

LATE TESTIMONY

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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**Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson**

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

**Monday, February 1, 2010
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2669
RELATING TO WALU**

House Bill 2669 would prohibit targeted fishing for Walu in state waters, and possession or sale regardless of where the fish were caught. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) has concerns with a total prohibition of the species and instead recommend that this measure be amended to simply require clear and unambiguous labeling of any Walu offered for sale in the State of Hawaii.

The Department notes that the ex-vessel value of the Walu fishery was over \$490,000 in 2009, with most of this catch coming from the Hawaii-based longline fleet. With the steady decline in tuna stocks in the Pacific region, coupled with international limits on total tuna catch, the Hawaii fleet is increasingly turning to species of formerly secondary importance, such as Walu, to remain economically viable. Therefore, the restrictions on possession and sale proposed in this measure would have a detrimental impact on the Hawaiian commercial fishing industry.

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
FIRST DEPUTY

KEN C. KAWAHARA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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