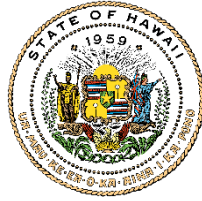


**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

**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 9, 2023  
9:30 AM**

**State Capitol, VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, Conference Room 430**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 761  
RELATING TO AQUATIC RESOURCES**

House Bill 761 proposes to appropriate funds for coral reef restoration and habitat enhancement efforts of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department). **The Department supports this bill, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

Pursuant to Section 187A-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Department is mandated to manage and administer the aquatic life and aquatic resources of the State. Aquatic resources include coral reefs, which provide habitat to various native and endemic species. Coral reefs also provide recreational, cultural, food security, shoreline protection, and tourism benefits.

Hawai'i's coral reefs are threatened by the effects of climate change including sea level rise, coral bleaching, and ocean acidification. Other stressors include land-based sources of pollution, unsustainable fishing practices, anchor damage, and invasive species. Hawai'i has experienced three coral bleaching events in the past eight years, and the frequency of bleaching events is predicted to increase.

The Department currently operates a small-scale coral restoration nursery and engages in coral reef monitoring, invasive species control, and nearshore fisheries management. In the past we have also deployed artificial reefs to enhance fisheries habitat. An appropriation of \$500,000 for Fiscal Year (FY) 23-24 and FY24-25 would enable the Department to enhance coral reef habitat through a combination of artificial reefs and live coral outplanting.

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



**Ka Moku'aina 'O Hawai'i Aha Moku O Pae'Aina**

**State of Hawai'i Aha Moku**

**P. O. Box 621**

**Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of the Hawaii State Aha Moku  
Before the House Committee on Water and Land

Thursday, February 9, 2023

9:30 A.M.

Conference Room 430 & Videoconference

**IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 761**

Relating to Aquatic Resources

House Bill 761 appropriates funds for coral reef restoration and habitat enhancement efforts of the department of land and natural resources.

**The Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) SUPPORTS this measure.**

The health of our coral reefs is crucial to the Public Trust. But to the host culture, the Native Hawaiian, it is critical. To the ocean *lawai'a*, (practitioners) it ensures the survival of their traditional practices. The health of marine and coastal areas is essential to the sustainability of traditional cultural practices.

Thank you for the opportunity to show our support and ask that SB 761 be adopted.

Respectfully,

Rocky Kaluhiwa, Po'o Kakuhihewa

Hawaii State Aha Moku

808-286-7955

Rockykaluhiwa1122@gmail.com

**HB-761**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 1:59:18 PM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Caroline Azelski    | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Support. Thank you.

**HB-761**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 8:58:22 AM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Matthew Geyer       | Individual          | Support                   | In Person      |

Comments:

Due to climate change, coral reefs worldwide are in danger of going extinct in less than 20 years. I support this measure in hopes that it will help protect the reefs.