

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
DAWN N.S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Thursday, February 2, 2023
9:30 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 430**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 701
RELATING TO POHOIKI BOAT RAMP**

House Bill 701 proposes to appropriate funds to dredge the Pohoiki Bay Boat Launch Ramp. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely affect the priorities identified in the Executive Budget request, and offers recommendations.**

The Department estimates that \$40 million will be required to accomplish dredging of Pohoiki Boat Ramp. The Department has been informed by the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency that a portion of this \$40 million will be reimbursed by federal matching funds, but the amount of federal matching funds has not yet been determined because the project is still under review by the involved federal agencies.

Due to the amount of funding needed for this project, the Department notes that the Legislature may desire to fund the project through the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget rather than through a general fund appropriation.

Finally, the Department notes that the appropriation language currently states that the Department of Transportation will receive the funding. This language and CIP funding, if any, should be corrected to state that the Department of Land and Natural Resources will receive the funding.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

LAURA H.E. KAAKUA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:25:12 AM

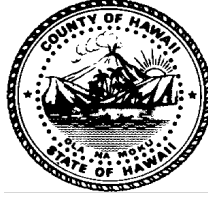
Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
McCall, Finn	DLNR-DOBOR	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Stand on DLNR testimony. Available to answer questions.

Ashley L. Kierkiewicz
Council Member
District 4 Puna



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HAWAI‘I COUNTY COUNCIL

Hawai‘i County Building
25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720

February 1, 2023

House Committee on Water & Land

Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice-Chair

RE: Support for Bill HB701, relating to funds to dredge the boat ramp at Pohoiki Bay, Puna

Aloha, Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and Esteemed Members of the Committee on Water & Land:

I write in strong support of Bill HB701 that appropriates funds to dredge the boat ramp at Pohoiki bay in the Puna District on Hawai‘i Island, and further support the findings that removing the volcanic debris and re-opening the Pohoiki boat ramp is vital to the health and well-being of the Puna community of whom I humbly serve and represent as Council Member.

The Pohoiki Boat Ramp was rendered inaccessible as a result of lava debris and black sand accumulating during the 2018 Kīlauea eruption. Prior to the eruption, this boat ramp was one of the most productive fishing grounds in the State, helping with food security and driving our local economy. Since the ramp is buried, our lawai‘a must trailer their vessels to Hilo (~30 miles) or Nā‘ālehu (~70 miles) to launch and access their fishing spots; this adds substantial time, costs, and inequity to each fishing journey.

I appreciate the State’s investment in a contractor to explore ways to re-open the bay. A pathway forward has been identified, but securing State funds to match FEMA dollars is critical to implementing a solution that helps our Puna lawai‘a get back into the water - *in Puna*. This will greatly enhance our subsistence lifestyle, commercial fishing operations, revitalize the economy, and boost our ongoing eruption recovery efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support.

Cheers,

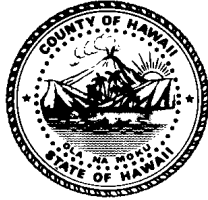
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashley L. Kierkiewicz', written in a cursive style.

Ashley L. Kierkiewicz

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Lee E. Lord
Managing Director

West Hawai'i Office
74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy
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County of Hawai'i
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Zendo Kern
Director

Jeffrey W. Darrow
Deputy Director

East Hawai'i Office
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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 701
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO POHOIKI BOAT RAMP**

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Chair, Rep. Linda Ichiyama
Vice-Chair, Rep. Mahina Poepoe

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 2, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.
Time/Place of Hearing: Via Video Conference / Conference Room 403

Aloha Honorable Chair Ichiyama, Honorable Vice-Chair Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Water and Land:

The County of Hawai'i is grateful for the opportunity to testify in support of HB701, a bill for an act relating the appropriation of funds to dredge the boat ramp at Pohoiki Bay, in the district of Puna. The 2018 Kīlauea eruption changed the landscape of lower Puna and its coastline. One example of this is Pohoiki where a new black sand beach has blocked the district's only boat ramp. This access point to some of the most abundant waters of our State is critical for the lawai'a of Puna and the boating industry overall as they now have to haul their boats at least 30 minutes to Hilo just to get into the water. This doesn't account for the time and costs associated with travel by boat to their waters off Puna, where many have fished for generations.

We strongly support HB701 to appropriate funds to dredge the boat ramp at Pohoiki Bay because of the opportunity it presents. This investment by the State Legislature will be able to leverage the disaster assistance expected from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to the State to restore this critical infrastructure which provides for the livelihoods, subsistence, and cultural practices of our families in Puna. With the restoration of access at the Pohoiki boat ramp, the County stands ready to work with the relevant State departments to establish a properly sited and funded parking facility and boat wash area that has been long overdue to service the lawai'a and protect the environment at Pohoiki.

The County of Hawai'i has worked closely with the Department of Land and Natural Resources – Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation in its work to restore this vital ocean access at Pohoiki. This includes collaboration with lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and ocean users of the area through the Revitalize Pohoiki planning effort, and a \$3.1 million investment of disaster assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency by the County's Department of Parks and Recreation to restore facilities at Isaac Kepo'okalani Hale Beach Park which serves as the gateway to the boat ramp at Pohoiki Bay. In the months following the 2018

Chair Ichiyama and Vice-Chair Poepoe
House Committee on Water and Land
February 2, 2023
Page 2

Kīlauea eruption the County restored inundated portions of Highway 137 on a temporary basis to provide for immediate road access to Pohoiki once it was safe. The County Department of Public Works is in the process of restoring all lava inundated extents of Highway 137 and Pohoiki Road, including a new road realignment where the two roads meet to ensure safe access to Pohoiki for all users, including large vehicles and boats, for generations to come.

We thank Speaker Saiki and Vice Speaker Ilagan for their leadership in introducing this important bill, and appreciate the time and consideration of the Committee on Water and Land for taking up this measure.

Mahalo,

Zendo Kern
Planning Director
County of Hawai'i

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:41:21 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amedeo Markoff	Mainstreet Pahoia Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The restoration of the Pohoiki boat ramp is essential to the economic recovery of the Puna community. The Mainstreet Pahoia Association is the oldest chamber of commerce type of organization on the Big Island and as such can speak with some authority regarding the economic conditions in lower Puna. We are still in crisis from the 2018 kilauea eruption and our recovery has been extremely slow. The boat ramp is a huge economic driver for our community and its lack of restoration is devastating. Please stop delaying this most worth while project and restore the ramp immediately!

Sincerely, Amedeo Markoff President Mainstreet Pahoia Association

Aloha,

My name is Leila Kealoha and I am from lower Puna. I was born, raised and will die in Puna. I hail from this land and ocean as my kupuna did. I am a 3rd Generation Lawai'a out of Pohoiki boat ramp. I am here today to say I am in support of the dredging of the Pohoiki bay and we need the funding support to do this. We need our icebox back! Our 'ohana are hungry and have been for years. We never had a problem getting fish, whether it was for a baby party, wedding or graduation, the lawai'a always provided for us. Pohoiki has been a fishing village for generations for our families. It has also served as a port to access the ocean for safety measures which is critical to saving lives. I have personally worked tirelessly and whole-heartedly on this project since 2019 by hosting meetings, meeting with the State, County and community to meet the needs of our 'ohana and lawai'a. Imagine if Honolulu harbor was shut down for 4-years and that access would not be restored for another 2-years and maybe not even full access. Where would we all be without our ports for our lifeline to goods? It would be more than difficult and I am sure that problem would be addressed immediately. It is the same for us here in Puna. We depend on the Pohoiki boat ramp for sustenance, please help us get back to feeding ourselves! The only way to do that is if you support HB701 to allocate the funding for the dredging. Mahalo for your time, support and for listening.

HB-701

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 5:08:42 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kuulei Cooper-Springer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The purpose for this testimony is to support the ongoing efforts of our community, and DOBOR, with regard to the restoration of our boat ramp at Pohoiki, Puna, Hawaii. We appreciate DOBOR working with our fishermen, and our Puna community towards recovery from the historic eruption of 2018. Our Pohoiki boat ramp is a vital component to our recovery efforts.

The record will reflect our community meetings held since the eruption, and the efforts of our elected officials on both the State and County level. Additionally, the Army Corps of Engineers has been most helpful in "paving the path" utilizing an existing International permit for restoration of our boat ramp.

We support the plan as proposed with regard to the dredging of the existing boat ramp (Phase I), and the continued efforts for a permanent solution (Phase II) in Pohoiki. The testimony provided by Ms. Leah Gouker is most informative, as it defines the entire process we have endured to date. Also included in her testimony is our County Council Resolution (passed unanimously; 9-0), and the petition circulated with over 4,700 signatures in support, and counting.

<https://www.change.org/p/state-of-hawaii-dlnr-dobor-petition-supporting-pohoiki-boat-ramp>

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration, and we look forward to your support. Please stay safe, all.

Sincerely,

Ku'ulei Kealoha Cooper, Individually & as Trustee
James K. and Miulan P.Y. Kealoha Trust

For refrence: Leah Gouker Testimony Has been Sent to Representative Ilagan, as it is too large for this forum. Mahalo nui.

<https://www.change.org/p/state-of-hawaii-dlnr-dobor-petition-supporting-pohoiki-boat-ramp>

HB-701

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 5:12:46 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Levy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is my understanding that the sand is being taken out to sea, naturally, and it is only a matter of time before the boat ramp is accessible without spending this money . Let's use this money to develop a new swimming pool and not ramp elsewhere.

it is unnecessary and likely illegal to cover the new natural spring created by the 2017 eruption. It is a beautiful natural phenomenon that should be honored

HB-701

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 6:25:23 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Jamerson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of Lower Puna, on the Big Island of Hawaii, I enthusiastically support HB701 to fund the dredging, rebuilding and opening of the Pohoiki Boat Ramp. This is the only ocean access in this area of the Big Island and it is essential that it gets put back in operation. This is important for the fisherman, food security, traditional cultural practices, ocean education, emergency response and improved quality of life for local residents. The eruption took so much from us, please rebuild the boat ramp as soon as possible by passing HB701.

Thank you,

Susan Jamerson, resident of Kapoho

HB-701

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 8:01:52 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MARILYN JOHNSON	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a lower Puna resident, I support re-establishing a boat ramp along the Puna coastline. We need a boat ramp for the fisherman, food security and coastline safety. Please fund a boat ramp project so we can get the FEMA money associated with re-establishing a boat ramp.

I do have concerns about the proposed plan for where and how to re-establish this boat ramp - that is, the "dredge everything" at Pohoiki approach that is popular with the fisherman community. Whether you believe Pele gave Puna a beautiful new black sand beach, or you believe that coastal erosion and sediment transport created the beautiful new beach, I believe it is a mistake to think that humans can tackle nature to keep things the way they were. Pele won't like it, and neither will the ocean abide by the human goals.

The boat ramp should be located where the community-at-large will accept it, and it makes the most engineering and financial sense. Pohohiki has poor road access. It has no services left after 2018. The coastline was drastically changed by the lava flow. Everything is different since 2018. The ramp should be located where it makes the most sense now, not where Isaac Hale donated land for a boat ramp before. Things move on, including coastlines and fish.

I proposed alternatives, such as blasting a new ramp area in the new state land created by the 1980-90 lava flow between Kaimu and Kalapana, but the fisherman's group has decided it should be back at Pohoiki, and that seems to be the loudest and most recognized voice. So be it. A re-established ramp at Pohoiki is better than no ramp at all.

The studies and reports that have been commissioned were severely disappointing because the engineering firms ignored community input until after the report was prepared. When a public meeting happened to discuss the report, the whole report was thrown out as state players bow to the demands of the fisherman group. The process should have been - get community input about both proposed and unacceptable location ideas, then have an engineering firm prepare a feasibility study and financial assessment of those proposed locations/approaches. The Hawaiian voice is strong in lower Puna. Might as well recognize that reality and listen to it first, then prepare an engineering report that accesses the community ideas. Not the other way around.

One final comment about Hawaii state support for ocean vessel access in general. Hilo's Wailoa Basin is silting in. Already deeper draft boats can only navigate the entrance at greater than 1 foot tides. If no dredging is done at Wailoa, and no Puna ramp is re-established, and the Laupahoehoe boat ramp is not repaired, then fisherman and recreational boaters will have no

boat access on the entire fisheries rich and fertile east Hawaii coast. The real question is why is Hawaii state not more ocean-going boat friendly?

But this bill is not about DOBOR and its problems. It's about the Puna boat ramp, and I support funding it.

HB-701

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 9:04:19 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Edwards Hunt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support and all efforts to get our Puna fishermen back in the water as soon as possible! Please pass this bill and take it all the way to adoption! It's been four years since the Kilauea lava flow that our Puna fishermen have had to endure a costly commute to Hilo to maintain their livelihood. We need to get Puna access to the ocean for these people! Mahalo nui loa!

HB-701

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 9:22:16 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Buckovetz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support bill for fishermen, keiki, kupuna and Katarina to be able to use the area again for worship, recreation and fishing for food for ohana or as income source that was lost in the eruption.

HB-701

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 9:48:35 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Lindbergh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It may concern,

I am in favor of this bill proposed by representative Greggor Ilagan to allocate funds to dredge the Pohoiki Boat Ramp project.

Thank you very much

Julia Lindbergh

HB-701

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 10:14:49 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lela Kalama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

My name is Lela Kalama and I STRONGLY SUPPORT bill HB701. The fisherman in Puna are struggling with the high cost of gas and having to drive all the way to the boat ramp in Hilo and drive the boat farther to get the boat to the fishing grounds in the puna area. Some have already had to sell their boats as they are no longer able to sustain fishing. Not to mention Pohoiki was/is a high producer of the fish catch in the STATE. It's been 5 years since the eruption, please pass this bill so work can begin and get those fisherman back in the water.

Mahalo nui,

Na Lela Kalama

HB-701

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 10:39:23 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tony	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dredging Pohoiki boat ramp

My name is Tony Sylva and I have been fishing out of pohoiki since I was a kid. I have 2 daughters Ku'uipo and Kulia they both have been fishing out of pohoiki boat ramp before they could walk.

Pohoiki was like our second home we went almost every day. I normally fish every day rather it was a 2 hour trip or a 4 hour trip. Sometimes I had extended trips that would last for 2 days. On weekends was family day I would take my kids and their cousins out bottom fishing or run to kahena buoy for some ahi or mahi-mahi.

With no pohoiki I have to launch out of Hilo. My 2 hour trips are now 4 days. I could be at the fishing grounds in minutes now it's a minimum 4 hours from Hilo to pohoiki. To get from Hilo to pohoiki you have to cross the treacherous kumakahi point. Kumakahi in my opinion is the second roughest point on the Hawaii island next to opolu point.

My fishing expenses for a single fishing trip used to range from \$120.00-\$250.00 . Now my trip is a minimum \$500.00 and can cost up to \$800.00 my maintenance now on my boat quadruple since my trips are so many hours longer. I have made extensive modifications to my boat so it can make the long drive that is required now to make any money fishing from Hilo boat ramp.

I no longer can go on single day trips because it is not affordable I have to take 4 day trips at a time. Now I don't see my girls for days at a time because I have to make my trips count. My daughters don't go out on the boat anymore because I don't trust taking them far out . Hilo doesn't have the fishing grounds like Pohoiki.

I cannot believe that farmers have gone back to farming because there roads have been restored. Most of the community that couldn't access their houses are now at home. Us pohoiki fishermen are just screwed with the state taking the longest possible way to get us a chance at getting back to work out of pohoiki. How much longer will it take to Try Something. More then half of the guys I know who used to fish out of pohoiki have sold their boats because they could not make money out of Hilo boat ramp. Some of those guys boats just couldn't make the long treacherous drive back to the fishing grounds we all know and depend on to survive as fishermen.

Pohoiki boat ramp was not only valuable to us fishermen but also a emergency access if lava crossed the roads and puna has no access to Hilo. In the 2018 eruption that almost happened we got lucky and lava did not cross the main highway. I really hope we the fishermen have a chance at launching out of pohoiki in the next year.

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:45:29 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph holder	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please don't disturb the beautiful hot springs and beaches that we have be given by the eruption. Look at how many people are enjoying pohoiki just the way it is right now. So many places were taken by the eruption but these hot springs and new beaches were given to us. Please don't take them away!

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:38:03 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie Pedersen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB 701 RELATING TO POHOIKI BOAT RAMP.

The Pohoiki boat ramp is essential to the health and economic life of the Puna District as well as Hawaii County and the State. Access to the rich Puna fishing grounds is vital to our commercial fishermen as well as small subsistence fishermen such as myself and my family. In addition, enough time has passed since the 2018 eruption to show that additional sand and cobble is not being added to the ramp area. This indicates a high probability that the dredged boat ramp will continue to provide ocean access for the long term.

PLEASE VOTE YES ON HB701!

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Pedersen

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:48:18 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allen Bartolome	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Water and Land. I stand in strong support of House Bill 701.

I am a lifelong resident of Puna. The best way to describe the need for the boat ramp to be restored is this. Imagine the whole coast line of Oahu not having a harbor where fishing boats can go out to fish for their community. This is the current reality in Puna. Restoring the boat ramp will better help the local economy, provide food in the community and serve as a hub for public ocean safety as there are no ways to launch a boat from Puna for rescue operations.

I humbly urge you all to pass House Bill 701.

Mahalo,

Allen Bartolome

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:25:18 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lawrence Oberman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The dredging of Pohoiki is much needed for lower Puna. Our fisherman have been greatly effected by the loss of the only launch ramp in this area.

The Puna area is the poorest area of the entire state .

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:28:06 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail Clarke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is testimony in favor of HB701 from a 36yr Puna resident who studied marine science in college - listening to the engineers it sounds like conditions such as sand movement have settled enough to dredge and recover this important ocean access on the Puna coastline. Please support efforts to get it going. STEM in action, it will be a learning experience for many and hopefully a very successful one! Go For It!

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:44:10 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorraine Jonsdottir	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We NEED to get our BOAT RAMP back as soon as possible. The lack of access for our LOCAL fishermen has been an extreme hardship on their families and community. Please expedite the process and support our struggling community.

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:52:25 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Faith Paulele	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Sirs,

**The PUNA fishermen are desperate for their boat ramp.
AND YOU HAVE MADE ZERO PROGRESS for the people in Puna.
ZERO!**

They have rebuilt the Notre-Dame Cathedral which burned in 2019, in this time. You folks are just burning thru our tax money for years now and have produced NOTHING. What a shame. How are all those new cars serving you... our servants? jus askin' (and yeah I'm mad.)

**(Look at GeoThermal they are now a very RICH Company
Their insurance paid millions and YOU made it possible for them to expand and they CHARGE US FOR IT. They are NOT a good neighbor.)**

**How much money has been spent on BOAT RAMP RESEARCH so far?
HUNDREDS have testified already. THIS IS ALMOST A SIN,
against the Puna People, who have endured so much since Iselle.
(I was without power for 33 days and lost my vote! You would NEVER treat KONA that way.)**

AND STILL... we have not given you ENOUGH?

**Enough is enough. We deserve so much more... than more research.
More requests to "Give" you more and more. MORE TESTIMONY!
Didn't you KEEP the hours we already GAVE YOU? HOW MUCH LOUDER
DO YOU NEED US TO BEG?**

GIVE US OUR BOAT RAMP... DREDGE!!!!

And how about an escape road if more trouble comes...

*and you know it will. How long will you research that.. or
find the State to blame it on? Or otherwise not be good
Public Servants to poor Puna?*

*I am so angry I have stopped donating
to campaigns. The politicians have treated PUNA horribly.
It is time now to change or be voted OUT!*

**So many funds have come to help PUNA and have been spent elsewhere.
The Mayor even wanted to put some into the Golf Course in Hilo.
Like I said ... a bloody sin the way you treat Puna, YOU, her public servants...**

**Sincerely,
Faith Paulele
96778**

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:56:11 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Baker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Red Road shoreline fisherman I am in support of getting our boatramp back for LOCAL fisherman as soon as possible. The cost of running a fishing boat all the way from Hilo is prohibitive for our families that are all ready struggling with the many hardships we have endured over the past few years. No more delays. We NEED our boat ramp NOW.

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:14:18 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Penny Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for receiving my testimony in strong **SUPPORT** of **HB701**

I can't think of anything more essential and important than to keep key infrastructure like this operating. Fishermen have been waiting for years for the reopening of Pohoiki boat ramp and are hurting. We can't afford to lose any ability for food sustainability in this remote island state.

Thank you for your **SUPPORT** of **HB701**.

Penny Lee

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:39:16 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Desiree Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support appropriating funds to dredge the puna boat ramp. We need to support our fishermen that make a living out of the Pohoiki boat ramp. It's been too long since they've had access to the boat ramp. Thank you.

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:51:39 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natasha Noble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill. We need fishing and recreational water use available to us again.

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:56:16 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Marvin Porter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

Please support funds to dredge the boat ramp at Pohoiki bay, Puna. We badly need this for our fisherman and for access to good fresh fish.

Mahalo,

Mary Marvin Porter

Island Eyes Video

Keaau, Hawai'i

808-982-9100

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:59:53 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bunnie Harrington	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

Aloha, My Name is Bunnie Harrington. I am a second generation fisherwomen from Pohoiki, and the wife of Mike Harrington, a full time commercial fisherman from Pohoiki. Most can't fathom the importance of Pohoiki. Let me share. To my 'ohana, it's not just any boat ramp on the Puna coast, it our second home. It's where our 'ohana wait's for us to return. It's where everyone is there waiting and willing to lend a hand. From bringing your trailer to the ramp, to helping unload the fish. It's where Aloha and 'ohana still bares weight. It doesn't just mean something, it's Everything to us. The past lawai'a knew our coast well enough to know, there are not many places that will facilitate a ramp. Our coast is one of the roughest in the state. We don't want anything big or commercialized. We are simple lawai'a and don't want to attract unwanted guests.

I hope that the State of Hawai'i takes our knowledge and mana'o on this matter and utilizes it. Thank you for hearing me.

Dredge Pohoiki

Mahalo,

Bunnie Harrington

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:22:05 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Harrington	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Mike Harrington. I have been a full time commercial fisherman out of Pohoiki boat ramp for more than twenty years. This meaning, all of my income for the last two plus decades has come from fish caught out of Pohoiki boat ramp.

During these years I am proud of the fact that I have never had to ask the government for any help financially. I have stood on my own two feet and used my brain and my hands to earn an honest living.

Since losing access to our Pohoiki boat ramp due to volcanic activity, my family has endured many hardships. We lost our acre in Leilani estates that we were ready to build on. We took in my sister in law and her daughter due to them losing their home to lava.

The biggest hit we have taken is our income. I am currently doing my best to survive by fishing out of Hilo. My whole career as a commercial fisherman was spent fishing from Pohoiki to Punaluu. Pohoiki is a 30 mile one way trip from the Hilo boat ramp. Punaluu is 40 miles south of Pohoiki. Barely reachable for a boat the size of mine. The cost of fuel to fish this coast will put me out of business soon.

What I am asking for now is not a government handout. I am asking for the government to use the money I have been paying in taxes to either dredge out our existing Pohoiki boat ramp. I am not asking for a multi million dollar harbor to be built here, Just asking for our simple ramp to be back for the fishermen. Eventually the roads and the water will get down there but until then just get us a ramp in place so we can work and continue to pay our bills. ASAP!

I would like to thank anyone who took the time to hear or read what I have to say. I love my life as a commercial fisherman and I love the ocean and coastline that have provided for me and my family for the past twenty plus years! Please help us!

Mahalo,

Mike Harrington

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:25:03 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB701

I live in Puna and I have nothing to do with the fishing industry, other than eating fresh, local fish. I strongly support this bill. The Pohoiki boat ramp was destroyed in 2018. It's now 2023. That is enough time for to determine the best solution to this problem. Please appropriate the money to dredge the boat ramp area and allow the people who fish to get on with their work.

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI

District 4, Pct. 2

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:21:46 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I fully support the restoration of the Pohoiki Boat Ramp. This is a vital resource for our fishermen and community. I am a resident of Lower Puna and we lost so much to the 2018 Kīlauea lava flow and it is way past due for this restoration to begin. Please help our community to recover.

Respectfully,

Debra Smith

Kapoho, Pahoa, HI

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:47:06 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Cigainero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members: My name is Barbara Cigainero and I reside in the Puna Region of the Big Island. I am asking for your support for HB 701 that would provide funding necessary to dredge sand and re-open the Pohoiki Boat Ramp. I do not fish for a living but quite a number of residents in my area do fish for a living. After the 2018 volcanic eruption, the boat ramp was cut off by a large deposit of black sand. This sand must be dredged in order for the boat ramp to be accessible to the open sea. I have been very impressed with the diligence shown by the people affected by the loss of the ramp. It is extremely costly for those who fish to use other boat ramps and it has been an extreme economic hardship for those who make their living fishing to be without the Pohoiki ramp. The workers most directly impacted provide a great service for those who eat fish and they deserve to be able to make a decent living. I hope you will support this measure. Thank you for your consideration. Aloha. Barbara Cigainero

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 12:14:33 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nina Lominario	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the building of a boat ramp in pohoiki. We need the ramp to help feed our ohana. My Ohana has been fishing for generations down pohoiki.

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 12:57:46 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Burrows	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass HB701 for our community,it is extremely important,mahalo nui,Smiley Burrows

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:27:47 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Louise Quijano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of Pahoia since 2004, I know how very important this boat ramp was to our local people, both the small-scale commercial fishermen who used it on a daily basis to eke out a living and the individuals who fished Pohoiki Bay from kayaks or the shoreline in order to gather the gifts of the sea to sustain their own families. Since the lava cut off access to the ocean, local fishermen have had to go all the way to Hilo Bay to launch their boats. For many the extra cost was too much to offset the uncertainties of making a decent catch, and so their businesses folded, their boats went into dry dock and they suffered financially as a result. Dredging out the black sand that now clogs the entire shoreline will restore hope and a way of life to the people of lower Puna. It is more than just a boat ramp to those who live here, it is our past as well as our future.

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:03:23 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Todd Reilly Sr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This measure is a necessity to the well being and economic stability of Puna. The boat ramp must be re-stored so the tradition of supporting one's family from the ses can remain viable. A yes on this measure benefits everyone in the State of Hawaii

Mahalo

Todd Reilly Sr

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:20:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristy Kobayashi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, this is my testimony regarding the Pohoiki Boat Ramp. I am born, raised and still reside in Pahoia. Dredging and fixing the boat ramp area will extremely help my Ohana. My father is a Boat Captain. Since the lava flow interrupted the use of Pohoiki Boat ramp he has had to use the Hilo Boat ramp. It's such a great inconvenience being that he fishes near Kapoho and Kalapana side. With that being said the cost of fuel to drive to Hilo to launch then trolley all the way back to Pahoia is simply ridiculous. Fishing is a source of financial stability for my family as well as a food source for us to consume. Please help my family and appropriate the funds needed to start the dredging. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:51:33 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharon and Ron Carter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have all been through trying times since the Lava eruption of 2018. Please open the Pohoiki boat ramp for our Fishing livelihood in the area.

My husband and I have been a member of this community since 2009 and have seen the changes and devastation this lava flow caused.

We live in Leilan and have suffered so much loss with over 700 homes and family losing everything they had.

Please give us back what we had so that we can now support our families and the Hawaiian way of life.

We need a boat launch, fresh water, and a safe beach the kids and my grandchildren can safely swim at.

We also need some semblance of a normal

life again!

Thank you to all the people that have made this possible after years of loss and struggle post lava.

Ronald and Sharon Carter

13-3502 Moku Street

Pahoa, Hi 96778

(Formerly Hookupu Street)

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:10:55 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy Hernaez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Pohoiki boat ramp is a vital project to enable the local fishing industry to thrive. The Pohoiki road needs to be finished and a water source needs to be provided. The Puna district growth warrants more serious attention!

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:19:57 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Pieper	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Having surfed Pohoiki for several years, I have many friends that used the boat ramp for commercial fishing purposes. This generated State Income in the form of GE Taxes. It was a considerable amount of revenue for the State. Many of them have discontinued their fishing business because of the loss of this boat ramp. The long distance to Hilo was too time consuming and too expensive.

The loss of their revenue from the fishing has caused a decrease in revenue for the Pahoia businesses. Also, the residents of East Hawaii that enjoyed the recreational use of Pohoiki are missing it. Less people going out to Pohoiki has meant less people stopping in Pahoia. The whole community will benefit from the accessibility of Pohoiki and the Boat Ramp.

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:39:45 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philip Ong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is the testimony of a geologist who has commented on this issue since 2018 as part of the Puna community. I see the people of Puna driven to the revival and stewardship of the Pohoiki boat ramp and its supporting area, as evidenced by Hawai'i County and the community's investments in Kilauea Eruption Recovery and Revitalize Pohoiki. Of the 4 major issues this bill addresses, I will comment primarily on the geologic and economic aspects, while duly noting the importance of safety – as the only boat ramp in south Hawai'i between Hilo and Punalu'u, a coastal distance of over 80 miles – and the well-established cultural value and long tradition of Hawaiian fishing out of Pohoiki.

Since the end of the 2018 eruption, we know that the majority of the sand in Pohoiki bay, 94% of its current extent, was deposited by mid-2019. In the three following years, the beach grew only in its central section, expanding in width by up to 20% while showing little change at its northern and southern ends. These rough estimates, generated from Sea Engineering's presented map of surveyed beach crest locations, suggest the sediment accumulation rate is dramatically lower today and could be comparable to rates calculated for other harbors statewide, where maintenance dredging has been established as acceptable.

There are uncertainties due to the situation's uniqueness, but the best way to gain the missing knowledge and benefit the community is to take the first step of informed action to move out as much of the sediment as possible. Perhaps sediment has stopped collecting because the bay is at its capacity, due to the significant drop-off not far offshore. Perhaps erosion of the new lava flows nearby is still producing enough material to refill the bay and hinder the boat ramp, but if so it needs to be much more than was produced by erosion of the pre-2018 lava flows, which were not enough to hinder the boat ramp. These are valid concerns, but in contrast to the accumulation rates, there has been no data available to support them.

Looking further to the lessons given by time, this area previously hosted sand and cobble beaches evident in maps from the 1890s and old photographs from the Lyman Museum Archives. However, much of the nearby Puna coastline has subsided due to movement of Kīlauea’s south flank, rapidly during the 1924 seismic crisis and the 1975 Kalapana earthquake and more slowly in between. The net effect over the last more than 130 years has been the natural removal of sand from the area, which was likely produced by the previous large volume eruption to enter the ocean nearby, perhaps in 1840 or 1790. In this context, dredging Pohoiki bay after the 2018 eruption could just be an acceleration of the natural process, with a chance to sustain itself in the long-term.

Economically, an analysis of DLNR’s “Sea landings by area fished” data shows Pohoiki was the third most productive fishing area listed for the State through 2017. It brought in an annual average of \$1.3 million in catch when reported from 1997 to 2001 – equivalent to \$2.2 million per year in 2022 after adjusting for inflation. An average of almost 400,000 pounds of fish were landed there every year, a significant contribution to local food sustainability, but by 2019 the catch was reduced to one-third of that amount. Fishermen continue to endure hardship after 4 years, forced to launch from Hilo for longer, costlier trips that also burden their families with less time at home. The need is urgently real, with the prolonged closure already threatening the Puna fishing industry.

The sediment itself is also a resource worth roughly \$50 per ton, which I estimate could add up to a total value of at least \$15 million if put to market, or could save taxpayer money and other local resources if reused in other government projects. Certainly it is not so simple, but the opportunity exists to reduce the project cost in innovative ways.

Do we know enough to take action on Pohoiki? Given the stakes, we have to. The unknowns should have been researched sooner, but there is a path to simultaneously take action and gain knowledge. The alternative to dredge as much of the bay as possible under the existing maintenance permit is the most logical step to restore ocean access to the Pohoiki boat ramp as soon as possible. The less sediment remains in the bay, the less there will be to remobilize towards the boat ramp and its channel, increasing the initial chance of success. More sand may still accumulate, but at that point the new build-up rate could be measured and used to evaluate any further design and action. Perhaps the accumulation rate is low enough to justify periodic maintenance dredging as is common at other State harbors, and the initial action may prove sufficient. The other possibility also exists: that so much sediment is still being generated from the 2018 lavas, that even the most expensive, built-out alternative would prove insufficient. In that case, dredging today and attaining measured rates of build-up would also save us from money ill-spent in the long run.

It is clear that the rewards of funding HB701 far outweigh the risks, and in my opinion, presents the most logical step forward and the fruition of years of community work in Puna. I offer this testimony wholeheartedly supporting HB701.

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:32:19 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Gran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Pohoiki boat ramp, and Pohoiki Bay, are an integral part of life for Hawaii County. It has had a devastating impact to the economy, health, and well-being of Hawaii residents during the course of its closure.

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:44:48 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clarence Aku Hauanio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Aku Hauanio. I was born and raised in Kalapana in 1952. I have been fishing along the coast by shore and by boat for my entire life, taught by my grandparents and parents. I am from Kalapana, and I was brought up fishing. At this time, I fish at least two times a week. Driving to Hilo to launch is not a good thing. To go all the way from Kalapana to Hilo with my truck and boat, the gas for the truck alone is \$150.

I very rarely fish out of Hilo. I go back to where I was raised on Kalapana side. Just to go trolling on that side now costs hundreds of dollars. To go ika shibi, it costs \$700 or \$800 each trip.

I always go back home because I know I will catch down there. Hardly anyone fishes down there because the ocean is rough. I don't know anything about Hilo, but at home I know all the areas that the fish bite. Down there, I know all the grounds from where our kupuna showed us. I don't know Hilo; I am only guessing when fishing in Hilo. This is why we need our ramp. This is where we know where the fish are. I leave Kalapana, then spend hundreds of dollars driving on the road and the ocean for hours just to get back to Kalapana for fishing.

Every time I go fishing, I have to stay on the sea for two or three days to save money. It is not easy. The ocean is rough, you try to sleep, and then you have to fish all day before the drive back- just because the cost is so high.

The ramp is good where it is at Pohoiki. It has boat parking and the bumpers. All we need is the opening to the ocean. That's all we need is the opening, and then we're all good. I will launch there again. The original depth is good, the top of the original ground can be cleared away and it should be good to use again.

I want the State Legislature to know that I support the opening of the boat ramp at Pohoiki as soon as possible.

Mahalo,

Aku Hauanio

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:07:51 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Corby	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is poorly written and has no dollar amount proposed for this project or explanation of how it will be done. In addition, past engineers took a look at the new HUGE black sand beach and determined that removing the entire beach full of sand was foolish at best and impossible at worst. Even those of us without an engineering degree but possessing common sense know this is a very foolish idea and what will it accomplish? makes no sense. This seems like a waste of money. Other areas with no giant sandy beaches should be considered for a puna coast boat ramp, this is not it. OR how about leave the beach as it is, and create the new boat ramp off the existing beach, you can create a paved road extending from the parking lot out to the ocean on the far left closest to the parking lot and the boats can launch that way. This idea to spend millions to remove the entire sandy beach is just ridiculous. Just add a boat launch off the beach, that way you don't have to desecrate and destroy this beautiful SACRED new black sand beach that Pele gave us and thermal ponds. Make everyone happy, keep the beach and put the boat launch on one side of the beach, far left would make most sense being closest to the parking lot so less slab to pour to launch the boats from.

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:59:44 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nadia Ranne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 701. Restore ocean access for Pohoiki fishermen. It is long overdue. Please open the road too. Mahalo!

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:59:59 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Blazak	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB701. All of the infrastructure for the boat ramp is in tact and this is a cost-effective plan to return the boat ramp to working order for Puna fishermen and the community.

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:12:18 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chantel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I feel like attaining the funds needed to have the pohoiki boat ramp dredged should have been figured out a long time ago. This access to the ocean here for us is a way of life for some. I have family that have been greatly impacted by not having access. For example paying more in gas not only to get out to Hilo which is the closest ramp access but also the gas it takes for the boat to travel back to Puna side where the fishing is much more abundant and frequent. This along side other issues that is causing financial strain on the household. Also for the business that are in the tour industry this is a major blow to their life both personal and professional. I pray that the right thing will be done and the proper funds will be allocated to helping see this be completed because GOD knows we have the funds somewhere. And to do this in the very near not distant future.MAHALO

Aloha Water and Land Committee, My name is Helen Duley and I humbly ask you to approve HB701 and appropriate funds to dredge the Pohoiki Boat Ramp.

I have been honored to live in the Puna District of Hawaii Island for the past 30 years and I am proud to call Puna my home. Before I arrived in Hawaii in 1993, I had learned that the Queen's bath and beach areas in Kalapana had been covered by the recent eruption of Kilauea. It was the Pohoiki Beach ramp where my children learned to swim, and where they spent much of their free time with friends and family at the weekends. This was where the local fishers launched their boats to fish in the abundant surrounding waters.

Pohoiki Boat Ramp has been the mainstay entryway for local fishers for many decades, supporting their fishing knowledge and livelihoods. Since the 2018 lava flow that caused the boat ramp to be cut off from the ocean, local fisher people have not been able to enter the abundant fishing grounds of the pohoiki area from the boat ramp, but have instead had to go to Hilo and travel all the way back to Pohoiki and the surrounding waters to fish. This has been costly, time-consuming and has added risk for fisher people and their ohana. The cost alone of having to enter the ocean from Hilo has been prohibitive for some fishers, causing them to lose their livelihoods. I earnestly ask that the Water and Land Committee approve HB701 and appropriate funds to dredge the Pohoiki Boat Ramp and begin the restoration of a lifeline for local fishers, their families and the Puna community.

Mahalo nui loa.

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:45:36 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doyle Davison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee members and seated House of Representatives

Hawaii has a long standing with supporting self sufficiency from mainland. One of our greatest resources for the community is being able to work, feed the community and provide security in case of an emergency.

There is absolutely no reason why Pohoiki should not be reopened asap. It's for the safety and security of the community. Our only road could be cut off inwhich we would literally have no access to an escape ramp via the water.

This is a health, safety and security issue.

There are also issues with having to drive 30+ miles each way just to launch a boat and we are/were a fishing community that has been displaced.

Any of our launch ramps could be made inaccessible due to the unpredictability of our island.

Please provide funds to "reopen" a part of our home and peice of security we all deserve. We are not asking for anything new that negatively affects any aspect of hawaii.

we need more water access points and harbors for the safety and security of Hawaii residents.

We should not be blocked by our founders greatest used resources. The big island needs more accessible water access for military, religious rituals, fishing, camping, family outings, ets.

thank you.

doyle

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:46:51 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doyle Davison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee members and seated House of Representatives

Hawaii has a long standing with supporting self sufficiency from mainland. One of our greatest resources for the community is being able to work, feed the community and provide security in case of an emergency.

There is absolutely no reason why Pohoiki should not be reopened asap. It's for the safety and security of the community. Our only road could be cut off inwhich we would literally have no access to an escape ramp via the water.

This is a health, safety and security issue.

There are also issues with having to drive 30+ miles each way just to launch a boat and we are/were a fishing community that has been displaced.

Any of our launch ramps could be made inaccessible due to the unpredictability of our island.

Please provide funds to "reopen" a part of our home and peice of security we all deserve. We are not asking for anything new that negatively affects any aspect of hawaii.

we need more water access points and harbors for the safety and security of Hawaii residents.

We should not be blocked by our founders greatest used resources. The big island needs more accessible water access for military, religious rituals, fishing, camping, family outings, ets.

thank you.

doyle

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:47:54 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anuheia St. Laurent	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian member of the Puna community I am in STRONG SUPPORT of restoring the Pohoiki Boat Ramp so that Native Hawaiians can easily and safely access local resources to sustain our families via fishing, diving, etc. Food sustainability via cultural practices is our right as Natives of this land. In addition, as a spouse of a first responder, restoring the Pohoiki Boat Ramp will allow first responders to more safely, quickly, and efficiently perform emergency rescue services and then come home to their families.

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:03:40 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Lindbergh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Sirs and Madam,

thank you for the opportunity to speak. I am a local fisherman. I have lived in Hawaii since 1960. I care very much for the aina. I have fished from Pohoiki for many years. i have also worked in waterfront construction here for 20 years. I know what it takes to dredge a harbor. This is a matter of general maintainance for all harbors. I have difficulty understanding why this project is taking so long. I can imagine if Wailoa boat ramp was closed because it needed to be dredged. It would be done in a weeks time. (I know because I was involved in a few of those dredgings). Imagine if any other boat ramp would stay closed for 4 years because of dredging. I am aware of the unusual nature of this problem. I am aware of the geological findings and the legal non-problems. I cannot understand why this has not been done a long time ago. At this time the sand is actually leaving the site on its own. Now it's a contest to see if our legislators can act faster that geological time. This is a standard harbor maintainance issue. Lets get it done. Do something to **START WORK** now. I know you have testamony about our needs for this ocean acess. It is very very important. The job is not difficult. Show that you really want to help. This is an easy job. It is an inexpensive job. It is for the people , the local people who live here. Please help. Thank you very much for letting me speak.

HB-701

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:48:09 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katy Paun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB701 and bring back ocean access for lower puna. Our fishermen, surfers, divers, keiki, kupuna, all need safe ocean access in order to thrive. Thank you!