- Date: Friday, March 13, 2009 To: Laura Theilen, Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources Representative Ken Ito, Chair Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources
- From: Mr. Robin Lee and Fishing community on Maui 160 Kahana Ridge Drive Lahaina, Hawaii 96761
- Ref: Administrative rule change for Size limit, bag limit for Uhu, Weke, Papio/Ulua, Moana Kali Legislative action pursuant to \$B378, HB1413.

My name is Robin Lee and I live on Maui, Hawaii. I have been Nearshore Fishing and diving for over 40 years, recreationally, commercially, and for subsistence. I have extensive expertise and knowledge pertaining to all types of nearshore reef fishing and diving.

I am steadfastly opposed to an across the board bag limit for Uhu, Kumu, and weke regulation – one which does not differentiate between recreational and commercial harvesters.

I and most fishermen that I know are also opposed to a bag limit regulation that would be initiated prior to, and at the absence of sound scientific or biological evidence that states the necessity for such regulations. In addition, I am opposed to initiating a bag limit measure prior to a comprehensive stock assessment having taken place so that one can determine the effectiveness of such regulations if put in place.

We feel there is not a sharp decline in the resource. We do not agree with others on Maui who are implying that there are drastic declines that indicate the current need to subject fishermen to bag limits. Our own experience and evidence suggests that what is being reported is an astounding exaggeration – and we simply don't see it.

We understand your department is tasked with the responsibility to manage the resource and we appreciate your visiting the island – we were unable to attend that initial scoping meeting. However, the below signed fishermen and I would like to formally have these comments included for the record.

Given the situation, we don't feel there is a strong need to change the current regulations relating to size limits and bag limits.

We fear the small group of "fishermen" have misrepresented the true condition of Maui's Uhu, Weke, Kumu, and Papio stocks.

We feel this misrepresentation will cause unwarranted further restrictions on fishing. A large number of dive fishermen on Maui do not agree with the representations of the small group and are very concerned about their motives.

Thank you for your leadership and for including our comments for the record. Robin E. Lee

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We, the undersigned are Maui Fishermen and opposed to bag limit and size limit regulations implemented across the board affecting both commercial, recreational, and subsistence fishermen for Uhu, Weke, Kumu, Papio/Ulua, Moana Kali, I am opposed to regulations that are promulgated in the absence of verifiable stocks data that indicate the need for such measures.

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Cc Representative Mele Carroll Representative Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey Representative Joseph "Joe" Souki Representative Kyle T. Yamashita

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