

TESTIMONY
HB1712, HD2
LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 3:16 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: dailer@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for HB1712 on 3/20/2009 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Testimony for WTL 3/20/2009 3:00:00 PM HB1712

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Meghan Dailer
Organization: Individual
Address: 1600 Lokia St Lahaina HI
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Submitted on: 3/19/2009

Comments:

1

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 4:53 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: chelsettlemier@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1712 on 3/20/2009 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Testimony for WTL 3/20/2009 3:00:00 PM HB1712

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chelsie Settlemier
Organization: Individual
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E-mail: chelsettlemier@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB1712 on 3/20/2009 3:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 9:24 PM

To: WTLTestimony

Cc: al.bayless@gmail.com

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for WTL 3/20/2009 3:00:00 PM HB1712

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Allan Bayless

Organization: Individual

Address: 1002 S. Kihei Rd., Unit 112 Kihei, HI

Phone:

E-mail: al.bayless@gmail.com

Submitted on: 3/19/2009

Comments:

Our reefs are hurting and need all the help we can give them! This is obvious as I snorkel the Maui reefs. One of the problems is algae overgrowth of the reefs, which blocks the sunlight necessary for coral to live and grow. Grazing fish such as the parrot fish and goat fish are needed to keep the coral clean of algae. We need an immediate stop to fishing for these fish if our reefs are to survive. Picture our islands without reefs. Then picture our islands without sandy beaches, which will be the inevitable result of losing our reefs. Just stop talking about it, and put fishing limits (better yet, fishing bans) for goat, parrot, and other reef fishes. Mahalo for your consideration. Al Bayless, Kihei

LATE TESTIMONY

Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair
Rep. Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
Friday, March 20, 2009

Regarding HB1712 HD2, Relating to Fishing

As a currently active commercial fisherman with a background in marine science, I would like to offer comments on HB1712.

Recently, many in the fishing community have become disenchanted with the state's management of our marine resources. It is clear that the state has not allocated sufficient time and money to properly research our nearshore fisheries. Very little real data is available about the status of our fish stocks and how much fishing pressure they are able to sustain. Without this, many of the rules proposed by the DLNR seem to be based on anecdotal evidence that has little justification in the eyes of the fishing public.

One very disturbing trend, especially in the last few years, is the number of attempts by special interest groups to bypass the DLNR rulemaking process and pass fishing regulations through the legislature. This is very dangerous, as it allows laws to be created based on minimal public input and questionable scientific basis. Many of these bills have been veiled attempts to shut down legitimate and sustainable fishing activities under the guise of management. The lack of solid data about the health of Hawaii's fisheries often allows these attempts to move forward based on emotion, false information, and conjecture.

As a fisherman, it is frustrating when "insufficient funding" is constantly given as justification for lack of proper fisheries management. Given the importance that fishing holds in the lives of so many Hawaii residents, allocating sufficient funds for the Department to conduct stock assessments of our reef fish and manage them appropriately should not be unreasonable. In a previous testimony to the legislature by DLNR, it was estimated that a stock assessment would cost \$200,000 per species. Although a significant amount, this figure is trivial compared with the potential benefits of maintaining fishing as a way of life in Hawaii.

Whether or not HB1712 provides an answer to this problem, it is clear that something needs to be done. Every member of this committee should recognize that, unless the Department is empowered with the resources to properly perform its job and given the mandate to do so responsibly and fairly, the future of fishing in Hawaii may be in jeopardy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,



Matthew Ross

LATE TESTIMONY

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Tokuda, Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs,

Thanks you for your attention on this matter before you. My name is Edwin Watamura and I am the President of the Waialua Boat Club, the oldest Boat Club in the Hawaiian Islands. As their representative I would like to proclaim our strong support for this bill. We, for years, have been seeking accountability, through science and statistics, for actions taken by government entities, that impact the rights of fishermen. By choosing to regulate fishing without scientific and statistical research, the department is not addressing the possibility that there may be other causes, much greater in scope and impact, that may be affecting our natural resources. A good example of this, is the declining health of the reef ecosystem in certain parts of Maui. The coral there is being covered by growth that doesn't allow the sunlight to reach the coral and giving it the light it needs to maintain and sustain. I heard,, the solution to this, is to limit the catching of certain varieties of fish that feed upon the algae and limu. Now, this does make logical sense and we can understand that limiting the catching of certain fish would alleviate some of the pressure to sustain the reef, but nowhere have we heard any mention of Maui's unique injection wells or the amounts of fertilizer runoff from the numerous golf courses that would also contribute to the extreme algae blooms that are causing this systemic problem.

When I was a young child and teenager, my uncle held the lease of the Menehene Fish Pond on Kauai. It was a vibrant pond, full of fish and Samoan Crab. Everday, twice a day, they would open the gates to the pond and let in the flowing river water to the delight of the fish. The fish would gather at the gates and we would put in our bamboo poles and have the time of our life. There was so much Samoan Crab that we kept submerged wooden cages in the pond as a holding tank for all the crab we caught and we could dine on crab to our hearts content. The lease was paid for by the multitudes of mullet that lived in the pond and was harvested by my uncles. Given this scenario as a microcosm of a thriving ecosystem, the question of it's demise begs for an answer. Was it overfishing that killed the golden goose? The answer----an emphatic NO!! The answer was that pesticide runoff from the cane fields mauka of the pond flowed down into the water ways and killed everything in the pond. My uncles had to build a bonfire out of old tires as a base to burn all the dead fish that was floating on the pond surface. What a sad and poignant sight it was. Tears fills my eyes even now as I think about all the fun times we had and how it came to such an abrupt and horrible end.

My point of this story is obvious. We need scientific and statistical data before we start pointing fingers at the easy scapegoat which is us fishermen. Do the work necessary or the results could be catastrophic!!!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
Edwin N. Watamura

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2009 7:49 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: blakem@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for HB1712 on 3/20/2009 3:00:00 PM

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Testimony for WTL 3/20/2009 3:00:00 PM HB1712

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Blake McNaughton
Organization: Individual
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Submitted on: 3/20/2009

Comments:

This bill is just another hurdle to DLNR doing their job. With the state budget crisis happening and the land management offices getting no respite you would think we could spend our time and money in better ways. Why don't we spend some money to hire new biologists in DLNR offices around the state.

Vote no on this bill please!

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2009 9:41 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: watrbaby@aloha.net
Subject: Testimony for HB1712 on 3/20/2009 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for WTL 3/20/2009 3:00:00 PM HB1712

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Pohakamalamalama Palmer
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: watrbaby@aloha.net
Submitted on: 3/20/2009

Comments:

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(END)