

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 Senate Committee on
WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE**

**Monday, February 1, 2016
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2139
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT
OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Senate Bill 2139 proposes to 1) establish a community-based marine resources grant program, and 2) appropriate funds for a) administration of the grant program, b) three permanent full-time positions in the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), c) two permanent full-time positions in the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) to ensure compliance with any areas set aside under the grant program, and d) conversion of 12 temporary positions in DOCARE to permanent status for community fisheries enforcement units (CFEUs). **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure, but has concerns with the budgetary implications this bill may have on the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

For the committee's information, DAR does assist prospective communities in developing plans and eventually adopting administrative rules to establish Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Areas (CBSFAs) authorized under Section 188-22.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). DAR has developed a set of standard operating procedures to help DAR and communities successfully navigate this process.

With respect to the proposed grant program, we think that providing the Department with general funds that can be granted to communities to help implement community-based management would assist those communities and DAR in effective implementation of CBSFAs and other community-based management initiatives. However, we have concerns about the administrative resources required to operate this grant program.

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

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

The proposed three DAR positions would administer the "community side" of the program but the "grants/fiscal management side" of the program is missing. We are struggling to provide grant management of the federal grants we currently receive and do not have the staff to oversee this new grant program. We envision the need for two more positions, a grants manager and a fiscal manager, to administer this new grant program, depending on the number of grants awarded each year. Should this committee choose to support the department fiscally managing this program, then SECTION 2, page 5, subsection (a)(3) may need to be changed to reflect this. We would also suggest that the new statutory language in SECTION 2 be inserted into Chapter 187A, HRS, which is administered by DAR, rather than Chapter 171, HRS (Public Lands).

In addition, establishing permanent funds for a community-based fishing area planner, marine regulation and policy specialist, and aquatic invasive species specialist in DAR, and a Makai Watch coordinator, marine regulation and policy specialist, and 12 CFEU positions in DOCARE, would greatly assist the department in effectively implementing community-based marine resource management statewide.

We do suggest deleting the word "subsistence" from page 6, line 19 to clarify that the planner proposed in this measure would support all community-based fishery management programs, including CBSFAs.

In conclusion, as mentioned previously, the Department supports the overall concept of this bill as it includes initiatives supportive of our goals and objectives; however, we have concerns with the budgetary implications this bill may have on the Executive Supplemental Budget request.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: Leimana.K.Damate@hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2139 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Sunday, January 31, 2016 12:20:27 PM

SB2139

Submitted on: 1/31/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

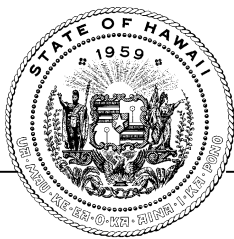
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leslie Apiu Kuloloio	Aha Moku Advisory Committee	Comments Only	No

Comments: Testimony of LESLIE KULOLOIO Chair Before the Senate Committee on WATER, LAND AND AGRICULTURE Monday, February 01, 2016 2:45 PM
Conference Room 224 In consideration of SENATE BILL 2139 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DLNR) Senate Bill 2139 proposes to establish the community-based marine resources grant program and it appropriates funds to DLNR for positions and programs in support of community-based co-management of near shore marine resources. While the Aha Moku appreciates the overall concept of this bill, we offer the following comments. The Aha Moku was created by this Legislature to advise the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources on issues related to land and natural resource management through the Aha Moku System. But specifically it was mandated to bring the voices of the people forward in respect to the Aha Moku System. This includes working with the mokupuni (8 islands), moku (46 large districts on each island), and the ahupua'a (607 specific smaller geographic districts within the moku). This has resulted so far in a collaborative relationship between Aha Moku and the existing DLNR community-based subsistence fishing area (CBSFA) operations. We believe that the proposed bill, as it is written, will cause confusion and possibly resentment among the subsistence fishing communities (Iwaoia) because in order for it to be productive and successful, the "community-based subsistence fishing area planner" as it is described in the proposal must include the criteria of the planner having the intimate knowledge of the ahupua'a community, the geographic areas of the ahupua'a and the traditional resource methodology needed to successfully create a lasting community-based subsistence fishing area. While the proposed planner may request this knowledge from the traditional communities, it does not necessarily state that the planner must follow the advice of the community. Aha Moku supports the efforts and achievements of the existing CBSFA office that is currently part of the Division of Aquatics within the DLNR. We believe that the request and need for a marine regulation and policy specialist, an aquatic invasive species program specialist are already fulfilled within the Aquatics Division. Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on SB 2139.

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LEO R. ASUNCION
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Director, Office of Planning
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE
Monday, 2/1/2016
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of
SB 2139
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture.

SB 2139 establishes a community-based marine resources grant program and makes key positions permanent within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). The proposed program will support the Office of Planning (OP) Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program's purpose to provide for the effective management, beneficial use, protection, and development of the coastal zone. OP coordinates efforts with DLNR in the CZM area, in part, through the Hawaii Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP), an interagency plan for the management of the state's coastal and marine resources. Specifically, the proposed program and its intentions support the ORMP goal to "advance community level eco-based, place-based ocean management projects currently in place."

OP is in support of this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget and defers to the agency with the statutory

mandate to implement policies and management strategies for community-based co-management for comment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

P. O. Box 1135
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96807

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND AGRICULTURE

SB2139 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Monday, 2/01/16; 2:45 pm; Room 224

Aloha Chairman Gabbard, vice chair Nishihara and members of the committee on Water, Land and Natural Resources. For your information, I am Annelle Amaral, president of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs(AHCC). I regret not being present due to my status as a delegate to the `Aha convention that begins today, but wanted to share some comments on this bill.

The first Hawaiian Civic Club was founded more than nine decades ago as an advocacy group for Native Hawaiians. We have grown and expanded to sixty seven component clubs throughout Hawaii and sixteen states on the continent. AHCC takes up issues at an annual convention and our resolutions frequently find their way to the legislature.

For the past seven or eight years the AHCC has encouraged and supported the establishment of the Aha Moku as an ahupuaa based, grass-roots organization of kupuna and practitioners that could speak on behalf of their aina and moana – their land and ocean. We have continued to support Aha Moku as it began its work through the DLNR and are currently assisting with developing administrative rules.

We are perplexed that this bill, SB2139, appears to duplicate some of Aha Moku's kuleana, and wonder as to the intent of the bill and its

impact on the responsibilities of the Aha Moku . We are concerned as the path to the final establishment of Aha Moku was long, arduous and hard-won. Less stubborn and hard-headed folks might have given up.

But at this point, trust relationships with key community people have been solidified and communications on-going. There has been continued progress and expectations raised. An annual report has been published and the AHCC has received Aha Moku reports at each convention. If the legislature wants to expand Aha Moku it might be worth discussing with the principals but this bill leaves questions unanswered.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: igibson@hsus.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2139 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Saturday, January 30, 2016 10:38:25 AM

SB2139

Submitted on: 1/30/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Inga Gibson	Humane Society of the US- Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

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Testimony Before The
Senate Committee on Water and Land
IN SUPPORT OF SB 2139
Monday February 1, 2016, 2:45pm, Room 224

My name is Kevin Chang. I am the Executive Director of Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (or KUA) and this is my organizations testimony in strong support of SB 2139.

KUA works to empower communities to improve their quality of life through caring for their environmental heritage together to better Hawai'i and achieve 'āina momona— an abundant, productive ecological system that supports community well-being.

We employ a community-driven approach that currently supports a network of more than 31 mālama 'āina community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together), 38 fishpond projects and practitioners called the Hui MālamaLoko I'a, and a new and growing hui of Limu practitioners all from across our state.

KUA supports SB 2139 as an incremental step towards 'āina momona. This bill would support community-based marine management by providing funding in DLNR for:

- ✓ A grant program for communities working on community-based marine management;
- ✓ 3 positions in the Div. of Aquatic Resources (DAR): CBSFA coordinator, legal fellow, aquatic invasive species specialist;
- ✓ 2 positions in the Div. of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE): makai watch coordinator and legal fellow; and
- ✓ 12 positions in DOCARE for Community Fisheries Enforcement Units (CFEUs) statewide.

Many of the communities in the networks we facilitate work on improving natural resource management and restoration of native food and ecological systems, values and ethics more sensitive to the needs of their wahi (their places). The state is often a necessary partner and communities seek to collaborate and when necessary to build more formal co-management relationships.

Passing this bill would provide critical staffing and programs in the DLNR to support the growing community-based co-management movement to better manage our precious marine resources, and could support increased volunteer community-based efforts. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support.

Aloha 'Āina Momona.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting S.B. 2139 Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Monday, February 1, 2016, 2:45PM, Room 224

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which life depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. We manage 40,000 acres in 14 preserves and work in 19 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs and waters of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties and communities to protect Hawai'i's important watershed forests and coral reefs.

The Nature Conservancy supports S.B. 2139 which would provide essential staffing and program support within Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to implement successful community-based co-management of marine resources statewide.

Hawai'i's reef fish populations have declined by more than 75% over the past 100 years. This loss is not only a loss to Hawai'i's fishers, it is a loss to all of Hawai'i's people, and to a cultural heritage that is unique in the world. Empowered communities can help the DLNR ensure that the State's marine resources are managed sustainably into the future. Lasting success depends on building strong partnerships with the people who live in and care for their places. These on-the-ground stewards are developing strategies to restore and care for their reefs and fisheries, guiding and implementing those strategies, and helping monitor the effectiveness of their efforts over the long term. By being directly involved with management actions, these communities also help to build greater resilience to future pressures and extreme events related to climate change.

The Nature Conservancy's marine conservation program is focused on assisting communities with caring for coral reefs and near shore marine resources to help ensure that the benefits that these areas provide – including food, shoreline protection, recreation and cultural values – will be available for generations to come. Together with the DLNR and other conservation partners, TNC is helping 19 coastal communities on O'ahu, Maui Nui and Hawai'i Island restore healthy reef habitats and an abundance of fish in their communities. These are but a small representation of the many communities on every island that are applying their experience, culture, observation, and hard work to protect and restore their reefs and fisheries.

The funding and personnel proposed in this bill would allow the DLNR to continue and enhance its important role as a leader and partner in community-based co-management of Hawai'i's marine resources.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Conservation Council
for Hawai'i

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu



Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Hearing: Monday, February 1, 2016 2:45 pm
Conference Room 224

Support for SB 2139 Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee.

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 2139, which establishes the community-based marine resources grant program, and appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for positions and programs in support of community based co-management of near shore marine resources.

Supporting community-based marine resource grant program is a wise investment. This program one of the most important programs to protect marine resources, which are held in trust for the people. With all due respect, the State is not doing enough to protect and properly manage the ocean and marine resources. The DLNR recently rejected a proposal by NOAA to expand the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, which we believe would have provided more protection for more species in more areas and provide more opportunities to partner with the public.

The legislature is not providing enough funding to protect and manage our ocean, marine resources, and other public trust resources for the people and future generations. Supporting a community-based management program is a good start.

Please support SB 2139 and start funding critical DLNR programs.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marjorie Ziegler".

Marjorie Ziegler

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: rgaffney@pacificboatsales.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2139 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Saturday, January 30, 2016 5:12:29 PM

SB2139

Submitted on: 1/30/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rick Gaffney	Hawaii Fishing & Bating Asspcoation	Support	No

Comments: This bill is long overdue and establishes a grant opportunity for community based management efforts, and those undertaking essential work across our island State. Please move this bill forward by passing it out of committee and moving it forward for passage this session.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: Smith6849@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2139 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Sunday, January 31, 2016 4:51:35 PM

SB2139

Submitted on: 1/31/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bob Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I am writing to express my support for SB2139 to provide some financial support for local marine planning efforts, like the West Hawaii Fishery Council, which has struggled for adequate funds for years. Meanwhile, they have still managed to make a big difference in improving fishery management while reducing years of conflict. Mahalo for considering my comments. Robert "Bob" Smith 77-262 Maliko St. Kailua Kona, HI 96740

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: mjellings@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2139 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Friday, January 29, 2016 10:03:17 AM

SB2139

Submitted on: 1/29/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl M Jellings Sr	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: My Name is Carl Pao Jellings Sr The Short History of CBMA's here in Hawaii has shown to have erased very important aspects of Traditions and Culture this very Bill speaks of preserving, Generations Seasons after seasons of accumulated knowledge Cut Off, By Demographic By agenda by opposing Interests, How can a Lawaia or Fisherman maintain his practice his profession handed down to him from Makua Kane to Makua Kane without a connection to Place/ Koa / Fishing Grounds. I am in opposition To SB 2137

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: cgpunihaole@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2139 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Sunday, January 31, 2016 2:11:21 PM

SB2139

Submitted on: 1/31/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Alohs I am in support of Senate Bill 2139 and House Bill HB 2039. It is important that a grant system be established to support community-based management efforts such as the West Hawaii Fishery Council. I am kama'aina of Kona on the Island of Hawaii and the Program Director of the Kahalu'u Bay Education Center a program of The Kohala Center. Mahalo Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: dalesarver@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2139 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Saturday, January 30, 2016 11:56:47 AM

SB2139

Submitted on: 1/30/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sarver, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support bill SB 2139 I am a marine ecologist and have worked in fisheries management for decades. DAR and DLNR need help and assistance with Community-Based marine resources management. The marine ecosystem varies from island to island and location to location. The management issues need to match the ecological needs of each location. There is a lot of interest in establishing community-based management. The process is complicated and the local communities need help organizing and developing management plans and this bill could support those efforts. The reef systems and resources associated with them are over-used and over-fished and we desperately need to protect them.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: douglasperrine@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2139 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Saturday, January 30, 2016 3:02:32 PM

SB2139

Submitted on: 1/30/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB2139

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Lisa Diaz

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scidiaz@gmail.com

808-938-1389

Hawaii State Senate

Water Land & Agriculture Committee

1/30/16

RE: Strong support for SB2139

Aloha Chairman Gabbard, V. Chair Nishihara, and honorable WLA committee members:

As a 17 year long resident of Kona and a marine science educator in Hawaii public schools, I strongly support SB2139 and urge your committee to pass this act in during this 2016 legislative session. I support this bill fully and suggest that grant funds for each community be increased from \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00, annually.

I have been an active community participant for the last 15 years at West Hawaii Fisheries Management Council meetings, which include all ocean user stakeholders working together to protect & manage our local West Hawaii marine resources.

The West Hawaii Fisheries Management Council and local Department of Aquatic Resources staff in Kona have been successful in establishing a Fish Replenishment Area system that has increased the number of many near shore reef fish species and reduced conflict among ocean user groups, proven by based on 17+ years of scientific population counts performed jointly by marine scientists from DAR, University of Hawaii, and University of Washington.

http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar/files/2015/01/ar_hrs188_2015.pdf)

The West Hawaii Fisheries Council has been recognized as a model for effective near shore marine resources management in Hawaii, and worldwide.

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/08920750902851096>). The success we have had in West Hawaii is due to the hard work and dedication of many community volunteers who serve without pay (many for 17 years) on the West Hawaii Fisheries management council, alongside Dr. William Walsh, DAR Marine biologist in Kona plus Castle Foundation grant funds obtained by Sara Peck (retired, UH Sea Grant), via Malama Kai nonprofit foundation. UH Sea Grant who administered the grant funds up until 2010 faced large budget cuts within the UH system, and needed to pursue grants for its own operations. Castle Foundation has refocused on public education.

The purpose of SB2139 is to establish a community-based marine resources grant program and make key positions permanent within DLNR. Under ACT 306, passed by Hawaii Legislature in 1999, DLNR is mandated to implement policies and management strategies to protect Hawaii's marine resources, utilizing community-based co-management. West Hawaii Fisheries Management Council (WHFMC), established by ACT 306 is an advisory council for

DAR/DLNR, not a nonprofit group. WHFMC does not receive any funding from the state of Hawaii, but does have administrative costs (meeting space rent, advertising of meetings announcements/hearings, educational materials explaining local WHFMC marine resource rules, secretarial costs, transportation costs, etc.)

As WHFMC had proven to be beneficial to our state's ability to protect nearshore natural resources, and that under ACT 306 mandated by our legislature in 1999, DAR/DLNR is required to establish new rules utilizing community based management across our island state, implementation of this proven method in other Hawaii communities, funding is required to cover managerial expenses to grow community participation and establish additional fisheries management councils based on the ACT 306 mandate and WHFMC model statewide.

Under ACT 306, to successfully implement appropriate programs and to grow and maintain active participation and trust of communities, DLNR needs consistent technical and staff capacity to engage with communities and other stakeholders and to protect Hawaii's marine resources effectively.

Regarding community-based co-management of marine resources, this includes having the essential staff members who can engage with interested communities and help them to coordinate traditional stewardship practices with the departmental systems and processes, to develop community-driven rules and standards of conduct that meet the State's regulatory requirements, and to implement a collaborative and effective approach to compliance with community-based standards and rules.

Marine resource rules are clearly more effective when developed to include all ocean user stakeholders are involved in a collaborative process to make such rules. The result is that conflicts are reduced and a much greater percentage of ocean users will respect and follow the rules, ensuring that our marine resources will be conserved for Hawaii's future generations, fisheries, communities and tourism.

Mahalo for your dedication and commitment to protecting Hawaii's marine resources!

Sincerely,

Lisa Diaz
76-223 Haoa St.
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, 96740
scidiaz@gmail.com
808-938-1389

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: noelk@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2139 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Sunday, January 31, 2016 6:43:16 PM

SB2139

Submitted on: 1/31/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
noel kent	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This measure supports coordination between citizens and government in managing and protecting our marine systems. Given the state of our shoreline resources, this deserves passage, Mahalo. Noel K

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: tinaowens@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2139 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Saturday, January 30, 2016 1:20:44 PM

SB2139

Submitted on: 1/30/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tina Owens	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support SB2139. As a long-time member of the West Hawaii Fishery Council, which is now in its 18th year, and as one of its three chairs for the past two years, I know that money has always been an issue. As an advisory council to the DLNR, we are not a non-profit, nor could we become one without losing our relationship with the DLNR/State of Hawaii. We have never received a penny of money from the state, even though we have given thousands and thousands of volunteer hours and have literally transformed the reef situation here for the better. No one is looking to be paid. We just need some operating funds to: rent venues in outlying communities (important on the Big Island); publish notifications of new marine rules and regulations, produce educational materials, etc. In the past we have always had to scrounge for every penny we got from other foundations and funds. As volunteers, we feel our time is better spent on working with communities to restore their marine environment, than to spend time writing grants and phoning around for money. Frankly the DLNR has saved a lot of money through the hours we have given, free, to the state and made their jobs a good deal easier. Please support this bill.

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