

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1207-26

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 06 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2101
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Finance, to which was referred H.B. No. 2101, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL AQUARIUM COLLECTION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to prohibit the harvest of aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes, regardless of the method of collection, in counties with a population greater than two hundred thousand and less than three hundred thousand.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; two members of the Hawai'i County Council; Conservation Council for Hawai'i; FreediveSafe Hawai'i; Kihei Community Association; Hawaiian Humane Society; Puako for Reefs; Ka Ohana O Na Pua; Fair Wind Cruises; Center for Global Discovery and Conservation Science; Moana 'Ohana; Hui Aloha Kīholo; Chamber of Sustainable Commerce; Big Island Reef Keepers Hui; Friends of Hanauma Bay; Pacific Academy of Music; Clean the Pacific; Ho'āla Kealakekua Nui, Inc.; Free Access Coalition; Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i; Kalanihale; HULI PAC; 'A'ole AQ Hui; Sierra Club of Hawai'i; Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain; Snorkel Bob's; Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo; Ruddle Ohana; Rights of Coral Reefs; Kupuna for the Moopuna;

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Earthjustice; The Nature Conservancy; Hawai'i and Palmyra; Hawai'i Island Group of the Sierra Club of Hawai'i; Kia'i Kanaloa; Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs; Hawai'i Ocean Legislative Task Force; Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club; Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition; Ko'olau Foundation; Animal Rights Hawai'i; Kauai Climate Action Coalition; Activities and Attractions Association of Hawai'i; Biota Group; Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce; and numerous individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from Hawaii Sustainable Reef Fisheries; The Native Hawaiian Gathering Rights Association; Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council; and numerous individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Your Committee notes several issues raised in testimony that should be considered as this measure proceeds through the legislative process. First, questions remain regarding whether limiting the measure's applicability solely to Hawaii island is appropriate, or whether a broader statewide approach may better address the underlying resource-management concerns. Second, testimony raised the possibility that allowing only previously permitted collectors to continue operating, while prohibiting the issuance of new permits, may provide a clearer and more enforceable regulatory structure. Third, concerns were expressed regarding the economics behind the pricing structure for permits and the retail sale of aquatic fish and whether this pricing structure is appropriate should this measure not advance in its current form.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Finance that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2101, H.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Finance,



CHRIS TODD, Chair



