

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of**  
**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
**Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on**  
**WATER AND LAND**

**Friday, February 8, 2019**  
**1:20 PM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of**  
**SENATE BILL 931**  
**RELATING TO MARINE AQUARIUM FISHING**

Senate Bill 931 proposes to prohibit all commercial capture of aquatic life for aquarium purposes, regardless of the method of collection. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

The Department has managed the Hawaii aquarium fishery for sustainable commercial use based on science and monitoring, gear restrictions, and in West Hawaii, Fishery Management Areas which have restored aquarium fish populations.

The Department recognizes however that there may be other reasons to prohibit commercial aquarium collection based on cultural or social values. The Department has required aquarium permit applicants to analyze the cultural impacts of aquarium collection as part of their Environmental Impact Statement prior to issuance of any aquarium permit. At this time, the Department takes no position on whether there are cultural impacts that would warrant a total ban on all commercial aquarium collection.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**ROBERT K. MASUDA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**M. KALEO MANUEL**  
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

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 11:25:02 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Bishop	Testifying for Friends of Hanauma Bay	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahele and Committee Members,

Friends of Hanauma Bay strongly support SB931. Prohibiting the commercial capture of Hawai'i's reef wildlife protects the traditional cultural practices of kanaka maoli and kama'aina and helps ensure the health and welfare of our fragile coral reefs that are threatened by so many other stressors already. It is also a logical extension of the prohibition on taking sand, dead coral, coral rubble, rocks, soil, and other marine deposits enacted in 1988.

Please pass SB931, and mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Lisa Bishop

President

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 8:44:06 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Nakachi	Testifying for Moana Ohana	Support	Yes

Comments:



**TO:** Honorable Chair Kahele, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Water and Land Committee Members, 2-08-19, 1:20 p.m.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Heather Carpenter, Western Regional Director, State Affairs, The Humane Society of the United States, [hcarpenter@humanesociety.org](mailto:hcarpenter@humanesociety.org), Tel: 702-929-2999, and Teresa M. Telecky, Ph.D., Vice President, Wildlife Department, Humane Society International, [telecky@hsi.org](mailto:telecky@hsi.org), Tel: 301.258.1430

---

**In SUPPORT: SB931; Relating to Marine Aquarium Fishing**

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and their international arm, Humane Society International (HSI), support SB931 prohibiting all commercial capture of Hawaii’s aquatic life for aquarium purposes, regardless of the method of collection. We deeply thank the Committee for addressing this important matter that affects the lives of at least 200,000 marine animals per year.

The Global trade in wild animals as pets—including fish for display in home aquaria—involves billions of animals every year. The trade threatens the survival of wild populations and causes unacceptable treatment of the animals. This thriving industry feeds on consumer demand for rare and beautiful animals. Whether small carnivores, exotic birds such as parrots, reptiles, amphibians, or fish, few species are safe from this exploitive trade.

The global trade in marine fish involves between 20 and 24 million individual animals, 99 percent of whom are wild-caught (Wabnitz et al. 2003). High levels of mortality of marine fish in the aquarium trade, associated with inadequate handling and transport, have been widely recognized as a problem (Cartwright et al. 2012; Wabnitz et al. 2003).

Hawaii aquarium fish catch reports for 2018, for example, document fish mortality rates of 3% between capture and dealer purchase (DAR 2018). Trade members report an additional 9% die in holding and within 3 days of transport from Hawaii to dealers in North America (Cesar, 2002; American Marinelife Dealers Association, 1997). These transport related losses are repeated throughout the supply chain. Within 2 weeks of arrival at a retail location, an additional 11% will have expired (Cartwright et al. 2012). This means that nearly 30% of the fish captured die before reaching the end consumers who are typically novice aquarium hobbyists.

Lacking the skills necessary to properly care for this wildlife, the husbandry needs of wild marine life captured from Hawaii reefs simply cannot be met in captivity in hobby tanks.

Individual stressors may not kill these animals immediately, but their effects accumulate and result in significant losses. 80% of saltwater fish deaths in home aquariums stem from practices within the supply chain (Cartwright 2012). Those practices, implemented to save time and money, contribute to the stressors and injuries that lead to the premature deaths of this wildlife and put undue pressure on wild populations: for every animal that dies before reaching the market, more are taken to fill the demand.

In addition, we are opposed to these practices because they are cruel and unnecessary given that less harmful alternatives exist that don't cause injury and contribute to premature mortalities. Examples include piercing fish swim bladders instead of slow decompression, starving for extended periods of time prior to export instead of increasing shipping bag water volume, and fin/spine trimming instead of packing in puncture-proof containers.

The trade and hobbyists, alike, treat fish like cut flowers to be displayed until they die (often of starvation), then discarded and replaced. The capture and export of animals that have virtually no chance of survival in captivity should cease.

Fish in the aquarium pet trade suffer from unacceptably high death rates. The marine life captured in Hawaii deserves better treatment than what they are currently receiving. When the basic needs of captive animals are being met, their long-term survival is ensured. This is not so for fragile reef wildlife, with the vast majority of these animals experiencing temporary, not long-term survival. Though many, such as the yellow tang, would survive for decades in the wild, the lives of most in captivity are measured in weeks or months. Contributing to these shortened lives, are the inexperienced hobbyists purchasing them, most of whom stay in the hobby, on average, only a year before giving it up.

This raises the question of suitability for a life in captivity and brings us back to a premise stated earlier in this testimony: capture and export of animals that have virtually no chance of survival in captivity should cease.

HSUS/HSI thanks the Committee for taking up this important issue. ***We urge the Committee to pass SB931***, to protect Hawaii's coral reef wildlife.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 3:40:04 PM

---

Submitted by: West Hawaii Humane Society, Kailua-kona, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

It is time to end the wasteful and inhumane trade in our fragile marine wildlife for aquarium pet trade purposes. This trade is offensive to Hawaii's culture and values. Mahalo for your support of SB931

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 6:03:39 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimiko LaHaela Walter	Testifying for Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (HIROC)	Support	No

Comments:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

February 8, 2019, 1:20 p.m., Room 229

In **SUPPORT of SB931** relating to Marine Aquarium Fishing

---

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and committee members,

The HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION –HIROC– was formed in 2017 by coral reef scientists, educators, local Hawai'i environmental organizations, elected officials, and others to address a crisis facing Hawai'i's coral reefs and ocean, including harms from taking fish from reefs.

We **strongly support** this bill and urge its passage to protect our reefs.

Hawai'i's reefs are stressed by many factors, especially worldwide ocean warming and acidification, which Hawai'i alone cannot control. One local insult to reefs that Hawai'i could control is the disruption of reef and ocean ecology by the taking of fish for the commercial aquarium pet trade, which mostly ships our fish out of state. Taking herbivorous fish is particularly problematic because they clean the corals of harmful algae. The experience with "no take" fishing areas shows, not surprisingly, that they generally have more fish than open fishing areas. Banning commercial aquarium fishing for the pet trade as proposed in this bill would benefit the reefs by eliminating some disruption to local reef ecology. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of SB931.

Kimiko LaHaela Walter on behalf of the Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition.





**Chair Kahele**  
**Vice Chair Keith-Agaran**  
**Senate Committee on Water & Land**

**Friday, February 8, 2019**  
**1:20 PM**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB931 RELATING TO MARINE AQUARIUM  
FISHING**

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, Members of the Senate Committee on Water & Land,

My name is Jun Shin. I am the Environmental Justice Action Committee Chair for the Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA), a member of the Common Good Coalition. YPDA represents about 1,000 Hawai'i residents, mostly of Honolulu who seek to build a Hawai'i that is just, equitable, and sustainable. YPDA is in **support of SB931 relating to marine aquarium fishing.** .

YPDA supports the preservation of our natural resources. Marine life is very fragile and protecting it should be a priority of an island society in the Pacific with a long history of having a close relationship to the land. Our own state constitution states in Article XI Section I, "For the benefit of present and future generations, the State and its political subdivisions shall conserve and protect Hawaii's natural beauty and all natural resources, including land, water, air, minerals and energy sources, and shall promote the development and utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation and in furtherance of the self-sufficiency of the State." So that future generations can swim with the beautiful fishes, YPDA urges you to **support SB931 and pass it out of your committee.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin  
Environmental Justice Action Committee Chair  
Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA)  
1561 Kanunu St.  
Cell: 808-255-6663  
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 9:56:37 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John & Rita Shockley	Testifying for FREE ACCESS COALITION	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

The reef fishes in the Hawaiian Islands are not an infinite resource. Tourists come to see them. Many of the fishes captured simply die off in aquariums. The money made by the fish capturers is not worth clearing off our reefs of one of the wonders that both local and visitors come to see.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 4:00:32 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Deborah Ward	Testifying for Sierra Club Moku Loa Group Chair	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 12:44:15 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:



February 7, 2019

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND  
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair

February 8, 2019 at 1:20pm  
Conference Room 229

**Re: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 931 - RELATING TO  
MARINE AQUARIUM FISHING**

Please accept these comments submitted by the Center for Biological Diversity in **strong support** of SB 931 which would prohibit commercial capture of aquatic life for aquarium purposes, regardless of the method of collection.

In 2017, the Hawai'i Supreme Court invalidated and prohibited aquarium permits without adequate environmental review, nonetheless it is business as usual for the commercial aquarium collection industry. Hundreds of thousands of Hawai'i's culturally and ecologically important reef animals continue to be taken and sold outside Hawai'i in the aquarium pet trade. In fact, Hawai'i is the largest exporter of reef fish in the United States, and the third largest in the world.<sup>1</sup>

Unfortunately, the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) continues to allow commercial collection and continues to issue new aquarium permits as "Commercial Marine License" to any new applicant for an annual fee of a mere \$100. Further, DLNR lacks the resources necessary for enforcement of illegal collection and wildlife trafficking.

The collection of aquatic life for decorative purposes is likely having devastating impacts on Hawai'i's fragile marine ecosystems as these marine animals play a vital role in reef health and resiliency. **Please pass Senate Bill 931 so that we can see an end to this trade and its negative impacts on overall reef health and biodiversity.**

The Center for Biological Diversity ("Center") is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection of native species and their habitats through science, policy, and environmental law. The Center has more than 1 million members and online activists dedicated to the protection and restoration of endangered species and wild places.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2018/12/murky-underwater-world-of-the-aquarium-trade/>

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of Senate Bill 931.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maxx Phillips', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Maxx Phillips

Hawai'i Director and Attorney

Center *for* Biological Diversity

Email: [Mphillips@BiologicalDiversity.org](mailto:Mphillips@BiologicalDiversity.org)

Phone: 808-284-0007

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 3:02:48 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tanya Freymuth	Testifying for Live Freyly Sanctuary	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying on behalf of Live Freyly Sanctuary. We support the bill to prohibit all commercial capture of aquatic life for aquarium purposes, regardless of the method of collection. As volunteers for other organizations we have seen the destruction of the reefs and endangerment of sea life. These species that are collected merely for human entertainment are vital to the survival of the reefs and the reefs are vital to the survival of our seas and inturn our planet. Please make the right decision and pass bill SB931. Thank,

Tanya and Mike Freymuth



**To:** Honorable Chair Kahele, Vice-chair Keith-Agaran and Senate Water and Land Committee members, Feb. 08, 2019, 1:20 pm, Rm. 229

**Re: SB931 in SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee members,

For the Fishes supports SB931, prohibiting the commercial capture of Hawaii's marine life for aquarium purposes, regardless of the method of collection. We sincerely thank the Committee for considering this critically important matter that affects all who live in Hawaii and value our marine animals and their coral reef homes.

**This measure is urgently needed now because:**

- For decades Hawai'i residents and communities have called for a complete end to the trade because of concerns related to the environment and the trade's numerous conflicts with local and cultural values.
- During this time, every statewide law regulating this wildlife trade has ignored these longstanding issues and allowed the continued take of unlimited numbers of marine animals, where interests outside the state profit at Hawai'i's expense.
- A 2017 Hawaii State Supreme Court Decision has even been unable to stop it: aquarium trade catch reports document that in 2018 nearly 200,000 marine animals were taken from Hawai'i's reefs and exported for the pet trade despite the fact that aquarium permits were deemed invalid and illegal as a result of the decision. and a court ordered environmental review.
- This mass collection also continues despite the court's requirement for DLNR and the aquarium trade to abide by Hawaii's Environmental Policy Act and DLNR's subsequent July 2018 rejection of the trade's inadequate environmental assessments and requirement for full environmental impact studies.

**How is this happening?**

- DLNR is allowing the aquarium trade to harvest marine life for aquarium purposes, without proper environmental review, as long as trade members claim they aren't using prohibited nets. DLNR has taken no steps to substantiate these claims.



- There are no limits on the number of licenses issued or animals that can be taken. From baby yellow tangs to bandit angelfishes and flame wrasses, the trade is getting whatever it wants, making it highly unlikely the expensive environmental impact studies will ever be completed.

### **The aquarium trade is incompatible with Hawai'i's local values:**

- There is a general consensus that it is unethical to trade in live animals, unless their health and welfare are ensured (Sadovy 2002).
- A 2017 scientific poll conducted by Hawai'i's Anthology Research determined that 81% of Hawai'i residents believe only aquacultured fish should be kept as pets in aquariums—not wildlife. That same poll found that 84% of Hawaii voters want the aquarium trade to end.
- Marine life suffers from serious injury, mutilation, and starvation in capture, handling, and transport, which contributes to premature deaths and the never-ending demand for replacements.
- The excessive and wasteful mortalities of Hawai'i's marine life taken for the pet trade is documented through industry self-reporting. Understandably, the reported numbers may underrepresent the true levels of loss. Still, the reported ranges represent high levels of unnecessary deaths at each step in the supply chain. For example, aquarium catch reports indicate that, on average, 3% of the fish die after capture and within a few days of export. In 2018 that number was 3,483.
- The trade also reports that an additional 3% - 5% of the marine animals shipped from Hawai'i die during transport via air cargo, with a similar number dying within 3 days of arrival.
- Individual stressors and injuries don't kill these marine animals immediately. Instead, their effects accumulate and result in an extremely high level of "delayed mortalities". One study that included Hawaii's yellow tang found that within 14 days at retail, 11% more die every day. They also found that 80% of the fish deaths in home aquariums are due to poor supply chain practices (Cartwright et al. 2012).
- The above statistics serve to underscore what a former long-time DLNR/DAR staff member once testified to: this marine life has a "shelf life" and must be sold quickly. Given that the natural lifespan of Hawaii's yellow tang is literally measured in decades, with many reaching 20, 30 and some, even 40 years of age, this may be the clearest indicator of the ethical conflict that is inherent in selling Hawaii's marine life to the pet trade.
- One final point further underscoring the ethical conflict: every step in the supply chain significantly profits from sales of fish to replace those that die prematurely. Profits are so high the trade has no incentive to reform those practices (Cartwright et al. 2012).

### **We've never been here before:**

- Several months ago, aquacultured yellow tangs became widely available to the aquarium pet trade for the first time in history.

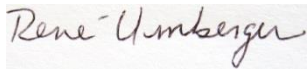
- We have less than 20 years to build resiliency in our reefs so they may withstand and recover from the catastrophic bleaching that's projected to devastate our most important ecosystem.

**The future for those currently in the trade:**

- Research into the make-up of Hawai'i's aquarium collectors indicates they work part-time catching fish 3 days per week, on average. During times when efforts were less productive, 30% said they depended more on their non-fishing other job, took a new job, and/or worked in a different fishing job (Stevenson 2011).
- Still, much consideration must be given to addressing the livelihoods that would be displaced by this measure. To that end, we've reached out to DLNR requesting their help.
- One solution is to encourage or require Special Activity Permit (SAP) applicants to hire local collectors for their collection activities. These permits are issued to public aquariums, both here and in North America, to educational institutions, and aquaculture facilities. There are currently dozens of public for-profit and non-profit aquariums nationwide that currently source marine life for their exhibits from the same wholesalers servicing the hobby. Any of those facilities wanting to display Hawai'i's marine life would need to apply for an SAP.
- Ornamental fish aquaculture is expanding in Hawai'i. A new hatchery opened just recently. We believe that aquaculture research, development, and production and SAPs, will provide important opportunities for any displacement that occurs as a result of this measure.

We urge the Committee to pass SB931.

Sincerely,



Rene Umberger  
Executive Director

Tel: 808.283.7225  
rene@forthefishes.org

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 1:32:21 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patricia Shields	Testifying for Board Member, Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Committee Members who constructed and are presenting this Bill, I want to thank you and support this very important step towards preventing people from capturing tropical fish and any beautiful creature of the sea for their own personal use. Taking sea creatures away from their home, transported, then dropped into a tank for public or private viewing is no less heinous than separating children from their parents at the border and putting them into cells - without any understanding why they've been abandoned and confined. This practice must stop now.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to present my testimony on this very important Bill.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 4:32:35 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Testifying for Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments:

**WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS BILL. HOWEVER, WE SEEK AN AMENDMENT TO SPECIFICALLY BAN, AMONGST OTHER SEA CREATURES, THOSE THAT HAVE NATIVE HAWAIIAN CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, TO WIT:**

1. NÄ• Mano (Sharks);
2. Nai`a (Dolphins/Porpoises);
3. HÄ<sup>a</sup>HÄ<sup>a</sup>MANO (Sting Rays);
4. KoholÄ• (Humbback) & Palaoa (Sperm). Mahalo.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:27:14 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maria N. Isotov	Testifying for Maui Land & Water Planning LLC.	Support	No

Comments:

Please support SB931 Prohibiting aquarium reef fishing. These reef fish create the sand of the majority of our beaches. These reef fishes do an irreplaceable and critical job protecting our Shoreline. We need to protect this resource in its natural environment.

Maria N Isotov

Land Use Planning Consultant and Coastal Zone Planner

Maui Land & Water Planning LLC

Maui County

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 12:41:43 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Moran	Testifying for Kihei Community Association (KCA)	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha WTL committee:

Our all volunteer unfunded non profit has supported such actions for several yaers. We appreciate the quintet for introducing it and ask for the committee's approval on Fruiday afternoon. Mahalo.

Mike Moran for KCA



## **Opposition SB931-Relating to Aquarium Fishing Aquarium Fishing and Hawaiian Culture**

6 February 2019

Aloha,

We are in opposition to SB931 Relating to Aquarium Fishing.

The Ancient Hawaiians were practical people that utilized their natural resources to sustain life and enhance their living conditions. If we look through history, we see that not much has changed. Today, Hawaiians still depend on their natural resources to survive. We remain resourceful and hard-working, which allows us to thrive off the land.

One of the current hot topic items in Hawaii is aquarium fishing. At this point, aquarium fishing is the most studied and regulated fishery in the Hawaiian Islands. It is still a relatively new fishery. Ancient Hawaiians did not target these fish, as there was no practical use for them prior to Captain Cook arriving in 1778. As an industry, aquarium fishing was simply nonexistent in ancient Hawaiian culture.

Many environmentalist groups choose to focus on this fact alone, proposing severe limitations and bans aquarium fishing as it was not initially part of Hawaiian culture. This view is incorrect, and in fact contrary to the values at the heart of Hawaiian Culture.

While we still preserve the idea of utilizing our natural resources to survive, our culture has evolved. We now depend not only on the land, but on money for sustainability. Hawaiians have found new ways to feed their families and fuel Hawaii's economy. The aquarium fish trade allows Hawaiian people to practice our culture by gathering from our resources, as did our ancestors.

Although Hawaiian culture is, in many ways, a positive model for our current society, it is not without its own flaws. There is a disjoint between what people believed the ancient Hawaiians to be, and what they actually were. It is commonly thought that Hawaiians never overharvested their resources, which is simply not true. Take, for example, Kamehameha, who sent his people to the forest to collect sandalwood as a means to increase his own wealth and become a prominent force in Hawaii. Kamehameha utilized this resource to the point of depletion. To find the now scarce sandalwood, Hawaiians burnt entire forests, seeking out the sandalwood by smell. With the people of Hawaii diverting their full attention to Kamehameha Sandalwood Trade, farms lay fallow and famine lingered. Upon Kamehameha's realization that his people were starving, he redirected the Hawaiians back to producing food.

When Kamehameha received cows from Captain Vancouver, he allowed them to roam, grow, and populate the island. The cows went wild. Although not native to the islands, Kamehameha



P.O. Box 240353, Honolulu, HI 96824 Phone: 808-780-1253

understood the value of this new resource and utilized it to feed the people. Today, many traditional environmentalists along with the Department of Land and Natural resources would rather eradicate entire herds of cow, sheep, goats, pigs and deer to keep areas pristine. These new groups of environmentalists are constantly marketing fear and propaganda into the Hawaiian Culture until it becomes a truth. They are bending the decisions, values, and principles of politicians, Hawaiians, and our community by creating emotional value and using Hawaiians to push their agendas.

Hawaiians have learned, like any great culture, from mistakes that have occurred. We all want to preserve our natural resources. However, many seem to focus on false assumptions that Hawaiian culture was perfect, and we should emulate that by opposing anything new. In truth, our new ways of utilizing our resources are a testament to values established by ancient Hawaiian culture. Kamehameha is just an example of how Hawaiians have always adapted to their environments. We can continue to be practical and conservative of our resources, while at the same time, embracing innovation. Evolving new ways to utilize our resources, while maintaining the core values of our ancient culture, is what allows us to survive.

Mahalo,

Makani Christensen  
President



**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 10:51:22 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Domeier	Testifying for Marine Conservation Science Institute	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I hold a Ph.D. in coral reef fish ecology, specializing in the reproductive biology of coral reef fishes. I can state, unequivocally, that the marine aquarium fishery is Hawaii's most sustainable fishery. The Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources has conducted long-term surveys of coral reef fish populations on our reefs, and they have proven that the fishery is indeed sustainable. Each year certain members of our state House and Senate draft bills to shut down the marine aquarium fish trade. Each year the justification for the closure is different. Last year the proposed bill was justified by science, and yet the science does not support a closure of the aquarium fishery. Last year I provided a number of letters from some of the world's leading coral reef fish scientists, explaining that the fishery is indeed sustainable. This year the justification for closing the fishery is that it violates native Hawaiian culture. Since I have no ancestral ties to Hawaii, I spoke to individuals with Hawaiian ancestry to get opinions on this bill. I learned that there is not any Hawaiian cultural issue specific to the marine aquarium fish trade, but there is a strong belief that one should only take what one needs from the land and the sea. Hawaii has other commercial fisheries that are far less sustainable than the aquarium fish trade, for example, the bottom and tuna fisheries. If there is a need to consider Hawaiian cultural values when it comes to managing our states fisheries, then it makes much more sense to begin with the fisheries that are the least sustainable. People of Hawaiian descent certainly participate in the aquarium fishery to provide for their families, just as is the case for our other fisheries. This bill seems to hypocritically single out the marine aquarium fishery, when there are other, more culturally offensive fisheries taking place in our waters.

An independent Environmental Impact Study (EIS) has just begun, relative to the aquarium fishery. Part of this EIS is a analysis of the impact of this fishery on native Hawaiian culture. It makes more sense to wait for the results of this EIS to be made public before a bill like SB931 is considered. The EIS will provide much more detailed information on this topic than currently exists. Furthermore, the successful lawsuit

against the fishery has dramatically curtailed the harvest of aquarium fish from our waters, so the coral reef fish stocks are not faced with an immediate threat of collapse.

Aloha,  
Michael L. Domeier, Ph.D.  
President  
Marine Conservation Science Institute

**LATE**

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 8:44:12 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Richard White	Testifying for Local fishing businesses	Oppose	No

Comments:

If the DLNR said it's a sustainable subject, what's all the fuss about. Don't mess with what's not broken.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 10:36:53 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stuart Coleman	Testifying for Surfrider Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

Surfrider's Hawaii Chapters support this bill to phase out marine aquarium fishing to support the health of our coral reefs, which are already in decline. These fish eat the algae on the reefs and help maintain a healthy ecosystem, but their populations have been greatly reduced due to illegal fishing. Along with the ecological damage to our reefs and ecosystems, these collection practices will also hurt our economy if tourists see that our coral reefs are dying and there are no fish. Mahalo for your consideration and support of this important bill.

Aloha, Stuart Coleman, Hawaii Manager

Surfrider Foundation Hawaii, 2927 Hibiscus Pl., Hon., HI 96815

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 11:14:23 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Natalie Parra	Testifying for Keiko Conservation	Support	No

Comments:



**LATE**

**PET INDUSTRY JOINT  
ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
1615 Duke Street, Suite 100  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Tel: 202-452-1525

TESTIMONY OF THE PET INDUSTRY JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL  
FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE  
IN OPPOSITION TO SB 931

To be considered February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

February 8, 2019

**Position: OPPOSED**

SB931 is a job-killing and completely unnecessary bill. Sound science, sound safety practices, and common sense all dictate that SB931 is nothing more than a renewed attack by environmental extremists on a small and easily targeted segment of the Hawaiian population; aquarium fishermen.

The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) appreciates the opportunity to offer our views regarding SB 931, a bill that would enact a complete ban on aquarium fishing without any scientific rationale for doing so. As the country's largest pet trade association, representing the interests of all segments of the pet industry throughout the United States, PIJAC counts among its members national associations, organizations, corporations and individuals involved in the commercial pet trade. More specifically, PIJAC represents the interests of fishers, pet stores, suppliers, distributors, pet supply manufacturers, breeders, retailers and pet owners throughout the state of Hawaii and across the country.

Let me start by saying that nobody cares more about healthy and safe pets than PIJAC and its members. We have for many years provided a well-respected animal care certification program that is widely utilized by not only persons in the commercial pet trade but shelters, humane societies and institutes of higher education as well. Our association has long been recognized as the voice for a responsible pet trade, and we routinely advocate legislative and regulatory proposals establishing governmental mandates where appropriate to advance the public interest and welfare of pets and the environment. PIJAC works closely with US Department of Agriculture and Department of the Interior to ensure effective enforcement of the federal Animal Welfare Act, management of threatened or endangered species and control of invasive species, and have since its inception. We regularly work with federal and state agencies as well as local governments to advance animal welfare and environmental interests.

The idea that the state of Hawaii would kill an entire trade and shut down Hawaiian businesses that have been responsibly operating for decades is unfathomable. To justify the killing of an entire industry, supporters of this legislation have abandoned even the attempts to cherry pick data to support an argument that the aquarium fishing is adversely impacting the environment. Advocates for a ban have realized that the data collected by the State over a period of 20 years, and is widely supported by the scientific community, overwhelmingly supports the fact that the fishery is sustainable and are making one last, desperate, attempt to shut it down.

SB931 asserts that the existence of the aquarium fishery is not *pono*. As several Hawaiian organizations have pointed out, this is not the case (see <http://www.huntfarmfish.com/blog/>). Science has shown that

the fishery operates in harmony with nature, and consistent with cultural values. The fishery operates sustainably and in close cooperation with state regulators to ensure that resources are not taken in a way that negatively impacts the ecosystem. Isn't this exactly what every industry in Hawaii should be doing?

We are also greatly concerned that the legislature is being encouraged to take this action at this time. Opponents of the aquarium fishery are well aware that an in-depth cultural assessment is being conducted at this time to identify any bonified cultural issues arising from the fishery. They are concerned that, as with fish population data, the facts will not support their argument, and they are desperate to legislate this sustainable fishery out of business before those facts come out.

The responsible course of action is to withhold judgement of the cultural impact of the Aquarium fishery until the cultural assessment has been completed. If there are legitimate conflicts between the fishery and Hawaii's practices, then the fishery is committed to addressing them and finding solutions.

PIJAC also would like to point out that our members have supported fishermen in the development of an Environmental Impact Statement evaluating the effects of the aquarium fishery on the Island of Hawaii. This process is underway, and will evaluate the impacts of this fishery on cultural practices. The Legislature should not prejudge the outcome of this analysis, and should instead allow the HEPA process to inform appropriate agency decisions about regulations in this and other fisheries.

Hawaii's aquarium industry is considered one of the best regulated near-shore fisheries in the world. The DLNR, pursuant to State law, submits a report every five years to the legislature entitled "Relating to the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area." The 2015 Report found that the "The Hawaii marine aquarium fishery is currently the most economically valuable commercial inshore fishery in the State with FY 2014 reported landings greater than \$2.3 million." The regulatory mechanisms covering the Hawaiian aquarium fishery supports the tenets of the sustainable use of renewable natural resources supported in the IUCN's Policy Statement on sustainable use. PIJAC strongly opposes SB931 and asks the Hawaii Legislature to side with science over unfounded accusations. We ask that you vote NO on SB1240.

Thank you for considering our comments and concerns.

Robert Likins  
Vice President of Government Affairs  
Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC)  
bob@pijac.org

## Opposition to SB 931

Dear members of the committee,

My name is Ryan Rothwell, I am a 6<sup>th</sup> generation resident of the state of Hawaii, I own Tropical Fish Emporium, an importer/exporter of aquarium fish in the state of Hawaii. My family and I have been in the pet industry for over 15 years, we have made our living serving our community of Ewa Beach and more recently, going out on my own to spread the joy of aquarium fish from Hawaii and the south pacific all around the world.

What we are dealing with today is similar bill to SB1240 which Governor Ige rightly veto'd in July 2017. Governor Ige saw the data presented him from his own state agencies, independent researchers, hundreds of scientists and over 30 years of data on aquarium fishing in Hawaii that shows that the industry is well managed, sustainable fishery.

Back in September of 2017, the supreme court in the state of Hawaii ruled in favor of the same group that is across the aisle from us today stating that our fish collection permits are "invalid" requiring us to provide the DLNR with an Environmental Impact Study or Environmental Assessment. This court case and media campaign leading up this ruling was littered with inflammatory language and mis-information that completely ignored 30+ years of data and science that led us to where we are today. Hundreds of local residents' lives and businesses were affected, some went out of business, others moved away or had to find new jobs all based on a court case that was based on lies and dis-information. We in the industry would be happy to show you this information should you wish to see it.

The environmental assessment requested to satisfy the supreme courts ruling is completed and has found that the industry is sustainable and confirmed much of the information that we already had. And now that the DLNR is requesting an Environmental Impact Study, that study is underway. Much time and resources have gone into completing these studies and I am confident that the information gathered will prove that the science and data does not lie and the shutting down of an already proven industry is preposterous.

This bill should go no further as we have been down this road before, no new data from the opposition has been presented that contradicts any of the actual FACTS that are available to you and the public. This is not a decision to be made emotionally, I ask that observe the data and information that is put in front of you before making your decision and putting 100's of Hawaii residents out of work and out of business. We as an industry would be happy to answer any questions you have and present the information formally.

Sincerely,

Ryan Rothwell  
Tropical Fish Emporium LLC



February 7, 2019

Dear Honorable Members of the Hawai`i State Legislature:

First, on behalf of the 233 accredited member institutions of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), let me express appreciation for your commitment to the sound management of Hawai`i's spectacular natural resources and beauty. At this time, however, I must urge opposition to SB 931, which would prohibit all commercial capture of aquatic life for aquarium purposes, regardless of the method of collection. If this bill were to pass, it would impact greatly the ability of AZA-accredited aquariums and zoos to educate and inspire millions of visitors with compelling exhibits that showcase the natural beauty of marine life and habitats, including coral reefs and coral reef fishes. Instead, I urge you to table this legislation until the Environmental Impact Statement process, already underway under the auspices of the Hawai`i Department of Land and Natural Resources, is completed so that we all will have the best objective scientific and management data. This data will allow both you, and potentially affected parties, like AZA, to make more informed decisions.

Founded in 1924, the AZA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of zoos, aquariums, nature centers, and science centers in the areas of animal welfare, conservation, education, science, and recreation. The AZA is the independent accrediting organization for the premier zoos and aquariums in America and the world. AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums collectively draw more than 195 million visitors annually, generate more than \$22 billion in annual economic activity, and support more than 208,000 jobs. They also spend annually \$220 million on field conservation projects in 128 countries.

AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums fully understand, recognize, respect, and support Hawai`i's desire to maintain its unique and diverse coral reef habitat. We also acknowledge Hawai`i's marine aquarium fishery to be well-studied and well-managed. The fishery is a model for similar aquarium fisheries management programs around the world. Sustainably managed fisheries have a long-term positive impact by helping to assure that generations of children visiting our member institutions and viewing the species acquired from these fisheries will be inspired to a lifetime of proactive stewardship of all our collective marine resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on these important decisions. The AZA and its members consider themselves to be partners with the State of Hawai`i in conserving your natural resources.

Sincerely,



Dan Ashe  
President and CEO



February 7, 2019

Senator Kaiali'i Kahahele, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Hearing Date: Friday, February 8, 2019  
Hearing Time: 1:20PM  
Regarding: SB 931 Relating to Marine Aquarium Fishing

- **STRONGLY OPPOSE** SB931, Relating to Marine Aquarium Fishing

HFACT is a not-for-profit, IRS 501c(5) organization, that advocates for small boat commercial, non-commercial, and recreational fishermen throughout Hawaii. HFACT board members sit on a number of international, regional, and federal fisheries management and endangered species advisory committees as well as state marine, coastal zone, and fisheries advisory committees and working groups; and, HFACT is thoroughly familiar with and participates in ocean and marine resource management in Hawaii and the western and central Pacific.

HFACT **OPPOSES** the intent of SB931, Relating to Marine Aquarium Fishing. The state has shown commitment to sustainable fisheries and this bill is counter to the state's efforts to support sustainable use of marine resources. The aquarium fish collection fishery in Hawaii has been shown, via peer-reviewed scientific studies, as being sustainable.

The Hawaii courts ruled that an environmental impact statement is required to continue issuing commercial aquarium fishing permits. Since the ruling, aquarium fishermen have been diligently working toward completing an environmental impact statement to submit to the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Two years of hard work and tens of thousands of dollars have been expended by sharing costs among fishermen. All the scientific evidence will show that the fishery is sustainable and that the stocks are growing. It is incumbent on the legislature to allow this process to proceed to continue. SB931 will interfere with this process and therefore should not be approved.

HFACT believes SB931, as written, is simply another attack by animal rights organizations on fishing in Hawaii. While the bill mentions the aquarium fishing industry, in reality it is directed at all fishing in Hawaii, including commercial, recreational, and subsistence fishing. Animal rights groups will not be satisfied until all people in Hawaii, be they a commercial fisherman, a non-commercial fisherman, a native Hawaiian, or a recreational angler, are prohibited from catching fish for food or for any other purpose.

***Hawai'i Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition, Inc.***  
***75-796 Hiona Street, Holualoa HI 96725***

HFACT believes that fisheries management decisions should be based on peer-reviewed science, stakeholder involvement, and guidance from the Department of Land and Natural Resources and its field biologists. If peer-reviewed science shows that strict management protocols need to be implemented, the Department of Land and Natural Resources has many statutory mandates to implement such management rules, simply put SB931 is unnecessary. Passing SB931 would set a bad precedent of managing fisheries resources on the basis of political opinion rather than on the bases of scientific monitoring of the fish stocks in the ocean.

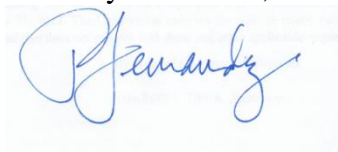
HFACT objects to bills such as this that purport to be based on science, but are in fact based on political and personal agendas. There is absolutely no credible science to support SB931. This is simply another attempt by special interest groups to take management of natural resources away from Hawaii, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the citizens that depend on these resources for cultural, subsistence, and economic reasons.

HFACT recommends that the Legislature support the Department of Land and Natural Resources adopt *more* science-based management of its fisheries rather than *less*, as implied in this bill. With the exception of the management of the aquarium fish collection and bottomfish stock management, Hawaii is behind the state-of-the-art in fisheries science compared to the rest of the nation, and also compared to many island nations. Adopting a science-based approach, as has been done with the aquarium fish collection fishery, is foundational to the proper management of irreplaceable natural resources.

The construction of Hawaii's fisheries statutes, rules, regulations and policies should be made on the basis of the best peer-reviewed scientific and commercial data available. The careful evaluation of scientific evidence is fundamental to the management of all natural resources. The State should strive to make every effort to utilize scientific advances that improve our ability to understand nature and its processes. SB931 flies in the face of fisheries management best practices.

HFACT thanks the chair, vice-chair, and committee members for this opportunity to provide comment and to assist in the conservation of Hawaii's natural resources.

Sincerely and Aloha,



Phil Fernandez  
President

**From:** [RT Distributors](#)  
**To:** [kahele2 - Mark](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony opposed to SB 931  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 4:29:15 PM

---

## **Opposed to SB 931 Legal review and Hawaiian perspective.**

Friday 2/8/19 at 1:20pm in conference room 229.

From Hawaii Tropical Fish Association by Ron Tubbs

Most Hawaiians are in support the aquarium fishery because it allows them the right to take aquarium fish as a way to support their families, and to pay their bills. The aquarium fishery is a proven highly studied sustainable fishery. It does comply with kanaka maoli values of living in harmony and balance ( fishing in a sustainable way ) with nature. The key to our future is sustainability while utilizing our highly renewable marine resources wisely. To ban a fishing group is not wise. We need to utilizing one of our most important resources not shut down a sustainable fishery.

The aquarium fishery is in harmony with the Hawaiian's way of life; it is similar to using fish ponds as a way to provide kanaka maoli cultural practices to feed their family and support their way of life. Obviously the bills introduced by the Hawaii State Legislature to shut down the fishery do not take into account the harm they will do to the state's economy and the Hawaiian fishermen who fish in the fishery. Hawaii 's sustainable and very valuable aquarium fishery is a way to feed local families. This bill like other opposition is based in "user conflict". A few vocal groups in the incorrect name of ecology that threatens that way of life. They have convinced others there is an ecosystem problem. This is not true.

To perpetuate prejudice against the fishery is not the Hawaiian way. To take away fisheries and Hawaiian families way of life away hurts the Hawaiian community especially when it is not needed ecologically is wrong.

Taking what you need, in a proven regulated sustainable way, to support your family pay your bills and make a better life for Hawaiian families continues with those employed by the aquarium fishery. Trying to remove those rights is not pono especially when so much science proves the fishery is sustainable.

The aquarium fishery benefits all of Hawaii residents. Schools, tourist, Hawaiian emersion schools can all visit fish in public aquariums increasing education and knowledge of reef fish and ocean biology. We take and educate the children and world about Hawaii with our fishery. Every home marine aquarium hobbyist becomes aware of Hawaii's beauty, culture and ecosystem science. The fishery has been commended and recognized worldwide for our ecofriendly and sustainable fishing practices that is what being kanaka maoli is about.

Hawaiian fishing values are correct if the fishery is sustainable; the aquarium fishery is a sustainable fishery. To ban native Hawaiians from any fisheries is not pono or constitutional. It is biased and

prejudice against the fishery for user conflict reasons and hurting no helpi9ng the Hawaiian community.

The fishery does not kill sharks, Hawaiian amakua or any other fish. Very few sharks are taken live and unharmed have been collected. When taken they were taken for public aquariums. Those amakua now educate the public about the ocean and promotes understanding and shark ecology.

International and United States ocean laws guarantee the rights of all user groups to utilize all oceans. These laws protect Hawaiians. To undermine our fishery degrades Hawaiians rights to fish other fisheries too. The state role should be to manage regulate and maintain sustainability. DLNR has done just that over many years. The fishery continues to be sustainable and will also be in the future with current laws.

The [Hawaii State Constitution](#) regarding fisheries and public ocean submerged lands states:

### **Protections for Native Hawaiians**

The bill SB 851 and HB 851 makes no carve-outs or provisions to protect native Hawaiians. The Hawai'i Constitution guarantees that the State will "protect all rights, customarily and traditionally exercised for subsistence, cultural and religious purposes and possessed by ahupua'a tenants who are descendants of native Hawaiians who inhabited the Hawaiian Islands prior to 1778 . . . ." Hawai'i Const. Art. XII, § 7. Hawaiians have relied on the islands' near-shore fisheries for centuries, and this bill does not take into account the impacts that a moratorium may have on native Hawaiian livelihood, culture, and way of life.

### **Public Access to Fisheries**

The bill also impermissibly restricts public fishing access. Under the Hawai'i Constitution, "[a]ll fisheries in the sea waters of the State . . . shall be free to the public, subject to . . . the right of the State to regulate the same . . . ." Hawai'i Const. Art. XI, § 6. The moratorium would eliminate an entire fishery over time, completely denying public access. This goes far beyond mere "regulation" of fisheries and would therefore violate the Constitution.<sup>1</sup>

### **Equal Protection and Due Process**

The bill also raises significant concerns under the equal protection and due process clauses of the United States Constitution, which are designed to protect against exactly this kind of arbitrary, unsupported government action. Even assuming the bill would be subject to only rational basis review (and setting aside for now the possibility that it would disproportionately impact native Hawaiians), there appears to be no rational basis for the proposed law. In fact, DLNR filed comments objecting to the bill because there is no scientific basis for it at all. The supposed benefits have not been studied, and there is no evidence that the moratorium will

do  
anything to advance the State's purported interests. See, e.g., *Nehring v. Ariyoshi*, 443 F. Supp. 228, 239 (D. Haw. 1977) (concluding that there would be an equal protection violation under rational basis review where the State had not studied alleged environmental benefits and could produce no evidence to support their existence).

### **Dormant Commerce Clause**

SB 931 and HB 851 both raise concerns under the Dormant Commerce Clause, and there are other constitutional legal concerns with shutting down one user group over another.

Governor Ige rightly vetoed the SB 1240 two years ago another shut down bill of the fishery and The attorney general review of SB 1240 bill implied that many legal issues were of concern. I am sure the same concerns apply to SB 931 and HB 851.

Please hold and do not pass SB 931

I am a resident of Waimanalo living with and supporting many of my Hawaiian families. Hundreds of Hawaiians benefit from jobs related to my aquarium fishery business. Collecting, shipping and maintaining aquariums has provided much needed jobs for Waimanalo boys and families. Feeding their children and helping them survive. It is difficult for many Hawaiians I have seen it firsthand my workers and close family struggling to survive. HEPA restrictions have already hurt them and they will also be testifying against SB 931.

By Ron Tubbs B.S. N.D.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 4:16:57 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Ramos	Testifying for hawaiian Reefdwellers	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Dave Ramos. I was born and raised on Oahu and graduated at Leileihua 1972. My wife is 96% Hawaiian with a long line of ancestors dateing back to Hawaii's first Ali'i. Her lineage has relatives in many Hawaiian families such as Kealoha, Kahue, Ka'elemakule, Kahele and many more. We run our fish buisness with the most strictness of care to the fish. All the hawaiians I talked to about this bill are oposed to it. My own ancestors on my fathers side come from the Azores. The Portugese are also a strong fishing culture.

The aquarium fish industry has been around about maybe only 50 years. out of those years, 33 of them ive been a part of. Starting with collecting invertebrates, night diving, and then graduating to daytime deep diving at 140ft. the 85ft. and finaly to 65ft. all in the same day. Doing this 4-5 times a week. i've studied the reef intently and watched how the animals interact with the enviroment. i can honestly say few people know reef fish or the reefs like fish collectors do.

This is how i know the sustainability of the reefs. There will allways be the same amount of fish on each area of the reef. Nature balances it by have other fish keep too many other fish from moving in and upsetting the food balance. If i take 10 fish off the reef then the reef protector fish ( usually palani, mamo or manini ) will allow 10 more fish to come and share the spot to balance it. Now you know more than most Marine Biologist do about the workings of tropical reefs. Of course they will be able to slam you about vertebrate count, fish scale measurements and other facinating stuff.

Bottom line, we have been proven substainable not just by me and 33 years of uninterrupted collecting but also by the EA (Enviromental Assessment) we had to have done and submit to D.L.N.R office. What this whole thing seems to be about is a small group of eco people (whom i'm sure drive oil driven cars and eat with plastic forksand plates) who think they are above all others. Lack of ocean knowledge allows those people to put lies on tv and people think it must be true because it's on tv. Hard to fight that.

Aloha Dave,Leatrice and Derrick





Water and Land Committee

2/5/19

Chair: Kaiali'i Kahele

Vice Chair: Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

## **Oppose SB 931**

Hello Committee Members,

Aloha, my name is Randy Fernley, I own Coral Fish Hawaii, a tropical fish store in Aiea with my wife. I guess you can say we're a "mom and pop company". I'm not only a small business owner, but I have also collected marine tropical fish sustainably for the past 44 years and I'm proud of it!!

Although I obviously don't consider myself Hawaiian, but I do feel that I incorporate Hawaiian values into my work and lifestyle. I also understand that the term "Lawai's pono" means supporting balance between humans and our environment. The marine tropical fishery has achieved that balance as documented by the DLNR's study of the industry over the past 14 years proving that it is sustainable. The University of Washington has also conducted studies on the Kona coast for the past 10 years and has also concluded that current tropical fish populations are also sustainable.

SB 931 states that the ***"commercial trade is contrary to pono fishing practices, such as taking only what is needed for***

***subsistence.***” The definition of “Subsistence” is the action of maintaining or supporting oneself at a minimum level. If subsistence fishing were to prevail, realistically world populations would suffer drastically. Subsistence is a term that, unfortunately but realistically, is unachievable with most people in today’s world. However, sustainability is a term that is critical which we all need to strive for and practice.

Now, if subsistence plays a major role in this bill, does this mean commercial fishing for resale and export out of state will also be included in the bill?

Does this mean trolling for and mounting of big game fish will also be included in the bill?

There are small but vocal contingents of people who want the tropical fish industry to end. Over the past 18 years the legislature has been presented by them with anti -tropical fish bills that focus on sustainability and ethics. All of these bills have failed due to unsubstantiated data and bad science. Now again the legislature is presented with the cultural implications of the fishery.

When will this end? When will the legislature finally understand the small tropical fish fishery is not only sustainable and well-studied but also a fishery that the State of Hawaii should be proud of?

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 8:25:14 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eric Morgensen	Testifying for The Shark Reef	Oppose	No

## Comments:

As an aquarium business owner for over 17 years Hawaiian fish have always been important for our business. I have been to Hawaii where I have dove in the waters and watched as my suppliers catch fish in the most humane way with hand nets. They take the time to properly bring them up to the surface and take very good care of the fish so that we can have the best livestock for our customers. These men are not bringing up thousands of fish, they are bringing up what they can catch the legal and proper way and must dive often to even come close to catching enough to ship to us. Yet we just back in the water and I watch thousands of fish swimming in the ocean. This is a lively good that effects both my friends in Hawaii that need to survive and feed their families and myself as well as all the other wholesale and retail stores throughout the US. We are not destroying the ocean, fishing for food takes away more large fish that would breed than what we are doing. Please do not pass this bill and let the suppliers continue to fish for all of our livelihoods.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 1:05:17 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ralph Bishop	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We have to stop the for-profit plundering of our ecosystems so that idiots can put these fish in aquariums to neglect and watch them die. Even in the best of cases this is just wrong, and this vulgarity must stop!!

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 12:11:21 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
C. Azelski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawai'i residents and communities have been calling for a complete end to the trade for decades because of environmental concerns and the trade's numerous conflicts with local and cultural values. In the last 45 years, every statewide law regulating this wildlife trade has ignored these longstanding issues and allowed the continued take of unlimited numbers of these animals. This bill can change that.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 3:29:00 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jaunette Itsuno	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 3:54:00 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eileen McKee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I write in Strong Support for Senate Bill 931. Our gorgeous natural resources should be enjoyed here, naturally. Folks should not be making money by literally "taking" the beauty that surrounds us.

Mahalo for your attention in this matter.

Eileen McKee

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:00:32 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Margaret Maupin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:00:35 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Darlene Rodrigues	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. We need to protect Hawaii's natural resources from exploitation and overfishing including collecting aquarium fish. We need to think about the future health of Hawaii's ecosystems including our reefs. We must prohibit the capture of ocean life for aquarium use.

Mahalo for the chance to testify.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:01:11 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Frank DeGiacomo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:22:57 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sam Small	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:26:08 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joanna Weber	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:38:32 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carolyn Ornellas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Marine health is wealth.

Protect the life of the land & water.

Mahalo

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:50:13 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Hanger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:53:03 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eliel Starbright	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:00:31 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:31:06 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
pat gegen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:00:40 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Coon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a society, I believe we must end the practice of capturing wild aquatic organisms for the aquarium trade. Let them be.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:14:16 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeannine Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My ancestors were lawai'a (fishermen and women) and kÅ• lai wa'a (canoe-builders) from KapÅ• lilua (Kona Hema) since 1777. My father was a lawai'a from Miloli'i and I spent many summers growing up there. Many in my 'ohana still live a life deeply connected to the land and sea and believe we should protect our ocean resources. I strongly support SB931, SB1136 and SB1371. In Hawai'i we have a saying, "Ke ike a ka lawai'a he na ka 'upena." (The knowledge of the fisherman is absorbed by the net.) Just like the 'upena (fish net) which the Hawaiian people meticulously maintained to flourish and prosper, prohibiting the use of lay nets for fishing, except under a permit, prohibiting all commercial capture of aquatic life for aquarium purposes, regardless of the method of collection, as well as prohibiting scuba spearfishing at night for the purpose of taking aquatic life, except through a permit, will help all marine life flourish. The exercise of traditional and customary practices, the lawful taking of fish for consumption or bait, or the lawful management or taking of aquatic life from fishponds shall not be affected.

Please kÅ• kua and help protect and preserve Hawai'i's marine resources for future generations and support SB931, SB 1136 and SB 1371. Mahalo, Jeannine Johnson

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:18:07 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Casey Holaday	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

keep reef fish in the reef.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:35:33 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tiana Laranio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 11:54:27 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Crystal Dombrow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 11:19:59 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Roberts	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:36:25 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Erica Scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:37:53 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Koohan Paik	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:07:10 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:38:47 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James McCay	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

No brainer! PLEASE support and our oceans need this please.

Mahalo,  
James McCay  
2957 Kalakaua Ave, Honolulu HI 96815

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:44:21 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Julie and Thomas Pasquale	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Reef fish are an important part of our Hawaii ecosystem and economy.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:07:56 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laurel Quarton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:23:13 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:54:14 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Bojanowski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Re. Hearing at 1:20 pm 2/8/19

Dear Sen. Kahele, Sen. Keith-Agaran, and other Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in support of SB931 relating to aquarium fishing prohibition. Respectfully,

Jennifer Bojanowski  
Haleiwa, Hawaii 96712

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 11:32:48 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wendy Beckett	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I have lived in Hawaii 30 years. When I first came, I used to snorkel at Ke'e Beach on Kauai. There were hundreds of fish, lots of varieties of fish, eels, octopi, etc. The reef was alive. Today, there are almost NO fish and the reef is grown over with algae or bleached beyond recognition. It is dying a fast and painful death. There is just nothing left! Please help by passing this bill.



**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 1:25:49 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
william digiorgio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this measure.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 3:33:27 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maria Walker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support banning all commercial capturing of marine life in our waters. Our ocean and reefs are severely overfished, and it's vital to stop stocking the aquarium trade now and try to allow nature to restore balance to our surrounding waters. Please consider budgeting for additional enforcement to cover such a wide area and ensure that we are putting an end to aggressive plundering of the natural resources that keep our ocean and islands healthy.

Mahalo for hearing my testimony,

Maria Walker

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 5:44:03 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chelle Galarza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 5:48:12 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
shayne stambler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 6:01:15 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patricia Cadiz	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I support a ban on aquarium fishing. Our reefs have suffered too much. A healthy reef is important for a healthy beach. Our reefs and our beaches are fundamental to our culture and our identity. What is Hawaii without healthy reefs and beaches?

Please consider the greater good and support this bill. Thank you.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 6:51:10 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randy Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Agaran and members of the committee,

I support SB931. The issue of unlimited commercial reef fishing has been ongoing for almost 2 decades. Essentially, there has been no take limit since enforcement has been spotty at best.

I was unaware of the situation until several advocates gave me the numbers of fish taken over the last decade, decade and a half. I am beginning to understand why this is such an important issue.

Apparently, many of the fish taken do not make it to an aquarium. A significant portion die in transit from the ocean to the fish tanks of collectors.

Please stop this commercial taking of fish life from our oceans for aquarium purposes. It is time to stop the madness.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Randy Ching

Honolulu (makikirandy@yahoo.com)

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 6:54:10 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Paterson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The ocean is under assault from climate change and all the garbage, spills and marine use. This one small measure may help some of the most at risk fish, so I ask that you vote yes to this bill. I am sure there are many Kama'aina & Hawaiian's who won't want their right to fish taken away, but they too are part of the overall problem. Save Our Seas!!!

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Paterson

Kauai County

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:42:03 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Terry OShaughnessy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please vote to prohibit the overfishing off tropical reef fish. We need to protect these species.



**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 7:28:43 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Donna Janulaitis	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I retired to North Shore Kauai 10 years ago and Anini Beach is the closest beach to me and I snorkel often (almost daily pending weather). I frequent the same area (about 200 yards long) and have come to know that stretch of reef and the marine life that inhabit it. Every time I swim, I note any changes in the reef itself and the amount and types of fish that live there. I love underwater photography and I pick up any snagged hooks and fishing line or trash in the process. I have volunteered several times with Malama apa apa for underwater survey's and clean up. When I see people actively collecting (not fishing) small reef fish, it is upsetting because I can compare through the years the detrimental effects on that area. Please pass SB 931 and help preserve our reefs for our keiki.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 8:15:01 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Culbertson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators!

My name is Rob Culbertson and I speak **in strong support of SB931**.

First, I would especially like to extend my gratitude to the many Big Island legislators who have already stepped forward in sponsoring, co-sponsoring, and supporting this bill and others that have come before trying, unsuccessfully, to stop this damaging and disreputable business – ***reef wildlife trafficking!***

Hawaii Island remains the most flagrant hotspot in the entire state in terms of historic collection as well as *continued poaching activities*. As an example of the scope of this activity, in one year alone (2014), more reef fish were captured and cartoned away from just twenty-five or so miles of the Kona coast, than *all of Australia's Great Barrier Reef in the same period!*

You may well be aware of the legal efforts through the courts to impose some regulations so I will not take that up that fiasco and the enforceability issue here. Rather I wish to stand with the arguments for ecological sense and wisdom both of the host culture; ***aloha'aina, malama 'aina, 'aina momona, and pono***, and modern ecologists that warn of the perils of over fishing and of violating unknown marine symbiotic networks. These fragile communities of living creatures are under unprecedented assault by direct and indirect man-made harm; 'global warming' not the least of which. We must learn the value of the '*precautionary principle*' and employ it now before it's too late!

Then too, there is the patently inhumane and cruel handling processes that these animals must undergo in their death stalked journeys and ultimate destiny as an ornament in a pet owner's tank. Statistics bear out the grisly nature of this enterprise that must constantly be resupplied by a chain of succumbing, wasted masses. Such industrial style pillage completely puts the lie to the characterization by operators that this activity somehow reflects 'local style' or traditional fishing.

At last, there comes a time when what might have been acceptable in days past (think whaling, think shark-fining...think '**Aquarium Trade**'!) is simply no longer acceptable. That time is now!

Please use your power today to make right (Pono), a wrongful thing.

Please pass SB931 as written and intended!

Mahalo!

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 9:45:42 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Angelea Hollander	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you in advance for supporting SB931.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 7:39:23 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
jessica murray	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Our reefs are already dangerously overfished and put at risk by environmental factors. Save our reefs for the future enjoyment of residents and visitors alike. Save our reefs and bring balance back to these delicate ecosystems.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 10:16:42 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maria DaSilva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB931

Sincerely,

Maria DaSilva

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 10:37:34 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sherry Pollock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support this bill to prohibit the taking of our beautiful fish for selling to aquariums.

We need to protect our beautiful natural resources!

Mahalo,

Sherry Pollock

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 11:16:41 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anke Roberts	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Have you been snorkeling on any of our reefs lately? If so, you would notice that there are not a lot of fish left (other than schools of Blue-Stripe Snapper on the dive wrecks). The few fish left are already threatened by fishermen, who seem to take anything, no matter how small. If we continue to allow people to take fish for the aquarium trade, things will only get worse and our reefs will degrade to a point where they will not be able to recover. Aquariums appear to love Butterflyfish, who are important for picking algae off coral, and for picking unhealthy coral polyps from a colony. So we need to protect our beautiful reef grazers and herbivores, if we want to proclaim to the world that we can offer world-class diving and snorkeling. And by the way, statistics show that most reef fish caught in the wild have "high rates of reef-to-retail mortality". So why let our beautiful and important reef fish be taken out of our waters only to die? Please make sure we stop all capture of Hawaiian marine life for money.



**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 11:57:27 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Phaethon Keeney	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I was born and raised in Honokaa Hawaii, a mauka girl with love of the rain and forests. A few years ago I had family visiting and needed to get a rental to fit us all in, we spent extra on a place in Puako a few steps from the beach where we could snorkel and enjoy the ocean. We chose an older home as we didn't want much of the new resort style so popular in the area now. Sadly, when we got there we realized the older gentleman boat owner of the place, who moved here over a decade or so, afforded his beach lifestyle by having huge holding tanks in the yard where he kept fish he collected from the reefs to be transported for sale in the aquarium trade. I looked at those pools and thought, man, that would hold a lot of fish, how does he get so many? My heart hurt staying there and I just wanted out. Everything I didn't see popped out at me in stark contrast, all the creatures I hadn't seen on our snorkels, the ones I had to point out to my little brother in the coffee table book there. I thought about all those lost in handling, and everything about this old fishing home that had changed meaning, even that book. I talked to Hawaiian neighbors down the way who I knew closely, they disagreed with this happening, when I showed them the tanks, we all stood in silence. We joked about big trucks for hauling, the subject came up about moving up mauka cause they couldn't afford the area anymore, they were renting and pregnant, he fixed cars for a living, they borrowed our old truck to move to Waimea. I don't know how to describe what it felt like paying the rental, thinking about all the Airbnb people coming thru supporting this house as the owner went on boating expeditions elsewhere. The slow, gentle ocean community protected by it's reefs unravelling, losing the old timers who cared for it and not providing long term homes for the keiki who would. I just think this is wrong. Please stop the aquarium trade from exploiting our reefs and small town aloha. Thank you.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 11:59:44 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
William Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It's time we, as a human society, started prioritizing the sustainability and longevity of our natural resources, including animal life, over selfish, consumerist habits like capturing aquatic life to imprison and display for our own status. The loss of jobs, and whatever small hit our economy may take as a result of banning this industry, is easily worth preserving our natural world for generations to come. Please support SB931.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 12:18:07 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Diane Dunville	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 1:17:44 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
William South	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 1:39:38 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Valerie Barnes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 1:57:55 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Matt Binder	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairman Rhoads and committee members,

I strongly support SB931 because I have seen such a precipitous decline in the number of reef fish just in the 20 years I have lived in Hawaii. I snorkel up and down the coast of the Big Island from South Point to Mahukona and I do not see nearly the number or variety of reef fish today as before. I used to see shoals of Golden Tang everywhere I went - now I rarely see them at all. Obviously, taking the baby fish for aquariums has played its part in this decimation.

We need to do everything we can to hold onto the sea life we have left. Our tourist industry and our way of life depend on it. Please support SB931 for our children and grandchildren.

Thank you,

Matt Binder

Waimea, Hawaii

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 2:06:50 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Karen Winslow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 2:31:29 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Candice Pacheco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii's natural resources should not be commercialized but should remain in their natural environment.



**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 3:25:09 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Daniel Kanahale	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 10:07:48 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hattie Gerrish	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB931 and pass without ammendments. I oppose harvesting fish from our reefs for the aquarium trade because it harms the ecological balance of the reef ecosystem, which in turn harms the tourism and fishing industries; because many harvested fish die from the shock of captivity, constituting animal cruelty; and because these fish do not belong to those who are profiting from them, therefore this practice impoverishes us all.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 4:22:19 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kulanalanu Sylvan Tarnas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The life of Hawai'i Kai should not be treated as a commodity, especially to those who seek to appropriate natural beauty by caging it and putting it on display. SB931 is a vital step in protecting the Aloha of Hawaii. We must be an example in showing that we stand not only for human rights but for the life and freedom of all our Kin--including our relatives in the Sea.

Mahalo for protecting our 'Ohana

-Kulanalanu Sylvan Tarnas

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 5:04:09 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

No aquarium fishing! Many of my favorite snorkle spots are devoid of fish! Reefs are nurserys for all sorts of fish and food for fish. Popular colorful aguarium fish are part of that "Web of Life." Reefs also are part of what protects our beaches etc from storm surge and rising sea levels due to climate change.... Don't mess w/ mother nature!

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 5:17:45 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary James	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

There is no need to take animals from the ocean shared by all in Hawaii. No one needs to make money from taking and selling our resources.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 7:53:48 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laura Acasio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 8:15:16 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
L.M. Holmes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 10:35:19 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rosemary Alles	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Greetings!

My name is Rosemary Alles and I am a long time resident of the Big Island of Hawaii. I am (also) a Software Engineer and a social and environmental justice advocate and entrepreneur who is the President of the Global March for Elephants and Rhinos (#GMFER <http://march4elephantsandrhinosaurs.org>); an organization I co-founded and one that works to mitigate the poaching and trafickking of iconic wild creatures from the African Continent. #GMFER has successfully campaigned to ban and monitor the criminal (and illegal) trade in wildlife within the USA and internationally.

The poaching and trafickking of terrestrial and ocean species are leading causal factors governing extinction; these same factors contribute to destabilizing ecosystems, impoverish local economies and at larger scales sustain and nourish international trafickking and smuggling networks.

I along with the board and core members of #GMFER strongly support SB931 and applaud the journey toward its passade.

With gratitude,  
rosemary



**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 6:52:50 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB931 to prohibit collecting fish for aquariums. This legislation not only benefits the environment but also our economy. A UH report estimated that Hawaii reefs generate about \$800 million in annual revenue.

Our "rainforests of the sea" are already weakened or dying due to bleaching events caused by rising ocean temperatures as well as rising acidity due to ocean absorption of carbon dioxide.

Please protect Hawaii's environment and economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 6:55:02 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Christopher Biltoft	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB 931 will finally put an end to the poaching of reef fish and deserves the support of the Hawaii Legislature.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 8:22:43 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chezlani Casar	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

At this crucial time of vulnerability in the world's oceans, acknowledged by scientists worldwide, the collection of animals for the pure enjoyment of humans in an aquarium is just plain wrong. It is harmful, it serves NO purpose that is in any way beneficial for anything, and is a pure waste of life-forms. Aquarium collecting must be banned, and the ban must be strongly enforced. Please preserve the health of our reefs and oceans. E malama i ka aina. Mahalo.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 7:45:34 PM

---

Submitted by: aerie waters, Kihei, Hawaii

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I love the ocean and her creatures with all my heart. I have watched the systematic elimination of reef life for the past 40 years here. Stop this insane destruction of Hawaii's greatest resource. Thank you for caring for our future generations. With Aloha, Aerie Waters

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Alan Johnson](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB931  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 3:32:52 AM

---

Aloha Chair Kahele and committee members, I SUPPORT SB931. Please pass this important bill to protect Hawaii's marine life and reefs.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 8:58:28 PM

---

Submitted by: Wendy Harvey, Kihei, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 10:21:25 PM

---

Submitted by: Zachary Simmons, Vista, ca

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 8:52:00 PM

---

Submitted by: Vickie Van Fechtmann, Pahoia HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.



**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 7:21:57 PM

---

Submitted by: Warren Blum, Kihei

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I am a working divemaster in Maui for 17 years. I have personally seen the devastating affects of removing reef fish for the aquarium trade. Please stop this horrible practice. We need our fishes for the health of the reefs as well as the diving/snorkeling boost to our economy. Thank you.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 4:19:50 AM

---

Submitted by: Veronica Arvizu, San Francisco, CA

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I'm struggling to understand why natural beauty, unique to Hawaii would ever be sold like a commodity. There is no pride or benefit in selling away what you cannot ever replace.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Valerie Weiss](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB931  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 2:48:19 PM

---

Aloha Chair Kahele and committee members, I SUPPORT SB931. Please pass this important bill to protect Hawaii's marine life and reefs.

Mahalo.  
Valerie Weiss  
Kapaa

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 5:22:05 AM

---

Submitted by: tom wallace, Honolulu HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

The reefs need to be left alone to heal.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

**From:** [Ted Greenwald](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB931  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 12:50:59 PM

---

Aloha Chair Kahele and committee members, I SUPPORT SB931. Please pass this important bill to protect Hawaii's marine life and reefs.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 12:21:16 PM

---

Submitted by: Sue Godsell, London, England

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 7:59:41 AM

---

Submitted by: Shelly Aina, Waikoloa, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Diane Ware](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in support  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 4:44:52 PM



---

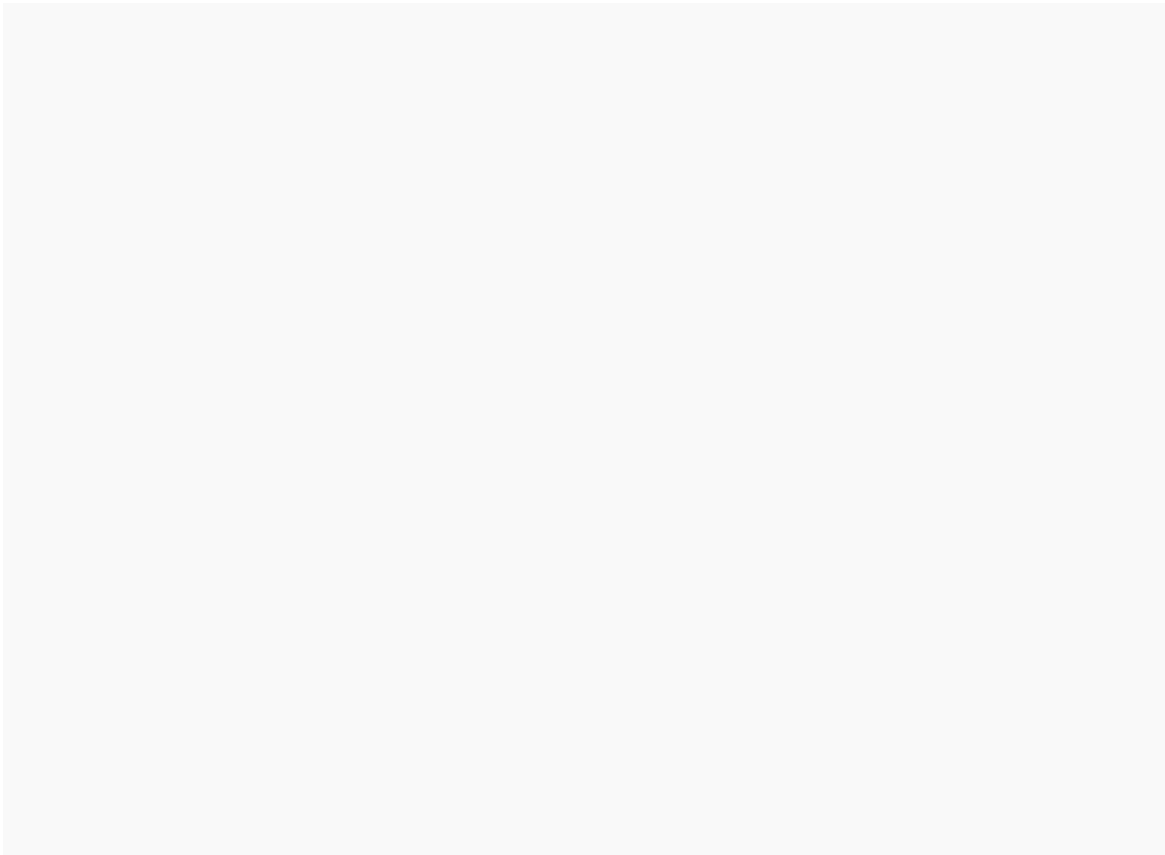
Dear Chair and members Water and Land Committee,

I urge you to support SB931 to ban commercial aquarium fish collection. I am a Sierra Club Hawai'i chapter member and we now have policy to support a ban based on Hawaiian cultural values of protecting all resources for future generations. The Moku Loa Group Sierra Club recently had a presentation in Hilo with Mike Nakachi about the dangers of allowing collection of our marine wildlife and corals such as the black coral of West Hawai'i that was harvested and sold. He spoke about the subsequent loss of biodiversity in those areas of the reef.

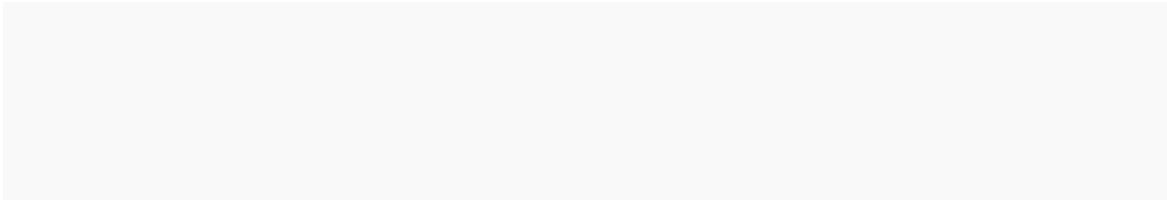
Last year, hundreds of thousands of marine animals were taken from Hawai'i's reefs for the aquarium pet trade despite the Hawai'i Supreme Court Ruling that led to the invalidation and prohibition of aquarium permits, until completion of full environmental impact review.

Plaintiff Ka'imi Kaupiko spoke about how the industry affects Native Hawaiian and subsistence fishing practices, "The fish we've traditionally caught for generations to feed our families are disappearing. Collectors take fish we eat—like paku'iku'i (Achilles tang) and kole—and by taking yellow tang, they disrupt the ecosystem so that other fish, like uhu, won't come in."

Studies have shown that reducing reef fish and shellfish diversity impairs a reef's ability to respond to stresses or disturbances. We need a holistic approach to ecosystems.







Then too, there is the patently inhumane and cruel handling processes that these animals must undergo in their death defying journeys and ultimate destiny as an ornament in some pet owner's tank. Statistics bear out the grisly nature of this enterprise that must constantly resupply the succumbing, wasted masses. Such industrial style pillage completely puts the lie to the characterization by operators that this activity somehow reflects 'local style' or traditional fishing.

Please uphold the constitutional mission to protect all natural resources,

Diane Ware

808-967-8642

P. O. Box 698

99-7815 Kapoha

Volcano HI 96785

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 3:49:41 PM

**LATE**

---

Submitted by: Peter Klune, Koloa

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Why are we allowing our great natural resources to be used to benefit a few instead of protecting that resource for future Generations here in Hawaii!! Let's fix this now

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 3:01:28 PM



---

Submitted by: Roger Bishop, Kalaheo

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I strongly support SB931.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 4:06:23 PM



---

Submitted by: Diane Cornish , Kapolei, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 11:25:32 AM

---

Submitted by: Shannon Rivera, Honolulu HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

A bill like this needed to be passed decades ago. The ONLY reason to reject this bill is for financial reasons - this is unacceptable. Please reason on the side of ecological, cultural and ethical security. It is time for this industry to end and for those involved to move into an industry that is not toying with extinctions and ecological collapse.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 12:58:54 PM

---

Submitted by: Janet Taylor Taylor, Pahoia

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Save the fish for our children and grandchildren, please!

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 11:31:47 AM

---

Submitted by: Shannon Shea, Kona HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

The aquarium trade is cruel and of limited economic benefit to Hawaii, and great ecological detriment.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.



**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 1:18:31 PM

---

Submitted by: Charlie Bass, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Be Responsible. Act before it's too late.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.



**LATE**

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 1:22:53 PM

---

Submitted by: Judy Dalton, Lihue, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Please let the lives of these precious beings.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 1:33:30 PM

---



Submitted by: Claudia Herfurt, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 2:03:08 PM

---



Submitted by: Gayle O'Donnell, Kalaheo, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Please leave the fish to grow in their reefs! The videos of fish in the wild are a good substitute for an aquarium! Mahalo nui loa, Gayle O'Donnell

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 9:54:38 AM

---

Submitted by: Darcy Yogi, Kailua, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Hawaii's native and migratory fauna are necessary to the sustainability and viability of our nearshore reef ecosystems as they regulate the balance between algae and coral to support all of our nearshore fisheries. Fish are a staple to many local families, some of which still rely on these populations for sustenance. As a Native Hawaiian, I believe that fish and all of the native animals around us are a part of our 'ohana. We are ancestrally connected to every living being through the kumulipo, such that they require our upmost respect and care, even when used as food. Aquariums are completely against my cultural bearings as these species belong in the wild, like all non-domesticated animals. I understand that the aquarium trade is a viable business (in Western perspective), but this trade fuels an unnecessary luxury trade far from our islands. I'm sure prohibition may open up a black market for these fish, but hopefully we can hire more DAR and DOCARE officials with new fines for anyone committing these types of crimes. This type of activity is not welcome in my eyes as a Native Hawaiian, a born and raised local of Hawai'i, a professional conservationist, and graduate student studying Natural Resources and Environmental Management.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 2:38:39 PM

---

Submitted by: Jacquelynn Lott, Kalaheo

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

**PLEASE STOP ALL FOR AQUARIUM HARVESTING!**

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 9:46:22 AM

---

Submitted by: Bruce Lowrey, KIHEI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I have been snorkeling in Hawaii for 17 years and the diminished numbers of reef fish and creatures is dramatic and disturbing.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 9:53:49 AM

---

Submitted by: Robin Stetson, Pahoia, Hawaii

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Where are all the fish?? Every time I snorkel around the Big Island I can see the tremendous ongoing decrease in the fish population, which has been evident for many years. In addition to being an integral part of Hawaii's balance of nature, healthy and abundant underwater life is one of the big draws for visitors to Hawaii. These visitors will go elsewhere, if the quality of Hawaii's marine life continues to decline.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 10:20:38 AM

---

Submitted by: philip hayward, Kamuela

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Coral reefs are under multiple forms of stress and taking reef species for aquarium trade is just another added stress, therefore to be pono, for the reefs, this form of wasteful and as a minimally economical employment factor and with negative ecologic value should not nbe permitted unless required by scientific community for studies related to reef health

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.



**From:** [Margaret Roche](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB931  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 9:41:27 AM

---

Aloha Chair Kahele and committee members, I SUPPORT SB931. Please pass this important bill to protect Hawaii's marine life and reefs. Mahalo Margaret Roche 808-775-9803  
[Pegroche2@gmail.com](mailto:Pegroche2@gmail.com)

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 9:43:06 AM

---

Submitted by: Louise Zovanyi, Koloa, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

If you need a financial reason for this it is that we have islands with beautiful, unique flora and fauna, including our reefs and fish species. This is not an asset that can be replaced or duplicated. The uniqueness of this environment is a natural resource that should be acknowledged and protected like those in the rest of our country. Forests, endangered species have been acknowledged as needing and receiving protection. We **MUST** do the same for these natural resources of the Hawaiian Islands. Thank you for putting our resources toward making this happen now.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Nicholas Hurd](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB931  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 1:48:38 PM

---

Aloha Chair Kahele and committee members, I SUPPORT SB931. Please pass this important bill to protect Hawaii's marine life and reefs.

It is amazing that we allow these predators to collect our marine life and sell it for a profit. And, I understand that a substantial number of the collected species never make it because of the terrible conditions that they are stored in.

Regards,

Nicholas Hurd

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 12:47:52 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
U?ilani O?hAlipin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

If we don't make a stand to protect our marine wildlife who will?

**From:** [Uilani LaBoy](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB931  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 11:59:03 AM

---

Aloha Chair Kahele and committee members, I SUPPORT SB931. Please pass this important bill to protect Hawaii's marine life and reefs.

God Bless,  
Uilani O'hAilpin

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 11:57:52 AM

---

Submitted by: Riki Uilani O'Hailpin, Ewa Beach, Hawaii

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

We need to do all we can to protect the Marine Life!

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 12:13:28 PM

---

Submitted by: Eric Burkhardt, Honokaa, Hawaii

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Please support Senate Bill 931.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 12:12:59 PM

---

Submitted by: Elsa Baxter, Kailua Kona, Hawaii

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I feel that the fish have the right to be free and live in their natural environment, furthermore everybody should be able to enjoy them, residents and visitors. It is totally wrong to deplete our oceans for profit of a few.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.



**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 12:20:26 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eric Burkhardt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support SB931.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 12:17:25 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaala Clarke	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Kahele and Committee Members,

I write in strong support of Senate Bill 931. As a Anahola Hawaiian Homesteader, I know how critically important and culturally valuable our precious reef fish are. That Akua made everything with a very purposeful job. We are all connected and our lives and futures depend on the health of our land and sea.

Please consider Hawaiian people that depend on our ocean waters to feed our families. Please remember that the greed of some should not come before the needs of all. Please protect our reef life, the foundation of all life as told in the Kumulipo, so as to not degrade ourselves and our children's future.

To continue to take and kill, for only economic reasons, literally and figuratively is a'ole pono. Mahalo piha for hearing my plea and all the hard work you do.

Warmest Aloha,

Kaala Clarke

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 10:52:39 AM

---

Submitted by: Neil Frazer, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

This measure is long overdue.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 9:53:49 AM

---

Submitted by: Robin Stetson, Pahoia, Hawaii

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Where are all the fish?? Every time I snorkel around the Big Island I can see the tremendous ongoing decrease in the fish population, which has been evident for many years. In addition to being an integral part of Hawaii's balance of nature, healthy and abundant underwater life is one of the big draws for visitors to Hawaii. These visitors will go elsewhere, if the quality of Hawaii's marine life continues to decline.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 10:20:38 AM

---

Submitted by: philip hayward, Kamuela

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Coral reefs are under multiple forms of stress and taking reef species for aquarium trade is just another added stress, therefore to be pono, for the reefs, this form of wasteful and as a minimally economical employment factor and with negative ecologic value should not nbe permitted unless required by scientific community for studies related to reef health

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Oahu Blinds](#)  
**To:** [kahele2 - Mark](#)  
**Subject:** Opposed to SB 931  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 8:15:38 AM

---

My name is Wylie Ball, I have been a tropical fisherman for 7 years. There is no evidence to support a complete shutdown of tropical fishing in Hawaii. My family has been loving, breeding, and taking care of fish in tanks for 3 generations. There is no science or facts that support the need to pass SB 931. Moreover., why do the same bills attempting to ban tropical fishing come up every year when they have been shut down every year for the last several years? This is a complete waste of taxpayer dollars to keep re-hearing the same issues over and over again, and in my opinion shouldn't even be legal to keep re-hearing the same bills every year. Obviously there is someone with a lot of money paying someone in government to keep pushing these bills through, and in my opinion screams corruption of government driven by payoffs from certain people or groups, like snorkel Bob, who has been convicted of tax evasion in the past. The underlying proposition of SB 931 is based in falsehood. The opinion that the fishery should shut down due to Hawaiian cultural concerns does not hold water, as Hawaiians have been sustainably fishing for a thousand years. Fishing has long been a Hawaiian way of life. Sustainability and science melds with Hawaiian beliefs, morality and righteousness. Regulation is the key to success, not a shutdown of the industry. Moreover the legal articles cited do not have full merit regarding the rights of user groups and public lands. Just the opposite is true. It is unconstitutional to shut down any fishery, or restrict user groups, especially when science supports the facts that the aquarium fishery is sustainable. Please do what is pono and shut this bill down for good.

The attached video made by researchers attests to the fact that the aquarium fishery is sustainable:

**Fishery Sustainable Dr. Bill Walsh, Richard Pyle and NOAA Video:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50L6JcMOVlQ&t=219s>**

Aloha, Wylie Ball

Tax payer, business owner, fisherman, and fish lover.

**From:** [Nicholas Hurd](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB931  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 1:48:38 PM

---

Aloha Chair Kahele and committee members, I SUPPORT SB931. Please pass this important bill to protect Hawaii's marine life and reefs.

It is amazing that we allow these predators to collect our marine life and sell it for a profit. And, I understand that a substantial number of the collected species never make it because of the terrible conditions that they are stored in.

Regards,

Nicholas Hurd

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 9:54:38 AM

---

Submitted by: Darcy Yogi, Kailua, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Hawaii's native and migratory fauna are necessary to the sustainability and viability of our nearshore reef ecosystems as they regulate the balance between algae and coral to support all of our nearshore fisheries. Fish are a staple to many local families, some of which still rely on these populations for sustenance. As a Native Hawaiian, I believe that fish and all of the native animals around us are a part of our 'ohana. We are ancestrally connected to every living being through the kumulipo, such that they require our upmost respect and care, even when used as food. Aquariums are completely against my cultural bearings as these species belong in the wild, like all non-domesticated animals. I understand that the aquarium trade is a viable business (in Western perspective), but this trade fuels an unnecessary luxury trade far from our islands. I'm sure prohibition may open up a black market for these fish, but hopefully we can hire more DAR and DOCARE officials with new fines for anyone committing these types of crimes. This type of activity is not welcome in my eyes as a Native Hawaiian, a born and raised local of Hawai'i, a professional conservationist, and graduate student studying Natural Resources and Environmental Management.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.



**From:** [Margaret Roche](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB931  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 9:41:27 AM

---

Aloha Chair Kahele and committee members, I SUPPORT SB931. Please pass this important bill to protect Hawaii's marine life and reefs. Mahalo Margaret Roche 808-775-9803  
[Pegroche2@gmail.com](mailto:Pegroche2@gmail.com)

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 9:43:06 AM

---

Submitted by: Louise Zovanyi, Koloa, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

If you need a financial reason for this it is that we have islands with beautiful, unique flora and fauna, including our reefs and fish species. This is not an asset that can be replaced or duplicated. The uniqueness of this environment is a natural resource that should be acknowledged and protected like those in the rest of our country. Forests, endangered species have been acknowledged as needing and receiving protection. We **MUST** do the same for these natural resources of the Hawaiian Islands. Thank you for putting our resources toward making this happen now.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [RANDY MORRIS](#)  
**To:** [kahele2 - Mark](#)  
**Subject:** Opposed to SB 931  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 9:01:31 AM

---

Opposed to SB 931

[Friday 2-8-19 1:20 PM](#) room 229

My name is Jacob Morris. If you shut down the aquarium fishery in Hawaii it will hurt me my business and family for no reason. Explain why you oppose the bill.

There is no science or facts that support the need to pass SB 931. The underlying proposition of SB 931 is based in falsehood. The opinion that the fishery should shut down due to Hawaiian cultural concerns does not hold water. Fish has long been a Hawaiian way of life. Sustainability and science melds with Hawaiian beliefs, morality and righteousness. Moreover the legal articles cited do not have full merit regarding the rights of user groups and public lands. Just the opposite is true. It is unconstitutional to shut down any fishery, or restrict user groups, especially when science supports the facts that the aquarium fishery is sustainable.

The attached video made by researchers attests to the fact that the aquarium fishery is sustainable:

**Fishery Sustainable Dr. Bill Walsh, Richard Pyle and NOAA Video:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50L6JcMOVLQ&t=219s>**

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 9:46:22 AM

---

Submitted by: Bruce Lowrey, KIHEI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I have been snorkeling in Hawaii for 17 years and the diminished numbers of reef fish and creatures is dramatic and disturbing.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 9:25:35 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Pauline Fiene	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing to ask that you pass SB931 prohibiting the commercial harvest of marine life for aquarium pet trade purposes. I am a scuba diving professional and biologist with 32 years experience diving in Maui waters. During these years I have witnessed a slow decline in the amount of coral and fish, and an increase in algae along Maui coastlines. There are many causes for this and there have to be many different solutions to this problem too. One of them is to stop the removal of fish that are being taken by the commercial aquarium trade. These fish do not feed anyone who lives here, rather they are taken solely for the visual entertainment of a few (mostly on the mainland) who can afford to keep aquariums. We need these fish on the reef to fill their niches. Hawaii residents especially know that you can't remove one player in an ecosystem without it impacting the whole system. Some of these fish are grazers – fish that keep algae growth in check. We need these fish on the reef now more than ever. Please pass this bill and do your part to bring back Hawaii's reefs.

Mahalo

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 9:48:31 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Harriet Burkholder	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Please support this bill. Our oceans are already stressed, and any additional loss of fish from "collecting" by the aquarium industry will add further pressure. There are more humane alternatives for supplying the industry with fish. Taking fragile wildlife from their homes on the coral reef is inhumane and wasteful: so many die even before reaching an aquarium.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 6:42:45 PM

---

Submitted by: Shannon Rudolph, Holualoa

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.  
The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.  
I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 10:08:29 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Marvin Porter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Committee on Water and Land

SB 931 Relating to Marine Aquarium Fishing

February 8, 2019 1:20 pm

Aloha Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing you in support of SB 931. I have been a resident of Hilo side of Hawai'i Island since 1994 and I have been snorkeling yearly all around the island. Unfortunately, I have seen the fish population here diminish through the years. And all around the world, the fish populations are decreasing. A recent United Nations report on global warming declared this is a life-or-death situation. Thus we need to do everything possible to protect our coral reefs and increase our fish population.

The Supreme Court of the State of Hawai'i ruled that the collection of animals for the international aquarium trade must be subjected to environmental impact review,

It's ruling requires analysis of the industry's impacts before any commercial permits can be issued and collection allowed.

However, the EIS has not been done, and the DLNR is making no effort to stop the collection.

There are many stressors on our reefs, more buildings resulting in silt run off, more storms and hurricanes breaking up the corals, and now climate change resulting in warming and acidification of the ocean.

As part of long-term planning for sustainability we need to end the catching of fish for aquariums. Now is the time to do everything possible to protect and even try to expand our fish population.



Please support SB 931.

Mahalo,

Mary Marvin Porter

Island Eyes Video

15-1622 Tenth Avenue

Kea'au, Hawai'i 96749

District 2

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 9:34:26 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dr Clinton C Mugurussa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND,

Sen Kahele, chair

HEARING Friday, February 8, 2019 re. **SB931**

Testimony of Rick Warshauer, Volcano

Chairman Kahele and Members,

I urge you to pass SB931. The DLNR has long coddled the commercial reef fish industry and ignored public sentiment and judicial reinforcement of the public's will to end this destructive practice. Please show the Legislature's unequivocal support of our reef life and the public will over that of a greedy, damaging industry that mines and diminishes the marine resources of these islands, all for the wealth of a few.

POSSIBLE AMENDMENT. If stream, estuarine and anchialine resources are not definitely protected from commercial harvest and sale, I urge you to amend this bill to extend protection to these vulnerable resources.

Should there be a delay in approval of rules, having this bill take effect upon passage could be an improvement.

Our marine and aquatic resources today have suffered cumulative damage and ecological imbalance from overfishing, runoff and seepage of contaminants, ever-growing use by residents, the adverse aspects of hordes of tourists, and the cumulative impacts of invasive species. All these are happening alongside a backdrop of warming sea temperatures which are additionally damaging reef health more each year. Please take this important step to protect our resources by passing this bill. Mahalo

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 5:14:39 PM

---

Submitted by: Harriet Burkholder , Honoka'a, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Our reefs are stressed enough with rising ocean temperatures and acidification. Please support SB 931.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Renee Janton](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB931  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 9:03:38 PM

---

Aloha Chair Kahele and committee members, I SUPPORT SB931. Please pass this important bill to protect Hawaii's marine life and reefs.

Mahalo,  
Renée Janton

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 6:52:52 AM

---

Submitted by: Rebecca Moore, Pepeekeo, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 11:41:03 AM

---

Submitted by: Rachael Cleveland, Kaneohe HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Our fisheries are collapsing. We should not be catching fish that aren't even used for food consumption. No one needs a pet fish, but the fish have a right to live in the ocean.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 7:45:00 PM

---

Submitted by: Nina Monasevitch, Lihue, Hawaii

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I am a 40 year resident of Kauai. I have been scuba diving, free diving and long distance ocean swimming all these years. The decimation to the marine ecosystem I have witnessed is shocking. It is unconscionable that the aquarium trade has been decimating our fragile ocean ecosystem for so many years without proper review or regulations. Enough already! Ban aquarium pet trade now!

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.



**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 3:20:11 PM

---

Submitted by: Nicole Tergeoglou , Laupahoehoe hi 96764

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

With all the challenges that our reefs our facing, this is the very least we can do!

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Nanea Lo](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB1339 & SB1340 - WTL on Friday, 2/8/19 @ 1:20 PM in Room 229  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 8:32:43 AM

---

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Water and Land Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB 1339 and SB 1340, two bills that would require mandatory purchaser and seller disclosures for real estate transactions that include properties within sea level rise exposure areas. Written disclosure statements of properties within officially designated hazard areas, including tsunami zones and federal flood insurance maps, are already required when properties are offered for sale. SB 1339 and SB 1340 expands mandatory disclosures to include sea level rise exposure areas, as officially designated by the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission.

Climate change creates a new type of hazard affecting coastal properties now and increasingly in the future. Mandatory disclosures are needed now to start the conversation about which properties are in the exposure area, to acknowledge potential impacts of sea level rise, and to protect buyers, sellers, and governmental agencies as the rising seas become more apparent in future years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1339 (mandatory purchaser disclosure bill) and SB 1340 (mandatory seller disclosure bill).

Mahalo,

Nanea Lo

[Naneaclo@gmail.com](mailto:Naneaclo@gmail.com)

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 9:42:38 PM

---

Submitted by: Kelly O'Rourke, Pahoia

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Respect for these creatures and the culture of Hawaii fishing families is a necessary priority over entertainment. Teaches tourists Aloha.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

**From:** [Keith Kropf](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB931  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 11:24:58 AM

---

Aloha Chair Kahele and committee members, I SUPPORT SB931. Please pass this important bill to protect Hawaii's marine life and reefs.

Our reefs are have been declining rapidly in recent years. If you were scuba diving and snorkeling a few years ago, you'd know what I mean. Let's do what we can to get them healthy again!

Keith Kropf  
94-1893 Kamaoa Road PO Box 1116  
Naalehu, HI 96772  
808-333-6430

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 7:11:02 PM

---

Submitted by: Keali`i Bio, Volcano

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

This type of wasteful take of our marine wildlife from Hawaii's fragile coastal habitats are unnecessary because most aquarium fish can be reproduced from carefully managed aquaculture systems now days. Aquarium fish collectors just want to catch wildstock because it is easier and cheaper than raising them. They are not concerned for the negative impacts they have to our coral reefs nor do the profits they make go back into protecting marine wildlife here.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 3:34:49 PM

---

Submitted by: Karlene Morrow, Kailua Kona, Hi

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

This is the right thing to do for Hawaii and the planet.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 7:14:20 AM

---

Submitted by: Joshua Corey, Santa Cruz, CA

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 4:12:46 PM

---

Submitted by: Joseph Relethford, Carlsbad, CA

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Please end the aquarium trade in hawaii

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.



**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 12:31:51 PM

---

Submitted by: John Norman, Kihei, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Please protect our reefs, they are struggling already don't stress them for profits for a few. The tourist industry is much more important to Hawaii's economy and dead reefs won't help.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 2:17:43 PM

---

Submitted by: JOHN HOOVER, VOLCANO

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I have been an aquarium keeper and believe in the educational value of aquariums. I am in favor of sustainable aquarium collecting, which I believe is possible with effective enforcement of the rules. Sadly, effective enforcement seems unattainable in the Islands for a variety of reasons. So I support the fallback position, which is to ban commercial aquarium collecting entirely.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 1:01:15 PM

---

Submitted by: Jo Greenwald, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Aloha. Hawaii is one of the last places on earth that has such a wealth of diversity in our wild fish. I think that it's negligent and cruel to basically steal our beautiful fishes and harm our ocean's ecosystems, including our precious reefs, just to profit exporters and those that seek to exploit this bounty for commercial, non-food purposes. It is up to you to protect all of Hawaii's unique, precious and irreplaceable lands and seas. Mahalo.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 9:32:37 AM

---

Submitted by: Jenny Yagodich , Haleiwa, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Stop allowing aquarium harvest in Hawaii. Our limited fragile resources need a break. Our reefs and the marine ecosystem cannot handle the removal of hoards of juvenile species.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 4:58:51 AM

---

Submitted by: Jen Marcelo, San Diego, CA

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

The time for change is now. End the needless suffering, global cruelty, and greed-motivated practices. End the Global Aquarium trade. Start now.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 12:32:17 PM

---

Submitted by: michael gilbert, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I watch the RAPE from shore. When i first came here the area around Makena teemed with fish. I could see that now their are almost no reef fish just for GREED. The boats would come stay out all day and even at night and take everything they could. HOW INSANE is this Please do your job for once and stop this crazy practice

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 1:40:14 AM

---

Submitted by: Melanie Coyle Coyle, San Francisco, CA

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 4:12:25 PM

---

Submitted by: Mary True, Pepeekeo

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Allowing fish to be taken from our reefs is a disservice to all who live here and love to snorkel. It also detracts from the tourist's experience. It is inconceivable that this is even allowable. This is definitely a case of putting profit before pono. Most of these fish die very soon after being captured.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.



**From:** [mak221@aol.com](mailto:mak221@aol.com)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** WRITING IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB931  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 11:10:36 AM

---

Aloha Chair Kahele and committee members

I SUPPORT SB931. Please pass this important bill to protect Hawaii's marine life and reefs.

They are one of the treasures of Hawaiian life and culture.

Mahalo

Mark A. Koppel  
31-392 Lepoloa Rd.  
Ninole, HI 96773

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 12:40:57 PM

---

Submitted by: Marjorie Bonar, Pukalani, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Damaging small fish in nursery areas and corals impacts the whole ecosystem. Our eating sized fish begin in the impacted areas and are often by-catch of the aquarium hunters. Colorful fish on our reefs encourages tourism, dead reefs and uninteresting fish send people to other places.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 5:27:34 PM

---

Submitted by: Maren Anka, Makawao, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

As I SCUBA diver, I have seen the devastating impact of removing reef fish from our oceans. They belong on the reef- not being sold for profit!

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Lynn Allen](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB931  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 12:16:32 PM

---

Aloha Chair Kahele and committee members, I SUPPORT SB931. Please pass this important bill to protect Hawaii's marine life and reefs.

Thank you for reading this letter of support,  
Lynn Allen

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 12:19:45 PM

---

Submitted by: Lynn Allen, Kihei, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 7:16:57 PM

---

Submitted by: Lorraine Garnier, KAILUA

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I and my children and friends are devastated by the loss of coral reef fish. Snorkeling is more of a hunt for any reef fish vs in the days when our reefs were filled with color and delight. Please end or put a long moratorium on the aquarium trade immediately. Mahalo,

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Lisa Marten](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB931  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 3:55:13 PM

---

Aloha Chair Kahele and committee members, I SUPPORT SB931. Please pass this important bill to protect Hawaii's marine life and reefs.

This resource is being exploited for the benefit of a few. Let us preserve the fish in their own ecosystem for the future.

Mahalo, Lisa Marten

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 3:22:06 PM

---

Submitted by: Lindsey Rivera , Los Angeles, CA

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.



**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 11:58:04 AM

---

Submitted by: Lindsay White, Hilo, Hawaii

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 12:31:38 AM

---

Submitted by: Linda Wright, Kihei, Maui

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 1:37:24 PM

---

Submitted by: Liana Macdonald-Kainoa, Kailua Kona, Hawaii

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

What will happen when we no longer have these native reef fish? Is it ok to let some people profit off of our shared natural resources, while in the long run we all pay for the costs?

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Liana MK](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB931  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 1:39:08 PM

---

Aloha Chair Kahele and committee members, I SUPPORT SB931. Please pass this important bill to protect Hawaii's marine life and reefs.

What will happen when we no longer have these native reef fish? Is it ok to let some people profit off of our shared natural resources, while in the long run we all pay for the costs? If we don't protect our marine species, who will?

\*☐,☐.☐\*Me ke aloha pumehana\*☐,☐☐\*

Liana Macdonald-Kainoa  
Outreach & Education Assistant  
Napu'u Natural Resource Management  
(808) 747-4717

"Ho'omoe wai kahi ke kao'o"  
Let us travel together, like water flowing in one direction.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 6:22:38 PM

---

Submitted by: Leland Asato , Honolulu Hi

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

**From:** [Laurie Pottish](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB931  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 12:41:40 PM

---

Aloha Chair Kahele and committee members,

I SUPPORT SB931. Please pass this important bill to protect Hawaii's marine life and reefs.

Laurie Pottish  
2892 Iwalani St  
Makawao. HI 96768

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 7:27:16 AM

---

Submitted by: laurie saarinen, Hilo

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Keep Hawaiian aqua life in our Hawaii waters!! For our future generations!

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Laurel Schultz](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB931  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 4:31:04 PM

---

Aloha Chair Kahele and committee members,

I SUPPORT SB931. Please pass this important bill to protect Hawaii's marine life and reefs. Please stop the wasteful and counterproductive use of our reefs as extractive resources for the greedy few and allow our reefs to recover for the benefit of all. Tourism is our main source of income and denuding our island reefs of fish for the amusement of the few on the mainland is a mistake.

Laurel Schultz  
po box 399  
Holualoa, HI



**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 4:16:20 PM

---

Submitted by: Kulananalu Tarnas, Kamuela, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

The life of the sea and land of Hawaii should not be treated as a commodity, especially to those who seek to appropriate natural beauty by caging it and putting it on display. SB931 is a vital step in protecting the Aloha of Hawaii, for we must be an example in showing that we stand for not only human life but for the life and freedom of all our kin--including our relatives in the sea.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 5:10:25 AM

---

Submitted by: Kimi Abbott-Jackson, Waikoloa Hawaii

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

This practice of destroying marine life for profit is equal to the ivory trade. It's barbaric and has no value to the ecosystem which we must preserve and protect before it's totally destroyed.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 6:31:13 AM

---

Submitted by: Jeff McKnight, Paauilo, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Jeff Gaeth](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB931  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 5:20:03 AM

---

Aloha Chair Kahele and committee members, I SUPPORT SB931. Please pass this important bill to protect Hawaii's marine life and reefs.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 2:31:31 PM

---

Submitted by: Jeannette Heidrich, Kailua Kona, Hawaii

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I have been snorkeling and diving the Hawaiian reefs for many years. The declining amount of life on the reefs is very sad. Please take action to protect the reef life, it is crucial for our coral reefs and also the enjoyment of our citizens and their children. Our ocean should be abundant with life, not empty wastelands. thank you for doing the right thing

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 2:23:51 PM

---

Submitted by: Jayne Kerns, Kamuela, HI 96743

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Please pass this bill to prohibit the commercial harvest of marine life for aquarium purposes. Hawaii's reefs and the animals who live there need to be preserved, not exploited! Mahalo, Jayne

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 5:00:25 PM

---

Submitted by: janice palma-glennie, kailua-kona hawaii

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I agree with For The Fishes on every point made above. I'm an avid water person including diving, swimming and surfing. my family fishes for subsistence and we understand the sanctity and practicality of protecting the Web of Life upon which we all depend. Please support this long overdue legislation. Mahalo nui loa, Janice palma-glennie

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

**From:** [James Duff](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB931  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 3:46:40 PM

---

Aloha Chair Kahele and committee members, I SUPPORT SB931. Please pass this important bill to protect Hawaii's marine life and reefs.

Please help protect our ecosystems and our future.

Thank You so much,  
James Duff

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 1:05:30 PM

---

Submitted by: Holly Black , Swindon

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Every animal matters.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 12:32:17 PM

---

Submitted by: michael gilbert, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I watch the RAPE from shore. When i first came here the area around Makena teemed with fish. I could see that now their are almost no reef fish just for GREED. The boats would come stay out all day and even at night and take everything they could. HOW INSANE is this Please do your job for once and stop this crazy practice

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 11:16:06 AM

---

Submitted by: Scott Sweet Sweet, Volcano

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I have been an avid SCUBA diver since 1999 and I've witnessed first hand the decline in health of reefs worldwide. We do not need to add any pressure to the reef ecosystem by removing species for a senseless trade. It is inhumane and unethical to keep Hawaiian reef fish in captivity, or to kill them on their way to the rest of their lives in captivity.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 1:30:37 PM

---

Submitted by: Gzzbriela Taylor, Kapaa, Hi

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Please pass SB931. It is tragedy to take our reef fish and needs to be stop now! The Choral Reefs of Hawaii are already threatened by climate change and toxins.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [gregg blue](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB931  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 5:23:15 PM

---

Aloha Chair Kahele and committee members, I SUPPORT SB931. Please pass this important bill to protect Hawaii's marine life and reefs.

Aloha and thanks,

GREGG BLUE  
MAUI

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 5:24:37 PM

---

Submitted by: GREGG BLUE BLUE, HAIKU

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 2:24:00 PM

---

Submitted by: Grant Heidrich, Kailua Kona, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I live for the ocean, and spend a great deal of time in and around the water. It breaks my heart to observe the loss of fish life in our near waters, knowing that the Hawaii of our past will not be the Hawaii of the next generations- the coral bleaching events, onslaught of global warming, and collection of ornamental fish for aquariums is disaster for our oceans. Please vote not to stop this predatory practice. It is shocking that in spite of a supreme court ruling demanding Hawaii comply with its own environmental laws, that this destructive practice continues. Please do the right thing. Grant Heidrich

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 10:41:02 AM

---

Submitted by: Georgie Fong Fong, pepekeo

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I believed it is wild animals Natural Right to live in the environment that God gave and PLACED THEM IN. There in that specific environment is where the "animals" contribute to the HEALTH of their ecosystem. Humans should not be STEALING the fishes and then selling them for Federal Reserve printed dollars for other humans amusement and entertainment!!!!. The wild fishes no longer serve and contribute to maintain a "healthy" ecosystem

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.



**From:** [George Robertson](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB931  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 12:23:38 PM

---

Aloha Chair Kahele and committee members, I SUPPORT SB931. Please pass this important bill to protect Hawaii's marine life and reefs.

Mahalo,

George Robertson

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 2:06:31 PM

---

Submitted by: Gary Harrold, Hilo

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

As a Sierra Club lifetime member, a strong admirer of Rene Umberger's [forthefishes.org](http://forthefishes.org) outreach, I abhor seeing such depleted reefs as exist in Hawaii. We can learn so much from the Raja Ampat region of Papua and the protected waters of Komodo Nat'l Park, both in Indonesia. Gary in Hilo

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 6:28:45 PM

---

Submitted by: Gail Jackson Jackson, Waikoloa

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Our fish depends on reefs and reefs depend on fish. Without reefs we are in deep trouble.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 12:34:45 AM

---

Submitted by: Fred Dente, Kapaa, Hawaii

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Please stop the exploitation and rape of Mother Nature for profit, and/or for any other reason.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 8:17:58 AM

---

Submitted by: Francine Roby, Honokaa Hi

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

When I came here years ago as a tourist who snorkeled, there were many varied colorful fish. Now I live here & find far fewer fish, for a variety of reasons. We must now protect what we have left.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 8:47:15 PM

---

Submitted by: Eve DVincent, Kalaheo, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 8:41:03 PM

---

Submitted by: Erik Stein, Lahaina

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 10:29:43 PM

---

Submitted by: Erica Yamauchi, Honolulu, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

There are many ways to support sustainable fisheries and fish farms, such as the seahorse farm on the Big Island that promote conservation as well as eco-tourism. Let's invest in these opportunities instead of harming our wildlife and their habitat, as well as our ocean and natural resources.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.



**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 11:11:02 AM

---

Submitted by: Emily Garland, Hilo, Hawaii

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

We must protect our reefs. They are vital to our environment.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 11:34:10 AM

---

Submitted by: Donald Erway Erway, Kailua Kona

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 5:02:32 PM

---

Submitted by: Diane Ware, IVolcano HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Dear Senators, Protect our reefs and THE FISHERIES for future generations in the tradition of indigenous cultures for personal subsistence NOT FOR PROFIT. No more trash cans full of dead fishes! No more justifications for cruelty, coral destruction by collectors and not enforcing any regulations by underfunded and dysfunctional DLNR. Just say No to special interests and honor the values and wishes of those that live here and the constitution of Hawai'i. And please give DLNR the funds to achieve it's stated mission to protect our wildlife.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 1:29:56 PM

---

Submitted by: Deborah Wallace, Honolulu Hawaii

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

It is unreasonable that a small amount of Aquarists can take our fish and sell them. This act by a few impacts the beauty of our islands and the health of our oceans and the economy. I swim daily in the ocean with the fish and know that we now have far fewer fish than in past years and allowing them to be taken is wrong.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 7:07:51 AM

---

Submitted by: David J Hunt, Honokaa, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

The theft of our precious marine life is immoral / unacceptable .

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 9:10:43 PM

---

Submitted by: David Monasevitch, Lihue, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Read, What A Fish Knows, turns out their are sentient. They are individuals, too.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 2:35:35 PM

---

Submitted by: David Meyer, Los Angeles, Ca.

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

My brother and his family have lived in Honolulu since 1968. Since I began visiting in 1970, every year I would go to Hanauma Bay -- from the time of feeding fish with peas until now when I join a group of early risers and swim to the mouth of the Bay if we can every day that it is feasible. I am now posted in Bermuda where fish stocks were depleted in part due to overfishing and fish-pots finally banned in the 1990s. The Nassau Grouper has never come back and it used to be a staple. I do oral histories with the National Museum where I've heard fishermen talk of the plenitude of fish in the 40's and 50's so there are people still living here who are witnesses to the fragility of the life in the ocean. In the 38 years I have visited Hanauma Bay and have dived in the waters of the Hawaiian island, I have seen the increase in bleaching, the arrival of the Crown of Thorns and other threats to the health of the reef. The taking of the reef fish for their beauty and their aquarium value is just another strain on the ecosystem. There is no evidence that they populations will recover from this practice. Why take the chance? I found inspiring beauty in the waters of Hawaii and I come back year after year introducing friends and relatives to it. Nothing like it. Please protect it. Thank you

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 2:21:07 PM

---

Submitted by: Darrce Smith , san diego, California

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Please protect our wildlife. Future generations deserve to see and live in the natural beauty of Hawaii's plants and animals, and they all deserve to be safe from exploitation and harm.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.



**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 8:16:52 PM

---

Submitted by: Damien Kenison Kenison, Honaunau

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

It is time our government malama their people. Profit from exploitation like the aquarium fish trade and swim with the dolphin tours is not pono. We depend on our resources for sustenance and cultural practice. We do not hana inu the i'a. We appreciate the food they provide for us and their benefit to a healthy coral reef. Please do the right thing for the people of Hawaii Nei. Mahalo Damien Kenison Hookena, South Kona, Hawaii Island

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 3:31:05 PM

---

Submitted by: Dana Fergerstrom, Hilo, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 4:51:50 PM

---

Submitted by: Cynthia Horton, Waimea

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I have personally seen a marked decline in the number and variety of reef fish off both Poipu and Hookena shores over the last 14 years and this removal must be stopped. Dr, Cynthia Horton

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 11:14:59 AM

---

Submitted by: Connie Zahalka , Kealakekua

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I am a twenty year resident and can see the difference in fish populations

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 12:33:33 PM

---

Submitted by: Cassidy Campbell, Fort Collins , CO

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 2:19:32 PM

---

Submitted by: Carole Wiedmeyer, Waikoloa, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

The corals need these fish to help them recover from repeated bleaching events. Here in West Hawaii Island the changes in the past four years alone have been extreme. There is no time to waste in working to reduce stress on our reefs. These fish can help control the algae blooms that are smothering the corals.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 2:01:36 PM

---

Submitted by: Carol Ann Davis, koloa

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I swim in Hawaii's oceans every day...I have for almost 80 years. I notice that there are hardly any fish left in most snorkeling areas due to over fishing and coral reef bleaching. My great grandchildren will not experience the wonderful colorful sea life that I did when I was growing up I Hawaii. It is also an inhumane practice to keep wild fish in an aquarium Carol Ann Davis, born in Hawaii in 1936

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 3:12:35 AM

---

Submitted by: Camilla Dulac, Paho, Hawaii

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Yes, we need to stop people from acquiring fish for aquarium fish trade. Please stop this from happening! Camilla Dulac

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.



**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 2:36:25 PM

---

Submitted by: Brooke Friswold, Aiea, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Beneficial native Hawaiian fish serve an important role in grazing algae that relieve stress on coral populations. With coral communities around Hawaii declining rapidly we need these trophic relationships to be sustained and supported.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 8:32:57 AM

---

Submitted by: Bridget Clarke, Anahola, Hi 96703

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

As a single working woman on Kaua'i since 1980. It has been a treasure for my little family to take camping trips at Anini with our church group. From 1980-1993 the children would walk and explore the Anini reef pool tides at low tide to catch & release our beautiful sea life in Hawai'i. For the first time in our lives to the excitement of the children. We saw angel fish, sea horses, an array of sea life in their natural habitat, a beautiful site. Now in 2019, there is no evidence of sea life. How traumatic and therefore, for the preservation of our voiceless, devastated reefs? I strongly support this bill.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 3:43:13 PM

---

Submitted by: Brent Carman, Hilo, Hawaii

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 11:43:25 AM

---

Submitted by: Ms Barbara L Franklin Franklin, Honokaa, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I snorkel and I have missed seeing the hamahamanukunukuapuaas in the reefs and shorelines areas. Please protect our state fish.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 1:53:05 PM

---

Submitted by: Ariel Patterson, Hilo, Hawaii

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

The coral reefs of Hawai'i are very close to my heart and are already facing extreme threats such as bleaching and ocean acidification as a result of climate change. We need to be extending as much protection toward these ecosystems as possible as they are some of the most threatened ecosystems in the world today. Many people in Hawaii and around the world rely on coral reefs and the fish that inhabit them economically through tourism, food, and cultural significance.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 10:04:59 PM

---

Submitted by: Anne Rillero, Kula, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I swim along the Makena coast every week and I am alarmed by the reduction in reef fish.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 1:15:46 PM

---

Submitted by: anita wintner, kihei HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

It makes me sick the Gov Ice vetoed the bill to stop AQ collecting and the DLNR director did not enforce Hawaii Supreme Court decision to stop AQ collecting by allowing them to buy a different license. This must stop!

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 8:28:19 AM

---

Submitted by: Andrew Plack, Hilo hi

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I have been to the warehouse near the Honolulu airport. There with dusty pictures of past governors, plaques of business merit, there is a very large tropical fish operation. All the employees and owners are Chinese nationals, but all the fish are ours. Row after row of homding tank, floating fish, injured fish and fish that will soon fly to poor aquaria in Kansas and elsewhere. This must end. Plundering our ecosystems for the profit of a few people is wrong and not good stewardship. I spoke to them in mandarin and they are from southern China. So it seems on the surface like a corruption to see personal endorsements coming from government officials for people who are simply plundering our greatest resource, the Hawaiian reef. Please support the bill and our efforts to protect all that is Hawai'i.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.



**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 3:07:57 PM

---

Submitted by: Amy Markel, Honolulu, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 3:22:31 PM

---

Submitted by: Amanda Fenker, Kona, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 12:47:29 AM

---

Submitted by: Alice Jones, Bristol, United Kingdom

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 7:44:55 PM

---

Submitted by: Robert Stahl, Kona, Hi

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.  
The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.  
I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 4:27:12 PM

---

Submitted by: Sarah Grisafi, San Diego, CA

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

We know what the right thing is to do. So do it.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 2:05:55 PM

---

Submitted by: Sara Sowers, Fort Collins

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Please act to end this destructive and cruel trade. Keep the jewels in the water, there are other options out there. Reef life is precious and irreplaceable.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Sandy Shimmon](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB931  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 2:37:13 PM

---

Aloha Chair Kahele and committee members, I SUPPORT SB931. Please pass this important bill to protect Hawaii's marine life and reefs.

I have seen the destruction of not only fish populations but coral health as a result of the uncontrolled taking of marine life in our Hawaii oceans.

Please move to protect marine life.

Sandy Shimmon

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 11:19:28 AM

---

Submitted by: Sally Lambert Lambert, Kailua-Kona

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Hawaii needs to get smarter. We can have an impact by educating the public and save our reef fish. There are many places in Hawaii that take local action and educate the public right at the beach on how to protect our reefs and all the fish dependent upon them. Take this time that we still have to change the aquarium trade and support SB931. Mahalo!

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.



**From:** [Sally Rice](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB931  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 12:00:44 PM

---

Aloha Chair Kahele and committee members, I SUPPORT SB931. Please pass this important bill to protect Hawaii's marine life and reefs.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important step towards stewardship of our ocean wildlife!

Sally Rice

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 5:19:08 PM

---

Submitted by: Robyn Adams, Lakeside, CA

Position: OPPOSE

Comments:

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 4:06:38 PM

---

Submitted by: Zack Solmirin, Mililani Hi

Position: OPPOSE

Comments:

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

**COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

February 8, 2019

Testimony on SB 931

Bruce A. Carlson, Ph.D.

**Honorable members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:**

My name is Bruce Carlson, and I am testifying against SB 931.

I am not a lobbyist, and I do not receive any form of compensation from the aquarium fishery. Before retiring, I was the Director of the Waikiki Aquarium, and I have a Ph.D. in ichthyology from the University of Hawai'i. My interest in testifying is due to my lifelong passion for aquariums as a way to help people see, understand and appreciate the diversity of life in the ocean, especially for the many people who cannot swim. Secondly, I am here as a scientist urging you to consider facts and data, particularly those data collected by the hard-work of State biologists working for DLNR and the University of Hawai'i.

I disagree with the premise that the aquarium fishery is incompatible with *pono* fishing practices. DLNR has done a superb job of creating a management plan for the West Hawai'i aquarium fishery setting aside over 30% of the coastline as *kapu*, to allow for the replenishment of aquarium fish species. Over 8,000 transect studies over 20 years led by Dr. William Walsh of DLNR have shown that this fishery is sustainable - this is the definition of "living in balance with nature."

Furthermore, an exhaustive study by Dr. Alan Friedlander and colleagues has concluded that "the total amount of nonfood fish species, including damselfish, butterflyfish, and *hinalea*, is similar just about everywhere, including areas with large human populations and considerable fishing pressure.... (but) key food fish species have declined by more than 75%" (compared to remote reefs such as *Papahanaomokuakea*).

Why then is this bill focused on the one demonstrably sustainable inshore fishery, and ignoring fish species that are in decline? This bill intends to deny the opportunity for a comprehensive EIS to be completed, wasting thousands of dollars already committed to this effort. Please table this bill and let the EIS proceed and let the DLNR resource managers evaluate it objectively and deliberately.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 8:23:07 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Johnny Isham	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly Oppose SB931 it is wrong to shut down a industry because some people FEEL it's wrong to put fish in Aquariums. Many people can't have a dog or cat as a pet and choose fish as there pet and love them just like any other animal.

This is not a resource issue (no scientific data to support it is a resource issue and DLNR says it's not a resource issue )this is a user conflict issue as the people behind this bill own Dive shops or other ocean based businesses that want exclusive rights to the ocean. So they start there non profit businesses (pay them selfs a nice check)and spread false facts and lies to get other to fallow there cause and donate money.

I promise you These people won't stop at the Aquarium trade they will move next to other ocean fishing or ocean based things that they FEEL is wrong.

THANK YOU

Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair  
Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Committee on Water & Land  
Friday, Feb. 8, 2019

### **In opposition to SB 931, relating to Marine Aquarium Fishing**

I have held an aquarium fish permit on Oahu since 2007. I also have a Bachelors of Science degree in Marine Biology from the University of Hawaii and have participated in a number of research projects concerning coral reef conservation, fisheries monitoring, and marine exploration. As fishermen, our livelihoods depend on maintaining healthy reefs and healthy fish stocks, and we have no desire to see our resources depleted. I am proud to have been part of a healthy and sustainable fishery that has provided thousands of people in Hawaii and around the world an opportunity to enjoy the ocean and its creatures. I am strongly opposed to SB 931, which has no scientific basis and would needlessly eliminate a vibrant and sustainable local industry.

For the following reasons, I am opposed to SB 931:

#### **The bill would permanently close the aquarium fishery in Hawaii**

Since 1953, when the state began issuing aquarium permits, the aquarium industry has provided a livelihood for many Hawaii residents. These include not only fishermen, but also fish dealers, pet stores, aquarium maintenance personnel, and many others. These are legitimate businesses, licensed and regulated by the state. All told, hundreds of people in the state earn a living directly from the aquarium industry. These are local families, with children to feed, bills to pay, and elderly relatives to support. The passage of SB 931 would take away their livelihoods and force local families into unemployment and poverty.

At this time, our permits are presently invalid, pending completion of an environmental impact statement as mandated by the Hawaii Supreme Court. We are in the process of complying with the court order and completing the required environmental review. If this bill is passed as written, our businesses will be permanently closed, despite our good faith efforts to follow the law.

#### **The aquarium fishery is compatible with Hawaiian values**

Section 1 of SB 931 claims that our fishery is "contrary to pono fishing practices". That statement is not true. Many of the people who work in our fishery are Native Hawaiian. We take only what we need, leave enough behind so the reef can replenish, and rotate our fishing spots so that our impact is minimized. This conservation ethic is one of the main reasons why the fishery has been healthy for decades.

## **The aquarium fishery has proven to be sustainable & compatible with healthy reefs**

The state Department of Land & Natural Resources has been monitoring the aquarium fishery since the early 1970s. At no point in time has there been any evidence of a declining fishery, especially on Oahu where the fishery has remained extremely stable for the past fifteen years. On the Big Island, the most recent data from DLNR indicates that the fishery is very healthy, and the population of the most collected species has increased significantly over the past twenty years. We have been diving the same reefs for more than four decades, and have not seen a long term decline in fish abundance - each year the fish return just as strong as before. If the supposed depletion of fish was true, we would have been out of business long ago.

Moreover, research conducted since 1998 in Kona, where the majority of fish collection occurs, has shown no difference in coral health or algal abundance between areas where the fishery is permitted and areas that are closed. It is clear that the fishery is not harmful to the health of the reef. This information is readily available from DAR should anybody be so concerned.

**In summary, SB 931 is a flawed and harmful bill.** It would needlessly shut down an important local industry and deprive many people in Hawaii and around the world of an enjoyable, educational, and enriching hobby that fosters an appreciation for the marine environment like no other. The aquarium fishery has proven to be sustainable, it has proven to be compatible with healthy coral reefs, and it has proven to be compatible with the tourist industry. In the interests of responsible fisheries management, I urge the committee not to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Ross', written in a cursive style.

Matthew Ross

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 7:25:42 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joni Kamiya	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

As a healthcare professional, I see many kupuna who can no longer go to the beaches. Aquariums are very therapeutic for these people. As an ocean state, we need to manage resources and avoid bans. The people who rely on this fishery have very unique skills, which are frequently used for researchers. We need these fishermen.



**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 4:08:13 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elise Fernley	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not believe that the commercial capture of Hawaii's reef wildlife for sale to the aquarium pet trade is incompatible with kanaka maoli values. Many collectors on Oahu have been collecting for decades, so they know they have to take care of the reefs which are homes and breeding grounds for the fish. They rotate collection spots so as not to overfish an area. They also target specific fish, so there is absolutely no bycatch. Science and data show and have shown that the aquarium fishery is sustainable.

This bill also talks about pono fishing practices, such as taking only what is needed for subsistence. I don't believe all recreational fishermen are catching for subsistence. There are a lot of people who fish just for the recreational aspect of it. Does catching fish, sometimes removing hooks, handling, leaving them for dead, or throwing the fish back display harmony and balance with nature? Does pono fishing practice apply to commercial fishing? Do they take only what they need? What about bycatch? Do all the fish they catch get utilized by themselves? No! Do all the fish they catch get consumed? According to what I've read, a third is wasted. How is this pono? Also, from what I have read a lot of fish species that are not collected for aquariums are in decline.

Do all the people on fishing charters eat all of their catch or do they mount it on a wall? These larger species numbers are in sharp decline.

Because of aquarium fish I think a lot of people do want to live in harmony and balance with nature. They see the fish, and see their beauty! They feel a responsibility for the fish and its environment; and want to care for and nurture it. Many people who want to save the earth's reefs and oceans saw their first fish in an aquarium. Aquariums around the world educate people about its inhabitants and their natural environments. I believe that if aquarium fish collection is banned and aquariums are no longer around, there will be a out-of-sight, out-of-mind effect. Only those who are able to swim, snorkel, dive or afford admission tickets to an aquarium will be able to enjoy fish.

I absolutely oppose SB931. I feel it is not well thought out and **highly discriminatory** to the aquarium industry!

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 6:48:14 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
DENNIS YAMAGUCHI	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 3:23:12 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Judith Perino	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

February 6, 2019

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

"Hanaka Maoli Values" is being used as a premise to prohibit ornamental fish collection/export, suggesting that it is "contrary to pono fishing practices" at the exclusion, apparently, of all other user groups. Perhaps then an explanation is in order why there are naso and achilles tang being sold in local grocery stores and at the fish market in Honolulu - if other fisherman were also practicing "pono fishing" by only taking for sustenance, they could not possibly be for sale in these places - what's the difference? Dead is acceptable, but taking alive is not? Why is there no scrutiny on these other user groups?

Kanaka Maoli involves a complex interwoven series of philosophies and relationships to the land. The well being of the Aina, (Land), and the its resources is critical within the concept of Kanaka Maoli, which incorporates land and ocean as one - not as two opposing forces, but only this small group of fishermen are being threatened with the loss of their livelihood. There is not one other industry or business entity under any threat whatsoever, even though the HEPA law should be applied equally and fairly to all users of the Aina - land and sea.

This broad world view of Hawaiian culture is being subverted to discriminate against viable, sustainably practiced commercial fishing period! No other group or business endeavor in this state on land or sea, "Aina", has endured the persecution and scrutiny as has the ornamental fish exporters/collectors, despite the fact that all independent Scientific research, (something the supporters of this bill lack), and intense management policies by DLNR in the West Hawaii Regional Fisheries Management Area concludes UNANIMOUSLY that the ornamental fishing industry is very well managed and sustainable.

If this legislature intends to employ the concept of Kanaka Maoli as a basis for governance in 2019 and beyond, then how do you intend to resolve compliance issues with all the myriad of businesses on land and sea to which the principles of Kanaka Maoli - in all fairness - must then be equitably applied? The state constitution does not

permit discrimination, nor does it permit "cherry picking" to favor one group over another.

It is also important to note that Hawaii is now a tourism hotspot where traditional culture is largely appropriated to feed a consumerist industry. The traditional concept of Kanaka Maoli is no longer the prevalent force for governance in the Hawaiian Islands in 2019 - Ahupua'a's no longer make up the layout of the land. This concept unfortunately is simply being subverted and distorted because there are no scientific FACTS to support or warrant the closure of this entire fishing industry, so without any science to support the closure of this industry, the fall back is dredging up traditional culture to stir up anti fishing sentiment.

I strongly feel that small business should be supported and that everyone should be treated fairly. There are far more important issues facing this state and this legislature, and I know I don't have to enumerate what those are. How about you focus on those and let these people go through their EIS process and get back to work? Remember, you are supposed to represent them, too.

I strongly oppose this bill.

J. Perino

73-4492 Kohanaiki Rd.

Kailua Kona, HI. 96740

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 5:36:04 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eric Michael	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please let the EIS and Cultural analysis dictate the future of the fishery.

No fishery should be banned as it will set a precedent for all resource extraction.

Please vote no on SB 931 until the EIS is complete

p

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 12:13:01 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amy White	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

DLNR has determined this is a sustainable industry. Aquarium fishers release fish they are unable to sell within a few days of capture. I see no reason to deprive our fishermen of their livelihood.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 8:25:27 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Saidee Nardin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is an attack on our right. Hawaiians have lived off the ocean and have kept the ocean sustainable for many years and there is no evidence supporting that we have created any sustainability issues.

Testimony on SB931 Relating to Marine Aquarium Fishing

Senate committee on  
Water and Land

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, members of the Committee

I am Alton Miyasaka and I am OPPOSED to this measure

General comments

I am struck by how disrespectful and mean spirited this measure is and that five members of this august body have signed on to support this. The measure demonizes the hard working members of this community, some of them your constituents, by characterizing that somehow the people that collect fish for sale as pets are not pono, are incompatible with our values, and have no respect for the environment. The measure makes these claims but provides no evidence to support them. Since when has fishing become so vilified? It used to be in ancient Hawaii that the lawai'a (fishers) were a respected and vital part of the community, providing for the daily needs of their community and supporting a culture of sharing and mutual benefit.

The measure is contrary to our island values. Instead of expanding our economy by making full use of our resources, it seeks to narrow our economy by removing an industry that has thrived for decades. Instead of uniting our peoples for the common good, it seeks to divide the community by making false claims that some are not pono. Instead of recognizing our cultural traditions of fishing, it seeks to accuse fishing as somehow disrespectful to the environment.

The measure advocates the position that commercial aquarium collecting should be banned because the people who do this are bad people, they are not pono, they disrespect the environment, and the sale of aquarium fish is incompatible with our values. Collectors are, of course, none of these things. I, for one, still believe that commercial fishing remains an honorable profession today and the people who dedicate their lives to do it are worthy of our respect and support. They are following the ancient traditions of lawai'a before them.

The measure contends that there should be a distinction between commercial and non-commercial collecting since commercial collecting is not pono but it allows for the non-commercial collecting by permit. It appears that aquarium collecting is not the problem but that commercial collecting is. I fail to understand the difference between collecting one fish and selling it and taking that same fish and putting in your aquarium at home. It is also unclear why I shouldn't be able to have someone catch the fish for me if I cannot catch it myself.



The underlying contention of the measure seems to be that commercial aquarium collecting is bad. I contend that commercial aquarium collecting is no different than commercial fishing. Whether the harvesting and sale is for food, religious observance, cultural practice, education, or stress relief, all such purposes are equally valid.

The Legislature already addressed this conflict. Act 306, SLH 1998, was passed in an attempt to finally resolve the long running conflict between dive tours and the aquarium collecting industry. It appears that those opposed to aquarium collecting are not ready to honor this agreement, not willing to compromise, and not going to stop until the industry is gone.

The measure is clearly a solution looking for a problem. What is the problem? The Department of Land and Natural Resources has consistently over the years testified that the fishery is not showing any indication of overharvesting the resources, is properly managing the fishery through a system of regulations that constantly monitors its activities, and has the authority to cancel permits should the conservation of the resources warrant such an action.

#### Specific Comments

The measure argues that prohibitions on commercial collection for the pet trade are needed to preserve natural resources similar to the 1988 prohibitions on marine deposits. It is illogical to equate living fish with marine deposits. Those prohibitions were needed because the marine deposits were considered non-renewal and cannot be replaced or created quickly enough to compensate for harvesting. Marine life and fish are renewal and should not be managed in the same way.

The measure claims that the prohibition is needed now to protect traditional cultural practices but does not explain how commercial collecting for the pet trade threatens these practices. I can only imagine the underlying contentions of this measure imply that 1) it considers the pet trade as not a valid use since this does not include subsistence, or that 2) commercial collecting overharvests the resources, will cause the extinction of local species, and thereby threaten traditional cultural practices.

Ornamental fish represents an important part of the pet trade worldwide. This importance grows as the technology to maintain home aquariums becomes easier and cheaper. There are a number of scientific studies that support the use of aquariums as important educational tools, stress relief, and fostering a love of animals. The importance of ornamental fish today contradicts the contention that they have no value and are not a valid use. Hawaiians recognizes these benefits, apart from their value as a ready food source, in their development of some fishponds for both landscaping and viewing pleasure. The existence of viewing ponds in Hawaiian history contradicts the contention that ornamental fish were not pono.

The canoe maker subsists off the work of his labor, the same way that the lawai'a subsisted not only from the fruits of his labor (that he ate) but also by the fish that he didn't eat and traded to others. Subsistence is what one does to sustain themselves. It is not limited to what one eats. Just because one doesn't eat the fish, doesn't mean the non-consumptive use of the fish is not valid.

The measure claims that these prohibitions are needed for the preservation of the environment and the long-term survival of key reef species; the reality is:

- 1) Current scientific data from the Department of Land and Natural Resources indicate that aquarium collecting does not threaten the long-term health of reef life
- 2) A recent gathering of reef scientists from around the world reached a consensus that aquarium collecting does not threaten the long-term health of reef life
- 3) There is no scientific study that indicates that any key Hawaiian reef species is going extinct
- 4) This claim of urgent need to preserve Hawaii's coral reefs is not supported by the current scientific information

Should this Committee decide to pass this measure, there are some technical matters to consider. Section 2 of the bill would prohibit the harvest of aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes, regardless of the method used or whether the organism is freshwater or saltwater. The wording would significantly widen the scope of the prohibition to include the taking of freshwater non-native species, such as for alien species control, which would then require a license or permit under subsection (b). For example, the taking and selling of tilapia and other cichlids, catfish, carps, guppies, mollies, all non-native species, would be prohibited. The bill does not provide for additional resources for the Department to accommodate this increase in licensing and permitting.

The measure would also prohibit the harvesting but not the sale of aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes. In effect, the prohibition would be at the time of harvest only and the harvester's intent (for commercial purposes) at the time of harvest. What constitutes "commercial purpose" has also been a question for many years. If a person harvests alien algae, gives it to another person who then sells it, is this commercial purpose under this section, since it was not sold by the harvester? Hotels/Restaurants, who collect their own fish, do not sell the fish, but draw clients to their place of business through the aquarium, is this commercial purpose under this section?

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 8:20:33 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maika Isham	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is absurd. Even DLNR is opposed to this. I have grown up in the fishing industry and diving industry. If there is ANYONE who actually cares about the sustainability of marine wildlife, its us! We care about the ocean because that's how we feed our families. We need the ocean.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 7:36:21 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
William K. Chang	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 6:59:01 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
glenn fukuda	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

why end livelihoods for fishermen who have been legally fishing for many years? our ea been rejected and now a costly eis study must be completed. this industry been in operation for over 50 years, usually a forecasting study is required on a new operation where impacts to our environment be known. we have historic scientific data of actual impact for over 50 years! this is a witch hunt from my view and "believe me " i fished for over 40 years legally and every year see no threat of diminished supplies. our monitoring of ocean events, piece of hawaii sent all over the world, contributing to aquaculture systems, predatory behavior and the list goes on. let us fish with management or just end all fishing to be fair. our taking is no different than any other fishing.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 7:21:36 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maria Cristina Tiongco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am testifying against SB931. The aquarium fishery is currently going through a thorough cultural and environmental impact study. Please allow this process to be completed before considering any new legislation or imposing a ban prematurely.

Mahalo,

Maria Cristina Tiongco

**From:** [RT Distributors](#)  
**To:** [kahele2 - Mark](#)  
**Subject:** Opposed to SB 931 please add to testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 6:16:11 PM

---

Testimony Opposed to SB 931 hearing Friday 2-8-19 1:20 PM room 229

***Eliminating the commercial collection of marine ornamental fishes under SB 931 would effectively bring the fishery to a standstill, undermining over a decade of labor-intensive, sustainable resource legislation and related progress*** [i.e. the passing of House Bill 3457 (Act 306), subsequent enforcement provisions, and the establishment of the West Hawai'i Regional Fisheries Management Area with its network of Fish Replenishment Areas (FRAs)]. The state has spent millions in managing effectively Hawaii's tropical fish resources. Closing the fishery with SB 931 is scientifically unnecessary and not merited.

***SB 931 lacks scientific substantiation and undercuts DAR initiatives to manage coastal resources based on the best scientific information available.***

***West Hawai'i Fishery Council Species of Special Concern Subcommittee and all it work would be for nothing.***

The West Hawai'i Fisheries Council Species of Special Concern Subcommittee (SSCS), chartered in late 2006, was engaged in outlining concerns for West Hawai'i reef species impacted by aquarium fishing and other marine activities, and has implemented it's findings via the Kona rules package which is well on it's way to becoming law in 2013. It went into effect after the Oahu rules of 2014 in 2015.

Oahu researchers also collaborated especially considering species of significant concern with fishermen over the past two years to develop an Oahu Rules package. This rules package creates laws for no take species, bag limits, net restrictions, further size limits and many other rules to become law this year.

All other islands should not be of concern as the level of collecting there if any is insignificant.

We must consider that, if we continue to ensure the sustainable use of our coastal resources through appropriate management action, the marine aquarium fishery in the Hawaiian Islands will serve as a model to the greater Pacific region where collection of ornamental species is practiced. Since Hawaiian aquarium fishes are captured using small-mesh fence and hand nets and not destructive methods or chemicals so if a complete shutdown of the fishery were to occur, a great shift in demand would follow, supporting Indo-Pacific nations whose policies continue to allow the employment of unsustainable fishing practices. This would only accelerate the destruction of coral reefs worldwide. I would urge all resource users, industry participants, scientists, conservationists, and concerned citizens to voice their opposition to this bill, as it would be an irresponsible and ineffective policy.

The idea that SB 931 has any scientific merit is unsubstantiated.

The cost of totally shutting down the fish study as proposed by SB 931 would make the 5 million spent counting fish in Kona seem small. Man hours and cost for these fish counts need some scientific data to back before such an undertaking is even considered. All the studies done so far indicate a low vulnerability for nearly all of the species of aquarium fish collected. None of the species has a high vulnerability rating!

If SB 931 is passed what would the fishermen in Hawaii do for a living? Aquarium fishermen would then focus on food fish. This would put significant strain on a much larger fishery issue. This does not even take into account other fisheries worldwide dependent on Hawaii and their impacts created by such a bill.

Impacts are great with passage of a ban but with non passage a valuable sustainable proactive fishery continues.

Please do not pass SB 931 it is flawed and unscientific which could lead to much greater problems.

Thanks for your time, please do the right thing,

Aaron Pagan Wainae and Kona





**From:** [RT Distributors](#)  
**To:** [kahele2 - Mark](#)  
**Subject:** Opposed to SB 931  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 4:57:09 PM

---

Testimony Opposed to SB931 1-8-19 Room 229

Respectfully Submitted by Adam Snodgrass, Hawaiian Diver/Fisherman

AS A HAWAIIAN OPPOSED against SB 229

To the members of the WTL committee,

As a diver and fisherman for ten years I have seen an increase if the fish population on the Waianae coast and now on the Kailua Kona coast . Every year I see an abundance of species blooming. In 2006 Potters bloomed on the west coast of Oahu. They are still very abundant more than I have seen in ten years. I always see plenty of fish we I dive but the ecologist groups say all the fish are gone. Now with SB 931 and asking for a complete ban? They want to tell me cannot catch. Enough already with the bills from the eco groups.

The lies associated with the user conflicts:

- It was reported that 9 million Aquarium fish are taken from Hawaii's waters annually. The truth is approximately 750,000 fish are taken annually. DNLR fish catch report counts. No where near 9 million!
- Ecology groups have run daily TV commercials claiming 75% of all fish are gone from Hawaii's waters. The true scientific statement was that 75% of the world's oceans have been impacted by man's activities. Many believe these lies as they do not know any better. Fish catch reports show increases as well does fish counts. See for yourself take a submarine dive!
- Maui groups say most of the fish are gone and tropical fish divers took them. The truth: The great American Fish Count 2000 to 2001 sponsored by and done with some of the same groups who oppose tropical fish showed an increase in numbers of identified species on all Islands. Even though the counts were done by amateurs and thus not scientific they are still useful. DNLR Bill Walsh's fish count analysis study, revealed inexperienced people cannot count the fish correctly, that their counts are too low because they cannot identify fish correctly. Thus the counts should actually be higher.
- Coral reefs take tens of thousands of years to grow. Reefs created after lava flows have coral growth in just a few years. Complete reef formation occurs on new lava flows with in just 100 years! The truth some places in Kaneohe Bay has seen 6 feet of coral growth in 14 years. Coral grows 3 to 5 inches a year in the shallows! Harbors must be dredged regularly as we must now do on Maui due to coral growth.
- Fishermen are taking all the fish. The truth one breeding pair of yellows can repopulate a whole reef in a few months. One yellow tang spawning produces one million larvae with around 60% surviving to the reef where spawned. The yellow reproduces twice a year. This year saw three spawning of yellows. Many other fish can produce as many as 5 million larvae.
- Tropical fish divers can take all the fish they want without regulations. The truth is almost all boats can only support only a small amount of fish in good enough condition to allow them to be sold as pets. The amount of water needed to keep the fish alive is very heavy and takes a lot of space on the boat. Some big island boats which are bigger have been specially modified with pumps to allow bigger catches. Diving is very physical and most only dive 2 to 3 days a week. Weather causes many days of non diving. Most of the summer sales are slow and divers are told not to go out. Most fish aquarium systems will only support a few hundred fish! Fish health and quality is everything so they are not crowded. **THE AMOUNT OF FISH TAKEN IS VERY LIMITED.**
- Tropical fish suffer and keeping them as pets is not humane. The truth is very few die. Life in a controlled environment with highly nutritional foods and medications has lead to very long and healthy lives for the

fish. Predators, starvation and short life spans are the norm for wild ocean fish. If I was a fish give me a good human aquarium home!

### **Eutrophication Seaweed problem**

Only very near shore reefs in run off areas with little current are in decline; see <http://cramp.wcc.hawaii.edu/> study of Kaneohe and Maui. Hawaii's reef fish do not eat seaweeds which grow as a result of eutrophication and run off. Aquarium fish collectors are being blamed for an excessive algae problem which does not even have anything to do with our industry. Divers rarely if at all dive at depths shallower than 60 feet and the algae growth is at shallow depths near shore. We have no effect on fish populations in these areas. The cause is runoff several studies prove this. To think tropical fish collecting has any impact on this issue makes no sense. Would you dive in polluted high algae growth areas?

Why would ecology groups testify against scientific based legislation? Many do not care about the science! Some do not care about the truth.

There were so many lies from groups and individuals trying to protect fish at all cost, even to the point of perpetuating lies in numerous media ads, We must slow down, assess the issues and logically and scientifically address the future of our oceans. If we don't make the right decisions jobs and incredible benefits will be lost for no reason.

Selfish uncaring individuals do not care about those who may lose their Jobs and the ability to feed their families. Their only concern is their own interests or they would not lie.

Ecology based legislation is needed to ensure the future of all Hawaii's fish, plants and animals. A lot of good has come from ecological concerns. Fishermen love to hear that people want to be protecting our Oceans but many have gone too far. Excessive protectionism will only cost us all.

Science based information will provide for a rational decision-making process coordinated by DLNR that will address the user conflicts, and fishing sustainability. We need ecologically sound; least-biased, factual context aimed at perpetuating not lies, but the sustainability of Hawaii's ocean resources upon which all parties depend. The World's healthiest and highest quality fish come from Hawaii. The Hawaii tropical fish collector has been known as the best for ecological friendly collecting for over 50 years. The World's fishermen and ecologists have looked to Hawaii and have copied our collecting techniques. Hawaii's Tropical Fish Association is proud of their role in World wide environmentally friendly collecting practices.

The World's healthiest and highest quality fish come from Hawaii. The Hawaii tropical fish collector has been known as the best for ecological friendly collecting for over 50 years. The World's fishermen and ecologists have looked to Hawaii and have copied our collecting techniques. Hawaii's Tropical Fish Association is proud of their role in World wide environmentally friendly collecting practices.

I do not understand what this bill is going to accomplish other than hurting everybody. My livelihood depends on the natural resources from the ocean, as did my father's. If this bill does go into affect it will hurt me and my children's children. I am strongly against this bill because my life is based on the ocean, and I know nothing else, being born and raised Hawaiian, and currently residing in Kailua, Kona but originally from the Waianae Coast, where jobs are scarce. I am diversified by aquarium fish diving and commercial (eating) fishing, but this bill would hurt both of these occupations, leaving me with no choice but to collect assistance from the state, an option which I have worked hard to avoid.

Adam Snodgrass  
Hawaiian Tropical Fish Diver  
HTFA Member

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 5:16:28 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kacie Terazono	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Let the EIS and Cultural analysis finish before passing any legislation on the fishery.

HEPA is to determine environmental and cultural impacts, so let it dictate what, if anything is needed to be done.

The fishery is sustainable, the most studied and managed in the State. If this fishery can be banned, all other fisheries will follow

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 6:50:10 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Luci Price	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Comittee Members,

I would like to testify in opposition to SB931. Please do not consider banning a viable fishery that is already comprehensively managed, studied, and proven sustainable. The aquarium fishery is currently undergoing an environmental and cultural analysis and it should be allowed to be completed before pursuing any new legislation on the fishery. Please let the results of this analysis help decide whether or not more action is necessary.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Luci Price

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 5:24:58 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lee Ashford	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Comittee Members,

I would like to express my opposition to SB931. This fishery has been proven to be sustainable and has great management in place to ensure it stays that way. I understand there is an environmental and cultural study currently being done on the taking of aquarium fish. Please allow for this to be completed before determining if any other actions are needed.

Thank you,

Lee Ashford

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 5:20:03 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tyron Terazono	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

Let the EIS and Cultural analysis finish before passing any legislation on the fishery.

HEPA is to determine environmental and cultural impacts, so let it dictate what, if anything is needed to be done.

The fishery is sustainable, the most studied and managed in the State. If this fishery can be banned, all other fisheries will follow.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 5:06:33 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Penny Lane	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please oppose this Ban of a sustainable fishery and do not set a precedent that could have crippling effects on all fisherman, fisheries, hunters, and resource users.

For the last 10 years an aquarium ban has been heard in the House and or the Senate, yet every year the reason for the ban is different. When you do not have facts on your side, your story changes.

Five years ago, it was inhumane treatment of fish. Then it was a sustainability issue, now its a cultural conflict. All past issues have been addressed and currently the cultural analysis is being conducted to address any cultural conflicts.

The aquarium fishery is the most regulated and studied fishery in the State, listen to DLNR when they give testimony. It is sustainable and a thriving fishery.

Due to a Supreme Court decision, the aquarium fishery is the first fishery in the State to have to conduct an EIS. This is a lengthy process, which determines enviromental impacts, and addresses them. The EIS also requires a Cultural Impact Analysis, which is currently being conducted. The estimated completion date is in August- September of 2019.

Let the EIS and Cultural Analysis dictate if there is an issue with this fishery. Do not ban a fishery without proper information to make an informed decision. The HEPA(Hawaii Enviromental Policy Act) is in place to clarify and verify information so that proper decisions can be made with the best information available.

If you ban this fishery, you will set a precedent. Please realize the big picture, that the groups pushing this ban are against all resource users.

**From:** [RT Distributors](#)  
**To:** [kahele2 - Mark](#)  
**Subject:** Please add to testimony for SB 931 please THANKS  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 6:02:21 PM

---

OPPOSED TO SB 931 HEARING 2-8-19, 1:20PM, ROOM 229

**Say NO to SB 931**

Testimony Opposed to Opposed to SB 931

2-8-19 1:30 pm Room 229

SB 931 would basically close down aquarium fishermen. This is not fair to Tropical Fish Fisherman. This is not an attempt at ecological protection but an attempt to put one group of fishermen out of business. This is not fair or productive in its intent. The **SB 931** has so many issues, how can such a bill even have been introduced.

Each issues are complex and significant in there effect. Emotion not logical thinking is the driving force behind such a Resolution. Science and due process has been left by the wayside. Please sincerely consider the problems associated with acting on such a resolution. Oppose SB 931!

Thank you,  
Tasha Keao Hawaiian Waimanalo



**From:** [RT Distributors](#)  
**To:** [kahele2 - Mark](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony to SB 931 please add.  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 4:44:56 PM

---

### **Strongly Opposed to SB 931**

**DATE:** Friday, February 8, 2019

**TIME:** 1:20 p.m.

**PLACE:** Conference Room 229

By Mary Tubbs

The %33 percent Kona West Hawaii FRA aquarium fish closure and its success is not required for the rest of the state. The larger area of the big island fishery made it practical there. To do the same for other islands is counterproductive and just forces fishermen into less areas creating greater impact on any remaining open areas. Less area means less rotation of fishing spots and more impact not less.

Website Fish Base already monitors fish vulnerability and potential for depletion of fish around the world. The website allows all researchers to share data on fish species in Hawaii. We already have numerous protected areas in place. Many years of laws and regulations for Hawaii's fisheries already in place thanks to DLNR and past legislation the need for such closures is nonproductive but actually will force fishermen into smaller areas creation much worse impacts.

We already have around 30% closure. Of the Main Hawaiian Islands another 30 percent is protected by Sanctuaries, Marine Protected Areas, Fish Replenishment Areas (FRA), Marine Life Conservation Districts (MCLD), Refuges, Fishery Management Areas (FMA), National Monuments, restricted military areas and the strictest laws of any State in the United States.

**The vast majority of the Hawaiian Island shores are untouched by fishing and diving.** High surf in the winter closes northern shores of all islands for many months. Summer surf affects southern shores. High winds from the east, for most of the year shut down east shores for diving. Poor accessibility too many areas due to distance, lack of harbors and roads, ensures these areas remain untouched. More than 90% of Hawaii is not impacted by fishing! Almost all of Hawaiian waters receive periods of "no catch" due to weather and inaccessibility. Untouched areas are already in place.

### **Most of isles' coral recover from mass bleaching (Corals did into bleach last year and nearly all recovered state wide!)**

By Audrey McAvoy

POSTED: 04:53 a.m. HST, Jan 29, 2015 ASSOCIATED PRESS

The DLNR studied coral for bleaching -- a stress response that causes corals to lose algae and color from their tissue -- in Kaneohe Bay. Coral rely on algae for food and their survival.

Dlnr Hawaii coral bleaching report 2 news

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vwqagvw1a1g>

### **Hawaii Sees Major Fish Population Increase**

Videos show tropical fish swarming state's reefs

<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/26454840/videos-show-tropical-fish-swarming-states-reefs>

### **Fishery Sustainable Dr. Bill Walsh, Richard Pyle and NOAA**

## Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50L6JcMOVLQ&t=219s>

HONOLULU (HawaiiNewsNow) -

It's being called a spawning event of "Biblical" proportions -- a summer swarm of fish over Hawaii's reefs. Aquarium fisherman and underwater photographer Ron Tubbs shot video off Oahu's coastline showing the population explosion.

I made a special trip last week to see it and video it myself. It really is unlike anything anyone has ever seen," Rene Umberger said. Even **dive shop owner**, anti fishing activists agree there lots tons of reef fish right now all across Hawaii.

"In 35 years this is the most fish I have ever seen. For most species, it's just incredible. It's just amazing. Areas where you see hundreds of fish normally, that's a lot of fish for an area, you're seeing thousands of fish," Ron Tubbs said "This year the numbers are just exceptional."

What about Aquarium fishing in Hawaii?

January 2014 saw the new Kona aquarium fish rules go into law. Aquarium fishermen and Kona DLNR scientists created stricter laws for an already sustainably fishery. Dr. Bill Walsh now advocates for these fishermen due to their cooperation and efforts to maintain fish populations.

The same thing has been done on Oahu with the DLNR researchers there. The Oahu DLNR scientists also believe we are already sustainable but agree further regulations can help to protect our reef fish. The Oahu rules should go in to effect sometimes in 2015. As a result we have wide spread support from many members of Hawaii's legislature, DNLR and UH scientists and even private eco groups who once opposed us. Aquarium fishermen continue to work with researchers to make it the greatest sustainably fishery in the world. The oceans belong to all and to protect them and preserve it wonders is the job of all ocean users.

What do Hawaii's ocean researchers say about aquarium fish collecting?

**Here are some shortened quotes from Public testimony Hawaii County Council testimony 2014, Hawaii news now and West Hawaii Today news excerpts.**

Dr. Bill Walsh October 2014:

*In my capacity as the West Hawai'i Aquatic Biologist for the Division of Aquatic Resources I have been involved in the management and biological monitoring of the West Hawai'i aquarium fishery for over 15 years.*

*I would like to share with you some of the results of our latest monitoring efforts as they relate to the issue at hand. Two species, the Yellow Tang and Kole make up over 93% of all aquarium fish caught in West Hawai'i. Since the no-aquarium collecting Fish Replenishment Areas (FRAs) were established in 1999 (protecting 35% of the coastline), the numbers of Yellow Tang have increased in the FRAs by almost 65% while not significantly decreasing in the remaining Open Areas. In the 30'-60' depth range alone, the numbers of Yellow Tang in West Hawai'i have increased by 1.3 million fish. Similarly Kole populations have increased not only in the FRAs (by 24%) but also in the Open Areas as well (by 28%). Kole populations in the same depth range have increased by over 2 million fish! Clearly resource management efforts are working in West Hawai'i.*

*Scientific studies which have indeed found high levels of mortality among aquarium fishes have typically been conducted in remote areas with poor handling capabilities. That is clearly not the case in Hawai'i.*

**~ Dr. William Walsh**

**Division of Aquatic Resources  
State of Hawaii DLNR**

Dr. Dan Polhemus:

*It is a good thing for folks to scrutinize and ask questions about what's going on in our fisheries and on our reefs. These are important to all of us. A realistic perspective does need to be maintained however. Let me elaborate. On Maui in 2009 there were a total of 16,300 aquarium animals caught, representing 82 different species. Yellow tangs accounted for 69% while Kole was 7% of the catch. During that same year non-aquarium commercial fishers captured (and killed) 319,491 reef fishes of 75 species. While yellow tangs weren't caught to any degree there was considerable overlap in a number of the other species. To the commercial food catch one can add another 480,000 reef fish taken by recreational/subsistence fishers (extrapolated from 2006 NOAA Rec Fishing Survey data). So, in the grand scheme of things, the aquarium take on Maui is literally a drop in the bucket, representing less than 2% of the total mortality of reef animals that year. This serves to point out that undue focus and hyperbole about aquarium collecting and its impact on the reefs is dangerously shortsighted and counterproductive. We need to think and act holistically.*

*Hope I didn't overwhelm you with numbers. (as of 2014 no aquarium fish collectors were taking fish on Maui and the number of collectors state wide have decreased and so has catch.)*

**~ Dr. DAN A. POLHEMUS  
Division of Aquatic Resources  
State of Hawaii DLNR**

Emily S. Munday, M.S.

*For my master's research at Washington State University, I studied the West Hawaii aquarium trade from 2010-2012. Part of my study focused on holding and transport of live yellow tang in the West Hawaii aquarium trade.*

*My research on fish holding and transport indicated that the practices implemented by Hawaiian fish exporters do not cause mortality in yellow tang. In June of 2012, I collaborated with fishers and exporters in Kona, and caught 60 yellow tang from the reef, held them in a working export facility, and shipped them from Kona, HI to Portland, OR. The fish were then transported to the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, OR where they resided for 6 months. My study shows 100% survival rate of these tangs during collection, holding in the export facility, air transport, and after a 6-month holding period. In fact, the fish have now become part of an exhibit at the Hatfield Marine Science Center about sustainability in the aquarium trade and I have received no reports of mortality after 2.5 years.*

**~Sincerely,  
Emily S. Munday, M.S.  
Washington State University**

*As far as aquarium related mortality in Hawaii goes here's a quote from a Cesar 2002 study "Mortality rates of aquarium fish are low and have gone down considerably since the last survey in 1984. Currently, mortality rates from collection to wholesaler are estimated at 0 to 1 percent. In the wholesaler's tanks, mortality rates range from close to 0% up to 2%. During*

shipment, rates range from 0.75% to 2%. This give a current total of between 1% and 5%, down from a range of 5% to 8% in the early 1980's (van Poolen and Obara, 1984; estimates of wholesalers and collectors, own study).

~ **Dr. DAN A. POLHEMUS**

*These studies quoted are old and much better technology and care techniques now exist so we are sure it is an even lower rate today. Decreased transport times due to better roads and more airline flights make it even easier to ship shipments with no DOA at all. Life extension techniques are used by the hobbyist at all times. Customers demand such care. Life spans of fish can be greatly increased in captivity. Many aquarium fish hobbyists tout their ability to increase fish pets life spans. Several cases have pet fish owners keeping fish alive for 15 years.*

*Life span of the average fish in the wild can be very short. Without enough food and the predators eating many smaller fish survivability to adult breeding state is only 2%. In 2014 a much bigger percentage survived due to increases in plankton due mainly to changes in currents. If the food is there the 1-5 million fry per adult pair spawning can result in astronomical population growth. This has resulted in biblical increases in fish populations in fall of 2014.*

*A few species like Angels only produce 10,000 fry per spawning which is way below the norm for most reef fish. Even those species are doing great in population numbers. Fish are very efficient breeders.*

~ **Ron Tubbs B.S. N.D.**

**University of Hawaii**

Tina Owens executive director of the LOST FISH Coalition, Member West Hawaii Fisheries Council says:

*A great deal of the "sky is falling" news you've heard about the reef recently is just plain not true.*

*Try giving credit to the thousands of volunteer hours given by your neighbors to the West Hawaii Fisheries Council to get the gains you are now free to enjoy. (done with the help of Aquarium Fishermen on the council who agreed to the laws)*

*Lost Fish Coalition, through the venue of the West Hawaii Fisheries Council, has been working with many stakeholders to get a reasonable settlement to the long-standing problem of the aquarium industry harvest. In almost 16 years, we have accomplished the following management actions:*

- *We have 55-plus miles of coastline where reef fish cannot be taken. These areas allow the fish to grow large enough to be very successful breeders. These areas — Fish Replenishment Areas — are the nurseries for the reef fish to spread out to the rest of the reefs.*

*Thanks to these measures, West Hawaii has more fish than most every other widely accessed reef in the state, especially the beautiful ornamentals that give tourists and residents so much delight. If someone says that nothing has been done in West Hawaii, they are either lying, unaware or are being duped by someone else's lies about the situation. There are a few "outsiders," by which I mean people who don't live here, who have decided that West Hawaii doesn't know what it's doing. This group, headed by Maui resident Robert Wintner, and Wintner's frontman Rene Umberger, decided it was going to be the ones to get aquarium collecting banned, to make themselves the "rescuers of the reef."*

*Clearly if the goal is to get rid of the industry and management prevents that goal being reached, then discrediting the benefits and successes of management would seem the only way left to go. And so they have taken that path.*

*They have held community meetings and displayed a lot of false or twisted data, quoting from papers outdated by more than 15 years, and “re-interpreting” data from scientific papers. They have been telling people that “there are no fish left,” which is patently untrue. I once had a woman tell me with great passion and assurance that there are no fish left anywhere in West Hawaii. I asked her why she thought that, and she replied that everyone knew it. I asked if she swam in the ocean. No. Did she dive? No. Did she know anything about the management strategies in place? No. She had, however, just come from an “information session” in which she heard these things from Wintner’s frontman Rene Umberger.*

*Which brings me back to the wide-screen TV. The TV runs a 90-minute loop of undisturbed, natural activity of fish on the reef. Apparently, the footage was filmed on West Hawaii reefs. The article states: “Wintner praised the videos. ‘It shows what abundance looks like,’ Wintner said.”*

*At least he got that right.*

**~ Tina Owens, executive director of the LOST FISH Coalition, Member West Hawaii Fisheries Council and resident of Kailua-Kona.**

See for yourself News links:

<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/26454840/videos-show-tropical-fish-swarming-states-reefs>

<http://www.reef2rainforest.com/2014/08/29/biblical-spawning-event-on-hawaiian-reefs/>

<http://westhawaiiitoday.com/news/setting-record-straight-fish-collecting>

## **Tropical Fish and Eating Fish Are Thriving in Hawaii**

**From:** [scott folsom](#)  
**To:** [kahele2 - Mark](#)  
**Subject:** OPPOSED TO SB 931 HEARING 2-8-19, 1:20PM, ROOM 229  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 5:38:13 PM

---

Dear Senator- Kahele

I would like my testimony below to be added to the hearing for SB 931.

As a local resident for almost 35 years, and a former marine scientist at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, I am testifying in Opposition to SB 931.

The data do not support what is being directed under this bill. DLNR has repeatedly shown data and testified that the aquarium fishery has a very small take and a miniscule impact on total reef mortality.

DLNR fish counts are way up and show that the aquarium fishery is sustainable!

Much of the testimony in favor of this bill comes from snorkelers who only go tourist areas or shallow. Aquarium fishermen do not dive shallow, they do not go to tourist areas and they do not even dive most of the islands in question. Collection only occurs from Oahu and the Big Island. It is very clearly a user conflict with just a few small vocal groups who oppose the fishery supposedly for business reasons, even though there is no impact or conflict.

The sustainable fishery worked with the State of Hawaii DLNR officials from 2012 to 2015 and together new rules for the fishery were created to ensure sustainability for forever. Catch limits, bag limits for many species and net restrictions were created; all of these laws are now in force.

In 2015 a Biblical bloom in fish populations happened increasing the oceans of Hawaii with so many fish that they are now everywhere years later! Fish populations in Hawaii are better than ever. This has been irrefutably demonstrated scientifically, and attested to by DLNR.

Also, part of this bill allows no new aquarium collection permits. This dooms yet another Hawaii industry, and places current permit holders in jeopardy because they won't be able to find new dive partners.

Please do not pass SB 931.

Thank you.

Scott Folsom, MS



**From:** [RT Distributors](#)  
**To:** [kahele2 - Mark](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony please add opposed to SB 931  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 7:45:56 PM

---

Opposed to SB 931

Friday 2-8-19 1:20 PM room 229

There is no science or facts that support the need to pass SB 931. The underlying proposition of SB 931 is based in falsehood. The opinion that the fishery should shut down due to Hawaiian cultural concerns does not hold water. Fish has long been a Hawaiian way of life. Sustainability and science melds with Hawaiian beliefs, morality and righteousness. Moreover the legal articles cited do not have full merit regarding the rights of user groups and public lands. Just the opposite is true. It is unconstitutional to shut down any fishery, or restrict user groups, especially when science supports the facts that the aquarium fishery is sustainable.

The attached video made by researchers attests to the fact that the aquarium fishery is sustainable:

**Fishery Sustainable Dr. Bill Walsh, Richard Pyle and NOAA Video:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50L6JcMOVLQ&t=219s>

Although hundreds testified in support of a moratorium to the aquarium permits, this section has now been removed. Nearly every one of those testimonies was from snorkelers from the mainland who had visited here and were directed to say many things by those in the snorkeling industry who opposed the fishery due to a conflict of financial interest basis.

What they did not mention to the persons voicing the snorkeling industries concerns is that 98% of aquarium fishermen do not dive or collect in areas where snorkelers go and complained of not seeing fish. Maybe it is because hundreds of people dive the tourist areas over and over day in and out chasing many of the fish away. Aquarium fish divers go 60 feet deep and deeper for nearly every fish caught. Only a small area on the big Island and some areas deeper on Oahu are fished. NO AQUARIUM FISHERMEN DIVE MAUI, LANAI, OR KAUAI. The large numbers testifying mistakenly blame the fishery for missing fish! They are misdirected by activists.

DLNR fish counts and millions of dollars studying the fishery show its sustainability and no further need for more studies but the HEPA ruling led to a complete review of the fishery recently. The result are what we already knew collections are below the maximum sustainable yield meaning the fishery is sustainable. A few concerns were pointed out due to limited data for deeper fish species but facts on those species also support sustainability. We do welcome more funding for DLNR and sustainability studies, just not those based on false science or fictitious rhetoric born out of snorkeling industry user conflict.

Another point not pass SB 931 is that the number of aquarium fish actually caught is small in comparison to the resource; it is fishery is very sustainable. DLNR already has great handle on sustainability and give educational talks on the subject. They have worked with, and created many new laws over past several years. The DLNR, with input from the aquarium fishermen, created new



rules which developed into laws laws for both Oahu and Kona limiting the fishery in a responsible way. DLNR has also done a great job with new closed areas. Listen to DLNR researchers and work with them for what is best is the goal of our fishery. We will gladly work with them again to maintain sustainability and give back to the ocean we love.

Limits on collection or the shutdown proposed in SB 931 is not needed at this time, as the fishery fish count numbers across the board are higher than ever before. Existing fish counts, researcher's studies and science from DLNR that proving the fishery is already sustainable.

Dr. Rossitor of Waikiki Aquarium said in testimony: "even if the number of fish collectors greatly increase they will still be sustainable"

I present to you below those facts and information direct from the researchers themselves. Even the opposition in the news link below tell of the incredible fish counts and millions of fish statewide.

**Here are some shortened quotes from Public testimony Hawaii County Council testimony 2014, Hawaii news now and West Hawaii Today news excerpts.**

Dr. Bill Walsh October 2014:

*In my capacity as the West Hawai'i Aquatic Biologist for the Division of Aquatic Resources I have been involved in the management and biological monitoring of the West Hawai'i aquarium fishery for over 15 years.*

*I would like to share with you some of the results of our latest monitoring efforts as they relate to the issue at hand. Two species, the Yellow Tang and Kole make up over 93% of all aquarium fish caught in West Hawai'i. Since the no-aquarium collecting Fish Replenishment Areas (FRAs) were established in 1999 (protecting 35% of the coastline), the numbers of Yellow Tang have increased in the FRAs by almost 65% while not significantly decreasing in the remaining Open Areas. In the 30'-60' depth range alone, the numbers of Yellow Tang in West Hawai'i have increased by 1.3 million fish. Similarly Kole populations have increased not only in the FRAs (by 24%) but also in the Open Areas as well (by 28%). Kole populations in the same depth range have increased by over 2 million fish! Clearly resource management efforts are working in West Hawai'i.*

*Scientific studies which have indeed found high levels of mortality among aquarium fishes have typically been conducted in remote areas with poor handling capabilities. That is clearly not the case in Hawai'i.*

**~ Dr. William Walsh  
Division of Aquatic Resources  
State of Hawaii DLNR**

Dr. Dan Polhemus:

*It is a good thing for folks to scrutinize and ask questions about what's going on in our fisheries and on our reefs. These are important to all of us. A realistic perspective does need to be maintained however. Let me elaborate. On Maui in 2009 there were a total of 16,300 aquarium animals caught, representing 82 different species. Yellow tangs accounted for 69% while Kole was 7% of the catch. During that same year non-aquarium*

*commercial fishers captured (and killed) 319,491 reef fishes of 75 species. While yellow tangs weren't caught to any degree there was considerable overlap in a number of the other species. To the commercial food catch one can add another 480,000 reef fish taken by recreational/subsistence fishers (extrapolated from 2006 NOAA Rec Fishing Survey data). So, in the grand scheme of things, the aquarium take on Maui is literally a drop in the bucket, representing less than 2% of the total mortality of reef animals that year. This serves to point out that undue focus and hyperbole about aquarium collecting and its impact on the reefs is dangerously shortsighted and counterproductive. We need to think and act holistically.*

*Hope I didn't overwhelm you with numbers. (as of 2014 no aquarium fish collectors were taking fish on Maui and the number of collectors state wide have decreased and so has catch.)*

**~ Dr. DAN A. POLHEMUS**  
**Division of Aquatic Resources**  
**State of Hawaii DLNR**

Emily S. Munday, M.S.

*For my master's research at Washington State University, I studied the West Hawaii aquarium trade from 2010-2012. Part of my study focused on holding and transport of live yellow tang in the West Hawaii aquarium trade.*

*My research on fish holding and transport indicated that the practices implemented by Hawaiian fish exporters do not cause mortality in yellow tang. In June of 2012, I collaborated with fishers and exporters in Kona, and caught 60 yellow tang from the reef, held them in a working export facility, and shipped them from Kona, HI to Portland, OR. The fish were then transported to the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, OR where they resided for 6 months. My study shows 100% survival rate of these tangs during collection, holding in the export facility, air transport, and after a 6-month holding period. In fact, the fish have now become part of an exhibit at the Hatfield Marine Science Center about sustainability in the aquarium trade and I have received no reports of mortality after 2.5 years.*

**~Sincerely,**  
**Emily S. Munday, M.S.**  
**Washington State University**

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

**~ Dr. DAN A. POLHEMUS**

**In sum**, there is no science or facts that support the need to pass SB 931. Please do not pass it.

Sincerely,

Richard Townsend

**From:** [RT Distributors](#)  
**To:** [kahele2 - Mark](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony opposed to SB 931  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 4:52:25 PM

---

Testimony Opposed to SB 931

-

Opposed to SB 931

2-8-19 1:20 pm Room 229

-

My name is Mamoā Ntiua, I am from Christmas Island. My husband collects fish from Christmas Island to help and support our family and also our child.

Without wholesalers in Hawaii we cannot sell our fish. We depend on fish from Kona as a way to sell our countries fish worldwide. A loss of even one wholesaler could hurt us.

Some of my family members who depend on this income to pay for their life saving medical and food for their families.

About eighty percent of our countries economy depends on tropical fish. All these tropical fish are sold to the Hawaiian Marine Fish Wholesalers. Our whole economy depends on Hawaii's Tropical Fish Industry. In the south Pacific fifty nine million dollars is gained from tropical fish sales annually. Please do not restrict and take away this opportunity away from us for this industry. Like Hawaii our fishing industry has sustained catches for 30 years and more. Aquarium Fish industry is sustainable unless ecology groups are allowed to shut us down. Thanks you for your time.

Respectfully, Mamoā Ntiua

**From:** [RT Distributors](#)  
**To:** [kahele2 - Mark](#)  
**Subject:** testimony add to SB 931 please  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 6:05:12 PM

---

Testimony Opposed to SB 931 2-8-19 1:20 PM room 229

**VOTE NO SB 931**

Dear City Council members,

I have already lost \$75, 000 contracts due to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (P.E.T.A.). They have unfairly targeted the aquarium businesses. Please do not give the ECO groups Hawaii's fisheries. They will not stop and nothing you can do will satisfy them except to close down a business. God gave the right to maternally care for

his creatures and given by the fact that they will be taken away. These creatures would be able to have a safer home by which my family, my friends, my business associates, and I are willing to provide.

Respectfully,  
Greg Tides In Inc.

**From:** [RT Distributors](#)  
**To:** [kahele2 - Mark](#)  
**Subject:** testimony 931 add please  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 6:26:54 PM

---

Testimony Opposed to SB 931 1:20 PM room 229 2-8-19

As a representative for Christmas Island OPPOSED TO SB 931  
To the WTL Senate Committee,

**The opposition to the aquarium fishery is based in User conflict not ecology!**

**From Snorkel Bob's website;**

**“Talking Points:** Keep it brief. **Avoid facts & figures.** No matter what we say, the aquarium advocates will call it untrue. The committee will count support and opposition. Give the aquarium collectors **NOTHING** to grasp.”

Lies are the norm with Snorkel Bob and Rene, facts are to be perverted. Eco gourps are to be duped. They were opposed to more fishing restrictions on the aquarium fishery with the 2014 and 2015 rules packages passed by DLNR and now law. We worked to protect the oceans more and ensure sustainability by working with DLNR and they opposed it and testified against it.

**WHY: It is not about ecology or science it is about business and they are out to shut down the fishery due to user conflict. If you want to see Hawaii's fish you must pay them. They absolutely do not want you going to a public aquariums or god forbid having a private aquarium.**

Why would tourist based ecology groups testify against scientific based legislation? Many do not care about the science! Some do not care about the truth.

There were so many lies from groups and individuals trying to protect fish at all cost, even to the point of perpetuating lies in numerous media adds, we must slow down, assess the issues and logically and scientifically address the future of our oceans. If we don't make the right decisions jobs and incredible benefits will be lost for no reason. Closing large areas could increase impacts on other areas leading to serious ecosystem damage. Science and sound decisions must be done.

Christmas Island's whole economy depends upon our ability to sell fish to local Hawaii wholesalers who then send our fish around the world. Sales are down enough please do not make doing business any harder than it already is. I fear that if passed this bill will cause shutdowns of some wholesalers in Hawaii and in turn cause a major loss in our important economy.

Thanks for your time and I am sure you will do the right thing. Do not pass SB 931

Sincerely,

Donna Namikin



**From:** [RT Distributors](#)  
**To:** [kahele2 - Mark](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony SB 931 please add  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 4:40:31 PM

---

Opposed to SB 931 2-8-19 1:20pm room 229

## **OPPOSED TO SB 580**

**Dear Representative,  
Please vote no to SB 931**

**I am a of Hawaiian ancestry and I oppose shutting down where my family has been able to fish forever to give the ocean to a bunch of mainland tourists. There are no scientific based studies to support the claims that fish counts are down.**

**Just the opposite years of DNLR catch reports show sustainable, renewable fisheries in Hawaii. The strictest laws are already in effect with nearly 10% of Oahu already in some type of preserve. Corals are in great shape growing 3 to 5 inches per year.**

**Fish counts are up according to Great American fish count species recognition done across our state. Whale counts, monk seal counts are up. Turtle counts are up. DNLR has done a great job putting new laws in place and is working on several new laws which are scientific based. Many marine biologists oppose this bill. The only supporters are those who bend the truth or click on Snorkel Bob's website form letter from the mainland.**

**Please do not close our Ocean just as tourism and the economy are in a major decline. Please do not give our oceans to the rich tourist tour groups leaving us without fish to sell to feed our families.**

**Thanks,**

**Brian Persinger  
Waimanlo**



**From:** [RT Distributors](#)  
**To:** [scott folsom](#)  
**Cc:** [eric.moennich@yahoo.com](#)  
**Subject:** some thing to use attached.  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 5:10:09 PM  
**Attachments:** [testimony Bill WalshHi County Council Testimony 9\\_21\\_11.doc](#)

---

kahele2 - Mark <kahele2@capitol.hawaii.gov>

## **Opposed to SB 931 Friday 2/8/19 at 1:20pm in conference room 229.**

email testimony to above email address

attached

10 Billion dollar pet industry rely heavily on Hawaii's sustainable marine fish. It bring valuable funds to the state. There are more pets in the US than children. Do not underestimate the value to Hawaii of the fishery. Please say no to SB 931

The SB 1240 two years ago had 2215 signatures opposing SB 1240 a similar shut down bill to SB 931. This same number will now oppose SB 931

Or use some of this?

**First, our state has the strictest laws in the U.S. which protect our marine resources and they are working.** Many reserves have already been established. Many laws already enacted are working: Some laws in force are detrimental to Hawaii's fish populations. Breeding stocks are targeted, foreign species introduced, all without enough scientific forethought.

The **2001 and 2002 Great Annual Fish Count** conducted a **five island survey** with 151 researchers counting 248 species. The results showed **increased fish populations for most species counted. Increases ranged from 2% to 23%.** Results can be viewed at [www.reef.org](http://www.reef.org). In **August, 2003** a front page article in **the Advertiser** touted **one of the largest increases in fish populations ever seen. Not since 1970 had so many fish been documented. Hawaii fish populations are on the increase!!** In 2003 and recent years many fish species bloomed; Aweoweo, Yellow Tangs, Moorish Idols, Angels, etc.

Results from the **Coral Reef Assessment and Monitoring Program 2000** reported **"Hawaii Coral Reefs are in better condition."** (See: [cramp.wcc.hawaii.edu](http://cramp.wcc.hawaii.edu)).

**Many bills are generated by ecologists, not by DLNR. Coral grows at 3 to 5 inches a year!! A lot of research, including fish counts, does substantiate this bill.**

**Second, if you reduce the area for fishing, you will put a great strain on the higher impact areas that are unrestricted.** Certain species live in a narrow ecosystem, and it is conceivable that if the wrong zones are chosen extinction of certain species will occur. For instance, the Chevron Tang is restricted to certain areas on the Kona coast. Mauiensis shell is only found in West Maui. Potters found mostly south shore Oahu. Waikiki Spindle only off Waikiki and MANY more. It would be impossible to choose areas that would include all species found in only small areas. Species at risk

should be targeted not the whole ocean. There is no extinct fish species know in Hawaii! Some bills could result in some though! Population increases and increased demands on our states resources will occur. If the only area for a species is not preserved and is impacted greatly extinction of certain species will occur!

-  
**Third, fishermen, divers, net layers, etc., have long used the common practice of rotating their fishing spots** which **research has proved reduces the impact of fishing** in one area. Rotating has been used by the State in the Diamond Head Reserve where only every other year fishing is allowed. **Some bills would decrease the fisherman's ability to rotate his fishing spots, resulting in greater impact on the fish.**

**Fourth, fish are a renewable resource. Fish can live for 15 years or longer and may breed many times a year.** Fry and adult breeding stages are important for the perpetuation of the species. **Fish may reach adult size within a few months. Ecosystems can only support a specific population of fish, and fishing, like hunting, can help perpetuate the health of the species by not overtaxing the ecosystem. Current Hawaii laws provide no protection for breeders.**

-  
**Fifth, the vast majority of the Hawaiian Island shores are untouched by fishing and diving.** High surf in the winter closes northern shores of all islands for many months. In summer high surf affects southern shores. Poor accessibility too many areas due to distance, lack of harbors and roads, ensures these areas remain untouched. More than 20% of Hawaii is not impacted by fishing! Almost all of Hawaiian waters receive periods of "no catch" due to weather and inaccessibility. **Untouched areas are already in place.**

**Sixth,** The Big Island had a bill pass, closing 35% of the Kona Coast. **DNLR did a five year, 3 million dollar study of these closed areas. The results showed an increase in only six out of ten species! Some species declined by 11% and more.** High population fish if left unchecked will squeeze out food supply to lower population fish. Fishing increases food supply for fry and some important species. **Many predators have declined and many fish will breed uncontrolled in new preserves. The assumption of this bill is that fish will grow and spill over into adjacent areas-this is not true for many species-** A high percentage of Hawaii's fish live in a narrow ecosystem.

**Seventh, Self-Reliance.** The Hawaii food fishing industry is an important renewable resource, which can sustain us during difficult times- such as when all tourism ceased after 9/11, and when the shipping crisis occurred.

**Eighth, Economics.** The Big Island preserves were detrimental to the fishing business, the Hawaii economy, and fishermen. Many fishing businesses on the Big Island have gone out of business! Only an increase in selling direct, that is cutting out the middle-man, and the ability to travel to farther fishing areas has kept fisherman of the Big Island in business. Those remaining have seen a reduction in income. **Many jobs are at stake. Loss of jobs will create a heavier burden on the State's financial resources.**

**DNLR catch reports show Hawaii's wholesale fish catch at 45 to 60 million per year, which is a nearly 100 million in retail revenues.** Warehouses and retail stores here and around the world would be impacted. Tourism is very important to our Hawaiian economy, but so are our marine

resources. We must use our renewable marine resources in a sustainable way, not chop off the hand that feeds us. Restricting access to marine resources without complete consideration of the impact this bill would have on the future of Hawaii's fishermen and the economy of the state would be a mistake. To maintain our economy we must utilize our renewable resources with wisdom.

**From:** [Miroslaw Brylski](#)  
**To:** [kahele2 - Mark](#)  
**Subject:** Opposed to SB 931  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 7:54:30 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Opposed to SB 931

Friday 2-8-19 1:20 PM room 229

My name is Miroslaw Brylski If you shut down the aquarium fishery in Hawaii it will hurt me my business and family for no reason. Explain why you oppose the bill.

There is no science or facts that support the need to pass SB 931. The underlying proposition of SB 931 is based in falsehood. The opinion that the fishery should shut down due to Hawaiian cultural concerns does not hold water. Fish has long been a Hawaiian way of life. Sustainability and science melds with Hawaiian beliefs, morality and righteousness. Moreover the legal articles cited do not have full merit regarding the rights of user groups and public lands. Just the opposite is true. It is unconstitutional to shut down any fishery, or restrict user groups, especially when science supports the facts that the aquarium fishery is sustainable.

Pozdrawiam / Best regards / Mit freundlichen Grüßen / С уважением

Miroslaw Brylski

Doradztwo i zamówienia

Tel. +48 662 322 409

[www.SeaGarden.pl](http://www.SeaGarden.pl)



Sea Garden Miroslaw Brylski

ul. Boh.Getta 27

58-260 Bielawa

POLSKA

NIP 882-193-50-49

Regon 022525783

**From:** [Keynin Kretz](#)  
**To:** [kahele2 - Mark](#)  
**Subject:** Opposed to SB 931  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 7:45:15 AM

---

Opposed to SB 931

Friday 2-8-19 1:20 PM room 229

My name is keynin kretz If you shut down the aquarium fishery in Hawaii, it will hurt not only me but my whole family that needs me to provide for them. I have not seen any science or facts that support the need to pass SB 931 and shutdown the aquarium trade. Ron Tubbs, a diver on oahu that dives with researchers and hobbyist, says there are more fish where he dives (60ft-200ft) than ever before. The underlying proposition of SB 931 is based in falsehood. The opinion that the aquirium trade should shut down due to Hawaiian cultural concerns, is false. Fishing was the Hawaiian way of life before western expansion into Hawaii. Hawaiian culture created fish ponds, to store "live" fish for eating later. Ancient hawaiian would take fish out of the ocean and put them in a man made enclosers. Is that any diffrent than puting them into an aquirum? Sustainability and science melds with Hawaiian beliefs, morality and righteousness. Moreover the legal articles cited do not have full merit regarding the rights of user groups and public lands. Just the opposite is true. It is unconstitutional to shut down any fishery, or restrict user groups, especially when science and researchers in hawaii support the fact that the aquarium fishery is sustainable today and in the future.

The attached video made by researchers attests to the fact that the aquarium fishery is sustainable:

**Fishery Sustainable Dr. Bill Walsh, Richard Pyle and NOAA Video:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50L6JcMOVLQ&t=219s>

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 1:15:28 PM

---

Submitted by: Jeffrey Hill, Kailua Kona, Hi 96740

Position: OPPOSE

Comments:

Sirs, I am a long time Hawaii resident. Our reef fish populations are dwindling. Please help preserve our reef fish by putting a stop to the aquarium trade. Jeffrey Hill, Kailua Kona

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Hector gomez](#)  
**To:** [kahele2 - Mark](#)  
**Subject:** You risking my family life style  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 7:42:29 AM

---

My name is Hecto gomez If you shut down the aquarium fishery in Hawaii it will hurt me my business and family for no reason. I am oppose to this bill. There is no science or facts that support the need to pass SB 931. The underlying proposition of SB 931 is based in falsehood. The opinion that the fishery should shut down due to Hawaiian cultural concerns does not hold water. Fish has long been a Hawaiian way of life. Sustainability and science melds with Hawaiian beliefs, morality and righteousness. Moreover the legal articles cited do not have full merit regarding the rights of user groups and public lands. Just the opposite is true. It is unconstitutional to shut down any fishery, or restrict user groups, especially when science supports the facts that the aquarium fishery is sustainable. The attached video made by researchers attests to the fact that the aquarium fishery is sustainable: Fishery Sustainable Dr. Bill Walsh, Richard Pyle and NOAA Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50L6JcMOVLQ&t=219s>

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Frédéric AMBLARD - AMBLARD S.A. France](#)  
**To:** [kahele2 - Mark](#)  
**Subject:** Hawaii Aquarium Fish shut down bill  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 7:19:36 AM

---

Opposed to SB 931

Friday 2-8-19 1:20 PM room 229

My name is Frédéric AMBLARD If you shut down the aquarium fishery in Hawaii it will hurt me my business and family for no reason. Explain why you oppose the bill.

There is no science or facts that support the need to pass SB 931. The underlying proposition of SB 931 is based in falsehood. The opinion that the fishery should shut down due to Hawaiian cultural concerns does not hold water. Fish has long been a Hawaiian way of life. Sustainability and science melds with Hawaiian beliefs, morality and righteousness. Moreover the legal articles cited do not have full merit regarding the rights of user groups and public lands. Just the opposite is true. It is unconstitutional to shut down any fishery, or restrict user groups, especially when science supports the facts that the aquarium fishery is sustainable.

The attached video made by researchers attests to the fact that the aquarium fishery is sustainable:

**Fishery Sustainable Dr. Bill Walsh, Richard Pyle and NOAA Video:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50L6JcMOVLO&t=219s>

Yours sincerely,

Frédéric AMBLARD  
President

frederic@amblard.com  
Direct line: +33 (0)5 63 98 71 51  
Mobile: +33 (0)6 09 24 55 78

AMBLARD S.A.  
B.P. 29  
F-81540 Sorèze  
FRANCE  
Tel: +33 (0)5 63 98 20 09  
Fax: +33 (0)5 63 61 24 91  
[Http://www.amblard.com](http://www.amblard.com)

Biodiversity for the aquarium  
fish, inverts and aquatic plants  
\*CERTIFIED ISO 9001\*  
\*CERTIFIED ISO 14001\*  
\*CERTIFIED MARINE AQUARIUM COUNCIL\*

Act for the environmental protection, don't print this mail if it's not essential.  
The information contained in this message is privileged, confidential, and protected



from disclosure. This message is intended for the individual or entity addressed herein. If you are not the intended recipient, please do not read, copy, use or disclose this communication to others; also please notify the sender by replying to this message, and then delete it from your system.

-

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 8:17:31 PM

---

Submitted by: Danielle Chomel, Haiku Hawaii

Position: OPPOSE

Comments:

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Steve Kaiser](#)  
**To:** [kahele2 - Mark](#)  
**Subject:** SB 931  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 10:34:20 AM

---

Opposed to SB 931

Friday 2-8-19 1:20 PM room 229

As a commercial fisherman I urge you to look at the science and kill this bill. The data is overwhelmingly in support of keeping the fishery open. As a commercial fisherman I have a huge concern when science is thrown aside in favor of a few who have their own selfish interests. The bill talks of pono, is ignoring the data pono? Is selling fish and providing my family a living not pono?

I am not collecting aquarium fish but feel for those who do. If this passes I worry that the new group targeted will include me. Would I not be able to surround a school of Taape, or trap Kumu or Weke because its cruel or inhumane. Is seeing fish more important then providing for my family and feeding those who want to eat fish?

I fish pono. I don't fish at dive sites. I move my gear and never over fish an area. Im respectful to the ocean as its my lively hood. And yet few people would put their values ahead of mine. This is a very slippery slope and one that I hope you kill this bill and be pono

Steve Kaiser  
Everything Fish Inc.  
PO Box 190612  
57-1820 Kohala Mtn. Rd.  
Hawi, Hawaii 96719  
Mobile +1808 895-9390

**From:** [info@koidream.com](mailto:info@koidream.com)  
**To:** [kahele2 - Mark](#)  
**Cc:** ["RT Distributors"](#)  
**Subject:** Opposed to SB 931  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 9:09:46 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Opposed to SB 931

Friday 2-8-19 1:20 PM room 229

My name is Tim If you shut down the aquarium fishery in Hawaii it will hurt me my business and family for no reason. Explain why you oppose the bill.

There is no science or facts that support the need to pass SB 931. The underlying proposition of SB 931 is based in falsehood. The opinion that the fishery should shut down due to Hawaiian cultural concerns does not hold water. Fish has long been a Hawaiian way of life. Sustainability and science melds with Hawaiian beliefs, morality and righteousness. Moreover the legal articles cited do not have full merit regarding the rights of user groups and public lands. Just the opposite is true. It is unconstitutional to shut down any fishery, or restrict user groups, especially when science supports the facts that the aquarium fishery is sustainable.

The attached video made by researchers attests to the fact that the aquarium fishery is sustainable:

**Fishery Sustainable Dr. Bill Walsh, Richard Pyle and NOAA Video:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50L6JcMOVLQ&t=219s>

Met vriendelijke groet,

Koidreams Viskwekerij

Tim Rozemaer CEO

Kerkstraat 4

6675 BR Valburg

GSM.: 0655943984

[info@koidream.com](mailto:info@koidream.com)

[www.koidream.com](http://www.koidream.com) - [www.Fishtale.nl](http://www.Fishtale.nl) - [www.viskwekerij.nl](http://www.viskwekerij.nl) - [www.oceandream.nl](http://www.oceandream.nl)



**From:** [Johnny Isham](#)  
**To:** [kahele2 - Mark](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose SB931 Please  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 8:24:59 AM

---

I strongly Oppose SB931 it is wrong to shut down a industry because some people FEEL it's wrong to put fish in Aquariums. Many people can't have a dog or cat as a pet and choose fish as there pet and love them just like any other animal.

This is not a resource issue (no scientific data to support it is a resource issue and DLNR says it's not a resource issue )this is a user conflict issue as the people behind this bill own Dive shops or other ocean based businesses that want exclusive rights to the ocean. So they start there non profit businesses (pay them selfs a nice check)and spread false facts and lies to get other to fallow there cause and donate money.

I promise you These people won't stop at the Aquarium trade they will move next to other ocean fishing or ocean based things that they FEEL is wrong.

THANK YOU

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [John Welsh](#)  
**To:** [kahele2 - Mark](#)  
**Subject:** oppose bill 931  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 8:49:17 AM

---

Sent from my iPhone John Welsh, President/Reef Lovers Aquariums

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** John Welsh <[reeflov@bellsouth.net](mailto:reeflov@bellsouth.net)>  
**Date:** February 7, 2019 at 1:48:11 PM EST  
**To:** [kahele2@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:kahele2@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**Subject:** oppose bill

931

[Friday 2-8-19 1:20 PM](#) room 229

My name is John Welsh. If you shut down the aquarium fishery in Hawaii it will hurt me my business and family for no reason.

There is no science or facts that support the need to pass SB 931. The underlying proposition of SB 931 is based in falsehood. The opinion that the fishery should shut down due to Hawaiian cultural concerns does not hold water. Fish has long been a Hawaiian way of life. Sustainability and science melds with Hawaiian beliefs, morality and righteousness. Moreover the legal articles cited do not have full merit regarding the rights of user groups and public lands. Just the opposite is true. It is unconstitutional to shut down any fishery, or restrict user groups, especially when science supports the facts that the aquarium fishery is sustainable.

The attached video made by researchers attests to the fact that the aquarium fishery is sustainable:

**Fishery Sustainable Dr. Bill Walsh, Richard Pyle and NOAA Video:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50L6JcMOVLQ&t=219s>**

Sent from my iPhone John Welsh, President/Reef Lovers Aquariums

**From:** [jimelder](#)  
**To:** [kahele2 - Mark](#)  
**Subject:** AQ shutdown  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 8:28:20 AM

---

To Whom it May Concern,

I oppose the AQ shutdown bill for the following reasons: 1. There is no scientific evidence that an entire fishery should go the way of the dodo bird based on the rantings and whining of the Snorkel Bob Mafia and cohorts. A lot of these people are not even divers but they need a crusade and protecting the reef fish is their way of making themselves feel good. 2. I have been diving the waters of north and south Kohala for 30 years and there is still an abundance of fish and the reef is still very healthy except for the area surrounding Kawaihae Harbor. During all this time I never had one single complaint from any of the sport or tourist divers as I have made sure that I am far away from their areas. No one is diving 60' out on the edge of the dropoff which is where I go. 3. There are many jobs besides mine which will be eliminated if the fishery is shut down. The industry employs a vast variety of workers needed to pack and maintain the fish. At this point in time where Hawaii employment is mediocre at best, we need to keep as many people working and contributing to the state taxes.

My son and I have been banned from diving the waters of the big island for over a year now. My son is studying to become a fireman now that our business is over and done. As for myself, there is little hope that I will find an alternative job due to my age. Everything was going along just fine until SBob and Rene Umbarger decided that the 35% closure of the big island coastline was not enough and they had to have it all closed. For what good reason? Simply because they do not like to see a fish in a tank. That is truly the only reason. I have been in Hawaii for 55 years and watched our freedoms slowly and methodically taken away year after year. Although I do sympathize with wanting to have plenty of fish for the tourists to see, what is to become of longtime locals who make a living from the sea? We cannot let what is best for tourism rule the islands. We have bent over backwards enough accommodating the visitors.

Please allow us to continue diving even it means we are to be curtailed in some form or another. Losing the aquarium trade will hurt us down the road.

Thank you, James Elder



**From:** [David Ramos](#)  
**To:** [kahele2 - Mark](#)  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 9:48:36 AM

---

Aloha,

My name is Dave Ramos. My wife Leatrice and I have run our business, Hawaiian Reef-dwellers successfully for 33 years. Now the group of people that want to take more culture away are trying to use the "Hawaiian people don't like it card" against the Lawai'a and our family. Born and raised on Oahu and married into a Hawaiian family, we live the culture. My wife for example is 85% Hawaiian. Her maiden name is Leatrice Kauhilani Lonoaea and her family goes back to Kamehameha and even the first Ali'i of Hawaii. Her family has Kealoha, Kahue, Ka'elemakule, and Kahele relatives to name only a few. I learned that the Hawaiian people that are left now are the strongest physically spiritually. They survived the diseases and the take over and have come back strong. I honestly believe if you let the people know how the ocean works and how we take the greatest care of it to feed our family's they will understand the truth and realize that those who submitted the bill either do not understand, are just following others or don't care about the truth.

WE are the Lawai'a  
Dave and Leatrice Ramos

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 10:55:34 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
CHARLES WALL	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I reject the assertion that the collecting of tropical fish for resale is any different than catching a game fish to sell in the marketplace. Responsible collecting with government oversight results in a sustainable industry that employs many Hawaiians. Having a Hawaiian yellow tang in my Texas home aquarium encourages me to return to Hawaii on vacation to see the fish in its natural habitat.

My name is Rufus Kimura and I oppose SB 931. I was born and raised on the Island of Molokai and began collecting aquarium fish while I was still in high school. My father, who was also born and raised in Hawaii, taught me how to dive for fish and how to keep them alive and healthy. With the money I earned from diving for aquarium fish I was able to send myself to college. We use cutting edge technology such as closed circuit rebreathers and portable decompression chambers to collect deep-water fish in a healthy and sustainable manner. I was recently asked to give a talk at the Marine Aquarium Council of North America to an audience of thousands of people who are enthralled by Hawaii's aquatic biodiversity.

The scientific studies commissioned and carried out by the state of Hawaii show that the aquarium industry is the only sustainable local fishery. Those opposed to the aquarium industry would rather you ignore the science and facts and instead give in to their belief that this is a moral or emotional issue. Personally, I do not agree with tourism or the mass marketing of our island to outsiders, but this does not give me the right to try and push through legislation that might jeopardize the livelihoods of those involved in tourism or real estate sales. The future of the aquarium fishery, like all of Hawaii's fisheries, should be left up to the management and guidance of the state appointed custodians of the sea, the Department of Land and Natural Resources. The DLNR has checks and balances and management practices in place to insure that the nearshore reefs are not over-harvested by aquarium collectors.

Aquarium fishermen are incredibly good stewards of the sea. They know that if an area is overfished or the coral is damaged, the fish that they make their living off of will not return to that area in the future. Therefore, aquarium divers exercise great care when collecting fish. They leave large breeding pairs alone and never fully deplete an area of any type of fish. Aquarium fish have an incredibly high fecundity rate. Many of them can spawn almost every night, sending out tens of thousands of eggs. Unlike food fish that take years to reach market size, aquarium fish are more prized in the juvenile state. Most of them can be harvested in as little as four to five months of age. As soon as aquarium fishes are removed from the reef, the larvae from new spawns are already settling in to take their place.

It is my request that you leave the management of the ocean and its resources to those who have the skills and scientific background to properly manage it. This should not be a knee-jerk emotional issue but a sound action plan based on scientific studies and resource management. Let the Department of Land and Natural Resources continue to do the job that they were tasked by the State of Hawaii to do. If the legislature wants to interfere within the DLNR's realm of responsibility, where will it stop? If you allow people to take away my livelihood just because they have an emotional problem with it, how is that right?

**From:** [Brian White](#)  
**To:** [kahele2 - Mark](#)  
**Subject:** SB 931  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 11:18:31 AM

---

Good day,

**We are opposed to SB 931**

**Friday 2-8-19 1:20 PM room 229**

My name is Brian White. If you shut down the aquarium fishery in Hawaii it will hurt me my business and family for no reason. Explain why you oppose the bill.

There is no science or facts that support the need to pass SB 931. The underlying proposition of SB 931 is based in falsehood. The opinion that the fishery should shut down due to Hawaiian cultural concerns does not hold water. Fish has long been a Hawaiian way of life. Sustainability and science melds with Hawaiian beliefs, morality and righteousness. Moreover the legal articles cited do not have full merit regarding the rights of user groups and public lands. Just the opposite is true. It is unconstitutional to shut down any fishery, or restrict user groups, especially when science supports the facts that the aquarium fishery is sustainable.

The attached video made by researchers attests to the fact that the aquarium fishery is sustainable:

**Fishery Sustainable Dr. Bill Walsh, Richard Pyle and NOAA Video:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50L6JcMOVLQ&t=219s>

-



Brian White  
President & Owner  
The Fish Store  
2050 Chamblee Tucker Road  
Chamblee, GA 30341  
(770) 216-5333  
[www.TheFishStore.com](http://www.TheFishStore.com)  
[brian@thefishstore.com](mailto:brian@thefishstore.com)

Providing live fish, dry goods, aquarium maintenance and equipment to homeowners and

businesses in Georgia.

RELATING TO MARINE AQUARIUM FISHING.

Prohibits all commercial capture of aquatic life for aquarium purposes, regardless of the method of collection. SB 931Y ON SB 931

Dear members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

**My name is Kevin Izumi**, I am involved directly with the scientific research community and conservation education facilities such as public aquariums and zoos.

I am testifying against and **oppose SB 931**

The bill, SB931, as written, completely ignores scientific data already collected in years of research by NOAA, the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and the University of Hawaii. The results of the various studies performed by the biologists and researchers in the marine life scientific community, indicates that **the aquarium fish commercial fishing industry is “in fact” very sustainable.**

It should also noted that **the commercial aquarium fishery is being managed very well by the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)**, with data collected from the last 40 years. There are additional management protocols in place by DLNR, where there are established areas on the West Hawaii coastline considered “kapu” to allow aquarium fishes in this area to have no fishing pressure and allowed to reproduce and proliferate.

**It is the Senate Committees responsibility to utilize scientific factual values and data to make decisions with regards to this very emotional bill.** The data collected by the Hawaii DLNR fishery management protocols, which is already in place, indicates that the fishery is sustainable. The result of the Hawaii commercial aquarium fishery has not shown any indicators that the populations of the targeted reef fish species are in any form of decline and that there is a continuous balance with spawning and new recruitment of new fish on the reefs.

The claim by the writers and supporters of this bill, states that there is a decline in populations of Hawaii’s reef fish as a result of the commercial aquarium fishery, **cannot be substantiated by scientific studies and is a statement should not be considered factual.** There exists a court ordered comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) now in process to confirm the status of the aquarium fishing industry in Hawaii. Do not let this bill pass and let this EIS proceed to validate that this **commercial aquarium fishing industry is not adversely impacting Hawaii’s marine environment.**

**From:** [Rufus Kimura](#)  
**To:** [kahele2 - Mark](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to SB931  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 11:39:52 AM

---

Aloha,

My name is Rufus Kimura and I oppose SB 931. I was born and raised on the Island of Molokai and began collecting aquarium fish while I was still in high school. My father, who was also born and raised in Hawaii, taught me how to dive for fish and how to keep them alive and healthy. With the money I earned from diving for aquarium fish I was able to send myself to college. We use cutting edge technology such as closed circuit rebreathers and portable decompression chambers to collect deep-water fish in a healthy and sustainable manner. I was recently asked to give a talk at the Marine Aquarium Council of North America to an audience of thousands of people who are enthralled by Hawaii's aquatic biodiversity.

The scientific studies commissioned and carried out by the state of Hawaii show that the aquarium industry is the only sustainable local fishery. Those opposed to the aquarium industry would rather you ignore the science and facts and instead give in to their belief that this is a moral or emotional issue. Personally, I do not agree with tourism or the mass marketing of our island to outsiders, but this does not give me the right to try and push through legislation that might jeopardize the livelihoods of those involved in tourism or real estate sales. The future of the aquarium fishery, like all of Hawaii's fisheries, should be left up to the management and guidance of the state appointed custodians of the sea, the Department of Land and Natural Resources. The DLNR has checks and balances and management practices in place to insure that the nearshore reefs are not over-harvested by aquarium collectors.

Aquarium fishermen are incredibly good stewards of the sea. They know that if an area is overfished or the coral is damaged, the fish that they make their living off of will not return to that area in the future. Therefore, aquarium divers exercise great care when collecting fish. They leave large breeding pairs alone and never fully deplete an area of any type of fish. Aquarium fish have an incredibly high fecundity rate. Many of them can spawn almost every night, sending out tens of thousands of eggs. Unlike food fish that take years to reach market size, aquarium fish are more prized in the juvenile state. Most of them can be harvested in as little as four to five months of age. As soon as aquarium fishes are removed from the reef, the larvae from new spawns are already settling in to take their place.

It is my request that you leave the management of the ocean and its resources to those who have the skills and scientific back ground to properly manage it. This should not be a knee-jerk emotional issue but a sound action plan based on scientific studies and resource management. Let the Department of Land and Natural Resources continue to do the job that they were tasked by the State of Hawaii to do. If the legislature wants to interfere within the DLNR's realm of responsibility, where will it stop? If you allow people to take away my livelihood just because they have an emotional problem with it, how is that right?

Aloha,  
Rufus Kimura

84-387 Jade Street  
Waianae, HI. 96792  
freedive43@msn.com  
Ph. 808.728.8806  
Fax 808.356.0621



**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 12:57:36 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tish Rothwell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill

**LATE**

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 6:23:57 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenny F Isham	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill for the following reasons. My family and I have lived here for over 30 years except for my wife who was born here. I have been a Diver for more than 3/4's of that. The Aquarium industry has had to fight the Environmentalist and others who have not shown at any time that this industry is not sustainable for a good many years now. They complain that the industry takes too many fish. The reason there are so many fish taken is because there is an abundance of fish that have reproduced on our reefs. The Aquarium industry has regulated itself and protected the reefs with sound research and help from the experts at Waikiki Aquarium and other experts in marine biology. An example of this is how only large fish were taken many years ago but we found it better to leave the larger fish to breed and collect only the small ones.

It's time to stop catering to those who act on feelings and start using good science and common sense instead. In these times it's more important for Hawaii's future to make Hawaii sustainable by utilizing every industry we can.

In the 70's and 80's Alaska listened to environmentalist and animal rights groups to the point of stopping all hunting of seals in the state, These seals grew to great numbers that nearly decimated all the Salmon that came to spawn. This practice was reversed just in time to save the Salmon from extinction. Lets not make this mistake in Hawaii. Environmentalist Do Not Know the Answerers, They never did.

Thank you

Kenny Isham

aquarium permit # 4002

02/02/2019



**LATE**

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 7:09:26 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joan Hildal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am a resident of Hakalau on Hawai'i Island and before moving here, I had an amazing aquarium in Bali. I built a house with it as the centerpiece. Indonesia is one of the most marine diverse places in the world and I was able to get the most rare and interesting species from my service. The service come in weekly to clean, replenish and maintain.

After a couple years, I began to dive and ran into the aquarium services actually collecting the marine life I had been getting. I was horrified!!! Of course, I knew all the guys as they had been to my home but they were in a very shabby truck with lots of reef fish already dying right there in the truck. The facility I had been to before was filled with big oxygenated and temp controlled tanks but this collecting operation had none of the facilities to keep the fish fresh and alive. So ultimately I shut down my beloved aquarium shortly after that. I had just begun diving at that point and had developed a big appreciation for the marine life I was observing and really couldn't stand to be supporting an industry that hurt them. I now totally agree with NO AQUARIUMS or only marine life bred and raised in aquariums.

Aquariums are an unnatural environment. My experience was that fish have to be changed out as they die and they died a lot. I was told that only 1 out of 10 even make it alive to an aquarium. Imagine the stress they go through. Also, many of the fish live at lower depths and when they are brought up it's unnatural for them. Even 10' could make a difference. Unless the fish are aquarium/farm raised specifically for the aquarium trade, I believe they shouldn't be used in the aquarium trade.

If the aquarium trade continues to exist by exploiting our natural reefs, our reefs will be even more depleted than they already are by all the stresses on the environment and the struggle to survive with the warmer waters from global warming.

Please support and pass SB931 prohibiting commercial capture of aquatic life for aquarium purposes.

Sincerely, Joni Hildal,

Hakalau, Hi. 96710

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 11:59:05 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robert Wintner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB931 to end aquarium trade oppression on Hawaii reefs--to stop The Nature Conservancy from running rough shod over reef habitat and species, and to end the current regime's monetizing of public trust reef resources. Let the governor veto this one, if he thinks he can.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 8:31:12 PM

---

Submitted by: Suzanne Hammer, Kailua Hawaii

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 8:15:09 PM

---

Submitted by: Shayla Middleton, Kihei, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Thank you legislators for supporting this long needed bill. Marine life is being collected without limits for only a small annual fee to be licensed and legal. This is an outrage when one learns that the majority of these wild collected fish die within the first year, making this trade a trade like cut flowers. In the 15 years I have lived here in South Kihei, I have seen the reef fish decline significantly. When I investigated further to understand why, I was greatly saddened. A support for this bill, is a precious life saving choice to save wild fish from almost certain demise, never mind suffering. I am proud of our legislators for taking the PONO stance on this very important issue.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.



**LATE**

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 7:30:51 PM

---

Submitted by: Robert Detrick, Kihei, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Loss of sea life due to coral bleaching amounts to close to half. Taking more fish for the aquarium trade is unconscionable!

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**LATE**

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Friday, February 8, 2019 8:08:34 AM

---

Submitted by: Laura Legge, Kihei, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Please help save our beautiful ocean home.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 11:46:15 PM

---

**LATE**

Submitted by: Patricia Machado, Honokaa

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

There are fishing quotas for larger species that stop overfishing. Laws need to exist and be enforced to protect the reef fish also. I have seen a noticeable decrease in reef fish when snorkeling.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 11:01:01 PM

**LATE**

Submitted by: Mary Groode, Kihei, Hawaii

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I swim daily in the sea. I've lived here over 40 years. Coral reefs depend on fish for their health. Fish depend on coral reefs. The economy of Hawaii depends on tourists who enjoy snorkeling. The reefs are under stress from climate change, ocean warming, chemical runoff and injection wells. We **MUST** do what we can to save the fragile environment of Hawaii. The volcano on the Big Island killed many reef fish this year. Maui abolished aquarium trade years ago and the reef fish haven't recovered. This is **IMPORTANT!** Please support SB931

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.



**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Friday, February 8, 2019 5:42:01 AM

---

Submitted by: Mark Deakos, Lahaina

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 6:09:43 PM

---



Submitted by: lois crozer crozer, Kailua

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

With global warming, coral bleaching, and destruction of our reefs, we need our fish to keep the coral healthy. They should NOT be removed. It is not sustainable.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 5:58:32 PM

---

**LATE**

Submitted by: Leigh Slattery, Kapolei, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I am a recreational ocean swimmer. I swim between five and 10 miles a week in the open water. Over the last five years I have seen a decline in our fish populations and believe we should do all we can to preserve our natural ocean ecosystem for all Hawaiians and visitors to enjoy.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.



**From:** [Laura K. Legge](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB931  
**Date:** Friday, February 8, 2019 8:06:21 AM

---

Aloha Chair Kahele and committee members, I SUPPORT SB931. Please pass this important bill to protect Hawaii's marine life and reefs.

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 8:54:45 PM

**LATE**

---

Submitted by: Keomailani Von Gogh, Ola'a Hawaii

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Aloha Aina, the aquarium trade is not fishing.. Would we allow an industry that comes and takes our native birds for export to people who want to keep them in cages? Of course not!! Please lets do the pono thing and pass SB931!! mahalo for your time

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Friday, February 8, 2019 5:03:17 AM

---

**LATE**

Submitted by: james hughes, lihue

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Climate change and coral bleaching alone should be enough to end this practice. Thank You

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Friday, February 8, 2019 6:40:57 AM

---



Submitted by: Harriet Myers, Princeville

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 6:39:28 PM

---

**LATE**

Submitted by: Gillian Boss, kailua

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.



**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Friday, February 8, 2019 6:53:50 AM

---

Submitted by: Elli Ward, Kilauea, Hi 96754

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

We have to end this cruel and wasteful business. It is our Kuleana to restore and protect our marine life now and for the generations to come. Aloha.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**LATE**

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 5:27:12 PM

---

Submitted by: Doug Fetterly, Honolulu, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

We are no longer in the 1800s, when watersheds, ahupua'a, were governed sustainably. Too many aquarium fishers are not honoring that we cannot overfish, and, make no mistake, the reefs are and have been overfished. Who will stop this if you don't?

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 5:32:39 PM

---



Submitted by: Cordia Wan, Kihei, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Aloha. Wildlife in Hawaii (in fact, in all the world) should remain free and not captured for entertainment. Hawaii's marine environment suffers while those in this industry gains. Please end the practice.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Christine Ahia](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 9:05:43 PM

---

**LATE**

Dear Chair and Members of the Water and Land Committee,

I urge you to support SB931 to stop commercial aquarium collection. Our marine wildlife, are part of our natural resources that are being overly exploited to benefit the aquarium pet trade. This results in a loss of biodiversity in our reefs and endangers the marine animals taken into captivity.

Inhumane treatment and injury are often the subsequent damage inflicted on these creatures by the collectors in large quantities while pursuing their shipments to out of state private aquarium collectors. This aquarium trade is in direct conflict with the local values and lifestyles of most of our residents and fishermen. It leads to imbalance and depletion of these important natural resources.

Just to clarify: SB931 does not prohibit fishing for recreation, subsistence, or education. The focus is to prohibit the continuing damage done by the Aquarium Trade to our coral reefs and the wildlife dependent upon them.

Mahalo for taking this into consideration. I hope you will vote in favor of SB931.  
Christine Ahia

Sent from my iPad



**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 9:19:47 PM

---



Submitted by: Buffy Nakachi, Waikoloa, Hawaii

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I do not understand why tropical fish collecting is still allowed in Hawaii. Tropical fish collecting needs to be ended immediately. So many tropical fish die in collection, storage and transit for every one that makes it to an aquarium. Please stop this horrific practice and protect our unique natural resources, so many of which are not found anywhere else in the world.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.



**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 6:26:38 PM

---

Submitted by: Angela Woolliams, Honolulu, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

It has been extremely sad to see the decline of many of the tropical fauna that I used to see so readily in our waters. Now that an alternative to wild collection has been developed, there is no reason to further deplete our local ecosystems.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**SB-931**

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 6:25:05 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2019 1:20:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ben Robinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Friday, February 8, 2019 6:17:21 PM

---

Submitted by: Colleen Miyose-Wallis, Kailua, Kona

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

I have always ADMIRER OUR BEAUTIFUL MARINE LIFE AND I WANT TO HELP PROTECT THEM FROM THOSE AQUARIUM FISH TRADERS WHOSE ONLY PURPOSE IS THE INHUMANE CAPTURE AND SELLING OF OUR MARINE LIFE. THOSE GREEDY INDIVIDUALS ONLY KNOW HOW TO TAKE FROM OUR SHORES BUT THEY GIVE NOTHING BACK IN RETURN FOR ALL THE DAMAGE THEY ARE CAUSING. ALL WILDLIFE ARE MEANT TO LIVE FREE AND HAPPILY IN THEIR NATURAL HABITAT, NOT IN SOME AQUARIUM CIRCLING AIMLESSLY IN A CONFINED SPACE. LET THEM STAY FREE AND BAN THAT TERRIBLE BUSINESS. PROTECT OUR AINA AND ITS WILDLIFE.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**LATE**

**From:** [Testimony Submittal](#)  
**To:** [rene@forthefishes.org](mailto:rene@forthefishes.org); [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB931 in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 8:15:09 PM

---

Submitted by: Shayla Middleton, Kihei, HI

Position: SUPPORT

Comments:

Thank you legislators for supporting this long needed bill. Marine life is being collected without limits for only a small annual fee to be licensed and legal. This is an outrage when one learns that the majority of these wild collected fish die within the first year, making this trade a trade like cut flowers. In the 15 years I have lived here in South Kihei, I have seen the reef fish decline significantly. When I investigated further to understand why, I was greatly saddened. A support for this bill, is a precious life saving choice to save wild fish from almost certain demise, never mind suffering. I am proud of our legislators for taking the PONO stance on this very important issue.

I support pono fishing and Hawaii's fishing families. Taking fish for decorative use outside Hawaii is not fishing.

I am among the 81% of Hawaii voters who believe that only aquacultured fish should be kept in aquariums as pets.

Every wild animal deserves to be free -- especially when they cannot be properly cared for in captivity.

Selling our marine life as pets/decorations is controversial and unethical because their welfare is not ensured and there is a very high level of wasteful mortality.

Yellow tangs, Hawaii's #1 aquarium fish export, can now be aquacultured. There is no reason to sell our wild reef life to the pet trade.

I am among the 84% of Hawaii voters who support ending the aquarium trade.

The aquarium pet trade outside Hawaii profits from selling our reef life -- Hawaii suffers the loss.

I feel a responsibility to protect Hawaii's wildlife and wild places.

Severe coral bleaching is projected to annually occur by the year 2040. Non-essential use of these species is unjustifiable, given their importance to all in Hawaii.

**From:** [Alton Couturier](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB931  
**Date:** Friday, February 8, 2019 3:10:19 PM

---

**LATE**

Aloha Chair Kahele and committee members, I SUPPORT SB931. Please pass this important bill to protect Hawaii's marine life and reefs.

Endangering the ecosystem by wanton removal of select species with probable damage to other species ensnared is not in keeping with efforts to preserve and protect our environment. Please take legislative steps to carefully regulate the trade in marine animals and plants.

Sincerely,

Alton