

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**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 2462
RELATING TO HONOKOHAU SMALL BOAT HARBOR**

Senate Bill 2462 proposes to authorize the Board of Land and Natural Resources to transfer the operation, administration, management, and maintenance of the Honokohau Small Boat Harbor to a community-based board of Hawaii County, a public-private partnership, or a private organization. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure with the following proposed amendments.**

The Department feels it is time to move the State Small Boat Harbor Program in a new direction and would prefer that the Legislature support Senate Bill 2900 and House Bill 2371 which are the Department's administrative proposals. These bills would accomplish the same outcome but also allow the Department to enter into similar agreements with the rest of the State small boat harbors. Should the Legislature decide to move forward with Senate Bill 2462 however, the Department recommends deleting subsection (a)(1) as it pertains to a community-based board of the county where the harbor is located. This type of management style is very cumbersome and does not lend itself to the effective and efficient operation of the facility. Allowing the Department to enter into public-private partnerships or working with private organizations would free up valuable staff time and resources that can be allocated to the management of the state's navigable waters and near shore areas that are in dire need of resource protection.

Finally, while the Department is supportive of the funding for the Honokohau Small Boat Harbor; the Department respectfully request however that the Legislature support the Capital Improvement Projects found in the Administration's Supplemental Budget request.

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



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

**Testimony of
Piilani Kaawaloa
Aha Moku Advisory Committee Member, Moku O Keawe**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER, LAND AND AGRICULTURE**

**Monday, February 01, 2016
2:45 PM
Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2462
RELATING TO HONOKOHAU SMALL BOAT HARBOR**

Senate Bill 2462 proposes to authorize the board of land and natural resources to transfer the operation, administration, management, and maintenance of Honokohau small boat harbor to a community-based board of Hawaii County, a public-private organization, or a private organization. It further appropriates funds for repairs and maintenance of the harbor. **Aha Moku supports this measure.**

The Honokohau Harbor is located within the Ahupua'a of Honokohauiki, Kona Moku on the Mokupuni (Island) of Moku O Keawe (Hawaii). The area has long been used by local fishermen even before the Honokohau Harbor was built in 1965. It has a natural harbor and a thriving fishery that has been the fishery used not only by the Honokohauiki Ahupua'a, but the neighboring ahupua'a of Puapua'a (where Kailua-Kona is located), Holualoa, Kaloko, O'oma and Kalaoa (where the Kona Airport is located). It is next to the Kaloko-Honokohau National Historic Park which houses the Ai'iopio Fishpond – an ancient Native Hawaiian fishpond that supplemented the fishery subsistence connected with Honokohau.

It is because of this history of Honokohau that Aha Moku supports a community-based board of Hawaii County. However, we ask that a community member of the Ahupua'a of Honokohauiki who is a subsistence fisherman (*lawaiia*) and who has traditional knowledge of the natural and cultural resources of Honokohau be a member of the newly created board. Honokohau Harbor is now a public entity that welcomes all to use it. Therefore, in order to ensure the historic and cultural importance of the area where the Honokohau Harbor is located is included, we believe that this traditional fisherman (*lawaiia*) of this ahupua'a should be included in any discussion and decision-making made on a community-based board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: rgaffney@pacificboatsales.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2462 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Friday, January 29, 2016 3:26:47 PM

SB2462

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
Rick Gaffney	Hawaii Fishing & Boating Association	Support	No

Comments: Honokohau Harbor remains unfinished 40 years after it first opened and the DLNR Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) seems to be incapable of completing, improving, maintaining and operating the facility, which is serious disservice to the boating community and ocean recreation industry in West Hawaii, and has a direct impact on the economy of our community and the State as a whole. Our legislators and the administration are aware of the failings of the DOBOR. Several legislative audits have expounded on that, and the issues are constantly decried by members of the public. It is time to pursue a new management paradigm, and this bill offers an opportunity to consider options, including a public private partnership, based on the model recently agreed to in Hilo for the management of DLNRs Banyan Drive properties. The creation of a similar management authority for Honokohau would allow management to be undertaken at the local level, with one-on-one communication possible between the boaters and the managers, and provide the opportunity for private parties to participate in completing the harbor's infrastructure and improving the facilities in a timely fashion. The State could continue to own the land and would benefit from improved management of their property. It is time to change the way Hawaii manages its boating facilities and the West Hawaii boating community is ready to participate in that process. Please begin the process of fixing a badly broken management system by supporting this bill. Mahalo, Rick Gaffney, President Hawaii Fishing & Boating Association Kona, Hawaii

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: tkroz@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2462 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Sunday, January 31, 2016 6:02:25 PM
Attachments: [SB2462 Honokohou Harbor](#)

SB2462

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
robert oswald	Hawaii Fishing & Boating Assn	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Cc: hulagirl8@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2462 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Sunday, January 31, 2016 6:00:34 PM

SB2462

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
Teresa Oswald	Hawaii Fishing & Boating Assn	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: rkalman@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2462 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Friday, January 29, 2016 8:04:40 PM

SB2462

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
Ray Kalman	Hawaii Fishing and Boating Association	Support	No

Comments: SB2462 has been needed for a long time. I wholeheartedly support this measure. I have been a tenant at Honokohau for 15 years. I have also visited numerous harbor/marinas in several states and countries. It will take a new private, or public/private management team to take Honokohau beyond being a third class, third world harbor, one of the least welcoming of anywhere I have been. It is presently stuck with no guidance, no professional character, no aloha, and a harbor community exhausted from trying to make the harbor a better place for its tenants, supporting businesses, and visitors who come from all over the world. It is high time to reverse the decline and deterioration of the facility, the oceans, the wildlife and the kindred spirit that at one time was Honokohau.

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: uki47@hotmail.co.jp
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2462 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Sunday, January 31, 2016 2:12:15 PM

SB2462

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
takeo Izawa	Kids of Hawaii nei	Support	No

Comments: This is public view comment.

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BLUE MARLIN CAPITAL DESERVES A WORLD CLASS FACILITY



Honokohau could be redeveloped into a world-class marina that attracts businesses and volumes of tourists.



Kona is recognized as the blue marlin capital of the world. Its small boat harbor at Honokohau is filled with more than 100 charter vessels offering half- and full-day charters with a good chance of catching a blue marlin. Blue marlin and other large gamefish are often caught in close proximity to Honokohau because the steeply dropping coast brings large pelagic fish close to shore. Kona is host to many gamefish tournaments including the prestigious Hawaii International Billfish Tournament, usually mounted in July.

Every issue of *Hawaii Fishing News* recounts the fish landed or tagged-and-released at Kona. The October 2015 edition includes three photos of fish greater than 500 pounds and two granders, or fish greater than 1,000 pounds. In the past, about two-thirds of the fish landed by the Kona charter fleet were blue marlin. This has dropped to about 30 percent as more charter captains embrace the catch-and-release ethic, estimating the weight of the fish and then tagging it. A YouTube video of a 16-year-old New Yorker landing a grander in February went viral, receiving up to half a million hits.

With this kind of success one could be forgiven for being underwhelmed when actually visiting Honokohau. Its location in a barren desert-like lava field does it no favors when it comes to landscape aesthetics. But the big surprise is how primitive Honokohau is compared to other world-class sportfish destinations such as Cabo San Lucas, La Paz and Los Suenos in Mexico and harbors in Costa Rica, Brazil, Nicaragua and Cape Verdes, Africa. These developing countries offer far superior harbor facilities, which attract not only fishing patrons but also tourists who visit the docks to dine and shop.

Honokohau facilities include toilets on both sides of the harbor but no showers. The north side of the harbor, which handles the majority of the traffic because of two small boat ramps, has no paved parking or driveways. The unpaved surface can quickly turn to mud, and charter captains and crews have had to wash their customers' feet before they come aboard.

The gleaming charter vessels nestling in this ugly, underequipped lagoon provides quite a contrast. The north side of the harbor has no electrical power so vessel operators have no shore power. On the harbor's south side where there is power, vessels owners had to put in their own shorepower connection at a cost of \$30,000 per unit. Having power is a safety issue as charged vessel batteries keep bilge pumps working so boats stay afloat. Another complaint is non-trailer boats have only a single fuel supplier in the harbor.

Ko'olina, a private facility on O'ahu, comes close to being a first-class harbor in Hawai'i. Perhaps the best future for Honokohau is to become privatized as well. Kona and its surrounds continue to grow. Part of that growth could be the redevelopment of Honokohau into a world-class marina that attracts other businesses and volumes of tourists above and beyond the sportfish fraternity. ➡



Pacific Blue Marlin
Kajiki, A'u, Sa'ula, Batto

Distribution

- Found in all tropical oceans.
- Found year-round in Hawai'i.
- Large females migrate into Hawai'i waters in summer to spawn.

Stock Status

- Fished sustainably, with the stock neither overfished nor subject to overfishing.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: emueller00@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2462 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Saturday, January 30, 2016 7:12:24 AM

SB2462

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
Edward Mueller	Ihu Nui Sportfishing	Support	No

Comments: I am a charter boat company who is dedicated to the success of Honokohau Small Boat Harbor. Unfortunately for our harbor we are very deficient in our facilities. Examples include non paved parking lots, no electricity at dock side, closed down launch ramps needing repair and waiting lists for slips and trailer parking. The Kona coast has one of the worlds best fishing coasts in the world, the safest and best waters. Hawaii deserves to at least have an adequate harbor. I support the initiative to move management closer to the users as stated in the proposal. I am also willing to participate in this effort. Creating jobs, making the environment safer, efficient use of capital and common sense will be further achieved through this bill. It is obvious that the status quo does not even meet the basic needs of our users. Please move this effort ahead. Responsible leadership should not ignore such an obvious opportunity. Ed Mueller, owner IHU Nui Sport fishing.

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: eric4sail@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2462 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Friday, January 29, 2016 4:55:02 PM

SB2462

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
Eric Wakely	Westwind Sailing Charters, Inc	Support	No

Comments: As a small business running sailing charters out of Honokohau, we feel a change in harbor management is sorely needed. The lack of maintenance create safety concerns for our customers. None of the lights work on the dock where our charter boat is docked. After sunset, our customers have to use flashlights to avoid tripping on dock hoses and other hazards. These lights have not worked for YEARS. The current DOBOR rules are poorly written and excessively long. A new set of well written rules would improve the harbor for everyone involved.

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Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Blue Ocean Mariculture

Monday, February 1, 2016

Support for S.B. 2462 Relating to Honokohau Small Boat Harbor

Blue Ocean Mariculture is the world's leading producer of cultivated Kahala (*Seriola rivoliana*). We employ 25 people full-time in the Kona area, including 13 in our facility at Honokohau Harbor. Our operations at Honokohau Harbor include mobilizing equipment and launching vessels on a daily basis in the care, feeding and harvesting of Kahala at our offshore farm near Keahole Point. In addition, we frequently launch and recover water quality testing and benthic monitoring activities from the Harbor.

We strongly support S.B. 2462 Relating to Honokohau Small Boat Harbor, which would allow a transfer of certain harbor management and maintenance duties to non-State organizations, and would appropriate certain funds for harbor repair and maintenance during the upcoming fiscal year.

Honokohau Harbor is an important source of economic activity in the Kona area, with the potential for further growth and improvements in efficiency and safety. A strong working relationship between DLNR DOBOR and a community-based board or public-private partnership will allow more timely delivery of harbor improvements and will relieve some of the workload on an already over-extended DLNR DOBOR organization. Appropriation of much-needed funds for repair and maintenance at the Harbor will allow DLNR DOBOR to deliver more of the improvements it has worked so hard to develop.

We believe there is significant untapped potential for Honokohau Harbor to develop into a world-class boating facility, providing additional economic benefit to the State of Hawaii and improved access to ocean-based activities for the local community. We believe the best way to pursue this potential is through the types of public-private partnerships contemplated by S.B. 2462. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Blue Ocean Mariculture

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: hawaiianwalkways@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2462 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Friday, January 29, 2016 6:52:04 PM

SB2462

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
Richard Hawkins	Big Island Jeep Tours	Support	No

Comments: Lets make the harbor nice!!! Privatize!!!!

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Cc: capital@goosesedge.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2462 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Sunday, January 31, 2016 11:21:49 AM

SB2462

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
Al Gustavson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am for a private organization of Honokohau harbor. The government has proven that they can not keep this asset in good operating condition. Third world countries have harbors that far surpass our harbor (s). I am a private slip holder in Lahaina and a commercial slip holder in Honokohau for 20 and 10 years. Captain Al Gustavson

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: fishman@kona.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2462 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Saturday, January 30, 2016 8:15:04 AM

SB2462

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
Captain Scott M Fuller	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As one of the Senior Captains in Honokohau with 40 years in the Sport fishing industry, I am very qualified to comment on this subject. I support a private entity taking control of this very poorly managed harbor. Having traveled to several third world countries and witnessed better equipped marinas than we have speaks for itself. It is very sad that the only state in the union surrounded completely by water has such deplorable harbors. The State has proved over and over that they are inept in managing this resource. Please pass this bill so that future generations may enjoy harbors that are not an eye sore. Mahalo

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Cc: cperritt@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2462 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Saturday, January 30, 2016 9:59:33 AM

SB2462

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
Chris Perritt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: mcgrew@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2462 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Sunday, January 31, 2016 7:12:05 PM
Attachments: [McGrew Rice~ Newsletter 1-1-16 Honokohau Harbor article.pdf](#)

SB2462

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
Frederick McGrew Rice	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To Whom it May concern, This article was written by myself and shows only a very small portion of the big problem that we have in our harbor. Most third world countries have better facilities than we do for the World Class clientele that we serve. We have shown the world that we are the best in what we do and now it is time for the State of Hawaii to back us up! Aloha, Captain Frederick McGrew Rice IHU NUI SPOTFISHING Sixth Generation Born & Raised in HAWAII Third Generation Boat Captain on the Big Island www.ihunui.com mcgrew@hawaii.rr.com 808-960-1424

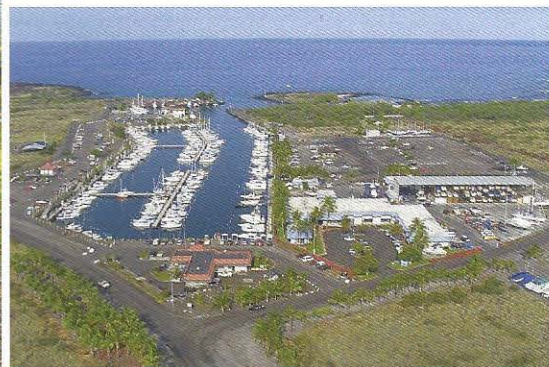
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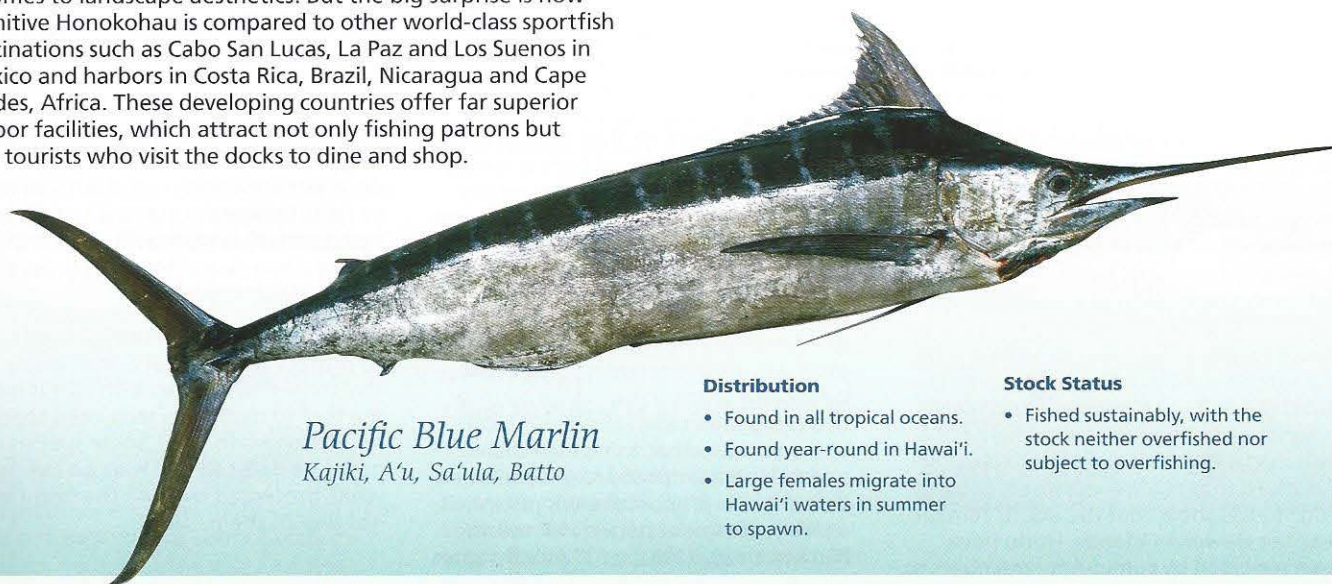
Every issue of *Hawaii Fishing News* recounts the fish landed or tagged-and-released at Kona. The October 2015 edition includes three photos of fish greater than 500 pounds and two granders, or fish greater than 1,000 pounds. In the past, about two-thirds of the fish landed by the Kona charter fleet were blue marlin. This has dropped to about 30 percent as more charter captains embrace the catch-and-release ethic, estimating the weight of the fish and then tagging it. A YouTube video of a 16-year-old New Yorker landing a grander in February went viral, receiving up to half a million hits.

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Ko'olina, a private facility on O'ahu, comes close to being a first-class harbor in Hawai'i. Perhaps the best future for Honokohau is to become privatized as well. Kona and its surrounds continue to grow. Part of that growth could be the redevelopment of Honokohau into a world-class marina that attracts other businesses and volumes of tourists above and beyond the sportfish fraternity. 🐟



Pacific Blue Marlin
Kajiki, A'u, Sa'ula, Batto

Distribution

- Found in all tropical oceans.
- Found year-round in Hawai'i.
- Large females migrate into Hawai'i waters in summer to spawn.

Stock Status

- Fished sustainably, with the stock neither overfished nor subject to overfishing.

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: jwakely@packagehomes.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2462 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Saturday, January 30, 2016 9:45:35 AM

SB2462

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
Judith Wakely	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: rhonda@leabo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2462 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Friday, January 29, 2016 4:32:43 PM

SB2462

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
Rhonda Bovee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill. Honokohau Harbor is probably the most active and profitable harbors on the island, yet is always in a bad state of disrepair! Any possible repair takes literally years. It is hurting our local economy, and does not present us in a good light to our tourists, which the harbor needs to survive.

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Cc: Matzelle@Hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2462 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Saturday, January 30, 2016 7:41:16 AM

SB2462

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
Rich Matzelle	Individual	Support	No

Comments: World class destination. Second class condition.

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Cc: stymienkona@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2462 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Saturday, January 30, 2016 7:33:54 AM

SB2462

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
steve epstein	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: stevenfassbender@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2462 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Saturday, January 30, 2016 11:28:46 AM

SB2462

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
steven fassbender	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This is very important

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To: [WLA Testimony](#)
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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2462 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Friday, January 29, 2016 5:13:23 PM

SB2462

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
takeo Izawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Honokohau harbor need up date condition ASP. Please help to next generation to live Hawaii.

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Cc: tbrit02@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2462 on Feb 1, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Saturday, January 30, 2016 7:39:35 PM

SB2462

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
tom britton	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: our moorage situation on the big island is very limited and needs significant improvement. a public/private management can only improve this dilemma. please also consider adding the kawaihae harbors to this new management. better and more moorage is important

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