

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Thursday, February 25, 2016
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2025, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO MARINE SPECIES**

House Bill 2025, House Draft 1, proposes to establish a marine species task force to identify ten vital marine species vulnerable to extinction if take levels of those species increases and recommend actions to ensure the sustainability of those species. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) opposes this measure.**

The Department already has the ability to informally convene advisory groups to discuss a number of subjects and to provide suggested guidance. A task force established by statute would involve considerable administrative burden.

The Department notes that the National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Protected Resources (OPR), is regularly petitioned to review the status of many species in the area of the Hawaiian Islands. These reviews are to determine if any species already on the list of threatened or endangered species should change their status or if any new species needs to be added. Their review process is quite extensive, with staff and funding specifically provided to conduct this review for species status.

We work with OPR, the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC), and others, whenever practical, to utilize not only their expertise, but their considerable resources, to determine species status. For marine mammals, OPR produces stock assessment reports (SARs), sometimes annually, depending on whether new information becomes available. OPR also produces recovery plans for many species to guide activities to eventually delist species that have recovered. Since these mechanisms already exist and we are using them, the task force is unnecessary. The work of the

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
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ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

proposed task force is already being done and is funded at the federal level, with procedures already in place.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



HB2025 HD1
RELATING TO MARINE SPECIES
House Committee on Finance

February 25, 2016

3:00 p.m.

Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following **COMMENTS** on HB2025 HD1, which establishes a task force to identify and address the potential extinction of ten vital marine species.

OHA appreciates this measure's stated concerns regarding the potential loss of marine species that may be threatened, in part, by demand from the aquarium market. However, while OHA understands that there may be financial incentives to harvest specimens of relatively cryptic or rare species for the aquarium trade, it is unclear whether such harvesting pressure alone may pose the greatest threat to such species' existence. In addition, while Hawai'i does host a number of endemic species found nowhere else in the world, total global extinction might not be an appropriate benchmark to prioritize local threats to vital indigenous ocean resources that may also be found in other Pacific or tropical locations.

Accordingly, the Committee may wish to enable any task force created under this measure to examine the full range of threats facing our marine species, including but not limited to climate change, water and habitat quality, and stream or groundwater flow. Furthermore, the Committee may also wish to consider allowing the task force to identify and address vital species threatened with local extirpation, rather than global extinction. Finally, the Committee may wish to consider examining whether the state Endangered Species Recovery Committee, established under Hawai'i Revised Statutes section 195D-25, might be more appropriately suited to address the concerns expressed in this measure.

Should the Committee desire to move this measure forward, OHA also requests an amendment to page 2, line 16, to read as follows:

- (2) The administrator of the office of Hawaiian affairs, or the administrator's designee;

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 7:22 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: matt.htfa@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2025 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

LATE

HB2025

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Ross	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: While this bill is well intentioned, it will do more harm than good. As it stands, practically no marine species are considered to be at risk of extinction due to overharvesting, and those that are have already been listed under the Endangered Species Act. This bill is redundant and would ultimately serve to divert scarce resources that are needed for science, resource management, and enforcement.

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LATE

HB2025

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joni Kamiya	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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HB2025

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shyla Moon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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HB2025

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bennette Misalucha	Hawaii Crop Improvement Association	Oppose	No

Comments:

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