

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

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LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N.S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

Tuesday, April 1, 2025
10:01 AM

Via Video Conference, State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 506, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO CONSERVATION ENFORCEMENT

House Bill 506, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1, proposes to appropriate funds for equipment for the Oahu Branch of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE). **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

As mentioned in this measure, there has been an increase in fishing intensity around the island of Oahu, particularly at night. The proposed funding this bill provides would be used to increase DOCARE's Oahu Branch capabilities to address violations by purchasing much needed equipment including watercraft, detection equipment such as night vision goggles and unmanned aircraft systems, vehicles and communication equipment. This will provide DOCARE's Oahu Branch with resources that enhances its abilities to detect, deter and respond to violations in state waters and fisheries, and can also be used in other areas under the department's management such as State Parks, Forest and Natural Area Reserves and unencumbered state lands.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



To: The Honorable Chair Donovan DelaCruz, the Honorable Vice Chair Sharon Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means.

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

Re: Hearing **HB506 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO CONSERVATION ENFORCEMENT**

Hearing: Tuesday April 1, 2025, 10:01 a.m. Rm. 211

Aloha Chair DelaCruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means!

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (HIROC) is a group of scientists, educators, filmmakers and environmental advocates who have been working since 2017 to protect Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean.

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB506 HD1 SD1!

Healthy coral reefs protect Hawaii's shorelines and support our beaches, fish, recreation, and tourism, **providing \$100s of millions in value.** Unfortunately, Hawaii's coral reefs currently are threatened by ocean heating, ocean acidification, and pollution, particularly wastewater from cesspools.

One of the most effective ways to help the State's coral reefs withstand and recover from present and future threats is to ensure healthy populations of herbivorous fishes, which eat various kinds of seaweeds, preventing them from overgrowing and smothering corals. Recent research (Gove, et al., 2023, published in [Nature](#)) has shown

that the most resilient coral reefs have high populations of herbivorous fish and low land-based pollution.

Although the Board of Land and Natural Resources adopted statewide herbivore fishing rules in December 2023, enforcement of these rules is particularly difficult on the island of Oahu due to a variety of factors, including greater fishing intensity, diversion of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) officers, and nighttime poaching activities. The populations of herbivorous fish around Oahu are the lowest in the State.

The Oahu branch of DOCARE is not adequately staffed or equipped. **Providing funding for additional resources will ensure that the Oahu Branch of the DOCARE is well-equipped to protect herbivorous fish populations around the island of Oahu.** This measure is a matter of statewide concern.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

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



Testimony Before The
Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)
IN SUPPORT OF HB506 HD1 SD1
April 1, 2025, 10:01 a.m., Room 211 & Via Videoconference

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

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

KUA strongly supports HB506 HD1 SD1 as an incremental step towards 'āina momona.

This bill would appropriate funds to the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, to supply needed equipment for the O'ahu Branch to effectively carry out its mission to uphold the laws necessary to protect, conserve, and manage our unique and limited biocultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations.

A large number of our network members partner with DOCARE officers through growing community-based co-management initiatives from mauka to makai. These DOCARE officers are often the first representation community members face from DLNR. Some wahi pana (significant places) have become well-known for their absence of almost any DOCARE presence – largely due to inadequate training resources and capacity. A bill like this, which we urge you to support, and the growing DOCARE Academy we hope you continue to support, are beginning to fill that gap. With the recent graduating classes, so far we have heard only praise and gratitude from our community members with DOCARE's increased presence and effectiveness throughout our state. **As DOCARE's officer pool continues to grow, likewise they need more equipment to carry out their enforcement duties.**

The communities we work with are committed to ensuring the long-term health of our biocultural resources that they have cared for and depended on for generations since time immemorial. **We believe our environment, the foundation of our very existence and “that which feeds” us all, requires long-term investment through a shared vision of achieving ‘āina momona (abundance) once again.** To get there requires dedicating more resources for mālama ‘āina (caring for our environment), including through this measure to ensure that DOCARE has the resources it needs to protect our beloved ‘āina o Hawai‘i and all the lifeforms and practices that depend on it. Our decisions today will continue to shape the future that our keiki’s keiki’s keiki will one day inherit – we hope for a future of shared and harmonious abundance, and hope you do, too.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support. Please **PASS** HB506 HD1 SD1.

Aloha ‘Āina Momona no Nā Kau ā Kau.



Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St,
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony for HB506/HD1/SD1

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwiki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

Aloha mai. My name is Jonnetta "Jonee" Leina'ala Kaina Peters and I live in Āhuimanu, Kāne'ohe, and the Executive Director for Conservation Council for Hawai'i, which is the Hawai'i state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation. I also sit on several 'aina based coalitions and an executive board member of the Pacific Island Heritage Marine National Monument Coalition.

As the Executive Director of Conservation Council for Hawai'i, we strongly support HB506 HD1 SD1 which would appropriate funds for equipment for the Oahu Branch of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enhance enforcement of critical fishing regulations.

Healthy coral reefs supply billions of dollars worth of goods and services to Hawaii by protecting shorelines and providing our beach sand, fisheries, recreation, and tourism. Unfortunately, our coral reefs are often degraded by pollution and increasingly threatened by ocean warming. These threats allow seaweeds to smother and kill corals, the trees of the reef rainforest.

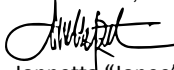
One of the most effective ways to help our coral reefs withstand and recover from present and future threats is to ensure there are healthy populations of herbivorous fishes, which eat and prevent seaweeds from replacing corals. Recent research (Gove, et al., 2023, published in *Nature*) has shown that the most resilient coral reefs in Hawaii have high populations of herbivorous fishes.

Although the Board of Land and Natural Resources adopted statewide herbivore fishing rules as well as a ban of night spearfishing in Maunalua Bay, enforcement of these rules is particularly difficult on the island of Oahu because of high fishing intensity, nighttime poaching activities, and few officers available for night patrols. Consequently, populations of herbivorous fish around Oahu are by far the lowest in the State, critically at less than 5% of their unfished abundance.

Providing ANY funding for additional resources will help ensure that the Oahu branch of DOCARE is well-equipped to protect herbivorous fish populations around the island of Oahu. The survival of our coral reefs hangs in the balance.

Please pass HB506 HD1 SD1.

Mahalo nui,



Jonnetta "Jonee" Peters
Executive Director

**Telephone/Fax: 224.338-6511 | email: info@conservehi.org
web: www.conservehawaii.org | P.O. Box 2923, Honolulu, HI 96802**

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National Wildlife Federation Region 12 Director: Rachel Sprague

National Wildlife Federation Pacific Region Associate Director: Emily Martin

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu – Hawai'i's voice for wildlife | State Affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Supporting HB506 HD1 SD1, Relating to Conservation Enforcement.
Committee on Ways and Means
April 1, 2025 at 10:01 am
Conference Room 211 and via Videoconference**

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Hawai'i and Palmyra supports HB506 HD1 SD1, which appropriates funds for equipment for the O'ahu Branch of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Hawaii's natural environment is the engine that drives our state's economy and a natural, recreational, and cultural treasure supporting our island lifestyle and livelihoods. Careful, thoughtful, and intentional conservation, management, and restoration is critical for the environment to withstand the increasing impacts of climate change while continuing to protect our islands' economic engine. TNC is proud of our decades of working in partnership with so many local organizations, agencies, and communities to care for this vital and fragile resources.

This bill would provide funding for DOCARE to purchase equipment vital to their ability to effectively carry out its mission to uphold the laws necessary to protect, conserve, and manage Hawaii's marine resources, such as responding to violations and enforcing rules and regulations. DOCARE's operations on O'ahu are critical to the long-term management of the islands depleting marine resources which are impacted by increased, often illegal, fishing pressure. This legislation will ensure DOCARE has the equipment and resources its needs to more effectively enforce fishing regulations and provide the opportunity for herbivores and other reef fish populations to recover.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB506 HD1 SD1.

Guided by science, TNC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and have supported over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands.

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Hawai'i Ocean Legislative Task Force



April 1, 2025

Hawai'i State Legislature
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB506 HD1 SD1, Relating to Conservation Enforcement

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

We strongly support HB506 HD1 SD1, Relating to Conservation Enforcement. This bill appropriates funds for equipment for the O'ahu Branch of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The Ocean Legislative Task Force advocates for measures that promote funding for natural resource protection and restoration, ocean resources, our coral reefs, subsistence fishing, and coastal resilience, among other priorities.

The Ocean Legislative Task Force is a group of over 120 individuals from diverse environmental organizations, working together to safeguard marine ecosystems. Our collective expertise allows us to craft impactful strategies to protect Hawai'i's waters.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

The Ocean Legislative Task Force advocates for measures that promote funding for natural resource protection and restoration, ocean resources, coral reefs, subsistence fishing, and coastal resilience, and other priorities.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

April 1, 2025

To: Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Y. Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Tuesday, April 1, 2025, **Time:** 10:01 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

From: Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB506, HD1, SD1 – Appropriates funds for equipment for DOCARE under DLNR.

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

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly supports **HB506, HD1, SD1**, which appropriates funds for equipment for the Oahu Branch of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

This measure is vital to enhancing DOCARE's ability to protect Hawai'i's natural resources and cultural heritage, ensuring that conservation enforcement officers have the tools they need to uphold the laws that safeguard our environment.

Supporting Arguments:

- **Strengthening Conservation Enforcement:**
 - DOCARE plays a critical role in protecting Hawai'i's unique ecosystems, natural resources, and cultural sites. Adequate funding for equipment ensures that conservation enforcement officers are well-equipped to carry out their duties effectively.
- **Improving Response Capability:**
 - Modern equipment enables officers to respond swiftly to violations, emergencies, and other incidents, particularly in challenging terrains and remote areas across Oahu. This improves enforcement outcomes and deters illegal activities.

- **Protecting Cultural and Natural Heritage:**
 - Hawai‘i’s lands and waters are not only home to diverse ecosystems but also hold cultural and historical significance. Empowering DOCARE with the right tools allows them to better preserve these irreplaceable resources for future generations.
- **Enhancing Public Safety:**
 - Conservation enforcement officers often collaborate with other agencies to ensure public safety in parks, marine areas, and wilderness zones. Upgraded equipment enhances their ability to protect both natural resources and community members.
- **Fulfilling Legal Mandates:**
 - DOCARE is tasked with enforcing a broad range of laws under DLNR’s jurisdiction. This funding allocation enables the division to fulfill its legal responsibilities more effectively, ensuring compliance with conservation regulations.

Conclusion:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i strongly supports **HB506, HD1, SD1** as an essential measure to protect Hawai‘i’s natural and cultural heritage. We urge the Committee to pass this bill to ensure that conservation enforcement officers have the resources they need to safeguard our environment and public resources.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this important measure.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melodie Aduja Alan Burdick

Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

HB-506-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 8:52:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Kitaoka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I hearby request that you accept the request from the DLNR DOCARE for funding to support their mission. Aloha!

HB-506-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 9:14:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ziomara Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Legislators,

I am a student working towards a Marine Affairs degree. This legislative period, along with my Maritime Law & Ocean Policy class, have been following bills. As we searched for which might interest us, I found HB506/SB561. I urge your support for this bill.

I care deeply about the health of our oceans. With the drastic climate change occurring, coral reefs are being affected severely. Corals rely on interconnected relationships with herbivorous fish like uhu (parrotfishes), nenu (chubs), kole, and other species. The herbivorous fish are nicknamed the “reef’s lawnmowers” because they eat the overgrown algae and seaweed build-up on corals. Without many herbivorous fish, corals would suffocate and die.

Therefore, herbivorous fish are extremely important to reefs and their survival. It is crucial that DOCARE is funded to monitor and regulate night fishing. The emphasis on the O’ahu branch is due to the mass issue of overfishing and night fishing on the island. This action would greatly improve the health of coral reefs.

Reefs are already trying to fight climate change. We should not give them another hardship to handle during the current changes to our planet.

Kindly,**Ziomara Ramos**

HB-506-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 10:31:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jana Ireijo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

I strongly support HB506 HD1 SD1, which would fund much-needed equipment for Oahu's DOCARE branch to better enforce critical fishing regulations.

Healthy coral reefs are essential to Hawaii, providing shoreline protection, fisheries, recreation, and tourism. But they are increasingly threatened by pollution and ocean warming, which allows seaweed to smother corals—the trees of our reef ecosystem.

One of the best ways to protect reefs is by maintaining healthy populations of herbivorous fish, which prevent seaweed overgrowth. Research (Gove et al., 2023, Nature) shows that Hawaii's most resilient reefs have abundant herbivores. Unfortunately, Oahu's herbivore populations are critically low—less than 5% of their natural abundance—due to heavy fishing, nighttime poaching, and limited enforcement resources.

Any funding to equip DOCARE will help protect these fish and, in turn, our reefs. Please pass HB506 HD1 SD1.

Mahalo,

Jana

HB-506-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 10:46:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniela Escontrela	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB506 HD1 SD1 which would appropriate funds for equipment for the Oahu Branch of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enhance enforcement of critical fishing regulations.

Healthy coral reefs supply billions of dollars worth of goods and services to Hawaii by protecting shorelines and providing our beach sand, fisheries, recreation, and tourism. Unfortunately, our coral reefs are often degraded by pollution and increasingly threatened by ocean warming. These threats allow seaweeds to smother and kill corals, the trees of the reef rainforest.

One of the most effective ways to help our coral reefs withstand and recover from present and future threats is to ensure there are healthy populations of herbivorous fishes, which eat and prevent seaweeds from replacing corals. Recent research (Gove, et al., 2023, published in *Nature*) has shown that the most resilient coral reefs in Hawaii have high populations of herbivorous fishes.

Although the Board of Land and Natural Resources adopted statewide herbivore fishing rules as well as a ban of night spearfishing in Maunalua Bay, enforcement of these rules is particularly difficult on the island of Oahu because of high fishing intensity, nighttime poaching activities, and few officers available for night patrols. Consequently, populations of herbivorous fish around Oahu are by far the lowest in the State, critically at less than 5% of their unfished abundance.

Providing ANY funding for additional resources will help ensure that the Oahu branch of DOCARE is well-equipped to protect herbivorous fish populations around the island of Oahu. The survival of our coral reefs hangs in the balance.

HB-506-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 11:55:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis Mahaffay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

I strongly support HB506 HD1 SD1 which would appropriate funds for equipment for the Oahu Branch of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enhance enforcement of critical fishing regulations.

Providing ANY funding for additional resources will help ensure that the Oahu branch of DOCARE is well-equipped to protect herbivorous fish populations around the island of Oahu. The survival of our coral reefs hangs in the balance.

Please pass HB506 HD1 SD1.

Mahalo,

Dennis Mahaffay

Honolulu, HI

HB-506-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 12:30:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosemary Alles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

I strongly support HB506 HD1 SD1 which would appropriate funds for equipment for the Oahu Branch of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enhance enforcement of critical fishing regulations.

Healthy coral reefs supply billions of dollars worth of goods and services to Hawaii by protecting shorelines and providing our beach sand, fisheries, recreation, and tourism. Unfortunately, our coral reefs are often degraded by pollution and increasingly threatened by ocean warming. These threats allow seaweeds to smother and kill corals, the trees of the reef rainforest.

One of the most effective ways to help our coral reefs withstand and recover from present and future threats is to ensure there are healthy populations of herbivorous fishes, which eat and prevent seaweeds from replacing corals. Recent research (Gove, et al., 2023, published in *Nature*) has shown that the most resilient coral reefs in Hawaii have high populations of herbivorous fishes.

Although the Board of Land and Natural Resources adopted statewide herbivore fishing rules as well as a ban of night spearfishing in Maunalua Bay, enforcement of these rules is particularly difficult on the island of Oahu because of high fishing intensity, nighttime poaching activities, and few officers available for night patrols. Consequently, populations of herbivorous fish around Oahu are by far the lowest in the State, critically at less than 5% of their unfished abundance.

Providing ANY funding for additional resources will help ensure that the Oahu branch of DOCARE is well-equipped to protect herbivorous fish populations around the island of Oahu. The survival of our coral reefs hangs in the balance.

Please pass HB506 HD1 SD1.

Mahalo,

Rosemary Alles
Honokaa, Hawaii.

To: The Honorable Chair Donovan DelaCruz, the Honorable Vice Chair Sharon Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Re: Hearing HB506

Aloha Chair DelaCruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

I am writing as a concerned citizen of Hawai'i to STRONGLY SUPPORT HB506!

Our precious coral reefs protect Hawaii's shorelines and support our beaches, fish, recreation, and tourism, providing hundreds of millions of dollars in value. Unfortunately, Hawaii's coral reefs are currently threatened by ocean heating, ocean acidification, and pollution, particularly wastewater from cesspools.

One of the most effective ways to help our State's coral reefs withstand and recover from present and future threats is to ensure healthy populations of herbivorous fishes, which eat various kinds of seaweeds, preventing them from overgrowing and smothering corals.

Although the Board of Land and Natural Resources adopted statewide herbivore fishing rules in December 2023, enforcement of these rules is particularly difficult on the island of Oahu due to a variety of factors, including greater fishing intensity, diversion of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) officers, and nighttime poaching activities. The populations of herbivorous fish around Oahu are the lowest in the State.

The Oahu branch of DOCARE is not adequately staffed or equipped. Providing funding for additional resources will ensure that the Oahu Branch of the DOCARE is well-equipped to protect herbivorous fish populations around the island of Oahu. This measure is a matter of statewide concern.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Jeddie Kawahatsu

HB-506-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 2:08:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marianne R Bickett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB506 that will protect our precious coral reefs by saving populations of herbivore fish that maintain the health of the reefs and hence our oceans.

Nature has its own intelligence and ways of keeping things in balance. Human activity has often altered that delicate balance and created damage to our environment. We can do something now to save our reefs, our oceans. Please and thank you!

HB-506-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 6:06:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Silberstein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY support HB506 which serves to provide much needed proper equipment for Oahu Branch Conservation Enforcement Officers to better enforce the rules and regulations, respond to complaints in a timely manner, and provide for public education in regard to the laws and best practices that serve to protect and enhance our coastal fisheries and other related natural resources. This is a critical need to ensure we stave off a collapse of our invaluable nearshore and offshore fisheries, like our struggling herbivore population numbers and other fish species around the island of Oahu.

HB-506-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 11:02:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Tristan Kopaciewicz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a full-time uniformed Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement Officer, I would like to highlight our dire need for modern equipment to allow Officers the capability to execute our mission.

The vehicle that I drive is well over 10 years old, and its reliability is something that I question before the start of each workday. I know an officer who utilizes a patrol vehicle that is over 20 years old daily.

The natural resources on Oahu are broadly accepted as being in a condition of decline, as observed by snorkelers, fishermen, and all those who have spent an extended amount of time in the marine environment. Herbivore fish not only present a valuable food source but are also important economically, as tourists from around the globe travel to Oahu to see them snorkeling.

Sustainability is particularly challenging on Oahu, as I have seen one patch of reef be looked over by four different groups of spearfishermen during one morning shift. This is common.

In my experience, the regular night poaching is of utmost concern. Night vision goggles and drones would considerably help our Division's capacity to identify and address frequent violators effectively. A vessel with appropriate lighting would also add to our operational efficacy.

Furthermore, scuba gear would also add to our branch abilities and add another dimension that I have not seen employed to date. Our radios are heavily weathered due to the terrain that we work in daily. Thus, new radios would be well received.

However, equipment alone will not correct the downward trend in herbivore fish. It is a step in the right direction towards providing our Division with the tools that it needs to effectively pursue the goal of having sustainable fisheries on Oahu.

Mahalo,

Officer Kopaciewicz

HB-506-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 6:49:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
George "Bud" Antonelis. PhD	Testifying for Na Kama Kai	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

I've been a Board member of Na Kama Kai 15+ years and we strongly support HB506 HD1 SD1 which would appropriate funds for equipment for the Oahu Branch of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enhance enforcement of critical fishing regulations.

Healthy coral reefs supply billions of dollars worth of goods and services to Hawaii by protecting shorelines and providing our beach sand, fisheries, recreation, and tourism. Unfortunately, our coral reefs are often degraded by pollution and increasingly threatened by ocean warming. These threats allow seaweeds to smother and kill corals, the trees of the reef rainforest.

One of the most effective ways to help our coral reefs withstand and recover from present and future threats is to ensure there are healthy populations of herbivorous fishes, which eat and prevent seaweeds from replacing corals. Recent research (Gove, et al., 2023, published in *Nature*) has shown that the most resilient coral reefs in Hawaii have high populations of herbivorous fishes.

Although the Board of Land and Natural Resources adopted statewide herbivore fishing rules as well as a ban of night spearfishing in Maunalua Bay, enforcement of these rules is particularly difficult on the island of Oahu because of high fishing intensity, nighttime poaching activities, and few officers available for night patrols. Consequently, populations of herbivorous fish around Oahu are by far the lowest in the State, critically at less than 5% of their unfished abundance.

Providing ANY funding for additional resources will help ensure that the Oahu branch of DOCARE is well-equipped to protect herbivorous fish populations around the island of Oahu. The survival of our coral reefs hangs in the balance.

Please pass HB506 HD1 SD1.

Mahalo,

Bud Antonelis

Kailua, Oahu

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

In strongly supporting HB506, I wish to briefly review the origin of this bill, which is not well documented. HB506 resulted from 2024 House Resolution 69 and Senate Resolution 104, which instructed the Division of Aquatic Resources to convene a working group of relevant experts from state and federal agencies, universities, and other organizations to document the state of coral-reef herbivorous fish populations around the island of O‘ahu and recommend corrective action. As the Hsiao Endowed Professor of Marine Biology at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, I was a member of that working group, which was convened in the State Capitol last December.

Why the focus on herbivorous fishes? These living lawnmowers of the sea, including parrotfishes (uhu), surgeonfishes (kala, kole, and others), and chubs (nenu), eat various kinds of seaweeds, preventing them from overgrowing and smothering corals. Living corals are the “trees” of the reef “rainforest,” providing habitat for all coastal sea life. And living coral reefs in Hawai‘i have been documented to be worth \$100s millions, being extremely valuable as natural breakwaters protecting our shores from sea level rise, and as sources of the sand that replenishes our beaches, fisheries that feed us, and new medicines, recreation, and tourism, among other ecosystem goods and services. And the cultural and spiritual value of our coral reefs is incalculable.

Unfortunately for Hawai‘i, many of our coral reefs are degraded and covered with seaweeds, *and* herbivorous fish populations are severely depleted, especially around O‘ahu. Working group members reviewed previously published information and new data from NOAA showing that O‘ahu is by far in the worst shape of all Hawaiian Islands in terms of herbivore depletion (see graphs below). O‘ahu herbivore populations are at far less than 5% of their potential, meaning they are no longer sufficiently abundant to keep our reefs healthy.

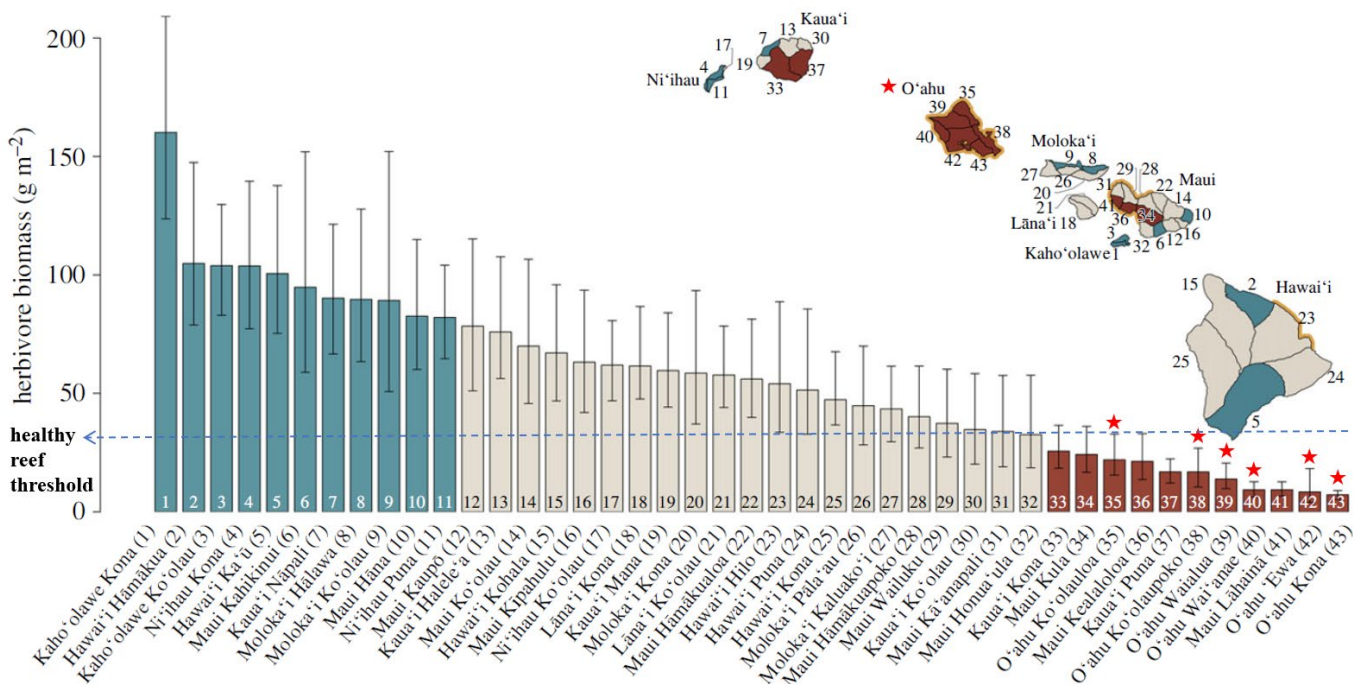
The working group’s primary consensus was that DOCARE requires much needed equipment to help their woefully understaffed marine patrol stop the rampant overfishing of herbivores that occurs at night on O‘ahu reefs. HB506 will provide this equipment. It is common knowledge that groups of spearfishers pillage entire reefs as herbivores like uhu sleep helplessly under ledges at night. My neighbor witnessed a dozen trucks unload about 30 divers for night diving on our local reef. They cleaned-out our reef. Such accounts are common around our island. These lawbreakers are not only depleting our fisheries, they are also greatly endangering the very survival of our coral reefs.

I understand that only a few DOCARE officers are dedicated to night marine patrols around O‘ahu, an island of about 1 million people. Without night-vision goggles, drones, and other specialized equipment, the number of apprehensions of lawbreakers is far too low to save the herbivores that are critical for the survival of our reefs. As a professional marine biologist who has studied these fishes on O‘ahu since the 1970s, I have personally witnessed their extreme decline over the decades. Those who argue that there are plenty of uhu around O‘ahu are simply wrong.

Our existing fishing regulations – from the new herbivore fishing rules enacted last year to the new night spearfishing ban in Maunalua Bay – must be enforced effectively so populations of

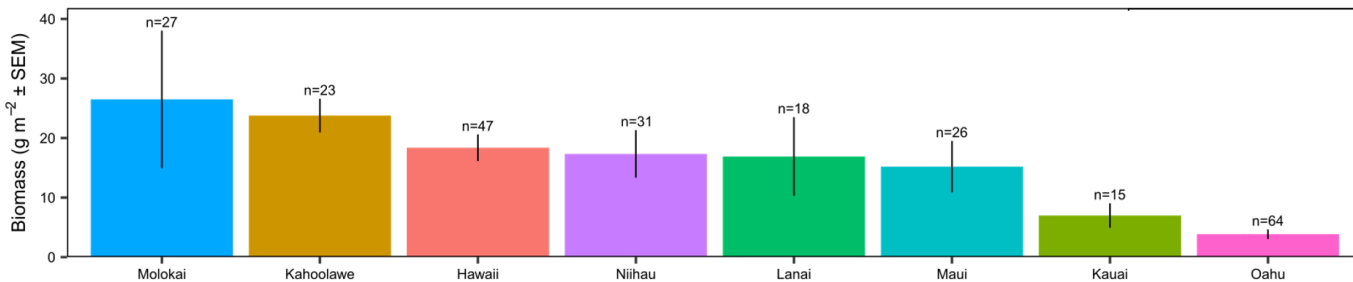
our herbivorous reef saviors can recover. Otherwise, those who plunder our reefs with zero regard for the law will continue their nighttime pillaging. I urge you – no, I beg you – to support HB506, even if only partial funding is available. If we continue to kick the can of coral reef conservation down the road, I guarantee that we will lose our reefs.

Mahalo,
Mark Hixon



Abundance of herbivorous fishes (grams of fish per square meter of reef) in each moku of the main Hawaiian Islands. Red stars indicate the extreme depletion of herbivores around O'ahu (Donovan et al. 2023 *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*). The “healthy reef threshold” is the abundance of herbivores necessary for reefs to remain healthy (Brock 1979 UH PhD thesis).

2024 total herbivores: *uhu*, *nenue*, *kala*, other surgeonfishes (*manini*, *kole*, etc)



Abundance of herbivorous fishes (grams of fish per square meter of reef) around each of the main Hawaiian Islands from NOAA's 2024 diver surveys (n is the number of survey sites per island). Note the extremely low abundance of herbivores around O'ahu (far right).

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB506 HD1 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

I am a retired (2016) federal NOAA NMFS Fisheries Research Biologist with 27 yrs of federal government service studying the quantitative natural life history and ecology of reef fishes in Hawaii. I am also an active (2006-present) Adjunct Research Professor of the HIMB, UH. As someone who has specialized in studying the uhu parrotfishes and other herbivorous reef fishes of Hawaii, I am begging for your strong support of HB506 HD1 SD1. These measures would appropriate funds for equipment for the Oahu Branch of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enhance enforcement of critical fishing regulations.

Healthy coral reefs supply billions of dollars worth of goods and services to Hawaii by protecting shorelines and providing our beach sand, fisheries, recreation, and tourism. Unfortunately, our coral reefs are often degraded by pollution and increasingly threatened by ocean warming. These threats allow seaweeds to smother and kill corals, the foundation of our reef ecosystem.

One of the most effective ways to help our coral reefs withstand and recover from present and future threats is to ensure there are healthy populations of herbivorous fishes, which eat and prevent seaweeds from replacing corals. I am a recognized expert on this topic. In the recent past, I and co-workers have thoroughly documented, in peer-reviewed publications, the information management agencies need to use on the vital rates (growth and reproduction) for sustainable replenishment of our uhu populations (DeMartini and Howard, 2016, J. Fish Biology; DeMartini, 2017, Ichthyological Research; DeMartini et al, 2017, 2018, Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci.) and our kala populations (DeMartini and Langston 2014; DeMartini et al. 2014a, Ichthyol, Res, 2014b Can J Fish Aquat Sci). Other recent research (Gove et al., 2023, published in *Nature*) has shown that the most resilient coral reefs in Hawaii have large populations of herbivorous fishes.

Although the Board of Land and Natural Resources adopted statewide herbivore fishing rules as well as a ban of night spearfishing in Maunalua Bay, enforcement of these rules is particularly difficult on the island of Oahu because of intense fishing, nighttime poaching activities, and few officers available for night patrols. Consequently, populations of herbivorous fish around Oahu are by far the lowest in the State, critically at less than 5% of their unfished abundance.

Providing ANY funding for additional resources will help ensure that the Oahu branch of DOCARE is well-equipped to protect herbivorous fish populations around the island of Oahu. The survival of our coral reefs hangs in the balance.

Please pass HB506 HD1 SD1.

Mahalo,

Edward E. DeMartini, PhD
Kaneohe, Hawaii

HB-506-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 3:48:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Claire Mohler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB506 HD1 SD1, which would provide essential funding for the O'ahu Branch of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). These funds will enhance enforcement of critical fishing regulations, ensuring the health and survival of Hawai'i's coral reefs.

Coral reefs are the foundation of Hawai'i's marine ecosystems. They not only protect our coastlines from erosion and storm damage but also support local fisheries, sustain tourism, and hold deep cultural significance. However, these reefs are increasingly under threat from pollution, rising ocean temperatures, and more frequent bleaching events. Without immediate action, these critical ecosystems will continue to decline.

One of the most effective ways to support coral reef health is by maintaining strong populations of herbivorous fish. Species such as parrotfish (uhu), surgeonfish (kala), and chubs (nenu) play a crucial role in preventing algae overgrowth, which can suffocate corals and hinder reef recovery. Without these fish, seaweed spreads unchecked, further degrading coral reef habitats.

Despite existing regulations to protect herbivorous fish, enforcement has been particularly challenging on O'ahu due to high fishing pressure, illegal night fishing, and limited resources for marine patrols. With herbivorous fish populations at critically low levels, urgent action is needed to strengthen enforcement capabilities and prevent further declines.

The funding proposed in this bill would provide DOCARE with the necessary patrol vessels, surveillance tools, and night-vision equipment to enforce fishing regulations more effectively. These resources will make a tangible difference in protecting herbivorous fish populations and, in turn, ensuring the long-term resilience of our coral reefs.

Healthy coral reefs are vital to Hawai'i's environment, economy, and way of life. I urge you to pass HB506 HD1 SD1 to give DOCARE the resources it needs to uphold conservation laws and protect these irreplaceable ecosystems.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Claire Mohler

Honolulu, HI

Testimony in Support of HB506 HD1 SD1

March 30, 2025

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

I strongly support HB506 HD1 SD1 which would appropriate funds for equipment for the Oahu Branch of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enhance enforcement of critical fishing regulations.

Healthy coral reefs supply billions of dollars worth of goods and services to Hawaii by protecting shorelines and providing our beach sand, fisheries, recreation, and tourism. Unfortunately, our coral reefs are often degraded by pollution and increasingly threatened by ocean warming. These threats allow seaweeds to smother and kill corals, the trees of the reef rainforest.

One of the most effective ways to help our coral reefs withstand and recover from present and future threats is to ensure there are healthy populations of herbivorous fishes, which eat and prevent seaweeds from replacing corals. Recent research (Gove, et al., 2023, published in *Nature*) has shown that the most resilient coral reefs in Hawaii have high populations of herbivorous fishes.

Although the Board of Land and Natural Resources adopted statewide herbivore fishing rules as well as a ban of night spearfishing in Maunalua Bay, enforcement of these rules is particularly difficult on the island of Oahu because of high fishing intensity, nighttime poaching activities, and few officers available for night patrols. Consequently, populations of herbivorous fish around Oahu are by far the lowest in the State, critically at less than 5% of their unfished abundance.

Providing ANY funding for additional resources will help ensure that the Oahu branch of DOCARE is well-equipped to protect herbivorous fish populations around the island of Oahu. The survival of our coral reefs hangs in the balance.

Please pass HB506 HD1 SD1.

Mahalo,

Sherri Rigg
Honolulu, Hawai

HB-506-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 10:12:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarita Rich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

I strongly support HB506 HD1 SD1 which will secure funds for equipment for the Oahu Branch of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enhance enforcement of critical fishing regulations.

About half the world's coral reefs have died from local stressors and a rapidly warming planet. Especially dangerous to Hawaiian reefs is runoff of fertilizers and sewage that encourages seaweed growth that smothers corals, and overfishing that depletes populations of fishes, like uhu, that eat smothering seaweeds. Unless harmful trends in human activity are reversed, some scientists believe about 90% of the world's reefs will die by 2050.

Hawai'i has a chance to be a leader in the fight to protect the natural resources that make our islands unique. Healthy coral reef ecosystems are culturally important to Hawai'i. Our people depend on reefs for food, income, protection of coastlines from storms and erosion, and recreational activity and tourism.

One thing we can do for our reefs now is protect the herbivore fishes that feed on the smothering seaweeds that can destroy coral reefs. We have herbivore fishing rules in place but proper and thorough enforcement of the rules on Oahu is especially challenging. Oahu has the lowest populations of herbivore fishes, in part due to high fishing intensity, illegal nighttime spear fishing, and lack of resources or night patrol.

Please pass HB506 HD1 SD1. This will help us change course and make a difference in the health of our coral reefs.

Mahalo,

Sarita Rich

Honolulu, HI

Testimony in Support of HB506 HD1 SD1

I am writing to express my strong support of HB506 HD1 SD1, which would provide funding for equipment to help the Oahu Branch of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) better enforce critical fishing regulations.

Hawai'i's coral reefs are incredibly valuable-not only do they protect our shorelines from erosion, but they also support marine life, provide fisheries, and contribute to our economy through tourism and recreation. Unfortunately, our reefs are being degraded by pollution and rising ocean temperatures, which allow seaweeds to overgrow and kill corals. Without action, these ecosystems will continue to decline.

One of the most effective ways to help coral reefs survive is by protecting herbivorous fish, which eat seaweed and prevent it from overtaking coral. A recent study (Gove et al., 2023, published in *Nature*) found that the healthiest reefs in Hawai'i have strong herbivore populations, showing just how important these fish are to reef resilience.

While regulations have been put in place to protect herbivorous fish, enforcement remains a major challenge on Oahu due to high fishing pressure, nighttime poaching and a limited number of officers available for patrol. As a result, Oahu's herbivorous fish populations are dangerously low-less than 5% of what they should be. Without strong enforcement, these fish will continue to disappear, putting our reefs at even greater risk.

Providing funding for DOCARE will ensure officers have the tools they need to protect herbivorous fish and give our reefs a chance to resource. The health of our coral reefs depends on immediate action. Please pass HB506 HD1 SD1.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Ryley Hewison

Honolulu, Hawai'i

HB-506-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 10:44:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sylvie Madison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill HB506

Protecting O‘ahu’s coral reefs is critical to Hawaii’s environmental resilience, cultural heritage, and long-term coastal security. HB506 provides the essential tools and funding our conservation officers need to enforce reef protections and stop illegal poaching before it’s too late.

Sylvie Madison
Kailua Kona

HB-506-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 7:55:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phil Rarick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chairman, members of the W.A.M. committee, I wish to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of this bill.

This committee has supported DLNR DOCARE with funding for new officers and training. Now that the new officers have been put in the field, the law enforcement equipment requested below is lacking or non existant for the Oahu Branch of DOCARE.

The Oahu near shore fisheries, with focus on the recent herbivore administrative rule passed requires additional night patrols to become effective. The decline of the fish population around Oahu due to violations of current rules, and poaching needs enforcement. Thus enforcment funding for the following.....

Patrol 4x4 trucks up-fitted with law enforcement equipment for shoreline patrol

Patrol boats for offshore patrol

SCUBA equipment for underwater enforcement, and training

Night vision equipment for identification of poachers at night

Drones for observation to determine if violations are occuring

Radio dispatch console upgrade to communicate with officers in the field

Portable two way radios for communication and officer safety

Surveilance portable trailers with automatic license plate readers for placement at small boat harbors to determine if violations are occuring when officers are not there 24/7.

Mahalo for your SUPPORT

HB-506-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 8:20:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kosaki, Randall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to ask for your support of HB506, which will equip DLNR DOCARE enforcement officers with equipment that is essential for night-time enforcement of fishing regulations. Illegal night spearfishing and gill-netting of reef fishes, especially in marine protected areas and in the newly created Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area, will exacerbate depletion of populations of herbivorous fishes (especially uhu or parrotfish, family Scaridae). **These herbivores, the “lawnmowers of the reef”, are essential to keeping algal growth from smothering our corals**, especially in the wake of coral mortality driven by climate change driven events such as coral bleaching (and subsequent death), and damage from major storms and hurricanes.

I have worked as a professional marine biologist here in Hawai‘i for nearly 40 years. I am also an avid recreational spearfisher. Whether on the job as a biologist, or in the water as a fisher, I have witnessed a serious decline in the abundance of these ecologically important fishes during my lifetime. O‘ahu’s abundance of herbivores has been reduced through human activities to less than 5% of their abundance on the pristine reefs of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands where I work. These observations come from peer-reviewed scientific studies of the highest caliber. Please refer to testimony by Drs. Mark Hixon and Alan Friedlander which cites relevant scientific studies.

Thank you for your support of HB506, and for helping to stem the illegal take of herbivorous fishes. **The continued existence of coral reefs as we know them is at stake.**

Sincerely yours,

Randall Kosaki, Ph.D.

HB-506-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 8:54:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leila Jaffuel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

I am writing in strong support of HB506 HD1 SD1, which allocates vital funding for equipment to enhance enforcement capabilities at the Oahu Branch of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). This funding is critical to improving the enforcement of essential fishing regulations.

Coral reefs hold immeasurable value. They serve as natural barriers protecting our vulnerable coastal communities and infrastructure, while also providing sustenance, jobs, and cultural enrichment. However, our reefs are deteriorating at an alarming and unprecedented rate, with far-reaching consequences for every resident of our state.

While our reefs are faced with an increasing number of threats, we now know that one of the most effective ways to help the entire ecosystem withstand and recover is to ensure there are healthy populations of herbivorous fishes. Recent research (Gove, et al., 2023, published in *Nature*) reveals that the most resilient coral reefs in Hawai'i have high populations of herbivorous fishes, because they eat and prevent seaweed that would otherwise smother and kill coral.

While the Board of Land and Natural Resources has implemented statewide herbivore fishing regulations, along with a ban on night spearfishing in Maunalua Bay, enforcement remains a significant challenge on O'ahu. High fishing pressure, nighttime poaching, and a shortage of officers available for night patrols have left herbivorous fish populations critically depleted. On O'ahu, these populations are now less than 5% of their unfished abundance—the lowest in the state.

Investing in additional resources for DOCARE will ensure the O'ahu branch is better equipped to protect these vulnerable fish populations. Strengthening enforcement is a key step toward stabilizing and safeguarding our coral reefs and, by extension, the ecosystems and communities that depend on them.

I respectfully urge the committee to pass HB506 HD1 SD1.

Mahalo nui loa,

Leila Jaffuel,



March 31, 2025

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

Re: **STRONG SUPPORT** of **HB506 HD1 SD1**: Relating to Conservation Enforcement

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea
Post Office Box 188
Hale'iwa, HI 96712

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Director of Educational Programs &
Makai Watch Coordinator*

Federal Nonprofit Organization
501(c)(3) FEIN 27-0855937
www.pupukeawaimea.org
info@pupukeawaimea.org

Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea (MPW) is a grassroots, community non-profit that actively works to care for, educate about, and protect our fragile, near-shore marine ecosystems. Our mission is "working to replenish and sustain the natural and cultural resources of the Pūpūkea and Waimea ahupua'a for present and future generations through active community stewardship, education, and partnerships.

We write in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB506 HD1 SD1 which would appropriate funds for equipment for the O'ahu Branch of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

We are proud to have been the first State of Hawai'i Makai Watch program on O'ahu, a collaborative statewide program where citizens and NGOs become directly involved with DLNR in the management of marine resources through promoting compliance to rules, education, and monitoring.

We collaborate closely with DOCARE and rely on their ability to effectively respond to violations and enforce the rules and regulations protecting our marine resources. HB506 appropriates moneys to DOCARE for purchasing much needed equipment that will directly benefit the health and abundance of our nearshore marine resources.

For these reasons, we **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB506 HD1 SD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony,
Jenny Yagodich

Jenny Yagodich

Director of Educational Programs &
Makai Watch Coordinator