

HB 1712
support

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

LATE TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair

Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Rep. Rida Cabanilla	Rep. Sylvia Luke
Rep. Jerry L. Chang	Rep. Hermina M. Morita
Rep. Pono Chong	Rep. Roland D. Sagum, III
Rep. Denny Coffman	Rep. Corinne W.L. Ching
Rep. Robert N. Herkes	Rep. Cynthia Thielen
Rep. Chris Lee	

From: Tony Costa
Hawaii Nearshore Fishermen
Honolulu, Hawaii
540-1308 Tel.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1712

DATE: Monday, February 09, 2009
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY

Hawaii Nearshore Fishermen are in support of HB1712

HB1712 will require the Department of Land and Natural Resources to provide supporting data as a basis for any new rules that would regulate the taking of uhu, weke, & Papio.

HNF feel the providing of sound data for the basis during the implementation of new marine resource management measures should go without saying. Actually, this format should apply to all species, not only Uhu, weke, and Papio. After all, most fisheries management regimes such as on a federal level use a very extensive science based process as well as fishermen advisory and public input processes.

The role of Government should be to expend proper due diligence and when necessary apply rules and regulations in an equitable manner to its citizens. We feel HB1712 is a first step in this direction.

Our experience with the Department of Land and Natural Resources chapter 91 rule making process with respect to fishing rules and regulations is this:

1. Department identifies an issue or need or responds to various "requests" to do so.
2. Department holds internal dialog where the end game result is identified and developed.
3. Public informal meetings are staged and conducted followed by the formal public hearing process that are also staged and conducted.
4. Rules get generated.

During this process, science or sound stocks data is rarely used as justification for management measures and the troubling new trend we see in the whole process is the use of privately sponsored public opinion polls and various other public relations initiatives to sway opinions during the public hearing process.

An example of this would be where the department ignored the recommendations of their own community based and expert gill net task forces' recommendations for regulating gill net use and instead deferred for 7 years only to end up banning gill nets out right after a well campaigned and lengthy public meeting and hearing process where public opinion polls and media PR campaigns brought forth their final justification to out right ban gill nets – a painful, emotional, and controversial exercise for sure. One that brought tears too many and divided the community everlasting.

HNF believe this “social marketing” and politics should stay out of fisheries management and that management measures should be science based - at least at the foundation.

There has become a “self fulfilling prophecy” in the way the public hearing process progresses. Where there was once maybe a slight user conflict or issue in the beginning, by the time the public meetings and hearing process cycles through toward the end we see full blown community unhappiness as one user group gets pitted against the other. In this, we see this hearing process actually creating community conflict. It shouldn't be this way.

We believe HB1712 attempts to get back to a factual basis or understanding of the resource as a starting point to determine what exactly the management measures should be. HNF will be the first to support fair management measures providing fish stock data, fishermen data, Hawaiian traditional data can be used in an equitable manner to promote a sustainable nearshore fishery.

A recent Honolulu Advertiser Editorial Board opinion stated when talking about using reef fish management “*that fit the specific needs of recreational, subsistence and commercial fishers.*” We agree.

HNF provide Honolulu markets with fresh nearshore caught species each month. Many of these species have been caught sustainably since time began. Contrary to fashionable reports of reef fish decline, fishermen are reporting extreme bountiful catches of certain species. An example of this would be Akule, Oio, Papio, Ulua, and Weke.

HNF feel their ability to continue to provide Islanders with fresh fish will be severely hampered – irrespective of actual stock biomass and health of the resource if a sound basis for management measures are not used.

Therefore we support HB1712.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony Costa

support

Testimony for HB1712 on 2/9/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Sunday, February 08, 2009 8:18 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for WLO 2/9/2009 9:00:00 AM HB1712

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carl Pao Jellings
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 2/8/2009

Comments:

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In Support of H.B. 1712; Relating to Fishing

Good morning Honorable Chair's Ken Ito, Vice-Chair Sharon Har, Honorable Members

My Name is Carl Paoo Jellings SR. Life long resident of Nanakuli a full time Lawaia(translated enough fish)

Now We Lawaia that Have depended on the sea for centuries with knowlegde passed from generation to generation that is dying because of laws and rules that forbid us to practice and pass on our expertise to the younger generation, again We are the ones to sacrifice by taking less and doing with less .while they continue to Over Develop, continue to divert water ,continue to clear rivers for flood control measures that allow"s runoff a straight shot to the sea, continue to dredge Channels that for years will impact miles of coral reefs with sediment that will never settle,While the constant threat of micro organisms in ships ballast"s , While We continue to allow card blanch tourism from private marina"s that heavily impact nearshore pelagic"s with noise pollution, While We Continue to allow seawalls or embankment"s to prevent erosion of shoreline only to cause another place along the shore to erode into the sea, While they continue to take nearshore alien species lightly as if in some cases making justification"s for them as they have been here for over 40 years so it is OK. such as yellow spot herring, taape, roi ,gorilla ogo etc. ,All slowly causing biomass shifts in our fragile ecosystem"s ,Yes just maybe without all this We would not be in this position and We would not have to make sacrifices year after year,Because like the word lawaia We should all have enough fish.

Just look at Hawaii"s fishing regulations, sizes seasons,net bans,no take species, closed areas,bag limits, gear restrictions,time restraints. We are the most regulated industry in Hawaii Nei.

Now ask yourself Why is it not working,

Thank You For Allowing me the privilege to testify.

Carl Paoo Jellings Sr.