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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

Monday, February 2, 2009
9:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 191
RELATING TO AQUARIUM AQUATIC LIFE

House Bill 191 would require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to establish an approved aquarium collecting "white" list of species by county, establishes conditions under which aquatic life would or would not be listed, prohibits collection and sale of aquatic species unless they are on the list, may allow through rules, the exercise of traditional and customary practices by kanaka maoli, requires the Department to inform all aquarium permit holders of this list and associated penalties for failing to comply with restrictions on collecting, and sets fines for violating the provisions of this proposal. **The Department opposes this bill.**

The bill would ban the sale and collection of most living aquatic species in the State for use as pets, in scientific study, or for public exhibition. The ban on sale and collection would apply to all Hawaiian endemic species, all species not reported to the Department's Division of Aquatic Resources from January 2005 through December 2007, herbivorous species that contribute to controlling algae overgrowth, cleaner species that contribute to controlling parasites on reef fishes, and species that contribute to controlling other ecologically harmful processes. The ban on sale and collection would also apply to species that cannot be shown through published Department study to survive capture, transport and captivity for at least 180 days, and to species that cannot be shown to be part of a stable or increasing population. The bill further requires the Department to develop and maintain a list of species for each county that are not banned, using historical evidence and studies; bans on harvest would vary county to county.

The bill would not regulate the collecting of aquarium aquatic life. Instead, the bill would ban the sale and collection of aquatic life for aquarium or scientific uses until the Department invested huge sums of money into stock assessment and population research for a multitude of species. This would take years to complete. This is because the population abundance information that is being required by the bill is generally unavailable for most species in most parts of the State.

The bill thus would shut down existing businesses, recreational use by aquarium hobbyists, and exhibition facilities, as well as potentially impact a wide range of scientific research. The bill would continue to allow the sale of aquatic species by non-aquarium users while banning sale of those same species by the aquarium fish collecting industry.

Other aspects of this measure, such as a focus only on aquarium collectors, a lack of consideration for collection of endemic species, and a restriction of aquarium collections to only those species reported to have been harvested during 2005 through 2007, are not soundly based on scientific, resource abundance, sustainability, or ecological grounds. The Department would prefer to be allowed to conduct its own assessment to determine an appropriate annual maximum collecting amount, as opposed to basing it on the bill's selection of the years 2005–2007 data.

The Department does recognize the need for more comprehensive management of the aquarium collecting industry, and is in the process of promulgating balanced rules to this effect as per the spirit of House Concurrent Resolution 347, Senate Draft 1, adopted during the 2008 legislative session. By contrast, the Department considers the current bill to be overly broad, and not effective in its approach. As such, the Department recommends that it not be passed out of committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**



**HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**

January 29, 2009

To: House Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources
Honorable Chairman Ken Ito
Monday, February 2, 2009 9:00am

From: The Humane Society of the United States / Humane Society International
Inga Gibson, Hawaii State Director
P.O. Box 89131, Honolulu, HI 96830
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H.B. 191: In Support - Relating to Aquarium Aquatic Life

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and Humane Society International (HSI) with more than 10.8 million members worldwide, including 47,704 members and supporters in Hawaii, supports H.B. 191.

The global trade in live wild animals as pets—including live fish for display in home aquaria— involves hundreds of millions 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. From monkeys, tigers, and small carnivores, to exotic birds such as parrots, to reptiles and amphibians, to fish, few species are safe from this demand.

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). The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force has recognized that U.S. demand for aquarium species can threaten the sustainability of coral reef species and ecosystems (U.S. Coral Reef Task Force 2000). Last year was declared the International Year of the Coral Reef, established by the International Coral Reef Initiative, thus it is fitting that Hawaii is re-examining its control over this destructive trade.

The HSUS/HSI opposes the keeping of wild animals as pets. By “wild” we mean any species that has not been domesticated by selective breeding for certain traits that make them appropriate companion animals, whether they are bred in captivity or taken directly from the wild.

Keeping wild animals as pets is inhumane. For wild-caught animals, one concern is that the means by which they are captured and transported to consumers cause unacceptable levels of injury and mortality. Those animals who survive the journey from the wild to the living room may fare no better. Wild animals are difficult to care for in a home environment. In many cases, the husbandry needs are unknown or impossible to meet. Many wild animals are sold as newborns or juveniles; as they grow to maturity they become difficult and dangerous to keep. As a result, wild animals suffer and die from malnourishment, neglect, and abuse in captivity.

High levels of mortality of marine fish in the aquaria trade, associated with inadequate handling and transport, have been widely recognized as a problem (Wabnitz et al 2003). One study demonstrated mortality rates of fish from Sri Lanka to the United Kingdom of 15 percent during and immediately after collection, 10 percent during transit, and 5 percent in holding facilities (Wood 1985). This means that 30 percent of the fish collected died before reaching the market. Once in a home aquarium, mortality rates continue to climb due to inadequate husbandry.

The wild-caught fish trade is wasteful and destructive to Hawaii’s biological diversity. The husbandry needs of some of the most popular fish exported from Hawaii—such as butterflyfish (*Chaetodon* spp.) who must eat coral or the cleaner wrasses (*Labroides* spp.) who must eat ectoparasites and other materials such as mucous from the bodies of other fish—simply cannot be met in captivity. Experts on captive husbandry of marine fish have created lists of commonly traded species categorized by their suitability for maintenance in aquaria, such as one that created five categories ranging from species that are “almost impossible to keep and should be left on the reef” to those that are “very hardy with almost all individuals readily acclimatizing to aquarium conditions” (Michael 1999 in Wabnitz et al. 2003). Among the species that are most commonly exported from Hawaii, the Hawaiian cleaner wrasse (*Labroides phthiophagus*) and the ornate butterflyfish (*Chaetodon ornatissimus*) are considered to be “almost impossible to keep and should be left on the reef” due to their restricted diets. The fourspot butterflyfish (*Chaetodon quadrimaculatus*) and the multiband butterflyfish (*Chaetodon multicinctus*) are also among the top ten species collected in Hawaii, and as coral feeding specialists are unlikely to be suitable for long-term maintenance in home aquaria. Indeed, another author’s list of species for “the beginner [hobbyist] to avoid” includes many taxa that are among the most commonly exported species from Hawaii: all butterflyfishes (Family Chaetodontidae), Achilles tang (*Acanthurus achilles*), and Moorish idol (*Zanclus cornutus*) (Paletta 2001). Collection and export of specimens that have virtually no chance of survival in the home aquaria should cease.

Collection of animals from the wild for the pet trade is harmful to wild populations. There are many examples of wild populations that have been decimated by over-collection to supply the exotic pet trade including the slow lorises of Southeast Asia (*Nycticebus* spp.), the hyacinth macaw of South America (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*) of Central and South America, and the radiated tortoise of Madagascar (*Geochelone radiata*). Among marine fish species that are threatened by collection for the aquaria trade are the Banggai cardinalfish of Indonesia (*Pterapogon kaudermi*), the scribbled angelfish of Australia and Papua New Guinea (*Chaetodontoplus duboulayi*), and the mandarin fish of The Philippines (*Synchiropus splendidus*). In Hawaii, researchers have raised concerns about the collection of uncommon or rare species for the trade including Tinker’s butterflyfish (*Chaetodon tinkeri*), the Hawaiian turkeyfish (*Pterois sphex*) and the flame angelfish (*Centropyge loricula*).

There are many problems with the current management of collection of fish for export from Hawaii. The number of fish exported from Hawaii annually is unknown. In 1995 the official export figure was 422,823 according to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). However, this figure was based on reports filed by only 40 percent of people permitted or licensed to export fish, and therefore is believed to significantly underestimate the actual number of fish exported (Boggiatto et al. 2004). The fact that 60 percent of permit and license holders disregard the requirement to provide monthly catch reports to DLNR apparently without

consequence is of concern. The lack of such basic information as the number of fish exported on a species-specific basis does not allow effective management.

Although allowed by law, Hawaii's DLNR has not adopted regulations that limit the number of fish collected by each permit holder (a bag limit), size limits, open and closed seasons, or other common management tools adopted by other jurisdictions that export marine fish for the aquaria trade, such as Florida. The DLNR requires collectors to have permits, and commercial collectors to have licenses, but the nearly 200 permit holders can collect any number of fish of any species. They can also collect fish anywhere with the exception of Marine Life Conservation Districts, and Fish Replenishment Areas established in 2000 on the west coast of Hawaii island. As a result, although the industry is regulated in the sense that permits are issued, except as noted in the previous sentence, there is no management system being applied that would ensure that wild populations are not harmed by levels of collection. This is troubling given the apparent high level of trade.

There is ample scientific and anecdotal evidence that the level of collection of marine fish for the home aquaria trade has had significant detrimental impacts on wild fish populations in Hawaii. Research has established that collection of fish for the aquarium trade is a major source of over-fishing on the island of Hawaii (Tissot 1999; Tissot and Hallacher 2003); in one study, seven of ten fish species targeted by collectors were found to be significantly reduced in abundance (*ibid*). Anecdotally, independent divers and dive tour operators have been reporting declines in fish abundance for at least the past decade. Although every area where collection occurs has not been studied in order to scientifically determine the impact of collection on the abundance of species, this should not be used as an excuse for inaction. When it comes to extractive wildlife use, precaution should be applied in cases of scientific uncertainty in order to protect species from over-exploitation.

In addition to concerns about the sustainability of collection and the survival of collected species, current aquarium collection practices in Hawaii raise significant concerns about the effects of aquarium collection on Hawaii's valuable coral reef ecosystems. Among the top Hawaiian exports are the yellow tang (*Zebrasoma flavescens*), kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*), chevron tang (*Ctenochaetus hawaiiensis*), Achilles tang (*Acanthurus achilles*), and clown tang (*Naso lituratus*), all of which are important herbivorous species that have experienced significant population declines in areas where fish are collected for export. Herbivorous fish play a crucial role in reef ecosystems by preventing algae to outcompete living corals. On other reefs around the world, overfishing of herbivores has resulted in ecosystem shifts in which corals and other important reef-dwelling benthic invertebrates become smothered by overabundant fleshy algae.

Destructive collection techniques are also of concern. Collectors in Hawaii have been observed breaking coral to capture fish and even using bleach, both of which are illegal (Tissot and Hallacher 2003).

The HSUS/HSI supports H.B. 191, because, if enacted, it would address many of these serious concerns.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. 191.

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ANIMAL RIGHTS HAWAII
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HONOLULU, HI 96816
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ANIMALRIGHTSHAWAII.ORG



Re: HB191 (02.02.09) WLO Committee
Position: Support

Chair Ito and Members of the Committee:

Animal Rights Hawai'i strongly supports HB191. The aquarium industry needs to be regulated, and the rape of our reef fishes should end. The beautiful waters surrounding our island state should be protected and the marine life cherished, not collected and sold.

The corals and fish are one of the reasons people come to visit Hawai'i. Barren waters will hardly draw tourists.

Please vote favorably on HB191.

With aloha,

Cathy Goeggel
Director

Pacific Dive

150 DICKENSON ST. LAHAINA, HI 96761



(808) 667-5331 FAX (808) 667-6996

TESTIMONY FOR HB 191

As owner of Pacific Dive Shop and a master

Scuba Diver Trainer on Maui for the last 9 years

I have seen no decline in the numbers of Reef Fish. We see all kinds of marine life on a steady basis and for anyone to say that tropical fish collectors are affecting the Reef population is absurd. Pacific Dive supports these hard working individuals and their right to

Testimony**1/29/09**COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

Aloha,

I am a licensed commercial fishermen operating in Maui as a full time fish collector. My business creates jobs and income for four people and their families. Every year myself, and other fishermen find ourselves facing the same senseless attacks from special interest groups and the politicians beholden to them. Last year it was SB3225 this year its HB191; both are and were cleverly designed to appear as reasonable and well intended but the true intentions was to shut down one industry to suit another. HB191 calls for regulations that are neither required nor necessary and have no scientific support showing a decline in the resource. HB191 wants to regulate the aquarium industry out of existence. DAR's Bill Walsh believes the fishery to be sustainable and the breeding populations robust. When I have spoken with DLNR in meetings and conversation, they feel that the fishery is fine and these bills are a waste of time and energy. Ichthyologist, Dr. John E. Randall of the Bishop Museum stated "The yellow tang is the staple of the aquarium fish trade in Hawaii. The abundance varies greatly from year to year depending on the recruitment. When recruitment is low, aquarium fish collector get blamed. The predation by the Roi has far more impact on the population of yellow tangs than aquarium fish collectors." *Quote from Hawaii Fishing News, January 2009.* Scientist, Researchers, and DLNR do not support these bills. The fishery has been proven sustainable by scientific evaluation. Additional management plans are not needed and would be a waste of much needed time and money. If there were to be any additional management it should be something along the lines of Limited Entry, or maybe a Fish Replenishment Area. The algae problems occurring in Maui County are site specific not widespread, and these areas have problems with runoff, sedimentation, or pollution from undetermined causes. It has nothing to do with aquarium collectors. Most of Maui counties reefs are in good shape, with very little algae and robust fish populations. Some of Maui's elected officials have wrongly sided with special interest and I can only wonder why. Maui's reefs would be better served if elected officials spent their time and the taxpayer's dollars dealing with pollution then chasing after a few aquarium collectors on Maui! My community does not support this and if given the time I can get many residents of Maui to oppose this bill. If this passes, it would essentially shut me down, and all the other people that work with me, creating hardships on several Maui families. In a struggling economy, and a lack of decent jobs, why create more problems? If a fishery is sustainable, creates revenue for the state, why cripple it? Why regulate through legislation when there is already a governing body responsible for looking after ocean resources. Allow the DAR and DLNR to evaluate and manage the resource not special interest groups. Mahalo.

Eric Koch
Maui Mariculture

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

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Rep. Chris Lee	

DATE: Monday, February 02, 2009

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

From: Tony Costa
Hawaii Nearshore Fishermen
325 Puamamane Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821
808-664-3513 Home
808-540-1308 Office

Re.: Testimony in OPPOSITION to **HB 191**

TESTIMONY

My name is Tony Costa and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaii Near Shore Fishermen, a loosely organized, tight-knit group of nearshore fishermen. Hawaii Nearshore Fishermen are opposed to HB191

Although the stated purpose of the act is to “enhance and improve the regulation of aquarium aquatic life collecting to protect and preserve Hawaii’s aquatic life and marine environment, we feel the “white list” criteria presented in the bill would go much further by prohibiting any aquarium fish trade in Hawaii:

Section 188 (c) (1)

“The species can survive capture, transport and captivity for at least one hundred eighty days.”

While most aquarium fish can survive this period, the assessment of abundance or healthiness of a stock should not be measured by what happens to it after harvest.

Seafood species survive about 5 minutes into the ice brine once it is harvested. Attaching these emotional criteria by legislation, as part of the white list shows lack of both science and reason. This criteria helps to prohibit involvement in fishery.

Section 188(c) (2)

“Based on historical evidence, the specie is part of a stable or increasing population trend in the area the specie is being collected”

These criteria would require that the Department would have to have a meticulously detailed stock assessment already (historical) which it doesn't. So, these criteria would categorically prohibit involvement in fishery.

Section 188 (2)

“The removal of the specie does not negatively impact the reef ecosystem by contributing to algae over growth for herbivores, parasite overload on other reef fishes for cleaner wrasses and cleaner shrimps, or other harmful results.

As many aquarium fish species are herbivores, these criteria would also equate to prohibiting involvement in the fishery.

Section 188 (d) (3)

“The specie is not endemic to Hawaii”

According to Dr. Jack Randall, 23% of the fish species in Hawaii are unique to the Hawaiian Islands. In addition, many endemic species are among the most abundant specie populations on the reef. For good reason – there from here and have evolved to survive so well here. Some species that Aquarium divers catch are kole, potters angel, flame wrasse, white spotted puffer, and the very prolific and abundant saddleback wrasse just to name a few.

Whether specie is endemic or not should not be the criteria. Again, healthiness or abundance should be the measure.

Because many species harvested by Aquarium fish collectors are endemic this criteria also would equate to prohibiting involvement in the fishery.

In summary, HNF feel this bill is a disingenuous attempt to halt the aquarium fish trade in Hawaii and is not fairly looking at sustainable management measures as an option to “enhance and improve” the regulation of the aquarium aquatic life collection.

It might also be pointed out that the prohibitive nature of these criteria would not only apply to the commercial Aquarium harvester but to anybody collecting fish - for home use or public aquarium and educational uses as well.

Therefore, we recommend strongly not passing HB191

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Costa

HB191
TONY COSTA
HAWAII NEARSHORE FISHERMEN



HB 191 RELATING TO AQUARIUM AQUATIC LIFE
House Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources

February 2, 2009
Room: 325

9:00 a.m.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS, with amendments,** H.B. 191, which would enhance the current regulation of collecting aquatic life for aquariums.

OHA understands and appreciates that the intent of this bill is to protect the marine resources of our state. However, we ask that the bill be amended to include language that states that the proposed section of Hawaii Revised Statutes will not conflict with the West Hawai'i Fisheries Council's rules, which were created, with much effort and good faith, by that community to protect the area's marine resources. These rules have been a shining example of effective resource management created through healthy community collaboration and mutual respect of competing users of the nearshore resource.

Because of that successful model, we suggest that the language of the bill, if it moves forward, should reflect the West Hawai'i Fisheries Council's rules, which have proven to be a successful tool created for and by the West Hawai'i community.

We appreciate that the Legislature included language in the bill to protect Native Hawaiian traditional and cultural practices relating to subsistence fishing.

OHA urges the Committee to PASS H.B. 191, taking the above concerns into account. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Testimony of Dr. ANDREW ROSSITER
Director of the State Aquarium
Professor, Department of Zoology
University of Hawaii at Manoa

Before the House Committee on
WATER, LAND and OCEAN RESOURCES

9:00 a.m., 2nd February, 2009
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 191
RELATING TO AQUARIUM AQUATIC LIFE

House Bill 191 would ban the sale and collection of most living aquatic species in the State for use as pets, in scientific study, or for public exhibition. Whilst the underlying principles of this bill are basically noble, the bill is overarching in its recommendations and prejudicial to a wide range of responsible users of aquarium aquatic life. Most troubling, the arguments presented therein to justify the bill are, in many cases, purely anecdotal and not supported by solid scientific evidence, or are simply wrong. **For these reasons, the Waikiki Aquarium opposes this bill.**

Several of the statements relate directly to the activities of the Waikiki Aquarium, and I feel obliged to address these first. For example, Page 2, line 16: 'The Hawaiian cleaner wrasse will not eat fish food in captivity, and eventually dies of starvation'; and Page 2, line 17: 'Likewise, coral-eating butterfly fishes ... starve in a short period of time'.

If correct, these statements would reflect very badly on the Waikiki Aquarium, which displays both these fish groups. In reality, the Waikiki Aquarium currently houses two Hawaiian cleaner wrasses that have been on display for over 20 months. They are both in excellent health, and are fed exclusively on commercially available fish food. We also have long-term exhibits featuring several 'coral-eating' butterfly fishes that feed greedily on fish food. Clearly, the two statements from the bill quoted above are wholly incorrect. If kept in suitable conditions and maintained by a skilled aquarist, almost any fish species can be switched over to an alternative 'fish food' diet.

The bill is overarching in its recommendations. It is disturbing to note that no exceptions are made for scientific research purposes (e.g. various universities in Hawaii, Bishop

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Museum, aquaculture enterprises, etc.), or education and conservation-oriented public displays of live marine life (e.g. Waikiki Aquarium, Maui Ocean Center, NOAA Mokuapapapa Discovery Center, etc.).

Bill 191 also fails to address just how the proposed recommendations would be implemented and how the measures would be enforced. But most troubling is the absence of data on which to base the various statements and reasoning that permeate the bill.

For example, the criteria for compiling the proposed white list are wholly redundant. Case in point, Page 4, line 13: *'The species can survive capture, transport, and captivity for at least 180 days'*. There are roughly 250 fish species housed presently at the Waikiki Aquarium – every one of them meets this criterion. Actually, over our 104 year history, with the exception of the larger large sharks and rays, we have kept almost every fish species found in Hawaii for periods exceeding 180 days; some of our current residents have been with us for over 18 years. So, as this criterion stands, **every fish species found in Hawaii** (except the large sharks and rays) would be eligible for inclusion on the white list.

Another criterion for white list inclusion is Page 4 line 15: *...based on historical evidence on stable or increasing population trends...* With the exception of the Kona Coast, Big Island, there is an almost total lack of rigorous long-term scientific data on fish populations on which to base these recommendations. Not having this data makes it almost impossible to evaluate under this criterion, any fish species for inclusion or exclusion in the white list.

The Waikiki Aquarium is internationally renowned for its high husbandry standards, its expertise and successes in keeping and breeding Hawaiian marine fishes and corals, its award winning marine education programs, and its marine conservation activities. Our mission is simple: **'to inspire and promote understanding, appreciation and conservation of Pacific marine life'**. I would hope that almost all of the people at this hearing would harbor similar sentiments, including the authors of this bill and, I might add, the more-responsible members of the aquarium collecting trade.

It is therefore somewhat ironic that this bill would deny the Waikiki Aquarium the ability to collect and display Hawaiian endemics and many other fish species found in Hawaii. It would deny our guests the opportunity to see firsthand and learn about the aquatic life of the Hawaiian islands. And the numbers involved are significant: 320,000 visitors to the Aquarium and 32,000 local schoolchildren who attend our education programs each year would be denied the pleasure and sense of wonder in seeing these creatures face-to-face. Surely this is not the intention of this bill but, as written, that is precisely what it would achieve.

I conclude by restating our opposition to this bill, and urging that it is not passed out of committee.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Testimony Opposed to HB 191
Monday 2-2-09 9AM Room 325 WLO Committee

Say NO to HB 191

To exclude eating fish commercial fishermen from a white list closure on all islands of Hawaii is to 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 while excluding another. This is not fair or productive in its intent. The HB 191 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 bill. Science and due process has been left by the wayside. Please sincerely consider the problems associated with acting on such a bill.

An environmental impact statement should be done on potential bill damage, eliminating certain fish as income, impacts on foreign fisheries as a result of Hawaii fish restrictions, over population and species elimination as a result of a white list, etc.

How much will all this cost? The DNLR is already under funded and overworked. How many D.O.C.A.R.E. officers will be needed. Researches how much, how many. No thought was put into this bill.

DO NOT PASS HB 191

Thank you,

Tasha Keao

RE: BILL HB 191

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is a testimony AGAINST BILL HB 191.

I am a resident of the Waianae Coast and the wife of a tropical fish wholesaler.

This bill undermines the current authority and managing abilities of the DLNR. If changes and enforcements are needed, I feel the DLNR is a better and more reliable place to start than with an unnamed bureau initiated by someone with biased interests in tourism and extremist environmental views (SNORKEL BOB). I would feel more comfortable in placing the responsibility of managing our reefs with a State Department that has a history, wide knowledge base and experience with the very reefs it is intended to protect and monitor.

Also devastating is that the passing of this bill would greatly impact our lives and the lives of many other divers and wholesalers. Our family has depended on this income for 13 years. This bill does not allow for commercial divers to continue making a living.

This bill also does not take into consideration the natural conservation effects of the coastline, weather and diver rotational habits.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Isham

RE: BILL HB 191

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is a testimony AGAINST BILL HB 191:

My family loves to fish. My dad is a fisherman and he dives for fish. It is his job. I thought I might learn to catch fish with a net too, but I might not be able to. My Dad teaches me how to fish and teaches me how to snorkel. I think his job is really neat. But if I never get the chance to do it then that would make me really sad. I think its good to teach your kids to fish and to dive and to take care of the ocean especially in Hawaii. Thats why I love to live here.

Thank you

Maika Isham

RE: BILL HB 191

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is a testimony AGAINST BILL HB 191.

My Dad is a diver and sells fish for a living. Our family needs the money to live. This has been my Dad's job since before I was born. I respect him and trust he makes good decisions for the ocean. I always hear him talk about how they are going to change dive spots. I always hear him talk about how he believes people should take care of the reef. I hear him talk about preserving fish. I hear him talk about doing things to make the reef and all the things that live in it continue to be around. Please don't take away my Dad's way to make money. He is a good person.

Jeremy Isham

H.B 191

I Johnny Isham do not support H.B 191. If it were to pass, it could lead to the demise of the most important near shore fisheries in Hawaii. Valuable jobs would be lost to an industry that has been deemed sustainable by the DNLR.

Over the past year, our association has been proactive in meeting with various environmental groups, legislators and the DNLR to resolve problems that we knew would be raised this legislative session. We've also established a strict "code of conduct" of which all members abide by.

Please understand that at the core of this bill stands a man whose emotion and special interest supersedes logic and science...and he must be stopped

The DNLR is currently moving forward setting up rules regarding our industry. Please let them continue their jobs and let them resolve any issues or problems with both science and community input.

I cannot believe that in a time of economic and financial crises we are here fighting to keep our jobs and Human right to fish and work because one person (Snorkel Bob) with false facts and accusations has rallied up people to believe his lies and donate money to his Foundation all for his benefit.

Also snorkel bob states in one breath that fish are depleted and then in another breath he states that more and more fish are being caught every year. If snorkel bobs facts were on the up and up how could this be true we all know that you cannot catch more of something that is depleted it just doesn't add up to Scientific facts.

He has also said we fishermen catch more then we report to the DNLR and lie on our fish reports this is pure slander and lies where is his proof.

My Family has been doing this business since 1985 and we have nothing but respect for the ocean and all its creatures big and small.

In this time of need with Hawaii's unemployment in the tens of thousands and climbing we should be focusing on Fixing the economy and not putting honest hard working people with families to support out of business. There are more pressing matters in Hawaii and the rest of the country that need to be dealt with then with Snorkel Bob and his personal vendetta against Fishermen.

If snorkel Bob truly believed in reef conservation He would shut down his business as it does damage to the Eco system. Snorkel Bob's business sells and rents Snorkel Gear to thousands of irresponsible tourist a year. Yet does he teach a free mandatory class on the DO's and Don'ts of the ocean when he sells or rents Snorkel Gear. No he does not as he is too concerned about herding people on and off His boats and beaches like cattle to make that Dollar

I would like to also point out that we fishermen have meet and talk with or local dive shop and also spoke with DNLR and they say they don't support this bill.

Thank You for your time and being open Minded

Johnny Isham

Hawaii Tropical Fish Association member

RE: BILL HB 191

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a testimony AGAINST HB191:

Aloha, my name is Jerry Isham and I oppose this bill. With over 22 years of experience in the aquarium fish trade, I feel competent enough to know that the proposed management of the aquarium fish industry in this bill is unfounded, unreasonable and economically devastating to this industry.

This bill is unfounded because:

- 1) DLNR's data on aquatic fish collecting does not show negative impacts on Oahu, Hawaii and Maui reefs as indicated in section 1 paragraph 3 HB 191. DLNR data, contradicts much of the data this bill is based on. We have paid for DLNR with tax-payer money for this data, and we should rely on *it* instead of the speculative data this bill is based on.
- 2) HB 191 sites a reduction in marine tourism experience due to over-harvesting of Hawaii reefs. Where is the data for this? Also, how could their "experience" be based on this one factor? Their experience could be influenced by the current recession, the dive spot visited, the dive charter used, the price paid for the dive, and many other factors.
- 3) HB 191 states the Hawaiian cleaner wrasse is one of the most popular fish species collected. This is an example of the falsehood this bill is based on. As a wholesaler, I know that this is not a popular fish. It's not even on my top 20 list. Secondly, this statement is contradicting, because it says this fish is popular and then says it dies in captivity. Would people would really buy a fish that is being said to die in captivity? Would a retailer even want to take that risk with as many cleaner wrasse as HB 191 states is shipped? Would this industry have survived this long with practices like that?

This bill is unreasonable because:

- 1) It bans the collection of species endemic to Hawaii. The fish is a natural resource- it is unreasonable to ban all endemic species when not a single specie is near endangered. Do we not sell our prized Koa products? And parade our "Made in Hawaii" labels? This is what makes these fish desired; they are from Hawaii.
- 2) It is unreasonable because the penalties for violating the proposed regulations are stiffer than a DUI. For a DUI, you could get imprisoned for up to 5 days. Under HB 191, you could get up to 30 days for the first offense. For fish we would have a stiffer penalty than wreckless endangerment of human lives? This is ridiculous.

This bill is economically devastating to the industry because:

- 1) The number and species of fish this industry would be limited to as outlined in Section 2 of this bill would be crippling to our sales. We would not be able to compete with the international tropical fish market. We would lose our livelihood, we would lose Hawaii's place in the international market, and we would lose our ability to sustain ourselves on this natural, renewable resource. And may I remind you, none of the species are endangered or in decline – just check DLNR stats.

- 2) In this crucial time of economic instability, we should be helping to sustain and support employment. HB 191 does not allow for this for the aquarium fish industry. The loss of jobs, general excise, international business and the like that this bill would cause cannot be ignored. The Tropical Fish Association has been working with DLNR diligently to protect the future of our reefs and marine life, including planning for management strategies.

In closing, I would urge you to consider facts over speculation. Consider the data from appointed biologists at DLNR over hearsay from extremist animal rights and environmental activist. Consider the penalty for the violations and its excessiveness. Consider the loss of an industry and revenue to such a large number of self employed people. Consider the impact on Hawaii's economy.

Testimony Opposed to HB 191
Monday 2-2-09 9AM Room 325 WLO Committee

Please vote NO to HB 191

I love and care for tropical fish 24/7. I own an aquarium fish shop and rely on these fish to feed my family and pay my bills, as well as my suppliers. You may see those making aquariums and order aquarium supplies for these fish and also rely on their business. This billion dollar industry needs your support in this time of economic downturn.

We take very good care of our tropical fish. there's many different lines of tropical fish specialty foods. Our fish are well fed and taken care of. None suffer and very few die. We have a 99% arrive alive rate and have been in business for 21 years read Thanks for listening to what I had to say. I gladly appreciate it.

Sincerely Yours,

Milly All Seas Fisheries

**Testimony Opposed to HB 191
Monday 2-2-09 9AM Room 325 WLO Committee**

Opposed to HB191
VOTE NO HB191

Dear Representative,

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.

Testimony HB 191
Monday 2-2-09 9AM Room 325 WLO Committee

OPPOSED TO HB191
Stop HB 191 now

Dearest Legislative members,

My name is Mamoa Ntiua, I am from Christmas Island. My husband collects fish from Christmas Island to help and support our family and also our new born child. 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, Mamoa Ntiua

HB 191
REPRESENTATIVES PLEASE OPPOSE HB191

Snorkel Bob pushed the gill net law through last year hurting Hawaiian fishermen. Now wishes to buy legislation shutting down the Tropical fish guys. Why do you listen to a liar and tax evader. In 1995 he was found guilty of \$950,000 from a tax fraud case. Now with his 501 C 3, the Snorkel Bob Foundation is lobbying and forcing legislative opinion to enact HB 191. This is a clear IRS non-profit 502 C 3 Violation. It is under investigation by the IRS. I also hear his false advertising statements through websites, TV adds, and radio. Enough injustice has been done. Please show some mercy on those fishermen and hold HB 191 Please take a moment and think of these people that your are jeopardizing. Thank you for listening to what I have to say and also that you so much for your time.

Sincerely,



Journee Tsark.

January 29, 2009

Representative Ito,

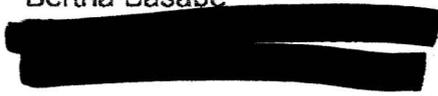
My name is Bertha Basabe and I do not support H.B 191. I live in Kailua Kona and the tropical fish industry is heavily regulated. The studies done by the State show it to be healthy.

I don't understand why the State of Hawaii would want to cripple a group of tax paying business people during such economically difficult times as we are now in. There are many people involved in different aspects of this industry, and many families incomes would be affected.

Again, I am strongly against H.B. 191. Thank you.

Sincere Regards,

Bertha Basabe



In opposition to H. B. 191

I, Ken Isham, do not support H.B 191, this is simply the same old story that has been used time and time again, with no scientific fact accompanying it. I have been a tropical fisherman for over 25 years. Even after this long the fish still thrive and fishing gets better each year. It is better now than I ever saw it. Even though thousands of tourists take snorkeling trips and scare the fish and spread suntan oil into the environment. You are told that there are no fish left but then you are also told that the fisherman is catching too much. How can you catch too much of something that is no longer here. The simple truth is that this industry was working 25 years ago and it still is to this day. This industry is self regulating, if there are not enough fish then there are no fisherman.

The DLNR Is doing a great job and needs no help from uninformed people who are only interested in a profit.

I also do not believe this is the time to get rid of jobs and revenue for the state with the economy as it is.

Thank you for the opportunity to give my opinion in this matter.

Sincerely; Ken Isham

1/29/2009

H. B. 191

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 11:32 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Lisa Choquette
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Dear Chair Ito and Committee Members:

For thirty years I operated Dive Makai Charters in Kona. I watched our reef fish and other animal population plummet under the uncontrolled predation of aquarium collectors. When controls were finally battled into place in 2000, I was privileged to watch some species begin to recover. Some, however, we fear are forever lost. Their populations were taken too low for recovery.

I am now working on a project in an area where there is, as yet, NO aquarium collecting, and where rules are in the works to ban it forever. The difference in the reef populations and health is astounding. The people here have already learned that there is a great deal more income to be earned by leaving an animal in its natural environment for people to enjoy over and over and over than there is to be made by extracting it from its home and selling it. So I beg you to institute the strictest controls on the aquarium industry to:

protect the reef population; protect the reef itself; every animal has a function, that, if the animal is removed, the function will not be performed; insure the economic viability of this resource for generations to come, not just for the greed of a small handful.

Thank you.

Lisa Choquette
Solomon Dive Adventures
Peava Village-Marovo Lagoon
Solomon Islands
www.solomondiveadventures.com

To: House Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources
From: Rene Umberger
Date: Jan. 30, 2009
Re: HB191, proposed amendment

I fully support the intent and content of HB191, and recommend the following addition to the bill: the inclusion of an exemption for Special Activity Permits for scientific purposes, such as the one below from the DLNR:

Exemption for Special Activity Permits. (See HRS 187A-6 [b]) Notwithstanding the provision of any other law, DLNR may issue permits, not longer than one year in duration, to any person to take aquatic life, possess or use fishing gear, or engage in any feeding, watching, or other such non-consumptive activity related to aquatic resources, otherwise prohibited by law, in any part of the State, for scientific, educational, management, or propagation purposes, subject to chapter 195D and subject to those restrictions the department deems desirable. DLNR may revoke any permit for any infraction of the terms and conditions of the permit. Any person whose permit has been revoked shall not be eligible to apply for another permit until the expiration of one year from the date of revocation.

Testimony Opposed to HB 191
Monday 2-2-09 9AM Room 325 WLO Committee

HB191, HB 543, and HB 565 are nothing but another attempt at closing the Tropical Fish Business down. The information in Section one of HB 191 is so inaccurate that it is obvious that the author knows very little about the collection, science, and sustainability of the aquarium industry in Hawaii. First, I would like to set the facts straight regarding the myths and false statements in these bills. Myths in section one:

Myth#1

A large percentage of fish goes to the US but the Asia market is expanding.

Facts:

Sales of tropical fish shift from month to month and year to year. Some US markets and overseas markets are busy in the winter and some overseas markets are good during the summer. This year we have seen a major decline in all markets. Asia saw the biggest decline in sales of any market sold to. There is barely a market for any expensive fish from Hawaii especially from Asia. Sales are down for expensive fish to Asia and the East by around 50% from May 2008 to December 2008.

Myth#2

Bandit Angel fish and Masked Angel fish are sold for lots of money and there is no limit to take.

Facts:

Bandit Angels sell for \$150 to \$200 dollars, but Bandits and Masked Angels are deep water fish and are abundant only below 180 feet deep. Dive time is extremely limited below these depths. Decompression of the fish and diver can take up to 8 hours hanging on a decompression line. Many dives result in no catch due to time limits at such depths. Divers have lost their lives, have become paralyzed, or spent hours in the decompression chamber as a result of trying to capture deepwater fish. By the time you pay for your boat gas bill and expenses the effort is not that profitable. An estimate in total Bandits sold across the state for all wholesalers for 2008 is around 100. The Masked Angel can sell for several thousand dollars but only two were taken amongst all wholesalers for the whole year. Anyone in the business could tell you Bandit and Masked are the least impacted fish of all by collection. The idea that there is no limit or regulations is just a lie. We have the strictest laws of any state. Boats live wells and wholesalers systems will maintain only a certain number of fish. If crowded or not cared for properly the fishermen make nothing. The number of fish caught is highly restricted.

Myth #3

Aquarium Industry divers are increasingly depleting reef fish populations and therefore require stricter control and oversight by DLNR,

Facts:

Longitudinal summaries of fish catch reports from the DLNR indicate that for the past 3 to 5 years on the Big Island, Maui, and Oahu, the three islands where tropical fish are collected, that the Total Sum of Harvest of Yellow Tangs, Other finfish and invertebrates has declined. Decline is due to demand not resources. On the contrary fish populations are in fantastic shape! Many large fish blooms have just occurred. During recent meetings between HTFA (Hawaii Tropical Fish Association) and DLNR, DLNR has stated that aquarium fish collecting is “**not a resource issue.**” More than 80% of the

diveable oceans around the main Hawaiian Islands are untouched by tropical fish collectors. 1500 miles of NWHI are now in preserves too.

The issue at hand is a conflict between one snorkeling industry and aquarium divers, with one snorkeling industry having a history of initiating legislation to wipe out the tropical fish divers. The Snorkel Bob Company has tourists visit only shallow or preserve areas. Snorkel Bob does not even go where tropical fish collectors go. Snorkel Bob is very zealous about shutting all fisheries down. He does not care that there is no direct competition or impact with his business. Slanderous lies just continue. Example; last year he claimed Aquarium fish collectors took nine million reef fish a year. Radio and TV commercials were used to spread many of his lies.

Over the past 9 years, the total number of individuals collecting fish for the industry across these islands has increase by only (13) individuals, versus an increase of a multitude of companies offering snorkeling tours. From 2007 to 2008 the number of tropical fish divers on the Big Island actually decreased by seven.

The total number of fish and invertebrates taken from the whole state of Hawaii is less than the one million fry that one breeding pair of yellow tangs can produce at one breeding. Yellow tangs reach breeding size of 3.5 inches in just a few months and breed several times a year. Even with these high numbers Yellow tangs are considered low population breeders. Some fish species can reach 5 million fry per broadcast breeding. One study shows reef fish have sixty percent of fry return to the reef. Reef fish are the most renewable species on the planet. Just supply food and habitat to breeders and they will become very abundant very quickly. Thanks DNLR for artificial reefs.

Aquarium fish collectors have a vested, financial interest in sustaining fish populations and engage in responsible fish collecting practices to increase fish populations. Divers do not overfish sites there by leaving larger "breeders" and fish of all sizes on the reef to increase the fish population. Divers rotate their fishing spots. We have been using the same areas for 50 years with no long term population impacts. This is the definition of sustainable. Through practices such as these, aquarium fish collectors malama the fish ecosystem and have renewed the reef fish populations. Tropical fish collecting is a sustainable resource where the divers use the ocean resources wisely and responsibly so that they will be there for all future generations.

There is no scientific data to show fish population scarcity from tropical fish industry collecting. There is no reason for increased regulation as suggested by the DLNR fish catch reports.

Nature regulates the aquarium trade through naturally occurring "no catch" periods such as winter periods of consistently high surf and inaccessible areas. Over the past six months, the economic decline has already decreased the sales and need for collection of fish by many aquarium wholesalers.

The aquarium industry in Hawaii is more regulated than that of any other state. The industry must answer to the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources, the Dept. of Agriculture, and the U.S. Dept of Agriculture. Veterinary inspections are required when fish are shipped to various areas.

Myth#4

Cleaner wrasse is only from Hawaii and dies in aquariums from starvation. Coral eating butterflies starve in aquariums.

Facts:

Cleaner wrasses are found through out the pacific region and do quite well in aquariums. They are quite helpful in coral aquariums as parasite and disease control.

Those hobbyists who choose a live coral and live rock aquarium can benefit from cleaner wrasse and cleaner shrimp. Once again the cleaner wrasse and butterfly are a very abundant fish in Hawaii and are found nearly everywhere on the Islands. These fish are not a resource issue. Many coral eating butterflies do not eat the coral as suggested but eat the symbiotic algae in the corals. Algae based high nutrition foods exist. Other butterflies like obligate corallivore butterflies can do well in coral aquariums. Some butterflies will eat the incredibly nutritional highly specialized fish foods now available for all varieties of diets.

Myth#5

By creating a white list you can manage the Tropical Fish Industry.

Facts:

Species which do not do well in aquariums are already not taken. Only live healthy fish are paid for! If a species does not do well in transport or is less abundant there is no financial gain for the fish collector. If a fish does not live money is lost in packing and transport. Lower population species which are not readily available cannot be collected to fill an order. Selling hard to find species is just not done. There are a lot of species which are not desirable to take. Fish vary so much in populations due to blooms and declines associated with food supply, tides, weather, and many other factors that this law is impossible to implement. ***If one species was banned in one area where it was very abundant and not banned in another area where scarce undue pressure would result on open species area.*** An ecological disaster could result from this bill. Rushing into a bill whose results is not understood when stats and fish populations do not even warrant such a bill is stupidity. Separating areas and islands could increase impact on certain areas. The process of choosing who decides what species and who is in control is not clear. If a biased ecologist is appointed in control of white list decisions it could be disastrous for the Tropical Fish Industry. Environmental impact study should be done on the implications of implementing HB 191. Maui activists intent is to force Tropical Fish Divers from there area. This seems to be the true intent of this bill.

Once again we see a bill with no scientific basis being introduced. A few biased and zealous individuals are trying to remove others from their Ocean at all cost including lies and misinformation. Please do not support such legislation. We must use science and wisdom in managing our ocean resources.

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development laws state the Oceans and their resources are the common heritage of man. The bible states Man has been given dominion over Earth's creatures. We have the responsibility to care for and share with all our Oceans resources. No one group in Hawaii can make claim or shut out another group. International law states no one group can lay claim to the ocean or its resources. U.S. laws are based on these UN resolutions. State law should follow this precedence.

Ecologically, legally, scientifically and humanely we should not pass HB 191 or any of its mirror bills.

Sincerely,
Ron Tubbs B.S. N.D.
President RT Distributors Inc.
HTFA member

Testimony

Monday 2-2-09 9AM Room 325 WLO Committee

Testimony Opposed to HB 191

Dear Legislators,

My name is Mary Beth Tubbs, I am a teacher, a school psychologist, and happen to be the wife of a tropical aquarium fish diver/wholesaler. I oppose this bill because it is founded primary on the false assumption that aquarium fish collectors and shippers operate “without limits or constraints on its catch”. Having been around the tropical fish aquarium business over the past 9 years, I know for a fact there are fish size limits on particular fish which are respected by divers. Moreover, I have witnessed DLNR officials at the harbors and heard of several reports of them on the seas inspecting diver’s catch buckets periodically. Such close existing scrutiny by DLNR, diminishes the need for this bill.

A second assumption of HB 191 bill which will inevitably lead to its failed implementation is the fact that the basis of the bill rests in the creation of county lists of fish species created by the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources. The bill states such lists are pursuant to “official department or equivalent federal agency studies” which meet “historical evidence” criteria, to establish whether or not the species has a “stable or increasing population trend.” It is a second major assumption that reliable studies exist for several species of aquarium fish, or can be easily obtained. I know of one such study- the three million dollar study on yellow tangs on the Big Island.

Quality studies that control for the time of the year that the study of fish counts is conducted, whether if it’s the birthing season when fish are naturally more plentiful, or during other times, are hard to come by. What could happen as a result of this bill is that due to lack of funding for such studies that unreliable, unscientific, opinion reports may be construed as “historical evidence” to justify the exclusion of fish on the white list. I fear only the most obviously plentiful species, such as the saddle wrasse or spotted puffer will be put on the list, and that the aquarium business will die a slow death. The state simply does not have the money needed to implement this bill fairly with reliable studies.

FYI- aquarium sales and resulting fish catches were down about 17% during the last half of the year. The mere economic downturn has taken its toll on our livelihood, and I know that several divers are currently considering public assistance. Please vote NO on HB 191, this is not a necessary measure.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Tubbs, M.Ed., NASP

Chairman Ken Ito
Vice Chair Sharon Har
Committee Water, Land, & Ocean Resources
Melynda Dant

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
February 2, 2009

In Support :HB 191

Dear Chairman Ito, and Vice-Chair Har and Committee Representatives,

I support HB191. The state needs to protect the Aquarium Aquatic Life. I believe this is a necessary law. We need laws passed to protect these beautiful fish from collectors because they are vulnerable to being extinct very easily from our Hawaiian waters.

The loss of many of these fishes will be devastating to our healthy coral reefs. Many coral reef fish and invertebrates have complicated relationships to the overall ecology of the reef. Their removal causes significant population declines and affect the long-term stability of these ecosystems.

The likelihood of these fishes surviving in aquariums are slim, so this is act of aquarium fish collecting kills coral and fish.

Protect our beautiful reef fish and our coral reefs today, by voting to pass HB191.

Sincerely,

Melynda Dant

Vice President
Fair Wind Cruises
Kona Hawaii

Daniel J Linehan

Tropical Fish Emporium LLC

Testimony **AGAINST** H.B. 191

To whom it may involve and deeply concern,

My name is Daniel Linehan with Tropical Fish Emporium, LLC, and I am the youngest tropical fish wholesaler in Hawaii at the age of twenty four. I started my own business at the age of twenty while going to school full time at UH Mania studying international business.

I am 100% against this bill, but 100% for advancing our knowledge and commitment to gaining an advantage on concrete data to support what is actually happening on our reefs here in Hawaii. Not only is this bill based on untrue "scientific data" it is biased towards one man's obscure view on how the collectors of Hawaii and most likely the world handle and collect ornamental fish. This Bill has unified Hawaii's collectors and wholesalers under one group to not only combat H.B. 191, but to keep an eye on the collectors to make sure everyone is practicing ethical and moral collection techniques. Destroying the reefs is the last thing a collector wants to do, because without a reef there is no place for a fish to hide from predation, or to spawn. This, alone, will end the industry in Hawaii, without the help of a Bill. There are many people making a living fishing for ornamental fish, not only here in Hawaii, but worldwide. Hawaii's fish are a vital part of this industry worldwide, not in numbers, but in specific species that are found nowhere else in the world. Hawaii also has the best reputation for the healthy and collection methods in the entire industry. Over the past four years I have

Daniel Linehan

made hundreds of contacts from China, to Japan, Marshall and Christmas Island, Australia, Philippines, many countries in Europe, and almost all fifty states. Most of which have become good personal friends of mine. This would not have happened without starting this business and sharing the same passion for what we do in this industry and hobby. I give every fish I receive, imported or locally collected, as much care and husbandry efforts as I physically can. I take pride in what I do and how far I have come in such a short time putting almost all of my energy, heart, soul, sweat into this business.

As far as the fish being collected: The Hawaiian cleaner wrasse is very rarely collected. Every collector and wholesaler knows how vital these particular fish are to the reef environments, so the collectors rarely catch them for the trade. I personally, tell the divers I buy from not to collect them, as I don't believe they should be in large numbers. One here and there isn't going to hurt the reef, but in large numbers it could. I pass this information onto my customers explaining that the reefs need them more than we do, and most, if not all, of my customers completely understand and then explain it to their customers resulting in more knowledgeable hobbyists. This is just one of many "facts" provided that are way off target.

In my honest opinion, this type of Bill should not be initiated by a man who is making a living off exploiting the reef to divers and snorkelers. Take Hanauma bay for instance. They take all precautions in order to keep the reef healthy with the video before hand, to try and educate tourists as they come into the bay. There are a lot of fish there, but the reef itself is completely dead. It is a barren reef. This happened without tropical fish divers' presence and without any collections allowed for years. As you look out from the beach, you can see the tourists standing,

2

scraping, and walking across the reef. To blame the lack of reefs and fish on tropical fish divers is absurd. There is no scientific proof that clearly states this.

Again, I want to reiterate that I, and many others in my situation, are all for some way of making this business more sustainable for everyone, even dive charters and snorkel bob. We can all educate each other in the pursuit of a sustainable reef ecosystem. Accusing each other of nonsense, unorthodox ramblings will not bring us any further to this ultimate goal. Tropical fish divers, food fish collectors, and recreational divers need to unite as one, not as three or four different groups trying to persuade others to come join their side. More research, data collection and help from all parties are needed to move forward. A Bill will not solve anything without proper education and research.

Please reconsider moving this Bill forward until there is adequate research to back any obscure claims and rants made by ill informed parties that are using this for potential personal gains.

Mahalo for your time and efforts as we move forward.

Aloha,



Daniel Linehan

3

Testimony Opposed to HB 191
Monday 2-2-09 9AM Room 325 WLO Committee

As a representative for Christmas Island OPPOSED TO HB 191
To the WLO Committee,

From Snorkle 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.”

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 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.

Sincerely,
Donna Namikin

Testimony Opposed to HB 191
Monday 2-2-09 9AM Room 325 WLO Committee

Respectfully Submitted by Adam Snodgrass, Hawaiian Diver/Fisherman

AS A HAWAIIAN OPPOSED TO HB 191
To the WLO 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 HB 191 they want to tell me which fish I can or 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. 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 effect 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
Tropical Fish Diver
HTFA Member

January 31, 2009

Members of the Water, Land, and Ocean Resources Committee,

I am opposed to HB 191. This bill, as written, calls for a ban on the collection and sale of marine aquarium fish and invertebrates in Hawaii until studies of survivability, population counts, and ecological considerations are done. Given the constraints of time and the State's budget crisis, this virtually guarantees the end of the aquarium fish industry.

House Bill 191 would also negate all the work presently being done by the DLNR and the aquarium fish industry with regards to House Concurrent Resolution 347, as well as other long term management strategies currently under consideration.

Please do not pass HB 191. It is simply an attempt to end the commercial aquarium fish industry in Hawaii using unsubstantiated claims mixed with a minimal amount of scientific fact.

Sincerely,



Dennis T Yamaguchi

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 3:58 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: Yes

Submitted by: Jespah Koja

Organization: Individual

Address: Honolulu, HI

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Fish deserve to swim in the ocean, not in some collector's tank...

Thank you.

Opposition to H.B. 191

**Testimony of: Randy Fernley / Coral Fish Hawaii
Before the House Committee on Water, Land and
Water Resources
Feb 2, 2009, Rm 325**

Aloha, my name is Randy Fernley. I'm currently an executive council member of the Hawaii Tropical Fish Association and I own Coral Fish Hawaii, in Aiea. Having been in business for over 30 years, I've managed to survive 3 recessions, 2 visits to the recompression chamber and taxation that seems to have no end. However, I don't think I'd survive a minute if H.B 191 were to pass.

Honestly, I still can't understand the legislators logic when they introduced this bill without reading and understanding the ramifications of it. The bill, if enacted, would not only shut down the Tropical Fish Industry-but also would effect adversely other institutions such as the Waikiki Aquarium, Sealife Park and the Maui Ocean Center.

Aquariums all over the state in restaurants and doctor's offices would be void of any Hawaiian fish. Is that the intent of this bill ????

H.B. 191 is the brainchild of one animal rights activist on Maui whose emotion and self serving practices supersede any logic or science. I mean really, Why would Snorkel Bob, the originator of this bill, want to close down a fishery when his own distributed flyers claim that all of his dive sites have plenty of fish !!! It seems like his want of scuttling the Tropical Fish Industry for his own selfish reasons are obvious.

Our association has been working closely with the Dept of Land and Nat'l Resources over the past year and we believe that they are moving forward in establishing a set of rules governing the tropical fish industry. Let them do their job using science based formulations and community input.

Please do not pass H.B 191



Representative Ken Ito

January 31, 2009

House Bill 191

Dear Representative Ito,

Opposed – 100% to HB 191.

This bill, if passed, would put many local people out of work. The tropical fish industry in Hawaii is a small group of small businesses trying to survive in this poor economy. With bankruptcies up 75% in one year in Hawaii, this is not the time to kill off an industry that brings in state tax dollars from the mainland US and foreign countries.

HB 191, along with HB543, HB565, SB75, and SB 274 are essentially the same bill. It is a waste of taxpayer's money to have 5 bills introduced through 5 different committees in the legislature. It is also a waste of legislator's time to read through the same bills.

Emotion is not needed here. One man with a snorkel rental business can cleverly craft words to make a tropical fish collector appear as a demon. Many people follow the snorkel man like lost sheep, because he has preyed on their emotions and they believe him. The snorkel man wants the collector to stand in line at the unemployment office while collecting welfare checks instead of tropical fish. They don't see how hard the collector works to make a living in Hawaii.

Science - The DLNR has collection data from divers that shows fish counts are relatively stable. This is not a resource issue.

HB 191 attempts to blame collectors for the condition of the reefs. The reality is that there are many other factors affecting the reefs in Hawaii – pollution, fertilizers, sewage injection systems, snorkelers trampling the reefs, and natural weather occurrences.

The wording for HB191 essentially would leave basically nothing for collectors to catch, thereby shutting down this small industry.

Therefore, I am opposed to HB 191 and the other 4 similar bills.

Sincerely,

Wayne Sugiyama



For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife
HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

850 Richards Street, Suite 505, Honolulu, HI 96813-4709
Phone/Fax: (808) 528-1432; hiaudsoc@pixi.com
www.hawaii-audubon.com

**TO: Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources
Representative Ken Ito, Chair & Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair**

HEARING: Monday, February 2, 2009; 9:00 A.M., Conference Rm. 325

Re: HB191, Relating to Aquarium Aquatic Life

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Chair Ito and Vice Chair Har, and members of the Committee on Land, Water, & Ocean Resources. My name is George Massengale and I am a member of the Hawai'i Audubon Society and also serve as their legislative analyst during session. **We strongly support HB191, which will enhance protection to our coastal and more remote deeper reefs.**

The Hawai'i Audubon Society was founded in 1939, and is Hawai'i's oldest conservation group, with over 1,500 dedicated members statewide. The Society's primary mission is the protection of Hawai'i's native birds, wildlife & habitats, our ocean resources, and restoration of ecosystems and the conservation of natural resources through education, science and advocacy in Hawai'i and the Pacific. The Society has an established and active partnership with the Pacific Fisheries Coalition, and together we've advocated for various measure that would further protect our oceans and coastal waters from the Big Island of Hawai'i to Kure in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

We fully concur with the preamble, SECTION 1, of this bill which succinctly outlines the impact issues of removing aquarium aquatic life. It is well documented that reef ecosystems are very complicated and that the removal of just one species can dramatically impact the reef.

HB191 is a very good bill and we would urge the committee to pass this measure onto the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony here today.

Sincerely,

George Massengale, JD
Legislative Analyst

January 31, 2009

Chairperson Representative Ken Ito and members of the Water, Land, and Ocean Resources Committee:

As the manager of the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve, it has been a responsibility and a privilege to testify before many policy making bodies over the last eighteen years.

I am compelled to testify on House Bill 191 not as a nature preserve manager or as a government official, but as a concerned resident of Hawaii. My views before this committee do not necessarily reflect those of my employer, the City and County of Honolulu.

It cannot be denied that fish collecting has an impact on our reef ecosystems. As a long-time ocean user, dive guide, and conservationist, I support regulations that protect our natural resources. I feel that these regulations must be well thought out and meet the needs of the resource and our community without being overly restrictive.

For these reasons, I am strongly **opposed** to House Bill 191.

I feel that this bill is so broadly worded, encompassing, and overly restrictive that it will close down rather than properly manage Hawaii's salt-water aquarium industry. It also appears that after June 1, 2009, it has the likelihood of making a law breaker of any keiki who takes home a "pet" fish in a bucket that was captured in a tide pool or stream.

Progress has been recently made in strengthening the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I feel the emphasis should continue to focus on improving conservation enforcement and would hate to see the department get bogged down in accumulating or conducting the extensive studies necessary to meet every requirement for every species that is to be included in the "white paper" as dictated by this bill.

Finally, unreasonable proposals such as this one makes it more difficult to rally future community support when faced with actual, rather than perceived, environmental threats.

Please view at this bill as the catalyst that stimulates the awareness of the issues of the salt-water aquarium industry, rather than pass it as a final solution.

Mahalo,

Alan C. Hong

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources
Monday, February 2, 2009

In opposition to HB 191, relating to Aquarium Aquatic Life

I work as a commercial aquarium fish collector on Oahu. I also have a Bachelors of Science degree in Marine Biology from the University of Hawaii, am an active scientific diver for the university, and have participated in a number of research projects concerning coral reef conservation, fisheries monitoring, and marine exploration. As a fisherman, I am proud to be part of what I feel is a healthy and sustainable fishery that contributes to our economy while providing enjoyment and recreation to thousands of people in Hawaii and around the world. I am strongly opposed to HB 191, which appears to be a veiled attempt to eliminate the aquarium industry in Hawaii under the guise of resource management.

As fishermen, our livelihoods depend on maintaining healthy reefs and healthy fish stocks, and we have no desire to see our resources depleted. I strive to fish in a responsible and sustainable manner, taking only the fish that I need and rotating my collection sites to ensure that the fish are replenished before I visit them again. I do not use destructive fishing methods, break coral, or collect species that are unsuitable for captivity. I am careful to follow all current fishing regulations and have submitted full and accurate catch reports to DLNR every month, as required by law. I have no desire to interfere with the rights of other ocean users, and am careful to avoid fishing in areas frequented by recreational divers and snorkelers.

Most aquarium fishermen, myself included, recognize the need for appropriate regulations to conserve the resources upon which we depend for a living. However, rules must be based on science, rather than emotion, and must accurately reflect the concerns of all parties involved. It is important to recognize that, when dealing with commercial fisheries, the livelihoods of many people are at stake. As such, in 2008 we supported the passage of HCR 347, which directed the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop additional regulations for our industry on Oahu and Maui. Over the past year, we have been working extensively with the Department to facilitate this process, and have made significant progress towards this goal. HB 191 would carelessly negate both this and the ten years of painstaking work that have gone into creating and managing the West Hawaii Fisheries Management Area.

The stated purpose of HB 191 is to "enhance and improve regulation of aquarium aquatic life collecting to protect and preserve Hawaii's aquatic life and marine environment". However, it is written in such a way that, if passed, it would effectively prohibit the take of **all** species of marine life for aquarium use; personal, commercial, educational, and scientific. The key problem with this bill is found in section 2, 188(c):

(c) The aquarium collecting white list shall only include species that are shown by an official, published department or equivalent federal agency study that meets the following criteria:

(1) The species can survive capture, transport, and captivity for at least one hundred eighty days; and

(2) Based on historical evidence, the specie is part of a stable or increasing population trend in the area the species is being collected.

The type of studies referenced in section 2, 188(c) do not exist for most areas in Hawaii, and are beyond the scope of what is usually required to determine sustainable fishing levels. This section would needlessly prohibit the take of nearly all marine life in the state.

Section 2, 188(d) stipulates that no herbivorous fish or endemic species can be collected. Many of the species we collect are herbivores, and many species are endemic to Hawaii. Again, this would ban the take of nearly all of the species that we currently rely on. With sections 188(c) and 188(d) combined, every single species of marine life in the state would be off limits. It is clear that the true purpose of this bill is not to "enhance and improve regulation" of aquatic life collecting, but rather to prohibit the collecting of aquatic life altogether.

All of this runs contrary to what is known about our fishery. The state has been actively monitoring the aquarium fishery since the early 1970s. All evidence suggests that the fishery is not in decline, nor does it adversely affect the health of coral reefs. Research conducted by the state in West Hawaii, where the greatest amount of fish are collected, has shown that there is no difference in live coral cover or algal abundance between fished and non-fished sites, despite concerns that removal of herbivores might harm coral reefs. This information is readily available from Hawaii DLNR, Division of Aquatic Resources. The same research has shown that populations of the most popular aquarium fish in Kona, including herbivores, have remained stable for the past ten years, despite constant fishing activity.

The prohibition on catching endemic species is likewise unjustified. The fact that a species is endemic has no bearing on whether or not it is at risk of being overharvested. In fact, many of our endemic fish are among the most common species on the reef. An example of this is the saddleback wrasse (*Thalassoma duperrey*) which Dr. John E. Randall, the world's foremost authority on tropical marine fishes, describes as "the most abundant inshore wrasse in the islands and clearly one of the most abundant of Hawaiian fishes" (Reef and Shore Fishes of Hawaii, p. 343). By contrast, some non-endemic species are rare in Hawaii and may benefit from increased regulation.

Disturbingly, section 1 of HB 191 implies that the aquarium fishery is harmful to tourism, and appears to use this as rationalization for eliminating our industry. Although it is true that tourism is far more lucrative than any type of fishing activity, this should not be used to justify the existence of one business over another. In Hawaii, there are hundreds of square miles of ocean; more than enough for everybody to share. On Oahu,

the aquarium fishery has been in operation for more than fifty years, and our activities have not stopped the development and growth of a thriving tourist industry. Here, there is no conflict between us and the dive tour companies - we realize that their business is important and we have always been able to work together. In fact, we and other fishermen contribute significantly to the income of local dive shops through the purchase of air fills, dive equipment, and gear maintenance. As part of a diversified economy, the aquarium trade compliments tourism rather than hurts it.

In summary, HB 191 is a flawed and harmful bill. It would needlessly shut down a thriving local industry, put hundreds of Hawaii residents out of work, 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, and allow the Department to proceed with the creation and adoption of fair, balanced, and appropriate fishing regulations that will ultimately benefit all the people of Hawaii.

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
Commercial Aquarium Permit #17653

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 7:57 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: Yes

Submitted by: Elaine Suranie

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

We have to think ahead and act for the future!



Hawai'i Wildlife Fund

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND OCEAN RESOURCES

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
Rep. Sharon Har, Vice Chair

HB 191 Relating to Aquarium Aquatic Life

Hearing: Mon, 9am in House conference room 308

Dear Chairman Ito and Vice Chair Har:

I am submitting testimony on behalf of Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, a Maui and Hawai'i Island based non-governmental organization, in support of this bill to better manage Hawai'i's aquarium industry. This is a much better bill than a similar one (which I also supported) prepared last year in order to reduce this fishery's impact on the health and sustainability of our reef ecosystem. I especially appreciate these components of the bill:

- (1) The species can survive capture, transport, and captivity for at least one hundred eighty days; and**
- (2) The species is part of a stable or increasing population trend in the area the species is being collected (based on historical evidence).**
- (3) The removal of the species does not negatively impact the reef ecosystem by contributing to algae overgrowth for herbivores, parasite overload on other reef fishes for cleaner wrasses and cleaner shrimps, or other harmful results; and**
- (4) The species is not endemic to Hawaii.**
- (5) The collection of the species in a county shall not exceed the average annual collection in that county for the calendar years 2005 through 2007, based on department collection reports for those years;**

While we could add even more appropriate restrictions, such as not allowing taking of individuals brooding or guarding eggs, this bill is a good step in the right direction toward sustaining the thriving health of Hawai'i's reefs and better managing our fisheries.

Mahalo for your kind consideration,

Hannah Bernard

Hannah Bernard, President, Hawai'i Wildlife Fund



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803
808.537.9019 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

February 2, 2009, 9:00 a.m.

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT HB 191

Chair Ito and members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 5500 dues paying members statewide, supports the intent of HB 191, restricting the collection of certain ornamental fish.

Reefs need fish. Reefs are a balanced system. Coral/live rock habitat depends on the "ornamental" fish living there, and vice versa. Healthy coral reef without fish will soon die from algae suffocation and parasites. But, oddly enough, we have laws and rules to protect our coral and live rock, but no protection for the other half of the system.

We need to keep Hawaii's reef fish at home on Hawaii's reefs. Hawaii's ornamental fish are worth far more in our waters—as synergistic components of the ecosystem and as attractive items for water-based tourism—than out of our water. But Hawaii's nearshore and reef fisheries are in decline. Part of the reason for their decline is the behavior of individuals and businesses that have little regard for Hawaii's precious natural resources. Hawaii's reef fish are being poached in record numbers with millions being exported and sold annually to European, Australian, and U.S. mainland collectors.

The 1995 UN Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks noted that "States shall be more cautious when information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate. The absence of adequate scientific information shall not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures."

Please forward this measure so as to prevent unsustainable commercial aquarium collection.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

To: **Representative Ken Ito, Chair**
Representative Sharon Har, Vice-Chair
Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources

From: Brooks Tamaye

RE: **Hearing on HB 191---Relating to Aquarium Fish**

Monday, February 2, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

Conference Room 325, State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 191

Dear Chair Ito, Vice-Chair Har and members:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of HB 191.

This bill proposes to increase regulation on the take of aquarium fish species. This will help these species repopulate our depleted nearshore reefs.

Sincerely,
Brooks Tamaye

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:05 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Greene
Organization: Individual
Address: New York
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:06 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Scott Becker
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
Please do the right thing and support this. Thank you.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:10 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James Dornfeld
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
Please don't allow our reefs to be decimated by greedy individuals.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:20 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lynne Tsobanakis
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I wholeheartedly SUPPORT this bill, and I hope you do too

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:26 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Debbie Gluhan
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
I support this bill.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:30 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Miranda Dornfeld
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
I wholeheartedly SUPPORT this bill, and I hope you do too!

hard T [REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:34 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Blomberg
Organization: Individual
Address: 70 [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
I strongly urge you to support strict regulation of the taking of Hawaiian reef fish by the aquarium industry!! Only reef fish that are bred in captivity should be allowed to be marketed.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 10:19 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mary P. Daoust
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

This bill is absolutely necessary to protect our fish stock and reefs which are being rapidly depleted.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 10:28 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marcia Harter
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

Hawaii State needs to preserve and protect that which makes Hawaii unique for the long term well being of the state and its people both economically, culturally, and socially. A big contribution to the uniqueness of Hawaii are healthy reefs and surrounding oceans. This measure is a step in assuring that the reefs are not decimated by the taking of fish necessary for their health and fish that are unique to Hawaii.

It is also unconscionable to remove fish from the reef that are only going to live for a short time in captivity. It is removing a valuable part of Hawaii for a short term profit.

Please support this bill as an attempt to preserve what is unique to Hawaii.

Marcia Harter, Anahola, Kaua'i

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 10:28 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Deborah Telesmanic
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
You MUST support this bill!

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 10:44 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Mike Roberts
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
Please take this bill seriously. Anything that can curb the havoc created on our reefs by collectors will help. As a professional underwater photographer, I have watched our keiki fish disappear at alarming rates over the last 2 decades. Especially the species targeted by these collectors. No reef - no tourists!

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 11:16 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: sylvia masella
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
Please save the reefs. We need regulation.
Mahalo.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 11:25 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Karen Chun
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

In the last 10 years the reefs around Maui have gone from teaming with reef fish to nothing but hags (sp?)

Not only does this impact the health of the reefs and bigger fish but it has a direct economic impact on our visitor experience.

Why are we allowing a handful of aquarium companies to destroy the reef fish for over a million of the rest of us?

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 11:29 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lynn Allen
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
I support the expedient passage of this bill to save the reefs, fish and economy/people.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 11:55 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position:
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jean Brigham
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

The ocean is a delicate ecosystem that deserves our protection. You only need to look at the growing population of lionfish in the Caribbean to see how quickly we can affect its balance.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 11:59 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Erik Stein
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 12:15 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ray Regelein
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

The reefs here and worldwide are in serious danger. All available resources should directed at saving them so that further damage is minimized. This includes protecting the species that reside there.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 12:16 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Susan Hauge
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

The reefs here and worldwide are in serious danger. All available resources should be directed at saving them so that further damage is minimized. This includes protecting the species that reside there.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 12:42 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mike Moran
Organization: Individual
Address: Kihei HI
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
Please save Hawaii's reef fish. Mahalo.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 12:57 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Davies
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I support strong regulation of the collection of fish species from Hawaiian waters. The removal of fish from the ocean should be severely limited, to ensure the health of the species for the enjoyment of future generations.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 1:08 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Steve Holmstrom
Organization: Individual
Address: Kihei
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 1:16 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shayla Middleton
Organization: Individual
Address: Kihei
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I wholeheartedly SUPPORT this bill! I hope you will too!!!!

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:38 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Makaala Kaaumoana
Organization: Individual
Address: Kilauea
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

This is critical legislation to protect our marine resources and the ecosystem in which they and we, live.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:40 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Janet Eyre
Organization: Individual
Address: Concord, MA
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I come to Hawaii to scuba dive. Without the fish there wouldn't be any point in coming here to dive. The Big Island has more fish than other islands and that is what makes it so special for divers. If you take that away, you take away the scuba industry.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:41 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Linda Anderson
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
Please support this bill. It is very important!

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:43 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Debbi Perez
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
regulate aquarium fish from being removed from Hawaii reefs/waters

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:47 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tim L. Walker
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:50 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB 191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: MJ Farr
Organization: Individual
Address: Kailua-Kona, Hawaii
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
I do support these measures!

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:57 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lyn Magorno
Organization: Individual
Address: Kailua-Kona, HI
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

Some restrictions NEED to be made to conserve what resources Hawaii has left. Don't allow removal of reef any longer.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:59 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Al Magorno
Organization: Individual
Address: Lahaina, HI
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

Some restrictions NEED to be made to conserve what resources Hawaii has left. Don't allow removal of tropical fish for possible aquarium use any longer.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 3:10 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Patricia Stillwell
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 3:17 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: mary margaret baker
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 3:20 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Debra Ramsey
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
Please protect the precious fish of Hawaii. This is a precious and irreplaceable treasure
Thank You

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 3:22 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Andrea Couwenberg
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 3:27 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Katie
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
Save the reef fish and leave them in their natural habitats.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 3:43 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Darrell Tanaka
Organization: Individual
Address: Haiku, Hi
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

No fishery can go unregulated forever, if it does, eventually it will be shut down. We've seen it happen in other parts of the world. Some regulations are necessary to ensure the future of any fishery.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 3:51 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Diane
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
I am in strong support of protecting our treasured Hawaiian reef from those who would profit from despoiling our ecosystem.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 3:58 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Linda Melson
Organization: Individual
Address: Kailua Kona, HI
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]@m
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

The dive and snorkel industry in West Hawaii is generating millions of dollars to our state. It makes no sense to allow a few greedy fish collectors to denude our reefs. If they can't farm it, they shouldn't be collecting it since most fish die before sale.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 3:58 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sumita Vasudeva
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: s [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 4:00 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: William Melson
Organization: Individual
Address: Kailua Kona, HI
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

The reefs of Hawaii are one of the biggest reasons tourists come to the islands and spend their vacation dollars. To allow a small minority to derail the industry that supports our island economy during a recessionary economic time is ludicrous.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 4:03 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: C R Albritton
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

In the past 5 years I've seen a serious decline in the number of fish off Maui.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 4:08 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Martin Murray
Organization: Individual
Address: Lahaina, HI
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 4:17 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kimberly Smieja
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [K1\[REDACTED\]@hawaii.gov](mailto:K1[REDACTED]@hawaii.gov)
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
I wholeheartedly SUPPORT this bill, and I hope you do too!

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 4:43 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anne Ross
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 4:43 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Janet Goggins
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 4:59 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mary Goggin
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 5:00 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lesa McDonald-Chan
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 5:00 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jerry Goggin
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 5:05 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Roger Chan
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

How can the State of Hawaii have no regulations about catching tropical fish from Hawaii waters by divers.

Pollution and enviromental issues are already killing enough of the fishes around the Hawaiian Islands.

Please do something real quick, and the stricter the regulation about removing tropical fish the better. Without all the fishes in the waters in Hawaii, Hawaii's number one industry (tourism) will go down the drain in NO TIME!!!

Mahalo

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 5:09 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Therese A. Hartmann
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

If we don't limit the greed of certain individuals in harvesting aquarium fish, not only will their be less interest in diving the reef areas, the whole aquatic ecosystem will be affected This bill should be given priority status and supported by every responsible politician!

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 5:37 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jay Schiesser
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 5:41 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rob Ferroggiaro
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
This legislation is long overdue. Act now before it is too late.
Thank you.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 5:41 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Donald Shirk
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

We strongly support the passage of this bill. For too long our waters and reef have been stripped of our beautiful fish. In the past our Kona coast was called the "Gold Coast" because of the large amount of yellow tang here. When we moved here 20 years ago we were able to see large amounts of beautiful reef fish! From our lanai we have watched collectors taking away loads of our fish to the point where we no longer can see any!! It is time to stop this practice! Don and JoAnn Shirk

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 5:44 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Hedy Matteson
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
I WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT THIS BILL. WE ALL SHOULD !!!

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 5:44 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael Reed Gach
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I am concerned about the exploitation of Hawaii's marine ecosystems by the unregulated collection of ornamental fishes and other organisms for the aquarium industry.

I strongly urge the Hawaii State Legislature to regulate the collection of small and larger fish. Over the past 20 years, I have personally seen the fish population diminish. I believe it should be a crime to tamper with Hawaii's Natural Resources.

Please contact me for any further information I can provide, through the email above.

We must protect the fish population for generations to come.

MAHALO!

Michael Reed Gach, Ph.D.
Kihei, HI

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 5:47 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Wintner
Organization: The Snorkel Bob Foundation
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
Thank you Chair Ito and Water & Land Committee members for hearing this bill. It is vital to Hawaii's reef and economic recovery.

Marine Aquarists Association of South Texas

11/09/2007

Enslaving the World's Reef Fish

Commentary by Sea Shepherd Advisory Board Member Robert Wintner

A Brief History of Some Efforts to Date (August, '07) to Stop the Grab-***, Free-For-All Extraction Now Decimating World Reefs.

Here's where we've been & where we might go:

The Main Hawaiian Islands now have "ghost" reefs off many leeward shores, with healthy coral but very few fish-not a single yellow tang can be found on most reefs, where they schooled by the hundreds 10 years ago-by the thousands 30-50 years ago. Water degradation & silting from development account for some decline in fish populations, but the biggest cause is massive extraction by aquarium collectors (& gill netters). Aquarium collectors take 8-10 million "ornamental" fish from Hawaii reefs annually with no regulation and no limit to their take.

For years the state's official number was ½ million fish taken per year, including 300,000 yellow tangs. Dan Polhemus, State Administrator of the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), sat down in early August with a key panel, including the biggest aquarium fish exporter in Hawaii, who provided accurate catch stats. The "official" take now reflects the grim reality.

Milolii is the last working fishing village in Hawaii-electricity by generator, water by catchments-way south on the Kona coast, and a steady target for collectors from Kailua Kona, some of whom say that they collect with care, but once they get to a reef, they collect all the fish, because "less scrupulous" collectors would only gather them tomorrow anyway. This is the grab-***, free-for-all & crime against nature now prevailing in Hawaii. The Milolii community feels violated by aquarium collectors strip-mining reefs after generations of balanced management by Hawaiians. Milolii supports any campaign to rid the near shore of this mad extraction. Their voice is Hawaiian, with significant influence.

The Kona Coast (about 150 miles) does have an FRA (Fish Replenishment Area) system that has facilitated some recovery of more than half the 15 or so heavily collected species. New

fads and appetites in Asia & the U.S. may pre-empt this marginal recovery. I.e. the Beijing government now promotes home aquaria to its growing class of rich people: wall-to-wall-to-wall aquaria for mature adult "ornamental" reef fish-brood stock. The trend values volume and custom made tanks of leaded crystal glass. Sumner Redstone, CEO of Viacom, told a PBS interviewer last year that he went out on one of those boats they have there in Hawaii where you can look at the fish, and by God his home aquarium wrapping 3 walls has "more fish than they got in all Hawaii." This old man out of touch with nature is more the rule than the exception and illustrates this pathetic trend. Consider Michael Dell's monster fish tank on the Big Island, along with support techs named Steve or Elaine who speak Hindi, next time you ponder a Dell computer.

Worse yet is the growing appetite in Asia for big yellow tangs-to EAT!

The FRA system on the Kona coast alternates no-collecting zones with plunder zones. Plunder zone populations are up as result of overflow from FRA zones. But FRA constraints apply only to aquarium collectors-bag netters can still catch the 40-year-old brood tangs for export to Asia, where ogres under bridges pay top dollar for this latest "delicacy." Waning supply spurs demand. Eating the last of a species appears to be a particular honor in Asia. A single consolation is that ciguatera toxin is present in most reef organisms & transmitted by ingestion up the food chain. Ciguatera doesn't hurt sea creatures but will disabuse humans of their reefy appetite with 2 years of itching & then death. Have a nice day. Ciguatera incidence in humans is up dramatically on all islands, especially Kauai. FYI, ulua (jack crevalle) is a popular food fish that is also an apex predator & primary carrier.

Of greater concern on the Kona coast is the continuing disappearance of 8 species of reef fish, collected to invisibility. Are they endangered? Who knows? Official status would take years and millions of dollars to establish. We who visit the reefs often see no more anthius, flame angel, bandit angel, dragon moray, Hawaiian turkeyfish, blue stripe butterfly or Tinker's butterfly. Quickly going is the teardrop butterfly.

Most hateful is that 3 of the 10 reef fish most demanded by aquarists are the ornate butterfly, Moorish idol and cleaner wrasse. A cleaner wrasse needs 35-40 fish to clean, in order to survive. They die in aquaria. Ornate butterfly and Moorish idol are coralvores who will starve to death in 30 days, who are sold & shipped out with a 15-day live guarantee. Meanwhile, a reef with no cleaner wrasse will soon suffer parasites and disease. Yet demand is on the rise.

Economically speaking, a yellow tang lives to 45 years on the reef with repeated revenue by amusing those tourists who like to stare at the colorful fish while sucking air through a plastic tube. The same yellow tang will die in a tank at 2 years max-if the tank is perfectly maintained, and if the tang or other fish came from Hawaii. All reef fish from Indonesia, the Philippines, Andaman Sea, South China Sea et al now have compromised liver function from residual cyanide used over the years in fish collection. Any fish coming from those waters will die in a few months to 2 years in captivity. Veteran collectors in those areas have yellow eyes, jaundiced from exposure to cyanide.

The economic disjunction is staggering. Aquarium collectors here generate \$20 million. Water-based tourism generates a billion dollars annual, or 500 to 1. Worse yet, a yellow tang wholesales to the mainland for \$3, where it retails at \$45-60. Hawaii gets the chump change, which, historically, is for chumps. 1-2 more adult tangs will die en route for each surviving tang.

At the Hawaii Aquatics Conference in December, 2006, Dr. Ivor Williams delivered DAR's official line on FRA success, beginning with the "official" stats, that 500,000 "ornamental" fish are sold annual though "we can't be certain of accuracy on these numbers." He went on to discuss the 6 or 8 "species of concern," those species still MIA, though not officially extinct till Federal moolah can pay for scientific studies. He closed by saying "we don't really know where these species of concern are going or why, but we're happy to report that we still have trophic balance on our reefs." Trophic balance means distribution and balance of species.

But yellow tangs are herbivores, and Hawaii reefs are choking with limu, both native and invasive. It's tough to call bull**** on a good guy who is a good scientist, but the moment was of record, so I called: "Rather than saying that we can't be certain of accuracy on the stats, would we not be more precise in saying that we can be certain of inaccuracy on the stats?"

"Well, er, uh, yes! We could say that."

"We now have evidence that 8-10 million aquarium fish are shipping out of Hawaii every year, mostly herbivores. It doesn't take a rocket or marine scientist to get in the water & see how badly our reefs are decimated."

No comment.

"Which means that we do know where these species of concern went. They went away in Styrofoam coolers with little air stones inside."

This diatribe was not a victory but illustrates the difficult process of changing public perception-from what special interests want it to be, to the truth based in reality. Dr. Williams & I had a nice chat after, & he is now far more apprised of the reality we perceive.

NO LOCAL or State government currently regulates species export outside the CITES list or the Endangered Species act. All species are fair game for unlimited trade if they don't appear on those lists-exotic reptiles or primates from Indonesia or a casual container of parrots from South America. Besides Endangered Species & CITES, local, regional or state constraints on wildlife export are virtually non-existent around the world.

In recent years the collectors wiped out the hermit crab population around Oahu, taking &

selling 300,000 hermits @ 11 cents! For gross revenue of \$33,000 a species was eliminated. Reintroduction would cost about \$40 million & a few decades of studies. Then they went for feather duster worms to meet aquarium demand. Feather dusters live in the rocks; catching them is easy, once you smash the rocks.

Meanwhile, the biggest "ornamental" fish exporter in Hawaii sees the writing on the wall—that his successful business will soon founder for lack of inventory. He now sends 3 boats regular to Christmas Island for flame angelfish—electric red with 4 black bars. None are left in Hawaii, though world demand for flame angels is 10,000 fish per day. Flame angels wholesale @ \$40, though this exporter says his most valuable asset is his reputation for selling fish handled with care, from reefs never exposed to cyanide. He said would-be competitors in Honolulu saw his success and went to Christmas Island to bag thousands of fish that all died on the way home or in poorly managed garage tanks. All the dead fish were shipped out to aquarists, who were then told that the loss was theirs, who then had no recourse but to order new fish elsewhere.

The 25 exporters operating in Hawaii are invisible, buying and shipping from unmarked warehouses. The 8-10 million "ornamentals" taken from Hawaii are annual. Collectors began at 20', then went to 40' and then 60'. Now they dive to 80'—at night everywhere but Kona.

The challenge upon us is to expose the crime and the devastation. It has gone unreported for years and now threatens reefs worldwide. Aquarium hobbyists in the U.S. are mostly male, 30-50. We are told that most are indifferent to reef death or alternatives. They want wild-caught fish, not captive bred, knowing that the wild fish will only survive 6-24 months. The movie Finding Nemo spawned crushing demand for clownfish, the marine species most easily bred in captivity, yet captive-bred clownfish don't swim as excitedly as wild-caught. So pet shops now promote new shipments of wild-caught clownfish, swimming excitedly. The Indonesia government last year increased its aquarium research budget 5-fold in the captive breeding of fancy goldfish, the bright orange guys with the gin gut, bug eyes & 3 tails. Freshwater tanks allow a new dimension to hobbyists in the many beautiful plants that support other tank creatures too, like algae eaters and scavengers with no effect on reefs. Public exposure of the facts will be a vital component in deconstructing the aquarium collecting industry.

We must 1) stay on point, avoiding rhetoric or emotion & 2) keep a soft touch—no hostility. We want to convert home hobbyists, not get them ****ed off in a name-calling exchange. We want to shame them gently. I think of the internet pedophiles lured into the kitchen where the MSNBC cameras are rolling so the world can see them—they hang their heads, knowing their appetite is so wicked. Aquarium keeping is similarly shameful, but the perpetrators must be treated with understanding and help toward rehabilitation.

The current tsunami of green reverence is tricky, with every money monger showing a pulse calling himself green—including the aquarium industrialists in their multi-billion dollar pursuit, stripping every reef in the world while calling for "appropriate" or "sustainable" techniques. The next big show is the Marine Aquarium Council National Association (MACNA) in Pittsburg, September 14-16, 2007, where presenters with credentials will make hobbyists

feel good about what they're doing. Can you be there to express a sentiment of a different nature?

Let us know if you can help otherwise by sending your name, address, email & area of expertise or willingness to reefdefense@snorkelbob.com

All ideas, insights, connections, commitments and comments are welcome. Thank you for jumping in. Please talk this up, especially when you see reef fish in tanks anywhere. I'm not okay. You're not okay. This is not okay.

Hail Atlantis!

Robert Wintner is the nom de plume (et la guerre) of Snorkel Bob, Himself. He is on the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society Board of Advisors and also serves as Executive Director of The Snorkel Bob Foundation.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 5:47 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Katie Ferroggiaro
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
I support this bill. It must be passed or the consequences will be tragic and irreversible.

Thank You!

Kate

[REDACTED] y

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 5:49 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dana Scanlon
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

Please protect the natural resources; keep Hawaii beautiful. As we all know, greed has decimated our Nation's economy, we certainly don't want that to happen with the tropical fish population of Hawaii.

Thank you in advance for your efforts related to this matter.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 5:52 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jo Getter
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

Please be mindful and respectful of the fish, the reefs, the environment, the ocean and the ecology. Please do not indiscriminently take fish that we can't afford to lose or that will not survive the transition.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 6:06 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Norm Sandin
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
Uncontrolled looting of "aquarium" fishes is not only unreasonable but is immoral. For a few people to devastate these populations such that the majority lose them must be stopped.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 6:36 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: anita Wintner
Organization: Individual
Address: kihei HI
Phone: (808) [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

It is time to pass this bill. As it is now, there are NO regulations as to how many or what type of fish can be collected for the aquarium trade. Our endemic fish are not protected, and our reefs are suffering. Aquarium collectors could still be in business, but changes need to be made. Please pass this bill to help save the reefs for future generations. Mahalo

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 6:46 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Catherine Ryder
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]
From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 6:52 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Charlotte Liddell
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
Please regulate the stealing of our fish.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 7:12 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Teri Leicher
Organization: owner: Jack's Diving Locker
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

Aloha,

Growing up on Oahu, I witnessed how the fish population could be virtually wiped out from over fishing.

We are one of the only state's in the nation with next to no regulation on our fisheries.

Please help our beautiful State to recover it's fisheries before it's too late.

By legislating 33% of the Kona Coast as protected from Aquarium fishing, we are slowly starting to see a come back, but we need more help and the rest of the State desparately needs regulation as well. Mahalo, Teri Leicher

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 7:23 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: john goggins
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 7:37 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dottie Nykaza
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I support this regulation. Our reefs are in danger now. Let them rebuild by stopping the harvest.

[REDACTED] y

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 7:50 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rachel Bianco
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED], HI
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 7:54 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Joanne West
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
The amount fish being taken from reefs in Hawaii needs to be limited. Please set regulations.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 8:02 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alicia Chapman
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: A [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]y

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 8:03 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Christopher Chapman
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED] 8
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 8:07 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: erin heidrich
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 8:25 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Debra Hall
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
With all my heart I support this bill. Open your hearts and you will, too.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 9:02 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Allan Bayless
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I snorkel often on many of the Maui reefs. The protected areas of Ahihi Kinau and Honolulu Bay have an incredible number and variety of fish. Unprotected areas have few fish, and almost none of the aquarium trade fish. I have seen over a hundred yellow tangs at Ahihi Kinau. The most I have seen elsewhere is 5. Please stop the aquarium trade. Save the fish for the reef - it needs fish to survive. And save the fish for others to enjoy. Please ban the commercial aquarium trade totally in Hawaii!!! Mahalo!

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 9:04 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bonnie Bonse
Organization: Individual
Address: Makawao, HI
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

Strict regulation needs to be in place to protect our marine life of all kinds. Our oceans have already been abused by "takers." Enough biopiracy of Hawaii!

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 9:47 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Pauline Fiene
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]@m
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 10:21 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Patricia Cadiz
Organization: Spreckelsville Beach Restoration Foundation, Inc.
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

This is a well considered bill that is fair to the people of Hawaii.

Remember the 'big picture' and the long term health and sustainability of our environment and our entire tourist economy. Many people do not realize that the source of the sand on Hawaii's beaches is the process of the parrot fish eating algae off the reef and excreting bits of the reef as SAND. With sea level rise and other increasing causes of beach loss, we MUST protect the reef fish to protect our shorelines and our economy. Without our beaches we will lose far more jobs than are at stake in the aquarium industry. These fish are easy to spear and are already rare. They must be left alone to re-establish themselves in abundance.

Please pass this bill without delay.

Mahalo and aloha!

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 11:35 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Victoria Martocci
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I support this bill because it is important for the health and restoration of Hawaii's reefs and marine life. This bill calls for responsible stuartship, in direct allignment with traditional Hawaiian values. It is critical and timely. Thank you, Victoria Martocci

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 1:03 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Barbara Bradford
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 1:04 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kenneth Bradford
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 3:35 AM
To: WLOfestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lemire
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

SAVE OUR REEFS!

Someday I hope to show my daughters these amazing reefs, including those that are being "repaired". We try to protect our environment...shouldn't we all as Americans?

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 5:29 AM
To: WLO testimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sherlene Jewell
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

I lived in the beautiful Hawaii for 15 years, I opposed others try to take advantage of the islands and destroy the beauty of the nature.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 5:31 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: bruce brooks
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:
Regulate, not ban!

[REDACTED] ny

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 5:41 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kristin Zimmerman
Organization: Individual
Address: Kona, Hawaii
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 6:43 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Eileen Hubbard
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 7:51 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: shannon jarvis
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED] ei
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 8:13 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Haake
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]@dm
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 8:17 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Pete & Cindy Lange
Organization: Individual
Address: Lahaina, HI
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:
This is a great first step. Fully support this action.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 8:30 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]m
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marilyn Maloney
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: m [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 8:46 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Costa Tsobanakis
Organization: Individual
Address: Maui, Hawaii
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:
Please regulate the aquarium trade in Hawaii!

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 8:57 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Joan
Organization: Individual
Address: Kihei, Hawaii
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Aloha Chairman Ito and Representatives of the House, Water, Land & Ocean Resources Committee,

Thank you for hearing HB191 Relating to Aquarium Aquatic Life.
I support HB191 for the continuation of recreational and cultural practices.

Please support HB191.

Thanks and Aloha,
Joan Lloyd

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 9:19 AM
To: WLO testimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Edward A Robinson
Organization: Ed Robinson's Diving Adventures
Address: Kihei
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

As a dive operator I show over 5000 divers a year the beauty of Hawaii's reefs. I feel the reef fish this bill will protect are a much more valuable resource while living on the reef than they would be after removal by the aquarium trade.

I also find it confusing that the State of Hawaii will levy thousands of dollars in fines for accidentally damaging coral and yet allow the aquarium trade to remove an equally important and valuable resource with little or no limits or restraint.

Please pass this bill to protect and leave our valuable fish resources on the reef.

Sincerely,
Edward A Robinson
Ed Robinson's Diving Adventures

[REDACTED] y

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 9:23 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tracy Rieder
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:
keep our reefs alive, and populated with beautiful fish. No regulations will allow greed to rule at the cost of our environment.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 9:24 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anne Pecoff
Organization: Individual
Address: Kapaa, HI
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support this bill. Our reefs need these fish and so do we.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 9:28 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Melanie Alapai
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

I am definitely in support of saving our fish cause we know that it helps our reef and our oceans. I would like my children to share the beauty of their home in its entirety.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 9:57 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Keith Christie
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

I support the bill. We need to stop the collection of marine life for aquariums as it is decimating our reefs and ultimately these island's health.

[REDACTED] my

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 9:59 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Danny Brown
Organization: Individual
Address: Kihei Maui
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 10:10 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Elarka Yuen
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:
I support this measure. We need to keep our fish for Hawaii!

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 10:18 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: alemans
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

I support this bill because it is important for the protection and restoration of Hawaii's reefs and marine life.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 10:22 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Filbert Martocci
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:
I support this bill

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 10:29 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Paul Jardin
Organization:
Address:
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

As a Hawaii state citizen, I support the enhanced regulation of aquarium aquatic life collection in the State.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 10:39 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marjorie Bonar
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Salt water aquarium fish aren't goldfish. They need really specific conditions to live for more than a few weeks. Taking a chunk out of our most valuable reefs, without any commensurate benefit is only a matter of short sighted greed. Leave the fish where the tourist will come to see them. We don't export hotel rooms and jobs because we can make a few bucks. Why risk our greatest economic driver?

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 10:40 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Amack
Organization: Individual
Address: Kihei, HI
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Aquarium collectors will tell you that they are in business to support their families. They will cry about how unfair it would be to take away their livelihood.

Don't be misled. Aquarium collectors are known by another name elsewhere in the world. In Africa, they are the poachers who slaughter gorillas for the souvenir trade, and rhinos for their horn. In South America, they are the thieves who steal parrots for the international black market. In Taiwan, they are the butchers who kill sharks just for their fin.

It is shameful that in Hawaii, our government has not yet put an end to this outrageous activity that is decimating our reefs. This is your opportunity to make it right.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 11:13 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Karen
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]@m
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Many fish do not survive the transport, and our reefs are being denuded. In the 4 years we have been here, we have seen reefs decimated of aquarium fish in previously favorite spots. Many people have gotten into this trade because it is so lucrative. They go down with SCUBA gear and take the whole population of the reef in just a dive or two... it is a CRIME one would think.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 12:07 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James Coon
Organization: Ocean Tourism Coalition
Address: 100 [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:
This is an important step in restoring the biodiversity and fish stocks on our reefs.
Please pass this important bill.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 12:35 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Danene Warnock
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

As an avid snorkeler & diver for 6+ years, I have witnessed first-hand loss of species diversity so necessary to health on reefs. When the young in particular are taken without control, a population cannot sustain itself--as evidenced by the paucity of, for example, yellow tangs, in inshore areas that used to teem with them.

If one wants to (inadvisedly) skip over the ecological and moral aspects of uncontrolled abuse of our reefs, and just look at the monetary outfall, I will add that almost everybody I know who visits the Hawaiian Islands (bringing their spending money with them), does so with an expectation of being able to snorkel in crystal clear waters, surrounded by bright and beautiful fish. To allow a few to disrupt the ecosystem for their own monetary benefit, leaving a barren, unbalanced system in their wake, is inexcusable, and I implore the leaders of the Hawaiian community to do the right thing and pass regulations to protect the reef ecosystems from overexploitation, as soon as possible. Please support HB191! Thank you, mahalo!

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 1:03 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lance Holter
Organization: Hawaii Democratic party
Address: Maui
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

The Hawaii Democratic party at their 2008 Convention adopted the Resolution to Protect Ornamental and Aquarium Fish ENVIRO 08-12. I was the Environmental Resolution committee co-chair and am chair of the Maui Democratic party. We support the enhanced protection of Aquarium fish and other life. Aloha, Lance Holter

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 1:08 PM
To: WLO testimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Reg White
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

The preservation of our indigenous fish stocks is very important to the health and well being of our reefs as well as supporting the show that these fish stocks give to our viewing public from the tourism industry, the industry that supports Hawaii. Surveys of our reef stocks and the health of our reefs themselves must be required at regular intervals to make sure this bill is having the desired effect. New well intended regulation is valueless without enforcement. This bill provides no monetary incentive to ensure enforcement. The fines collected are not directed to reimburse the law enforcement effort that produced the action. Please consider this in amending this well intended rule making.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 1:59 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Andrea Baer
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Please stop the exploitation of Hawaiian waters and ban reef fish collecting. In the 18 years I have lived in Hawaii, I have seen a noticeable decrease in reef fish.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 2:21 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Judith Elam

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 2:21 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Wendy McIlroy

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Hawaiian waters contain fish species which are unique but also quite fragile. Unregulated removal risks losing species which are important for our reefs and, in the long run, for our economy. Please pass this bill!

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 2:20 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Michael Elam

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 2:27 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: gill brooks

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

leave our fish OURS!

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 3:05 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Mark Middleton

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

I find it absolutely appalling that it has taken so long to shut down the taking of live fish to be sold. We don't allow many businesses such as prostitution, drugs, cock fighting, etc. WE should not allow industry's that take from the community, the environment or the aina.

Please help stop the raping of our Hawaiian seas!

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 2:37 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Carol Coppel

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 2:47 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Therese Domme

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 2:50 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Lynne Gilroy

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 4:40 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Steven Williams

Organization: Individual

Address: Maui, Hawaii

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Please vote yes on this important bill. Our reef fish need protection. They are an important natural resource. They are vital to our tourism industry, and our economy as well.

Don't let our reef life be sold. It belongs to all of us.

Thank you

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 4:39 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Charles H Yaeger

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

I support ending the taking of Hawaii's reef fish off the reefs and sending them out of Hawaii. If people want to see our fish they can come to Hawaii and view them.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 4:35 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Florence Bahr

Organization: Individual

Address: Kauhale St. Kihie, HI

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Please stop the raping of our reefs by people that are only interested in money at the expense of our tourist industry. Too many fish are lost due to the off island aquarium trade.

Thank you!

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 6:52 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Maren Springer

Organization: Individual

Address: Makawao, Hawaii

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Looking critically at our reef is a difficult task. We must protect this delicate balance and reduce the number of fish leaving the state, aquarium bound, rather than allowing these fish to remain on the reef for their natural lives.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 7:19 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Kathie Divers

Organization: KCA

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 5:01 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Robin Newbold

Organization: Individual

Address: Kihei, Hi

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 5:00 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Philip Thomas

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

This bill is excellent in that it will begin to provide some protection to our fragile reefs from those who would pillage them for private profit.

These ecosystems deserve to remain intact simply because they are native ecosystems. A fringe benefit of this is that they will continue to be available for non-extractive enjoyment of the public. They are, in fact, presumably PUBLIC resources. However, when fishes and other organisms are taken by aquarium collectors, they are TAKEN FROM THE PUBLIC. Why is this okay? (It is NOT.)

It is particularly good to see that it is proactively addressing the issue of evidence-based ecosystem health. It is excellent that a prerequisite to any collecting is that EVIDENCE must be provided that populations from which collections are being made are stable or increasing.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 5:57 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Kecia Joy

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

I have been a marine biologist and educator for almost 20 years. Our reefs are in need of major protection. This is an important step in that protection. We need the fish that have important rolls on the reef to not be collected and shipped off island for profit. We have reached the tipping point where nature can not win if nothing is done. Please do your part and do the right thing.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 5:57 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ann Fielding
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

PLEASE support this bill. We need more reef fish!

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 4:20 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Warren Blum

Organization: Individual

Address: Kihei, HI

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

I am totally in favor of limiting the number of fish and invertebrates which can be taken for the aquarium trade. I have been a working divemaster/scuba instructor for the past 8 years. I have personally seen the decline of fish population on the reefs of South Maui. We often see fish collecting boats working off of the S. Maui coast.

From an ecological perspective it makes no sense to allow the juvenile fish population to be wiped off of the reef so that collectors can make an immediate but non-sustainable income.

From an economic standpoint it also makes no sense since the tourism dollars created by dive and snorkel trips far outweigh the income that can be generated by fish collectors. And the eco-tourism dollars are sustainable, but as each reef gets stripped of its fish and dies the fish collectors are actually putting themselves and the dive/snorkel operators out of business and are destroying more and more coral reefs. The fish depend on the reefs and the reefs depend on the fish.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 1:52 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: alan lott

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 2/1/2009

Comments:

Please save what marine life and reefs as much as we can-I beg you.sincerely for the the greatest good for all concerned.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 1:46 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Maureen Ross

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 2/1/2009

Comments:

Please protect our tropical fish from those that just want to fill their pockets with money. These fish need our protection or they and our reefs will be gone.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 11:02 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Heather Riley

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED] HI

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED] m

Submitted on: 2/1/2009

Comments:

I support this bill because it is vital for the protection and restoration of Hawaii's reefs and marine life. Hawaii and North Hawaiian Islands has 80% of the reef in USA so it is imperative we take action to protect our reef.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 10:20 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Momo Awo

Organization: Individual

Address: Wailuku, Hawaii

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 2/1/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 10:19 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Randy Awo

Organization: Individual

Address: Wailuku, Hawaii

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 2/1/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 8:48 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Cheryl Sterling

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 2/1/2009

Comments:

I support HB191 and all efforts to ban aquarium collection and trade in Hawaii. Please protect our fragile marine ecosystem and the species that are critical to its health, and preserve our environment for people of Hawaii to enjoy here, as well as for the sustainability of Hawaii's marine ecotourism that is a vital contributor to the economy.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 8:22 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: paul.anka@gmail.com


Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Paul Anka

Organization: Kapalua Dive Co.

Address: Makawao, Hawaii

Phone:

E-mail: 

Submitted on: 2/1/2009

Comments:

Hawaiian fish should stay in the Hawai'ian islands, not aquariums all over the world. Please limit the number of fish that can be taken off our delicate reefs.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 8:01 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Michael Stocker

Organization: Ocean Conservation Research

Address: [REDACTED] CA

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 2/1/2009

Comments:

I grew up through the 1960's as an amateur aquarists. It was alarming to see the impacts of wild collecting on marine species in just a few short years between 1965-1975. It was due to these impacts that I gave up my aquariums and began supporting the conservation of natural habitat. I support this bill.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 8:00 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: paul goggin

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: p [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 2/1/2009

Comments:

I wholeheartedly SUPPORT this bill, and I hope you do too!

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 10:34 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Michael J. Duberstein

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

It is imperative for our state's economy to protect our resources in a sustainable fashion. This bill does just that and passage will assure that many currently diminishing aquatic species will be protected and flourish.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 9:43 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: miranda@mar...
[REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Miranda Kawaiola

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

"I support this bill because it is important for the protection and restoration of Hawaii's reefs and marine life."

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 9:26 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Craig Venema
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I absolutely support this bill. I am a captain on Maui and have seen our reef populations severely declined over the years. It is time something is done to save our reef ecosystems.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 9:22 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: captamy@yahoo.com

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Amy Venema

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: captamy@yahoo.com

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I absolutely support this bill. I am a Captain on Maui and recognize that the reef fish populations have severely declined over their years. It is time something is done to save our reef ecosystems.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 8:19 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Josh martin
Organization: Individual
Address: General Delivery Honokaa
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 8:15 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]@hawaii.rr.com

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: David Jerome

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]@hawaii.rr.com

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 8:10 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Linda Jerome

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 8:11 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Diane Shepherd

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Please support this bill to ban the senseless abuse of the marine ecosystem by the aquarium trade.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 7:40 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Ann Kobsa, PhD in Biology

Organization: Malama O Puna

Address: Koa'e, Puna, HI

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I believe that our precious marine life should not be exploited for the economic gain of a few. The delicate marine food web is already experiencing challenges due to global warming, pollution, coastal development, damage by swimmers, and overfishing. The aquarium industry is completely expendable and should not, under any circumstances, be allowed to remove fish from nature for the purpose of selling them. Thank you for your careful consideration of this issue.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 6:39 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Kathleen Malasky

Organization: Individual

Address: Kailua-Kona

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I strongly support the regulation of fish collecting in Hawaii. This industry has been unregulated for far too long and I've noticed fish populations of collected species dwindling over the last ten years. The flame angel is making a bit of a comeback since it is now farmed. This one example alone shows that regulation and protection are sorely needed. As long as the rare and beautiful dragon moray from Hawaii can be purchased online (\$850) action must be taken.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 6:29 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: laulimachristine@excite.com

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Christine Andrews

Organization: Individual

Address

Phone

E-mail

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Will Hawaii's reefs only be experienced looking through someone's glass aquarium? That will be the future if restrictions aren't set to regulate the aquarium aquatic life collecting industry. Thank you.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 6:02 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Mary

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I support this bill because it is important for the protection and restoration of Hawaii's reefs and marine life.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 5:24 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Ronda Rice

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 5:10 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Frank Fiorentino

Organization: Individual

Address: Wailuku

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 4:52 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Rachel Bianco

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I support this bill because it is important for the protection and restoration of Hawaii's reefs and marine life.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 4:23 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Bruce Parsil

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]@capitol.net

Submitted on: 1/31/2009 [REDACTED]

Comments:

I support this bill because it is important for the protection and restoration of Hawaii's reefs and marine life

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 4:20 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Stephen C Juarez

Organization: Hawaiian Rafting Adventures Inc.

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

We need to paas this bill and protect our resources. Many species of fish have been over collected and are gone from our reefs. We need to stop fish collection and leave them here to survive and prosper on our reefs

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 3:44 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Povi Gonzales

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Please help protect our Hawaiian reef fish.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 2:10 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Teri Leonard

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I strongly urge the passage of this bill.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 12:55 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: James Spears

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I support this bill because it is important for the protection and restoration of Hawaii's reefs and marine life.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 12:44 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Tracey Schavone

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I support this bill because it is vitally important to protect and restore Hawaii's reefs and marine life. I hope you will support this bill too.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 12:20 PM**To:** WLOtestimony**Cc:** [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Irene Bowie

Organization: Maui Tomorrow Foundation, Inc.

Address:

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

HB 191

Hawaii is known throughout the world for its ocean habitat. Our visitor industry counts heavily on the image of happy tourists snorkeling amongst vast arrays of colorful fish along pristine reefs, yet our reefs are dying due to pollution and run-off from development throughout the state. Our reef fish are disappearing as well; the Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources has no accurate data on how just how many fish are collected off our reefs each year. DAR State Administrator Dan Polhemus estimates the take to be 2 to 5 times the reported catch, meaning 2 to 10 million fish per year. Most are sold in secret, with no tax revenue to the state.

Collectors are going to deeper and deeper depths as the fish population dwindles. Currently collectors can be found at depths of 80 feet, beating the finger coral (found only in Hawaii) with Billy clubs to herd the fish to capture.

Collectors also exploit the transitional behavior of fish such as yellow tangs. Tangs graze in shallow water throughout the day and sleep deep at night. At dusk they form a wall of social interaction. Collectors know this and often drop a net down one side of the yellow tang formation and up the other, easily bagging 400 yellow tang in a matter of minutes.

Yellow tang can live up to 45 years in the wild yet estimates on mortality range from 30 to 65% between capture and sale. A yellow tang from Hawaii retails for \$40-50. That yellow tang leaves \$3 in Hawaii.

Hawaii reef fish are particularly desirable to home aquarium hobbyists, because Hawaii has never allowed cyanide as a means of collection. Every reef fish from waters near Asia now shows trace elements of cyanide. That means compromised liver function in these fish. They may survive in an aquarium for a few months, while fish from Hawaii may live a few years in a well-maintained tank. Because of this, fish from Hawaii are in greater demand.

Cleaner wrasses are among the top 10 fish taken from Hawaii. A reef without cleaner wrasse will be subject to parasites and disease. Two other popular species in the aquarium trade are the ornate butterfly fish and the Moorish idol—both coralvores that begin the process of starvation at the point of capture. Starvation takes about 30 days. These fish are sold and shipped with a 15-day guarantee.

Aquarium bag limits are critical. Unlimited extraction is an assault on environmental stewardship, Hawaii's

tourist-based economy, the Hawaiian way, and scientific evidence.

The merits and downsides of Hawaii's tourism industry verses the aquarium industry must now be weighed. The aquarium industry generates about \$20 million annually for about 300-500 people in Hawaii. This industry has never been regulated with a bag limit.

Ocean-based tourism in Hawaii generates 500 times the money—\$1 billion dollars per year. That revenue supports thousands of people and their families, along with a huge tax base for the state. If House Bill 3330 fails, that revenue and those people are at risk along with Hawaii's aquatic life.

Please consider these facts and vote in favor of this bill, for the protection of Hawaii's reefs and its aquatic life. It is the right thing to do.

Mahalo,

Irene Bowie
Executive Director

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 10:58 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Lyn Anderlini

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 10:56 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Charles Martin

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 10:41 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Carin Woods

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I support this bill because it is important for the protection and restoration of Hawaii reefs and marine life.
Please help us save our reefs! Much aloha, Carin Woods

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 10:08 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Wendi Gordon

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Please pass this bill...our reef fish critically need this protection!

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 9:59 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: buck

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 9:59 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED] m

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Wilma Nakamura

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I support this bill. It is long overdue. In fact it may be too late to protect and restore Hawaii's reefs and marine life. Do the right thing.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 9:53 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: phillip

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 9:30 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Jeanne Mosley

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:



Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 9:19 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jen Groark
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I fully support HB191. Please pass this bill as it is so important in maintaining the health of Hawaii's reef system.



Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 9:18 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Joseph A Niezgodzki

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

This is a very important issue for the continuation of the industry, without proper regulations such as these there may be no fish left to enjoy in the wild as well as for aquariums.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 9:18 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Bryce Groark

Organization: Living Ocean Productions

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Please pass HB191. It's very important for maintaining a healthy reef system in Hawaii. I am in full support of this particular bill.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 9:12 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Christina Sagadraca

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I am in opposition to passing this bill. DAR and DLNR should have full responsibility on this matter.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 8:55 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Melissa Glennon

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 8:52 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Leigh Smith

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I support this much needed regulation. Thank You, Leigh Smith

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 7:36 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Jan Hendrix

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Most of Lanai's dive spots have been depleted of endemic fish by collectors in the 10 years I have dived Lanai. I have seen them taking whole colonies of endemics.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 3:33 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Lee Ragland

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I support this bill because it is important for the protection and restoration of Hawaii's reefs and marine life.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 2:54 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: James Baker

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

It's about time. How many fish do I get to kill before I figure out how it's done. Maui's West shore used to be filled with Yellow Tangs, now they are all gone. The only Yellow Tangs left are now found in the Marine Reserve. Is this really going to be our legacy to the Keki?

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 10:43 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Christine and Patrick Solich

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 9:55 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Stuart Karlan

Organization: Individual

Address: Kihei, HI

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Dear House Water, Land & Ocean Resources Committee Members,

I am concerned about the exploitation of Hawaii's marine ecosystems by the free-for-all collection of "ornamental" fishes and other organisms for the aquarium industry.

Please limit dealers from stealing our fish and selling them for aquariums.

Thank you,
Stuart Karlan

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 8:20 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Richard Rimer

Organization: Individual

Address: Pahoa, Hawaii

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

I don't want to see more biodiversity loss via hunting and capturing animals for show. They deserve to propagate and have the home their species have been in for millions of years.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 2:26 PM**To:** WLOtestimony**Cc:** [REDACTED]**Attachments:** HB 191.doc (11 KB)

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Tal Sweet

Organization: MASM.ORG

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Hello, my name is Tal Sweet. I am the Vice President of the Marinelife Aquarium Society of Michigan. This bill was brought to my attention as was a similar bill that I spoke out against one year ago.

Let me start by saying that my organization is a non profit group organized and managed by hobbyists. Our mission is to educate and assist aquarists at all experience levels. We are dedicated to the preservation of reef animals through education and cooperation with local aquarium shops.

After reading H.B. 191 I did a little research. I see that a large part of the bill is taken verbatim from an article written in the July 24th issue of Maui Times by Rob Parsons. I'd venture to guess that Mr. Parsons is a reporter, not a scientist.

As I found from speaking with Senator Clayton Hee's attorney last year, most of the evidence cited has little scientific basis. I've spoke with several local ornamental fish collectors in your state and each one told me that they, as a whole, are intelligent enough to not "fish themselves out of a job". It makes absolutely no sense for them to do so.

Hawaii has taken steps to regulate collecting in the past in the Kona area, that has been beneficial to all concerned. The rampant destruction of reefs elsewhere in the Pacific for the industry is deplorable but Hawaii is no where near that level.

I'm interested in seeing scientific data in reference to the Chinese buying up all the Hawaiian fish. On what information is this threat based? I seriously question the basis for the concern over the Asian market for live fish and its impact on Hawaii's reef systems. While it is true that rare fish tend to fetch higher prices that does not mean that more are being removed. While there may be a few well off Chinese with large saltwater tanks in their homes the author makes it seem as though this is common place. I find this extremely doubtful as the vast majority of Chinese still live at or below what we consider poverty level in the US. Is there any data or research out there to support this claim?

The biggest problem with the bill is that it prohibits catching anything without a full scientific study already in place. Obviously, this hasn't been done for most of the fish, so essentially everything collectors catch would be off limits. In the few instances where the state has done a population study, the stipulations against endemic fish and herbivores ban those also.

I'd like to now debate a few points in the bill itself.

Section 1, paragraph 3, sentence 2: Aquarium collecting is cited as having major impacts on Oahu and Hawaii and moderate impacts on Maui... while I wasn't able to be in the water at every beach, I was able to tell that in areas such as Hanauma Bay, where no fishing is allowed, the fish population was dismal. Because of my love for the marine environment I have been coming to the islands since the 1980's.

The areas that I see as having depleted wildlife are the areas that are flooded with tourists rather than areas of fish collection.

Sentences 5&6: Increased algal growth is more likely attributed to run off of fertilizers containing Nitrogen and Phosphorus, rather than a decline in herbivores.

I covered Paragraph 4, sentence 1, above.

P4, sentence 2: The majority of hobbyists these days are educated enough to know that the Hawaiian cleaner Wrasse is not a fish to have in captivity. The same is true about certain Butterflyfishes mentioned. The vast majority of hobbyists are not evil people out to buy an animal and watch it die due to poor husbandry. We care about the animals that we have. The other species such as cleaner wrasses and butterflyfishes are very well regulated by the hobby. It's well known by stores and hobbyists that these species do very poorly and many stores now refuse to carry these species.

Section 2a:

"Aquarium purpose": ... no scientific study, public exhibition or display... that pretty much eliminates the education of future generations on the beauty and diversity of marine environments. Except for those that live on the coast.

It should be noted that most if not all of the advances in husbandry that allow zoos, public aquariums, and research facilities to not only keep these animals in captivity at all but to propagate and breed these animals came from hobbyists and not from the scientific community. Recent projects to collect spawn and raise endangered Caribbean species such as the Elkhorn coral would not be possible but for the knowledge gained by hobbyists

Section 2b: How will this "White" list be compiled before June 1, 2009? That doesn't seem to leave much time for scientific study.

Section 2d(1) seems reasonable. (2) needs to take into account other environmental factors contributing to increased algal growth before blaming it on fish collection. Factors including run-off of Nitrogen and Phosphorus based fertilizers used to keep the grass green on multi Million dollar resorts and golf courses .

Please don't misunderstand what I'm trying to say. I am all for protecting the environment before industry. It just seems that this bill, like the ones before, is trying to pin this problem on the aquarium trade rather than on the bigger players.

As a concerned citizen of the planet, as well as a marine aquarium hobbyist, I am doing my part to educate future generations about the marine environment.

It would be a shame if in the future, children like my neighbor's grandchildren who love coming to see my aquariums, are unable to be inspired to care about an environment that they may not get to see any other way.

Personally, over the past year I have embarked on a journey to learn what I can about captive breeding of marine animals. I am happy to say that I am now breeding several species of Clownfish, Orchid Dottybacks, and Banggai Cardinalfish.

In conclusion I'd like to say that while I do support all efforts to stop over-collection of marine animals and destructive collection practices, I feel that it is shortsighted and biased to blame lowered fish populations solely on the aquarium trade without looking at the bigger picture ie; other contributors to harmful environmental practices.

Education is a much more powerful tool to protect the reefs and natural resources than placing limits and restrictions on collections without any scientific data to base those limits on.

Hopefully the committee will make a wise decision based on scientific evidence and facts instead of emotional opinions.

Thank you for your time,
Tal Sweet

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 4:07 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Matthew Hergert

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

I, Matt Hergert, do not support H.B 191. If it were to pass, it would negatively impact one of the most near shore fisheries in Hawaii. Passing this bill would result in the closure of a productive fishery that has been proven to be sustainable. Valuable jobs would be lost in a industry that has been proactive in meeting with various environmental groups, legislators and the DLNR in the best interest of the health of the reef. Myself and other collectors living in Hawaii have established a strict "code of conduct" of which all members abide by. The DLNR is currently moving forward setting up rules regarding our industry. Please let them continue their jobs and let them resolve any issues or problems with both science and community

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	

DATE: Monday, February 02, 2009

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

From: Tony Costa
Hawaii Nearshore Fishermen
325 Puamamane Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821
808-664-3513 Home
808-540-1308 Office

Re.: Testimony in OPPOSITION to **HB 191**

TESTIMONY

My name is Tony Costa and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaii Near Shore Fishermen, a loosely organized, tight-knit group of nearshore fishermen. Hawaii Nearshore Fishermen are opposed to HB191

Although the stated purpose of the act is to “enhance and improve the regulation of aquarium aquatic life collecting to protect and preserve Hawaii’s aquatic life and marine environment, we feel the “white list” criteria presented in the bill would go much further by prohibiting any aquarium fish trade in Hawaii:

Section 188 (c) (1)

“The species can survive capture, transport and captivity for at least one hundred eighty days.”

While most aquarium fish can survive this period, the assessment of abundance or healthiness of a stock should not be measured by what happens to it after harvest.

Seafood species survive about 5 minutes into the ice brine once it is harvested. Attaching these emotional criteria by legislation, as part of the white list shows lack of both science and reason. This criteria helps to prohibit involvement in fishery.

Section 188(c) (2)

“Based on historical evidence, the specie is part of a stable or increasing population trend in the area the specie is being collected”

These criteria would require that the Department would have to have a meticulously detailed stock assessment already (historical) which it doesn't. So, these criteria would categorically prohibit involvement in fishery.

Section 188 (2)

“The removal of the specie does not negatively impact the reef ecosystem by contributing to algae over growth for herbivores, parasite overload on other reef fishes for cleaner wrasses and cleaner shrimps, or other harmful results.

As many aquarium fish species are herbivores, these criteria would also equate to prohibiting involvement in the fishery.

Section 188 (d) (3)

“The specie is not endemic to Hawaii”

According to Dr. Jack Randall, 23% of the fish species in Hawaii are unique to the Hawaiian Islands. In addition, many endemic species are among the most abundant specie populations on the reef. For good reason – there from here and have evolved to survive so well here. Some species that Aquarium divers catch are kole, potters angel, flame wrasse, white spotted puffer, and the very prolific and abundant saddleback wrasse just to name a few.

Whether specie is endemic or not should not be the criteria. Again, healthiness or abundance should be the measure.

Because many species harvested by Aquarium fish collectors are endemic this criteria also would equate to prohibiting involvement in the fishery.

In summary, HNF feel this bill is a disingenuous attempt to halt the aquarium fish trade in Hawaii and is not fairly looking at sustainable management measures as an option to “enhance and improve” the regulation of the aquarium aquatic life collection.

It might also be pointed out that the prohibitive nature of these criteria would not only apply to the commercial Aquarium harvester but to anybody collecting fish - for home use or public aquarium and educational uses as well.

Therefore, we recommend strongly not passing HB191

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Costa

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 10:52 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Jeff Funke

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 2/1/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 5:26 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Masaki Takai

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

A bill such as this would effectively ban the collecting and keeping of Hawaii collected aquarium fish and would be majorly devastating to a number of businesses including licensed aquarium collectors, fish wholesalers, aquarium stores, and hobbyists. Where is the proof that the aquarium industry is the responsible party for the loss of reef fish diversity? I believe it irresponsible to pass a bill where there has been no proof of harm caused by the industry being vilified. Much bigger culprits are likely to be the accidental introduction of non-native species (including gorilla ogo), pollution, loss of reef habitat by sedimentation and fertilizer run off, and an overabundance of human visitation to reef habitats.

Representative Ken Ito, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES
Christopher Colgrove
808-220-3168
Saturday, January 31, 2009

Opposition of HB 191

My name is Chris Colgrove, and, as a student in the Global Environmental Science baccalaureate program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, I am a concerned citizen. I strongly oppose HB 191, relating to aquarium aquatic life, which would ban the collection of various fish species in nearshore Hawaiian reefs.

While I personally am not involved in the aquaria industry, I am strongly opposed to the contents and aim of this bill. The scientific logic presented in this bill alluding to why our reef ecosystems have degraded is fallacious. It has been scientifically well correlated that land use, not over-fishing, has been largely responsible for the degradation of our precious nearshore marine resources.

Additionally, building a "white list" of acceptable fish based upon "official, published department or equivalent federal agency study" is not feasible, due to the lack of existing studies on this subject matter. As such, the idea that the state department, DLNR, which is already over burdened by existing responsibilities, would have the time and means to carry out extensive studies on the hundreds, if not thousands, of fish species within Hawaiian waters is not sound. The resulting "white list" would be empty, essentially banning all fish collection in Hawaiian water.

While the citizens of Hawaii hold the responsibility of protecting our natural marine resources, we also have a responsibility to recognize and respect the multi-use needs of our oceans. Haphazard fishing and collection practices can be as destructive to our local reefs as haphazard tourism practices. We, the public of Hawaii, need to recognize that a balance must be met if we can hope sustain our lifestyle and practices and care for our natural resources, both terrestrial and aquatic.

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition of HB 191.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 4:33 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Attachments: HB191 must not pass.doc (21 KB)

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Sean Chai

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: sean.chai@hihick.ang.af.mil

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

HB191 must not pass, that simple, Hawaii thrives on its exportations just as much as it's tourism. Pineapple, sugarcane, aquarium fish are no different.

There are many statements said in HB191 which are not correct. Hawaiian Cleaner Wrasse, for one. It can and will remain healthy in an aquarium tank, properly fed with frozen and prepared flakes. As well as provide an aid to "tank" parasites. Another statement about coral eating butterfly fish, they too can be ushered into aquarium prepared foods such as frozen, freeze dried, and flakes.

These specimens are indeed taken at a young age, given. Being taken at a young age also gives the aquarist the advantage at raising it properly in a controlled environment, which is the hopes of coral restoration is a good thing to do. The more successful aquarist become at raising difficult species the better off they are in a tank than a coral reef.

Another factoid, that removal of herbivore specimen will eventually lead to an algae bloom and destroy the reef. The entire purpose of this bill seems to shutdown saltwater catching and keeps it safe for the scuba and dive tour industry to flourish in their sport. May I remind them that their presence in the water can just as much if not more so be harmful to the fragile coral reefs which barely exist. They bring outside influences to these reefs including novice divers which don't know much about dive etiquette and incidentally crush coral and disturb fragile invertebrate.

These few reasons, these few words are similar reasons why HB191 should not be.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 2:37 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Stephen Van Kampen-Lewis

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

This bill would kill Hawaii's most profitable and sustainable nearshore fishery. Study after study has shown that the marine ornamental fishery is very sustainable and collection levels are not having a negative impact on local fish populations. Hawaii needs to be a model for how to properly manage valuable marine resources. This bill is just the opposite: it's irresponsible, irrational and wholly in the interests of a few dedicated extremists rather than for the good of the people of Hawaii.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 1:38 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Joshua Adams

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Banning all collection of aquatic life for aquariums, while still allowing snorkel tours, commercial fishing, and any recreational activity that potentially damages the ecosystem, does not make sense. Simply living on this island causes many more damaging things to our environment than collecting fish for a hobby. This bill is too extreme. I agree with constraints, but the proposed bill is not constraints, it is banning everything until proven to have no impact on the ecosystem (which of course the studies do not exist).

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 12:39 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Gary Phillips

Organization:

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

The problem I have with this bill is the "knee jerk reaction" to ban the collecting of all fish for the aquarium trade....or even all herbivores. Fish such as the yellow tang (herbivore) have proven to be sustainable.

Secondly, where is the data coming from that determines whether or not a certain species of fish can survive capture, transport & captivity for 189 days!?

Lets see some hard facts before going "high & right" on this.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 11:32 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Teri Delapinia

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 10:42 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Derrick Ah Sing

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I am a Disabled American Veteran and this would distroy the industry that feeds my hobby. The saltwater hobby is one of the few joys of my life.

Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

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

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 5:16 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Brooke Porter on behalf of Pacific Whale Foundation

Organization:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]@pacificwhale.org

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Pacific Whale Foundation is in full support of implementing strict regulations on the aquarium collection and trade of ecologically important reef species.