

Aloha,

My name is Gil Kualii, Commercial Fisherman from Hilo. I currently serve as Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council, Advisory Panel, Vice Chair for Team Hawai'i (2nd Term), State of Hawai'i Fishers Working Group (Advisory member to DLNR Chair, Mrs. Dawn Chang), East Hawai'i Fishers Working Group, Chair, Hilo Trollers Vice President and Big Island Archers member.

I am an avid outdoorsman "Mauka to Makai." Whether archery hunting for deer on Moloka'i or Lana'i, High-power rifle hunting for feral sheep, mouflon and goat on the slopes and kipukas of Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa, feral boar hunting in the thick, lush hapu'u forest of upper panaewa, or just enjoying an early morning Bird hunt at Keamoku with my German Short Hair Pointers, Uka and Koko. I cherish every moment spent up Mauka.

Equally, the Ocean plays a tremendous role in my life as well. Since my retirement from the US Navy in 2003 and the purchase of my brand-new custom Force 21' boat in 2004, I made it a priority to learn how to be a better Lawai'a. My specialties are spearfishing, throw net, trolling with lures or live bait, palu ahi and ika shibi handline fishing. I also love to catch Kona crab, occasionally bottom fish and shore cast for menpachi. My wife, Leia and I also enjoy the camaraderie and excitement of tournament fishing here on our beautiful Island of Hawai'i, participating whenever our schedule and pocketbook allows.

These days, my involvement with the many Federal, State and Community Organizations; that play key roles in the Decision-Making process, provides me with gratitude and a sense of purpose. As a Kanaka Maoli, I feel that "It Is My Kuleana" to advocate for; the Right to Gather, the Ethical Management of our upland birds and game animals, and Accessibility to our near shore and offshore resources. I believe strongly that agency transparency and continual engagement with our local communities, will gain-back the trust from our Kamaaina, ultimately resulting in an improved ecosystem management plan...and sitting silent on the sidelines doesn't do anyone justice. Sometimes, the "Best Science Information Available" used to make critical resource management decisions, may not be the very best way to manage our natural resources here in Hawaii...Common Sense and Traditional Hawaiian practices based on generations of observations, experience and cultural practices should be considered moving forward!

Mahalo, Gil Kualii