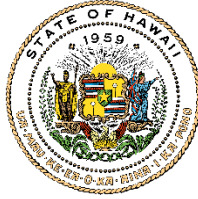


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, April 8, 2026
10:02 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 649, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO SMALL BOAT HARBORS

House Bill 649, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 proposes to revise the way fees are assessed to commercial ocean operators in State ocean waters. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this measure.**

There has been a rapid expansion of commercial ocean activity within a relatively short period of time, leading to overuse of State boating facilities, strain on natural resources, and user conflicts between recreational and commercial ocean users. This measure would ensure that all commercial ocean operators in State ocean waters are assessed fees under the same fee structure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
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-649-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 11:26:04 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
peter o riordan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose this.
Mahalo

HB-649-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:02:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2026 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Koch	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and fellow committee members,

early on, I supported this bill and even submitted testimony saying as much. I think Rep Hashem had a good intent and a worthy cause but unfortunately I don't support how this bill has transformed. It was originally geared towards legit commercial use permit/operators and for moorings and the funds raised by these businesses, that would be used to fund upkeep and repairs of our small boat harbors. They're making thousands of dollars a day. Now it includes ANY "Use" permit, presumably 'Ramp Use' including small craft used for so called commercial fishing. I don't agree with that. There's a very clear difference between a guy going out to catch a few fish, or maybe even strike out, trying to scratch out a hard living, compared to these maximum allowable size commercial vessels being launched at our ramps, using the docks to load 6-12 passengers per trip, usually multiple times per day. The CUP's utilizing slips in the marinas are almost a different entity in themselves, as those guys have their own docks and their vessels are kept on the water at all times. Yet this bill now lumps everyone together with the same fee structures and requirements for inspections as if all things are equal when they're clearly not. I challenge anyone reading my testimony to go down to a major harbor like Honokohau and watch who comes and goes and see who is there all day clogging up the ramp. Also notice the scale of the commercial activity. Then go see a smaller harbor like Keauhou where the commercial activity is even more noticeable. You'll see at least 6-10 RIB inflatable that are 30-35 feet long loading 12 passengers each, multiple times a day. That harbor has two ramps and it's jammed up non stop. Same with parking and wash down. It's not the little guy here and there that's small kine commercial fishing off an Alii Kai that's taking up the ramp or taxing the facilities. It's the big guys. It' disgust me that these multi million dollar companies using our small boat harbors want to keep doing what their doing and crying foul when asked to contribute something back and then somehow our small local fishermen get dragged in under the guise of what? Fairness? These two groups are miles apart in the amount of use and dollars generated. It's laughable to say fair is fair. If passed, this bill will further burden local fishermen just getting by, while these big companies will just pass the cost on to their out of state customers.

had this bill stayed with its original intent I would still support it but it seems like one of the committees adding in language and struck out other things that change the focus of this measure and for these reasons I withdraw my original support. It's a shame. If an amendment could be made exempting our local commercial fishermen on small craft, then I may reconsider

mahalo nui for your time and consideration

Eric K.

Hawaii Island