expansion efforts, making sure that changes meet the needs of the community and environmental protection standards.

I urge you to **support** SB465 to ensure the safety, protection, and sustainability of the Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Lea iaea & the Food+ Policy Team

#fixourfoodsystem

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2025, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals working in the food system. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

SB-465

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 11:08:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zachary LaPrade	Testifying for Ocean Tourism Coalition	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO S.B. 465
RELATING TO THE KIKIAOLA SMALL BOAT HARBOR
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

The Ocean Tourism Coalition (OTC) submits this testimony in opposition to S.B. 465, which requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to conduct a carrying capacity study of Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor.

We join with DLNR in opposing this bill. If DLNR does not support it, neither do we.

While we recognize the importance of responsible harbor management, we are concerned that the language in S.B. 465 is overly subjective and may lead to arbitrary conclusions.

To ensure fairness and balance, we urge the committee to include:

1. **A requirement that stakeholders, including commercial operators, be explicitly consulted** as part of the DLNR study. Harbor operators have firsthand experience with the harbor's capacity and challenges, and their input is essential.
2. **Consideration of prior successful operations as evidence of sustainable use.**
3. **More objective and measurable criteria** for assessing harbor capacity and management practices to prevent conclusions based on vague or subjective assessments.

In its current form, this bill is poorly constructed and risks being used as a tool to advance restrictive policies rather than promoting balanced management based on facts and experience.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Zachary LaPrade

Director

SB-465

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 7:41:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nick Croft	Testifying for Explore Kauai Scuba, LLC	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Nick Croft, and I am here to express my opposition to SB465. While the bill may appear to be a harmless study, it is actually vague and open to varying interpretations. Current developments—such as the new bathrooms, an expanded parking lot off-site on private property, and the upcoming addition of two \$4 million boat ramps with additional piers, approved by House Representative Dee Morikawa—will significantly impact the outcome of any study. Continuing with this study under these circumstances would be a waste of time and resources. It's like appraising a house before construction is even complete—it just doesn't make sense.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo for your time,
Nick Croft

SB-465

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 8:03:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jessie croft	Testifying for Explore Kauai Scuba, LLC.	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairperson, 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

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 10:41:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Koa Fuller	Testifying for Komohana Charters	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Committee,

I oppose SB465.

First and foremost, this particular harbor is approved for major improvements that will render this study irrelevant.

Although typically a study does not seem to be something of concern I believe the wording is vague and subjective. 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. Excluding commercial operators from any type of study with our direct knowledge of the harbor as well as surrounding areas seems intentional and short sighted.

SB-465

Submitted on: 2/14/2025 4:41:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

There is no loophole in DOBOR Rules to change to larger vessels. All so there will be two additional boat ramps making it three ramps. And the adjacent land owner is making a commercial parking lot approved by the county.

Mahalo,

Klayton Kubo

Waimea, Kaua'i

SB-465

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 7:31:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candice Lecroix	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Candice Lecroix. I am born and raised in Kekaha, Kauai. I am a recreational boat user from a family of recreational fishermen.

I urge you to oppose SB 465, as it will soon be obsolete due to planned major harbor improvements. Any study done before harbor improvements are made will no longer reflect reality once these upgrades are completed. Enacting legislation that is inaccurate from the start wastes valuable tax payer resources.

I hope you consider my testimony.

Mahalo,

Candice

SB-465

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 7:39:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erica keough	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Erica Keala Keough and I'm a local west kauai resident.

SB 465 is a flawed proposal because it does not account for the significant harbor improvements that are already planned. Any capacity studies conducted before these upgrades will be irrelevant once the work is complete. Enacting legislation based on outdated data is not just ineffective—it's a misuse of resources. I urge you to vote against it.

Mahalo,

Erica

SB-465

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 8:41:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mahealani Hurd	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Mahea Hurd and I'm a born and raised west kauai resident.

Harbor improvements are coming, and a study done now will not account for them. Any study done now won't reflect the future reality, making this bill ineffective. Thoughtful policymaking requires accurate data, which this bill lacks. Please vote against this bill,

Mahalo,

Mahea

SB-465

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 9:14:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Havas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and members of the committee,

I oppose SB 465 because long awaited significant harbor improvements have already been approved, funded, and are in the finishing stages of permitting.

Additionally, I was recently at a County public hearing (2 months ago) where 2 acres immediate to the harbor was granted unanimous approval by the land board for trailer and guest parking for all harbor users.

The timing of this bill is poor, at best, and this would be a tremendous waste of tax payer resources.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Daniel Havas

SB-465

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 9:28:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Irons	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jd Irons and I am a local west Kauai resident.

I strongly urge you to oppose SB 465, as any study done now will become irrelevant once major harbor improvements are completed. Any study conducted before these upgrades will fail to reflect the new reality, making this legislation both premature and impractical. Passing a bill that will soon be inaccurate is an inefficient use of resources and should be reconsidered.

Mahalo for your time,

John Irons

SB-465

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 10:05:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Palacio-Ono	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and members of the committee.

I oppose Sb465.

No more wasted resources please. Let the harbor improvements finish, then do a study if you still find it necessary.

Mahalo,

Ashley Palacio-Ono

SB-465

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 8:24:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalen Kimura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kalen Kimura and I am

writing in opposition to SB465

With major harbor upgrades ahead, any study conducted before these changes will soon be inaccurate. Moving forward with legislation that doesn't reflect future conditions isn't the best use of resources. I encourage you to reconsider this bill.

SB-465

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 9:11:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Elsasser	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha committee members,

I strongly oppose SB465. Should this measure pass would be a waste of time, resources and money that could be utilized elsewhere. The commercial operators, state and private land owners have worked very hard over the last few years to address overcrowding issues at Kikiaola small boat harbor. Operations currently run very efficiently alongside recreational users due to all the changes that have been made in recent years. Some (but not all) of these changes include:

-current/near complete construction of a large parking lot for visitors, residents and recreational vessels on private land adjacent to the state's property.

-plans for construction of additional boat ramp.

-near complete construction of additional restroom facilities.

-commercial operations, such as check in/out for tours have ceased operations on state property entirely. The majority of larger capacity operators either already do or plan to in the near future begin conducting all check ins/outs at their own place of business complete with parking, restroom facilities, and some transporting their guests to and from the harbor so the harbor facilities are being used for commercial operations as little as possible by the companies with larger vessel capacities.

Due to all the time, money and efforts invested by both commercial operators and the state into the harbor's infrastructure and daily operations to accommodate the current vessel capacities, SB465 seems incredibly unnecessary and a waste of funds and time. I strongly oppose SB465.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Brandon Elsasser

SB-465

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 10:22:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bethany Fuller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose measure SB645 Carrying capacity study. I see no point in spending tax payer money on an intentionally vague study. Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor will be undergoing vast improvements to better serve companies as well as the community. These improvements will render the study irrelevant.

SB-465

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 11:40:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Parrott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to SB465

I strongly oppose this bill because Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor has undergone significant improvements over the past two years, driven largely by the dedicated efforts of our company operators. These improvements have:

- **Reduced the impact on public lands**
- **Enhanced the harbor as a resource for all users**
- **Prioritized the experience of local residents**

Ongoing and Recent Initiatives

- **Approved Parking Lot:** A designated commercial lot has been approved for development to better manage tour operator customers, improving organization and reducing congestion.
- **Government-Backed Harbor Upgrades:** Plans are already in place to enhance harbor infrastructure, further ensuring its long-term functionality.
- **Community-Led Improvements:** The harbor community continues to actively address concerns, demonstrating a clear commitment to sustainable progress.

Concerns About This Bill

- **Misrepresentation of Current Progress:** Conducting a study at this stage would give an inaccurate picture of the harbor's condition, ignoring ongoing improvements.
- **Undermining Hard Work:** The dedicated efforts of operators and the community should be recognized, not dismissed.
- **Waste of Government Resources:** Evaluating the harbor before planned improvements are completed would be premature and an inefficient use of time and taxpayer money.

This bill is unnecessary and does not reflect the true progress being made at Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor. Instead of pursuing this legislation, efforts should support and build upon the positive changes already in motion.

Mahalo for reviewing my testimony in your consideration of this measure.

SB-465

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 8:04:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tadashi Muratake	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Tadashi Muratake, I am a born and raised Kauai west side resident with life long ties to Kikiaola harbor and I oppose this bill. Kikiaola harbor is currently undergoing many many changes including a 4 million dollar harbor improvement project that was championed by rep Dee Morikawa. Also the new parking area project is in full swing and should be completed before spring break. This paking area is on private land, not Kikiaola harbor land, so this is something that should be considered. There is also the new bathrooms that were recently built but are not in use yet. So with these things in mind I beilive it would be a waste of money and resources to do a carry capacity study at this time.

So in summary I oppose this bill at this time as I beilive money and resources can be better spent on something else while the harbor is undergoing these many improvements. Thank you for your time,

Mahalo & Aloha

SB-465

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 8:31:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

My name is Nathaniel Fisher. I am a born and raised resident of Kaua'i, a long-time boater, and a member of the Kikia'ola Boaters Alliance. I strongly oppose SB 465 and respectfully request that you consider the following concerns:

1. **Lack of Involvement:**

It is concerning that the Kikia'ola Boaters Alliance, a well-known group formed specifically for this area, was not included in the discussions leading up to this bill. This omission reflects poorly on the process.

2. **Implications for Harbor Users:**

I am worried about the potential impact on recreational boaters, fishermen, and commercial harbor users once a "capacity" is determined. The language in the bill is vague, and it sets a concerning precedent statewide.

3. **Timing of the Proposed Study:**

The timing of this study is truly hard to comprehend. The adjacent landowner to the Kikia'ola Small Boat Harbor recently received full approval from the County for multiple acres of parking for both truck and trailers as well as boat goers for locals and visitors alike. This means nearly all harbor traffic will soon be on private property. Additionally, harbor improvements already in the permitting phase are set to triple the launch ramp size and add significant docking space. Given these recent developments, the data from the study will be invalid by the time it is completed, wasting valuable resources.

4. **Correction of Misinformation:**

Two testimonies in support of the bill have inadvertently spread misinformation, which I respectfully wish to correct:

- One testimony suggests that 60% of Na Pali traffic comes from Kikia'ola Small Boat Harbor. In fact, respectfully, the actual figure is 34%, which is relatively low given that Kikia'ola is the closest and most ideal harbor to access Na Pali Coast.
- Another testimony, presented in-person at WTL last week, suggested that commercial users were exploiting a loophole by swapping vessels for larger ones, supposedly in the 40-49 passenger range. Very respectfully, this is also incorrect for more than one reason. First, there is no loophole; DLNR allows vessels to swap or upgrade as needed, enabling small local businesses to remain competitive and keep up with the times. Moreover, ramp permit vessels are limited by the size

of the road, as these boats must be launched and retrieved daily via trailer. In essence, these vessels are small by design, making it unlikely for their capacity to increase dramatically.

For clarity, here are the actual capacities for the permits at Kikia'ola Small Boat Harbor (in no particular order):

Kikia'ola Mooring Permits:

- Permit 1: 36 capacity
- Permit 2: 32 capacity
- Permit 3: 23 capacity

Kikia'ola Ramp Permits:

1. 14 capacity
2. 14 capacity
3. 14 capacity
4. 14 capacity
5. 14 capacity
6. 14 capacity
7. 14 capacity
8. 12 capacity
9. 16 capacity
10. 16 capacity
11. 18 capacity
12. 18 capacity
13. 18 capacity
14. 18 capacity
15. 6 capacity
16. 6 capacity
17. 28 capacity
18. 6 capacity
19. 6 capacity
20. 6 capacity
21. 6 capacity
22. 14 capacity

These numbers clearly contradict the testimony regarding vessels swapping to a capacity of 40-49 passengers. The only vessels near that range are the mooring vessels, whose capacities have not changed for decades.

In light of these concerns, I respectfully ask that you defer this bill and encourage better communication between legislators, non-profit groups within the area, recreational users, and fishermen.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel Fisher

SB-465

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 9:44:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nolan Kaohi II	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Nolan Kaohi and I am a local west kauai resident.

Please oppose SB 465. With major harbor improvements on the horizon, any study conducted beforehand will quickly become outdated. Legislation should be built on accurate, forward-looking data—not temporary conditions. Passing this bill now is a waste of time and resources.

Mahalo for your time,

Nolan

LATE

SB-465

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 3:03:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabriel Lucy	Testifying for Captain Andy's Sailing	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee.

Captain Andy's Sailing Adventures joins the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in opposition to S.B. 465. While we fully support environmental studies and responsible harbor management, we believe a carrying capacity study is unnecessary at this time and could divert resources away from ongoing and planned improvements at Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor.

For over 42 years, we have operated sustainably and responsibly in Kauai's waters. We recognize the importance of protecting marine resources and ensuring safe, well-maintained harbors for all users.

Concerns with S.B. 465

1. Planned Harbor Improvements Already Address Key Issues – DLNR and stakeholders have already initiated efforts to enhance Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor, including boat ramp improvements and infrastructure upgrades. A carrying capacity study would shift focus away from these necessary improvements, which are already underway.
2. Infrastructure and Management Enhancements Should Take Priority – The most effective way to ensure a sustainable and functional harbor is to invest in infrastructure maintenance, improved facilities, and modernized management practices. Redirecting attention toward a study instead of these concrete improvements could delay meaningful progress.
3. Environmental Studies Should Be the Focus – We strongly support studies that assess marine ecosystems, water quality, and environmental sustainability. However, a carrying capacity study does not directly address these concerns and could lead to policy recommendations that do not align with actual environmental needs.
4. Efficient Use of Resources – Given the limited funding available for harbor management, state resources should be directed toward tangible improvements, such as facility upgrades and environmental protections, rather than duplicative assessments that may not result in actionable benefits.

Alternative Recommendation

Rather than conducting a carrying capacity study, we encourage the Legislature to:

- Continue funding and expediting harbor improvement projects, including boat ramp enhancements and infrastructure maintenance.
- Support environmental monitoring initiatives that directly assess marine health and sustainability.
- Engage with local operators and stakeholders to ensure that harbor improvements align with both operational needs and conservation goals.

Conclusion

Captain Andy's supports sustainable harbor management and environmental stewardship, but we believe S.B. 465 is unnecessary given ongoing improvement efforts. We stand with DLNR in opposition to this bill and respectfully request that the Legislature prioritize infrastructure upgrades and environmental studies that provide tangible benefits to Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor and the broader Kauai community.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

LATE

SB-465

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 3:11:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jacob	Testifying for captain andys sailing	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to join the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in opposition to [Bill Number], which proposes the study of Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor. While we recognize the importance of studying harbor management, we have significant concerns about the vague and subjective language present in the bill.

Terms such as "carrying capacity," "effectiveness," and "long-term management options" are highly open to interpretation and could be used to justify unnecessary restrictions, rather than fostering a fair, data-driven assessment of harbor usage. This ambiguity poses a risk of enacting regulations that are not aligned with the actual needs and realities of harbor users.

We also strongly recommend that the bill be amended to explicitly require consultation with stakeholders who have direct knowledge of the harbor's operations, such as commercial operators and long-standing harbor users. Currently, the language only mentions county and community organizations, as well as vague "relevant entities." This risks excluding critical voices that have practical, firsthand experience with the harbor's functionality.

Moreover, we urge that any study conducted on the harbor consider historical data and evidence of successful commercial and recreational operations at Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor. Past operations have shown that the harbor can accommodate current usage levels without causing harm to resources. Ignoring this context in the study could result in conclusions that do not reflect real-world experience or practical management considerations.

Finally, we ask that the Legislature ensure that any study be conducted using clear, objective criteria, rather than relying on subjective assessments that could be influenced by external agendas. A study without such safeguards risks leading to unnecessary and burdensome regulations that do not serve the best interests of harbor users or resource management.

In conclusion, we believe that this bill, in its current form, represents poor policy and should not move forward. We strongly encourage lawmakers to amend the bill to ensure a fair, inclusive, and data-driven approach to harbor management.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jacob Causer

Captain Andys Sailing

Kikiola Boater Alliance

SB-465

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 3:19:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2025 10:01:00 AM

LATE

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

Comments:

I oppose SB 465 because it diverts attention and resources away from much-needed harbor improvements that have already been approved and funded. Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor is a critical access point for both local businesses and the community, and instead of delaying progress, we should be focusing on building for the future.

Responsible commercial operators already follow strict regulations, and any discussions about managing the harbor should include those who rely on it for their livelihoods. Sustainability and economic viability must go hand in hand, and this bill risks adding unnecessary hurdles rather than providing real solutions. Let's invest in the infrastructure we need now instead of pushing the issue down the road. Thank you for your consideration.

LATE

SB-465

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 8:29:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Koch	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose this proposal as it's too late and not needed. Plans are already in motion and this is just a waste of time and money. Poor use of our limited financial resources that are needed for other things. Please do not pass this measure

Eric K.

LATE

SB-465

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 8:29:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this proposal as we already have a plan in place.

this is a waste of resources to study something that has already been addressed.

use the plan that is already in place