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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

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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

**Before the Senate Committee on
JUDICIARY**

**Tuesday, March 3, 2026
10:15 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2973, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO FISHING**

Senate Bill 2973, Senate Draft 1 proposes to prohibit in, on, or near State waters the possession or use of buoyant jugs, bottles, or other flotation devices with the primary purpose of suspending a fishing line, hook, and weight, except for store-bought or home-made fishing floats or bobbers that are cast with rod and reel or used while hand-pole fishing. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this bill and offers the following comments.**

The Department recognizes the growing concern regarding the use of so-called “jug rig” variants and their threats to marine life and ocean users. Because there remain some public misconceptions about what this type of fishing entails, the Department notes that it is specifically the use of such fishing gears while paddling out, swimming out, or (now illegally) droning out fishing lines from shore that is especially problematic in nearshore waters and likely the cause of death for the Hawaiian monk seal Moana in September 2025. By itself, the use of a buoyant device, typically an empty jug, to keep a baited hook above the ocean floor presents certain unwanted risks. However, it is the great distances from shore that these rigs are deployed and the excessively heavy pound test braided lines used that perhaps present the greatest risks of environmental harm and ocean user conflict. In short, while removing the buoyant device element from the rig may deter use and alleviate some risks, it would not address all of them.

The Department recommends clearly defining not only the targeted gear, but also the specific method in which it is used. There are multiple legal gears and methods that employ the use

of “flotation devices with the primary purpose of suspending a fishing line, hook, and weight” that are different from the jug fishing rigs that this measure seeks to address. Narrowing the definition would remove unintended impacts on gears and methods that may not be the object of this bill’s focus, such as longline fishing gear, which is authorized by federal permit for use well beyond state waters, but which is possessed aboard Hawai‘i-based vessels in state waters during transit and while at berth.

Accordingly, the Department recommends that the bill language be amended to read as follows (revised language highlighted):

"§188- Jug line fishing; prohibited. (a) Except as provided in subsection (c), it is unlawful to ~~possess or use on, in, or near~~ deploy from shore or lands of the state into state marine waters any fishing device or rig that makes use of buoyant jugs, bottles, or other flotation devices with the primary purpose of suspending a fishing line, hook, and weight.

(b) The possession or use of any of these devices on, in, or near the water where aquatic life can be taken~~, or aboard any fishing vessel or boat~~ is prima facie evidence of a violation of this section.

(c) This section shall not apply to the use of store-bought or home-made fishing floats or bobbers that are cast with rod and reel or used while hand-pole fishing."

Lastly, given the challenges associated with clearly defining jug fishing gear and practices in statute, the Department recommends that this bill include a sunset provision once administrative rules are adopted. This approach would provide flexibility to refine the regulatory framework and address any unintended impacts to other lawful fishing methods.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL SB2973 SD1

RELATING TO FISHING

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka Ho‘okolokolo
(Senate Committee on Judiciary)

Ke Kapitala ‘o Hawai‘i
(Hawai‘i State Capitol)

Malaki 3, 2026

10:15am

Lumi 16

Aloha e Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS SB2973 SD1** which would prohibit jug line fishing and jug rig variant fishing methods in state waters. This measure bans a high-risk gear method associated with wildlife entanglement, ghost fishing, marine debris, reef damage, and documented harm to endangered wildlife.

OHA was established pursuant to section 5(f) of the Admissions Act and Article XII of the Hawai‘i Constitution to serve as a trust entity for the betterment of Native Hawaiians. Hawai‘i Revised Statutes section 10-3(4) directs OHA to assess and advocate regarding policies affecting Native Hawaiian rights and resources. Hawai‘i’s Constitution further provides that the State shall conserve and protect natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations. Nearshore marine ecosystems, coral reefs, and protected marine species are public trust resources, and the State bears an affirmative obligation to prevent their impairment. The proposed ban is consistent with OHA’s existing duties to advance Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights under Article XII, section 7 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution and longstanding OHA policy to protect natural resources that are important to the culture and lifestyle of Native Hawaiians. **SB2973 SD1** does not restrict customary or traditional fishing practices but addresses a specific high-risk gear method.

The direct harms of jug rig variant fishing to marine species by entanglement are not speculative but documented. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) acknowledges heavy pound-test line and buoyant jugs increase the risk of gear loss and wildlife entanglement, leading to fatal consequences. Furthermore, jug-line fishing variant

method is already documented to have caused the death of the Hawaiian monk seal (*ʻĪlio holo i ka uaua*), RS34/Moana.¹ Monk Seals are federally listed as endangered, with an estimated population of approximately 1,600 individuals.² Each mortality event materially affects species recovery. The RS34/Moana incident demonstrates the risk inherent in buoyed, unattended hook-and-line systems that can drift, become lost, or remain in the water column where marine mammals and turtles (honu) forage. Jug line gear can also cause direct physical damage to coral reefs. Lines and weights can abrade live coral tissue, reduce structural complexity, and impair reef resilience. Coral reefs are not only ecological systems but critical natural infrastructure. Peer-reviewed research demonstrates that coral reefs dissipate up to 97 percent of incoming wave energy, providing significant coastal hazard risk reduction and adaptation benefits.³ Degrading reef systems increases vulnerability to shoreline erosion and flooding, elevating public costs and threatening coastal communities. Preventing avoidable reef damage is therefore a climate resilience and public safety imperative, not solely a fisheries management issue.

National authorities have long recognized the dangers posed by lost and abandoned fishing gear. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA)'s Marine Debris Program identifies derelict fishing gear as a significant source of wildlife entanglement and “ghost fishing,” where gear continues to capture and kill marine animals long after it is no longer actively used.⁴ NOAA Fisheries likewise identifies fishing gear entanglement as a serious threat to marine mammals and sea turtles nationwide, requiring coordinated prevention and response efforts.⁵ Jug line systems—buoyant, semi-mobile, and frequently unattended—fall squarely within the category of gear types known to create these persistent hazards. International authorities recognize certain fishing methods cause ecological harm. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) identifies abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear as a global

¹ Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources, News Release, Death of Monk Seal Underscores Importance of Responsible Fishing Practices, September 19, 2025.

² National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA Fisheries, *Hawaiian Monk Seal Population Status Report* (2024).

³ Filippo Ferrario et al., The Effectiveness of Coral Reefs for Coastal Hazard Risk Reduction and Adaptation, *Nature Communications* 5 (2014)

⁴ NOAA Marine Debris Program, “Wildlife Entanglement and Ghost Fishing,” updated March 14, 2023. <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/why-marine-debris-problem/wildlife-entanglement-and-ghost-fishing>, (last accessed February 14, 2026).

⁵ NOAA Fisheries, Entanglement of Marine Life: Risks and Response. <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/insight/entanglement-marine-life-risks-and-response>, (last accessed February 14, 2026.)

marine environmental problem contributing to continued capture of fish, entanglement of endangered species, and damage to benthic habitats and coral reef systems.⁶ FAO technical analyses explain that buoyed hook-and-line systems can continue to entangle wildlife and impact ecosystems after loss.⁷ The United Nations Environment Programme likewise documents abandoned fishing gear as a major component of marine litter worldwide and cause of long-term ecological harm.⁸

Hawai'i's action eliminating fishing by this risky gear furthers the State's Constitutional duty to protect our public trust resources and aligns with international best practices. OHA respectfully urges the committee to **PASS SB2973 SD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

⁶ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), "Abandoned, Lost or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG)."

<https://www.fao.org/4/i0620e/i0620e00.htm>, (last accessed February 14, 2026)

⁷ G. Macfadyen et al., *Abandoned, Lost or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear*, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 523 (2009).

⁸ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), *Abandoned, Lost or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear* (2017).

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 7:13:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayleigh Grant	Testifying for Kaimana ocean safari	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In Support of SB 2973

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Kayleigh Grant. I am an ocean tour operator and marine educator who works on the water daily.

I am writing in strong support of SB 2973 to prohibit jug line fishing in Hawai‘i.

I have personally removed jug lines from endangered oceanic whitetip sharks. I also know other ocean users who have encountered sharks entangled in this gear — some struggling to survive, and some already dead. This method does not only impact sharks, but also poses risks to Hawaiian monk seals and sea turtles that share these waters.

I understand that many fishermen are trying to protect their catch. However, attaching gear to sharks to slow or deter them can result in serious injury, prolonged suffering, and mortality — especially if gear is lost or left behind.

As someone whose livelihood depends on a healthy ocean, I respectfully urge you to support SB 2973 and protect Hawai‘i’s marine life for future generations.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Kayleigh Grant

Kaimana ocean safari

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 6:04:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Jones	Testifying for Hawaiian Monk Seal Preservation Ohana	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 1, 2025

SUPPORT SB2973

Dear Chair Lee & Committee Members,

As an advocate for the Hawaiian Monk Seal I ask for your consideration to support banning the practice of JUG fishing. The bycatch and horrible death when animals are caught in with these unsportmanklike and non-sustainable fishing practices is not Pono by any means and losing important animals such as Moana to such an unethical practice is a travesty. She was a two year old juvenile monk seal with a full life of giving new hope for this species. To lose an important female to such a horrible and unnecessary death makes us all sit up and take notice.

Mahalo for your support.

Dana Jones, Hawaiian Monk Seal Preservation Ohana 808-393-5043

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 6:09:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Byron Kay	Testifying for Kona Honu Divers	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. I have personally seen too many sharks with large hooks through their eyes and mouths due to this barbaric fishing practice. Please pass this bill and add teeth to punish those who fish this way.

Best,

Byron Kay, Owner
Kona Honu Divers



March 2 2026

VIA EMAIL: hannah@wildhawaii.org
Hawai'i Wildlife Fund

To: Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

Re: In strong support of SB2973

Aloha Chair Lee and Vice Chair Inouye, and committee members:

Aloha. As Director and co-founder of Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and the Hawai'i Wildlife Discovery Center in Kā'anapali, I am writing to wholeheartedly support SB2973 a bill which aims to ban jug rig fishing in Hawai'i's waters.

This legislation is essential to protect the health of our nearshore coral reef ecosystems and the protected species that dwell therein. This bill is crucial for:

- Preventing Entanglements: Addressing the severe risk to endangered species, such as the Hawaiian monk seal and green sea turtle.
- Reducing Marine Debris: Eliminating non-selective gear that often persists in the ocean long after use.
- Protecting Ecosystems: Safeguarding coral reefs from heavy-test lines and abandoned flotation devices.

Hawai'i Wildlife Fund is a 501©3 nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of Hawai'i's native marine life through research, education and habitat restoration, founded in 1996 by two former National Marine Fisheries Service scientists, myself and Bill Gilmartin. We have headquarters on Hawai'i Island and Maui and are powered by our communities and volunteers to recover the thriving health of our nearshore ecosystems and protected wildlife. We have worked for 30 years to recover marine debris and, as pertains to this bill, fishing line, from our nearshore coral reefs. We have witnessed the entanglement of monk seals and watched with dismay as fishing entanglements and

hookings have become the number one threat to green turtles in our nearshore waters, surpassing fibropapillomatosis. Our team has participated in disentangling and dehooking green turtles together with the Maui Ocean Center Marine Institute nearly every week on Maui.

On behalf of Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and the Hawai'i Wildlife Discovery Center, I wholeheartedly endorse SB2973.

Mahalo for your consideration and continued progress in protecting our environment,



Hannah Bernard
Executive Director
Hawai'i Wildlife Fund
Hawai'i Wildlife Discovery Center

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 7:22:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Milisen	Testifying for Ocean Defenders Alliance	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

As a defender of ocean life and regular underwater cleanup diver, as well as a diver of 15 years here in Kona, I have seen unfortunate cases of dead or entangled sharks on Jug lines.

I support a FULL ban of shark hugging, inside state waters is a start. No jugging should be taking place as it is horribly impactful for the animals, unsustainable, and contributes plastic to the ocean. Jugging should not occur from any vessel or from land or shore.

mahalo,

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 7:39:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Inga Gibson	Testifying for For the Fishes	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 3, 2026, 10am

Re: SUPPORT SB2973 SD1 RELATING TO JUG LINE FISHING

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard and Committee Members,

For the Fishes thanks the Committee for the opportunity to support SB2973, which would prohibit the deadly and indiscriminate practice of jug-line fishing.

Jug line fishing refers to the use of a plastic jug(s), floated on a hooked fishing line, used to capture marine animals. The captured animal may or may not be the targeted catch as jug lines are also used to restrain non-target marine animals from taking bait from other fishing lines. The plastic jug serves as a buoy, preventing the hooked animal from escaping or diving, often leading to serious injury or death.

No ethical fisher would ever use this cruel method given these indiscriminate rigs often capture sharks, turtles, monk seals and other protected marine life.

We urge the Committee's passage of this measure.

Thank you,

Inga Gibson, For the Fishes



LATE

March 1, 2026

Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S Beretania St
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Committee Members,

Aloha mai, my name is Jonnetta Peters, Executive Director of Conservation Council for Hawai'i (CCH), a non-profit environmental and conservation organization who serves to protect and save native species and their habitats. CCH is also the Hawai'i affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation. **CCH STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2973 SD1.**

Addressing the lethal threat to endangered species, such as the Hawaiian monk seal, green sea turtle, oceanic whitetip shark, and other important oceanic creatures. Sadly, we lost Moana, a Hawaiian Monk Seal #RS34, to a jug rig. This measure would prevent hooking and entanglement. Reducing marine debris will help eliminate non-selective gear that often persists in the ocean long after use and protect and safeguard coral reefs from heavy-test lines and abandoned flotation devices.

Personally, I come from a large fishing 'ohana. Family members and friends do not use jug rug or jug line fishing because of the threats to the marine species that we care about. We come to realize that a healthy ocean is what keeps our fish and other creatures intact for today and the future.

Therefore, **I respectfully urge this Committee to PASS HB2973 SD1.**

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify,

Jonnetta Peters
Executive Director

Telephone/Fax: 224.338-6511 | email: info@conservehi.org

web: www.conservehawaii.org | P.O. Box 2923, Honolulu, HI 96802

President: Bret Nainoa Mossman | Vice President: Les Welsh | Secretary: Colleen Heyer

Treasurer: Mashuri Waite, PhD |

**Directors: Erica Amundson, Puanani Anderson-Fung, Maka'ala Ka'auomoana, Steven Lee Montgomery, PhD,
Emily Sarasa |**

Executive Director: Jonnetta "Jonee" Peters | Operations and Events Manager: Leah Kocher

National Wildlife Federation Region 12 Director: Rachel Sprague

National Wildlife Federation Pacific Region Associate Director: Emily Martin

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu – Hawai'i's voice for wildlife | State Affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 5:33:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Bell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2973 SB1

this bill will ban more than just jug fishing

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 12:37:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealoha Martin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello I am in opposition to this Bill and would like our current legislation to consider squashing this Bill and come to the table with fisherman to come up with a better plan to implement regulations on fishing. Banning Jug fishing has a open category and a shot to ban other types of gathering as well. I know we can work together on this to come up with better rules and regulations with real Fisherman or gathers of the ocean that would work for the greater good of our communities and build a better future for our children and Kupuna alike. Please get with the real fishermen gathers of our land and seek better answers and solutions before drafting and implementing nonsense bills and forcing them upon us. Many of us rely on gathering fishing and a source of food to help offset the cost of living here in Hawaii. I thank you for reading this testimony. Please know that I have the utmost respect for our current legislation. Mahalo.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 7:31:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

Why is it we as fishers continue to be restricted in the way of banning a way we gather? What will be in the end "No Fishing?" Are we as a fishers "The Low Hanging Fruit?"

Klayton Kubo

Waimea, Kaua'i

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 7:37:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua acia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill SB2973 because, growing up we were taught this method of fishing. It is a great way to be able to catch dinner for our house hold, our neighbors , family and friends. Yes there comes a rare time you hook up sharks but they are easy to release. We use live bait and check our bait often. To where it is now very common to hook up a turtle. In the past 25 years we never hooked a turtle. They are to smart to eat LIVE bait. If our jugs get caught up in the reel we ALWAYS jump in hold the line for support and retrieve our jugs and hook line. It is also the only way we can catch pelagics from shore out at south point. And when you do hook up a ahi or marlin , you get to feed more then your own family. Don't let a few bad apples ruin for the solid fishermen that call jug fishing their culture, their life style. There way of providing food for there family and friends.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 8:30:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2973 SB RELATING TO FISHING.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 9:51:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nalu Switgall	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposing this bill because it limits the fishing practices of many fishermen in Hawaii. As long as it is done responsibly there is no need for a ban on this type of fishing.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 8:16:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse balai jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have been fishing like this from a young kid time we got taught from generation to generation me hoping I get to teach my kids how to servive off the land how we where taught this is how I feed my family an friends I use jugs,kits and trash bags to get my line out I don't have to much money to get a boat

I do make sure we clean up all rubbish including other peoples rubbish and to me this is unfair you guys are trying to make it even harder for us who do respect the ocean

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 10:50:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert de Brum	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a fisherman and product of this aina, I feel strongly that the intention behind this bill needs to be criticized more closely, and the language needs to be extremely more specific.

First and foremost, many, myself included, will agree with the priority of protecting and preserving the natural wildlife and resources. I understand this intention of the bill and agree. However, this needs to be STRONGLY tied to the relationship between these resources and the cultural importance of fishing and fishing practices. As it reads, this bill does NOTHING to promote the importance of fishing practices for cultural purposes or for sustenance.

Furthermore, the claim that jug rig fishing is non-selective is true: as is virtually ALL rod and reel fishing. When a hook is in the water with bait or with a lure, there is NO control that the fisherman has over what is attracted to or bites that hook.

The language of this bill is simply problematic. While aimed at jug fishing, it will eliminate nearly ALL types of shoreline fishing with rod and reel. In many types of rigs, floatation devices are actually important for keeping hooks, lines, and other fishing tackle on the surface and away from the reef, eliminating the potential for these materials from ending up on the reef. Floatation devices are not only used in deep water for pelagic species, but can be very small and used in nearshore systems and very shallow ecosystems for much more abundant reef fish, or even for invasive species. As-is, this bill has the potential to eliminate shoreline fishing with line and hook altogether.

The fix is to simply not pass this bill, and revisit the actual goal in order to address the root of the problem. Many fishermen/women will have different versions of the same story: jug fishing is as harmless as many other styles of fishing IF NOT DONE PROPERLY. Any time a hook or line enters the water, there is potential for bycatch or for the line or hook to be tangled in the reef. No matter the size of the hook, line, or floatation device. However, there may be measures that many fishermen already implement to avoid tangling the reef or potential bycatch.

Therefore, the problem is not the act or possession of fishing with floatation devices, but the respect and knowledge that the fisherman has, along with the measures he/she implements in order to minimize his/her impact on the ocean.

There may be a population of individuals that are careless in their execution, or have a lack of respect for wildlife and our ocean, and therefore put animals like turtles or monk seals. But the fishermen/women who are good at what they do are able to execute their practices with little to no impact. Personally, I do not like jug fishing but I have a lot of respect for fishermen who are able to do it sustainable and effectively and with minimal impact, and I think they should be able to continue what they do.

I urge you to not pass this bill, and to re-evaluate the goals that you have, and then clearly state them along with a much more in-depth approach to solving the root of the problem. Without doing this work for you, I urge you to consider the zones in which jug fishing is legal, the size of the "floatation device" used or hook used or leader size, bait size, etc.. Consider barbless hooks when using large buoys, restricting the time that the bait is allowed to be in the water, the distance from shore it is allowed to be, the depth in which it is allowed to be in etc.. And please understand that above all, Hawaii is a place that is very closely tied to its roots. While Jug rig fishing may not have deep cultural ties, this bill as it is written will threaten to remove so many fishing practices that actually do tie to the culture. We need to protect our oceans, but we also need to do so in a way that aligns with the culture that has preserved and protected it for many many centuries.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 11:03:02 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheyne Settlemire	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB 2973.

While it is being presented as a bill that bans only jug fishing, the actual language goes much further. As written, it would prohibit the use of any type of float within casting distance of Hawaii’s shorelines, including small bobbers that fit within the palm of your hand, commonly used by keiki and families to catch smaller fish. That is not a narrow jug fishing ban, it is a sweeping restriction that impacts everyday, responsible shoreline fishermen across our state.

I was born and raised in Hawaii and grew up fishing in Waialua on Oahu’s North Shore. Shoreline fishing was not just recreation, it was part of how we learned conservation, responsibility, patience, and respect for the ocean. Today, I am teaching my 9 year old daughter those same values. We fish responsibly and sustainably so we can provide healthy, fresh meals for our family.

Small bobbers and simple floats are basic tools that make fishing accessible and safe for beginners and children. Banning them within a short distance of shoreline unfairly penalizes law abiding families while doing little to address the actual concerns associated with jug fishing.

If the intent is to target unattended jug fishing, then the bill should be clearly and narrowly written to address only that practice. Please do not pass broad language that unintentionally criminalizes responsible shoreline fishing traditions that have been part of local families for generations.

I respectfully urge you to reconsider SB 2973 in its current form.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 11:07:46 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philip Fernandez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I appreciate the SD1 amendment but it does not go far enough.

I use a method of fishing known as horizontal kaka line. I fish in shallow waters (less than 20 feet deep) and target to'au (an invasive fish). I use a 1 gallon jug as my float that goes to a weight, which takes my hook to the sea bottom. My fishing line then lays on the sea bottom for about 30 minutes, then I pull in my line. My fishing line has 4 to 6 baited hooks. I fish at night when the to'au fish are feeding to minimize incidental catch such as papio and oi'o, and sometime puhi, which I throw back. I retain all the to'au I catch and consume them as food.

I am 73 years old and this method is easier for me than trying to cast using a rod and reel.

Please exempt horizontal kaka line (hooks lay on the bottom sand) and vertical kaka line (hooks are between the float and the weght, off the bottom).

Mahalo for considering this amendment.

Phil Fernandez

Moanalua, Oahu

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 12:25:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanani Schilling	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha we as Hawaiians oppose to this as for most local families that can't afford a boat to go out and fish for big game use flag lining and jug fishing to supply and feed our families on a cheaper base so please leave our culture fishing alone

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 4:18:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kirsten Ramirez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of prohibiting jug line for fishing. To many times I've witnessed innocent marine life being hurt from these lines. It's irresponsible and not necessary. My friends and I saved a white tip reef shark stuck on one of these lines. It would have died without our help. A 2 year old endangered Hawaiian Monk Seal was killed because of a jug line. Countless turtles are effected by these negligent lines. It's time to put rules in place for onshore fishing. Their are lines all over coral and reef destroying so much. Marine life is being hurt it's time to put their needs first and protect them. More responsible fishing methods that aren't so destructive are beyond necessary. It has gotten out of hand.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 4:49:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gratel Rogers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gratel Rogers, and I am in the ocean often enough to witness firsthand both its beauty and its vulnerability. I am writing in strong support of this bill to prohibit jug line and jug rig variant fishing methods in Hawai‘i’s waters.

The ocean is not just a place I visit — it is where I feel most connected. It is where I witness life unfold in its most vulnerable and breathtaking forms. I see the monk seals resting on our shores. I see turtles navigating our reefs. I see how even a single piece of lost gear can become a death sentence. When marine debris enters the water, it does not just disappear. It drifts. It entangles. It suffocates. It lingers for years.

The death of Moana, a young Hawaiian monk seal, was not just a statistic. She was a life — a native species already fighting for survival. The use of heavy pound-test line and buoyant jugs significantly increases the likelihood of gear loss, and once that gear is free in the ocean, it does not stop harming. It becomes a silent trap.

As someone who spends countless hours in the water, I have seen the impact of discarded and drifting fishing gear. Entanglement is not rare. It is not hypothetical. It is real, and it is preventable.

Responsible resource management means choosing methods that do not leave a trail of destruction behind them. Prohibiting jug line fishing is a necessary step toward protecting endangered species, reducing marine debris, and honoring our kuleana to care for these waters for future generations.

Hawai‘i’s marine life cannot advocate for itself. We must do that.

Please support this bill and stand on the side of protection, sustainability, and life.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Gratel Rogers

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:29:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eva ulehlova	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I swim a lot in the ocean, and i come across these horrible nets. It is horrible. It kills everything in sight. Monk seals, turtles, sharks everything! It's unbelievable that this is allowed in such a beautiful place and in Hawaii. Conserve what is left please!

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 9:17:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing to formally submit testimony expressing my strong opposition to the continued use of jug line fishing and similar unattended jug rig variants within our state waters. While these methods are often defended as traditional or efficient, the modern reality of our aquatic ecosystems—specifically the health of our reefs and the survival of non-target wildlife—demands a transition toward more controlled, active fishing practices.

The primary issue with jug fishing is its indiscriminate nature. Because these rigs are left unattended, they function as passive traps that do not distinguish between invasive species, game fish, or protected wildlife. Unattended hooks frequently snag non-target species, including sea turtles, monk seals, diving birds, and other marine mammals. Without a fisher present to immediately release these animals, they often suffer from exhaustion, drowning, or fatal infections. Furthermore, jugs are frequently lost due to storms, boat traffic, or large predators. Once a rig is detached from its owner, it becomes "ghost gear," continuing to fish and kill wildlife indefinitely as it drifts through the water column.

Our reefs are the biological foundation of our coastal economy and biodiversity, yet jug lines pose a physical threat to these fragile structures. When jugs are caught in currents or dragged by hooked fish, the heavy-duty lines can saw through soft corals and snap the branches of hard corals. Additionally, abandoned rigs eventually degrade. Lead weights can leach into the reef environment, and the plastic containers used as floats break down into microplastics, entering the bottom of the food chain.

The preservation of our state’s natural heritage requires us to prioritize long-term ecological health over high-volume extraction methods. By banning jug lines and their variants, we can significantly reduce plastic pollution, protect our reefs from physical scarring, and ensure that our wildlife is not subjected to the slow death of ghost gear. I urge the Committee to move forward with a ban on these methods in all state-managed waters to ensure a sustainable future for our marine environment.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 10:52:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ku'uleialoha Lovell wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong opposition to the proposed ban on jug line fishing in Hawai'i. For many families like mine, this is not a recreational issue — it is a matter of food security, cultural practice, and our ability to provide for those we love.

Jug line fishing is a practical and responsible way for local families to harvest fish efficiently. It allows us to fish in a way that maximizes our chances of bringing home food while minimizing fuel costs, time away from work, and physical strain. Not everyone has the resources to fish using expensive gear, boats, or advanced technology. Jug lines are simple, affordable, and accessible to everyday residents who rely on the ocean as a supplemental food source.

For my family, fishing is not a hobby — it is part of how we put meals on the table. With the high cost of living and groceries continuing to rise, especially here in the islands, the ability to catch fish directly helps us stretch our budget and ensure our children and elders have healthy, fresh protein. A ban on jug line fishing would directly impact families who depend on these methods to help feed themselves.

Additionally, these practices are tied to local knowledge and generational traditions. Many of us learned to fish this way from our parents and grandparents. It is part of a broader culture of self-sufficiency, respect for the ocean, and responsible harvesting. Removing this method would not just limit fishing options — it would erode an important part of local lifestyle and heritage.

Rather than banning jug line fishing outright, I urge decision-makers to consider balanced solutions such as reasonable regulations, education on proper use, or limits that protect marine resources while still allowing families to responsibly fish to feed themselves.

In closing, I ask that you recognize that this issue is not simply about fishing methods — it is about families, food access, cultural continuity, and fairness. Please oppose this ban and work with the community to find solutions that protect both our marine resources and the people who depend on them.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 12:00:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Toby Fielstra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With so many wildlife species becoming extinct and there is already so few monk seals, we should always try to do what we can to protect what is left. I for one would love to see one one day. There is always a better chance of that the more there are. There is also so much trash in our oceans. Leaving fishing gear in the water too often is going to end up adding to the trash.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 7:23:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James R Sowa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Remember this. If they're not creating new restrictions, they're irrelevant. Their whole existence depends on finding the next target. Last year it was Kole and Manini. This year it's Kala and Uhu. Next year it'll be whatever they decide is convenient.

They don't stop. They don't compromise. They chip away piece by piece until it's all locked down and you're asking permission to fish in your own backyard.

Don't give them an inch. Not now. Not ever.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 2:01:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Garrett Rawlins	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill as a responsible fisherman of the islands. The verbiage is not specific to the type of fishing that this bill targets and threatens responsible fishing methods.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 7:19:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Toivo Betancourt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 7:37:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssa Rae Wooldridge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The number of sharks we've had to remove line from and save is appalling. Please stop this.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 7:48:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Hancock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

PROTECT OUR SHARKS

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 8:04:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal Gibbons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support prohibiting jug line fishing to protect our sharks. Thank you.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 8:23:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krista Jaspers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB2973, which would prohibit jug line and jug rig variant fishing methods in Hawai‘i’s state waters. I am submitting this testimony not only out of concern for our marine ecosystems, but from direct personal experience. I spend my free time both offshore and inshore diving in Hawai‘i’s waters, and I have repeatedly encountered abandoned jug lines drifting at sea and tangled in nearshore reefs. On multiple occasions, I have taken it upon myself to remove these lines. What I have found is devastating: long lengths of heavy monofilament, multiple leaders and hooks, plastic bottles and jugs used as floats, and additional debris and dead wildlife tangled together into a sprawling mass of waste.

The sheer amount of line generated by a single jug rig is substantial. When these systems are lost or cut loose, they do not simply disappear. They continue fishing unattended, snagging coral heads, wrapping around reef structure, and creating hazards for fish, turtles, sharks, and marine mammals. Removing them is labor-intensive and often dangerous. Lines are embedded deep into coral or stretched across multiple colonies, causing visible abrasion and breakage.

Hawai‘i’s reefs are the foundation of our coastal ecosystems, food systems, and cultural heritage. Allowing destructive, high-waste gear to continue operating undermines the health of our ocean and the responsibility we carry as stewards of these waters. For these reasons, and based on what I have personally witnessed and removed from our ocean, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB2973 with a favorable recommendation.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 8:27:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wint Aye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have always been drawn to the water, learning to swim competitively since I was young, sailing with my dad who has won multiple international races. Then I discovered scuba diving eight years ago, and one reason that I moved to Hawaii was so that I can dive. It saddens me to see lines wrapped around coral (they are living creatures), sharks dragging fishing lines, and turtles whose limbs have been amputated due to becoming entangled with lines. I am traumatized whenever I see videos of sea life caught in lines, slowly suffocating and dying. The cons vastly outweigh the benefits of using jug lines for fishing. Therefore, please pass this bill that will prohibit the use of jug line fishing in Hawaii.

Submitted to: Senate Judiciary Committee

Chair: Senator Rhoads | **Vice Chair:** Senator Gabbard | **Members of the Committee**

Hearing Date: March 3, 2026

Submitted By: Jared Levitt

Statement of Support

I strongly support **SB2973_SD1**, which addresses the hazards of jug-style fishing gear to marine life and public safety. The following screenshots, taken from a public DLNR video, provide clear evidence of the need for this bill.

DLNR Evidence

A **June 17, 2025 DLNR DOCARE Marine Patrol video** (O'ahu, 13:40–15:40) shows an officer encountering jug-style fishing gear, highlighting the dangers it poses.

<https://vimeo.com/1094249345>

1. Boater and Public Safety Hazards





The officer warns: “You gotta be careful when you approach this cause you don't know where the, the line is.”

- Floating jugs and trailing fishing lines are difficult to see, increasing the risk of vessel collisions.
- Such gear creates significant navigational hazards, including propeller fouling and potential vessel damage.
- This evidence illustrates the safety risks posed to boaters and other ocean users.

2. Wildlife Hazards





Last time I pulled one of these up it was,



it was a shark at the end of it.

The officer struggles with the line and remarks, “Last time I pulled one of these up it was, it was a shark at the end of it.”

- Animals that become hooked or entangled in this gear are often unable to free themselves.
- Threatened, endangered, and protected species are particularly at risk, including the Hawaiian monk seal, Hawaiian green sea turtle, and oceanic whitetip shark.
- Buoyant jug gear can cause prolonged exhaustion, increasing the risk of injury or death.

3. Marine Debris



Unable to retrieve the fishing line, the officer cuts it with a knife.

- Lines discarded in the ocean contribute to marine debris.
- Discarded fishing line damages coral, threatening its health and survival.
- Derelict fishing lines pose a persistent threat to marine animals, causing injury, entanglement, and death.

DLNR Statement on Jug Fishing Gear

The Office of the Governor highlighted the dangers of jug gear in a September 19, 2025 press release:

“Death of Monk Seal Underscores Importance of Responsible Fishing Practices”

[Read the full release](#)

“JUG FISHING IS AN EXTREMELY UNSUSTAINABLE AND UNDISCERNING FISHING METHOD.”

— From the September 19, 2025 DLNR press release, John Silberstein, O’ahu Branch Chief, Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE)

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 9:37:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Olivia Pearson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 10:10:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy Miles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2973

To: Members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature

Subject: Support for SB 2973 – Prohibition of Jug Line and Jug Rig Variant Fishing Methods

I strongly support SB 2973 because it would make Hawai‘i’s oceans safer for sharks and countless other marine creatures. Sharks are essential to ocean health, helping maintain balanced food webs and supporting coral reef survival. They are part of what makes Hawai‘i’s marine environment world-renowned.

This bill would prohibit jug line fishing and similar non-selective gear in our state waters, methods that routinely injure, entangle, or kill non-target species including sharks, sea turtles, monk seals, and more. These fishing methods also contribute to long-lasting marine debris that can continue to injure wildlife long after they are lost in the ocean.

I am particularly moved to support this bill because of a conversation I had recently with my 10-year-old niece. She has dreams of becoming a marine biologist and has spent years learning about ocean life, especially sharks. To her, sharks are majestic creatures worthy of respect and protection. She was deeply upset by a video she saw of a hammerhead shark being killed and mutilated, and that experience inspired her to write and illustrate her first book told from the perspective of a shark. She even downloaded the submission paperwork to publish her book and carefully filled it out in her 10-year-old handwriting. In the dedication, she wrote, “Dedicated to my Aunt Wendy”. Her passion for Hawai‘i’s marine life reminds me that the decisions we make now matter deeply to the next generation.

Protecting marine wildlife isn’t only about the health of our oceans; it’s about our responsibility as future ancestors. Passing SB 2973 would be a meaningful step toward reducing unnecessary harm to sharks and other marine animals, preserving Hawai‘i’s unique and culturally significant ocean ecosystems for future generations.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Legislature to SUPPORT SB 2973.

Mahalo nui loa,

Wendy Miles, PhD

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 10:43:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
christopher Funada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in favor of baning jug fishing as it tends to be non-selective, resulting in high bycatch.

Mahalo

Chris

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 3:04:46 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Drake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 3:21:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Holly Kellogg-Ott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

WE rely on a healthy ocean. When fishermen use jug lines which can cause entanglement, serious injury and death of the ocean inhabitants we rely on for a healthy ocean environmental balance.

Please support SB 2973 an prohibit the use of these jug lines. All our lives depend on this.

thank you!

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 3:57:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

These jug lines are unnecessarily harming sharks which are vital to the ecosystem. It needs to change.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 6:36:21 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tatyana LeBoeuf	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Already losing too many animals

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 8:45:37 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily Finch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 9:30:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Casey Alexander	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have connected to sharks from a very young age as a queer woman. They have been unfairly villainized in movies and media at large, resulting in unfair overfishing and hunting. It hurts me to the point of tears to see sharks being harmed by jug lines and hooks. I fully support this bill and hope it passes so that we as humans can continue to protect sharks.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 10:33:25 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jada garcia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Jug line fishing poses a huge risk to marine life and often results in entanglement, injury, and death to sharks, sea turtles, monk seals, and more. Prohibiting this is absolutely necessary not only for marine life, but ours as well. Protecting our oceans and the life residing in it is our responsibility.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 10:41:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nick Van Sicklen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

Thank you for allowing my testimony in this matter. I work as a divemaster and freediving guide and in doing so have sadly seen the unintended consequences of jugline fishing on numerous occasions. I've seen not only sharks but also mantas swimming around trailing long lines with jugs that they are powerless to freeing themselves from. If they are lucky a diver or freediver will see them and be able to help cut free the line, but this is very rare and can be quite dangerous for the person trying to help. I personally have only been successful at cutting the animals free of this death trap 2 of the 6 times I've seen it and I'm a professional who is comfortable and competent enough in the water to try. Often times the animal is too scared, in pain, and weary to allow people to get close enough to help.

So let's talk about how this whole scenario plays out for sharks and rays. The sharks obviously take the bait, get hooked, and are now in a struggle that will slowly kill them. If the line gets tangled on something they get pinned to a spot which means they either strave to death or they run out of energy fighting the line and suffocate unable to move. If the line doesn't get tangled it means a slower death where the extra drag in the water of the jug constantly robs them of extra energy and makes it more difficult to hunt. This also leads to starvation and suffocation but dragged out over a longer time.

The situation for the mantas is more depressing though as they didn't even take the bait. They just get entangled by being unlucky enough to have swam in the wrong place and the line gets stuck between their cephalic fins. They can't see the line and by the time they feel it, it is usually too late. They can't backup, so the only way they can try and free themselves comes by doing somersaults in the waters hoping whatever is on their face comes free. However, this usually ends up with the the line fully wrapping around them making the situation much worse. Now with the line wrapped around them there is no hope of getting free and as the jug spins in the water due to the drag it slowly tightens the loop around them. This slowly cuts into the head and mouth at the front and their body on the backside. Because manta are so powerful in the water they usually live a much longer time with these jugs than the sharks which just means more time for the line to cut into them causing pain. They too though will eventually tire from the extra drag and injuries and drown.

As I said at the start I have seen these things first hand. It is depressing and infuriating to witness. Seeing animals suffer due to the carelessness of humans is heartbreaking. I'm not against ethical fishing where an animal is harvested quickly and for the sake of consumption. However jug fishing isn't quick and there are so many animals that needlessly die for no reason. It simply isn't ethical. Hawai'i is known for these animals and they mean so much to the native peoples, please don't allow them to die like this.

Again thank you for allowing my testimony,

Nick Van Sicklen

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 10:56:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chad McFadden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing as a commercial boat captain based in Kona who spends the majority of my life on the water. From that vantage point, I see firsthand the impacts of different fishing practices on our marine ecosystem. I strongly support the prohibition on jug line fishing and other nonselective rig variants addressed in this bill.

These methods are inherently indiscriminate. Once deployed, they cannot distinguish between a target species and protected or ecologically vital animals. While sharks are often highlighted in discussions around entanglement, they are far from the only species affected. In Kona waters, we regularly encounter manta rays, turtles, dolphins, and other pelagic life that are highly vulnerable to becoming entangled in unattended or drifting gear. Mantas in particular are slow-moving filter feeders with large cephalic fins and wingspans that make them especially susceptible to entanglement. An entangled manta or turtle may suffer prolonged injury or death, and in many cases these animals are never recovered or reported.

As a captain responsible for guests and for representing Hawai‘i’s ocean resources, I rely on a healthy and balanced marine environment. Our local economy is also closely tied to ocean tourism—diving, snorkeling, and wildlife viewing—industries that depend directly on thriving populations of mantas, sharks, and other marine species. Allowing nonselective fishing practices that cause avoidable harm undermines both environmental stewardship and sustainable economic activity.

This bill represents a practical and necessary step toward reducing preventable marine life entanglements and promoting responsible, selective fishing practices. Protecting our waters from nonselective gear is not about restricting responsible fishermen; it is about ensuring that Hawai‘i’s marine ecosystem remains viable for future generations.

Mahalo for your consideration and for your continued work to protect Hawai'i's ocean resources.

Respectfully,

Captain Chad McFadden

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 11:41:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colleen Heyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of this bill to ban this terrible, irresponsible fishing paractice.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 12:45:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Drappeau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting as a diving instructor in the area who understands the vital role sharks play in our ecosystem.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 1:45:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ava Schrager	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The marine life being impacted by jug line fishing is critical to our oceans and therefore our world's ecosystem.

It is our responsibility to protect them!

Protect our oceans!

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 1:49:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sophia desai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In Hawai'i, some fishermen use jug lines as buoys & also to attach to sharks in an effort to protect their catch. This method can cause entanglement, serious injury, & death not just for sharks but also monk seals, sea turtles, & more.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 2:48:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sabrina Wren	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a scuba instructor and divemaster that is in the ocean every single day I have personally seen the harmful impacts of the use of jug lines. Sharks are a keystone species and their health directly impacts ocean health. Jug lines are not essential to fishing and without them fishermen will be fine. Without sharks, there would be no fishermen. Please pass this bill to ban jug line fishing in Hawaii!

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 4:01:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Angelo Escalante Ledesma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Written Testimony in Support of SB2973

Submitted to Hawaii State Legislature

My name is Matthew Angelo Escalante Ledesma, and I am writing to express my strong support for SB2973. This is my first time submitting testimony, and I am doing so because I deeply care about the protection of our oceans and marine animals—especially sharks.

Sharks play a vital role in maintaining healthy marine ecosystems. As apex predators, they help regulate fish populations and ensure balance within coral reef systems. When sharks are removed or harmed, the entire ecosystem suffers. Protecting sharks is not just about preserving one species, but about safeguarding the overall health of our oceans.

Hawai‘i has long been a global leader in marine conservation, guided by values of respect for nature and sustainability. Supporting SB2973 continues this legacy by recognizing the ecological importance of sharks and the need to protect them from harm. Future generations deserve to inherit oceans that are alive, balanced, and thriving.

I respectfully urge you to support SB2973 and stand for science-based, compassionate marine protection. Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony and for your continued commitment to preserving Hawai‘i’s natural heritage.

Mahalo nui loa,
Matthew Angelo E. Ledesma
Silay City, Negros Occidental, Philippines

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 4:11:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Jasin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please protect Hawaii's sharks. They are a part of the important bio system and deserve our protection. Please ban jug lines / jug fishing in a waters in and surrounding Hawaii. Please ban any and all harmful fishing practices in Hawaii's oceans. Protect our beautiful resources and that includes our sharks and other wildlife. Thank you.

Cheryl Jasin

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 5:28:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zoe Kay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaiians claim much of this land as sacred. This is not sacred practice nor respect of the land. This is greed, destruction, selfishness, and damage of community.

It is point blank animal abuse. It is negligence. It is illegal.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 6:08:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as jug lines used as buoys in this manner of fishing cause entanglement, serious injury, and death to sharks, monk seals, sea turtles, and more.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 6:33:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Fenster	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Jug line fishing causes entanglement and death in so many oceanic animals, including endangered sharks, monk seals, turtles, and rays! Banning this practice is critical to protecting Hawaii's wildlife and oceanic ecosystems.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 6:40:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pippa Swannell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as jug lines used as buoys in this manner of fishing cause entanglement, serious injury, and death to sharks, monk seals, sea turtles, and more.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 7:35:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Milisen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Jug lines and their ilk fish indiscriminately. When they aren't used to target endangered species such as oceanic whitetip sharks, they still have an unacceptable bycatch rate, as in the case of the monk seal R-34.

While I fully support the idea of this bill, my issue lies in the effective date of July 1, 2050, or nearly a quarter-century in the future. Unless this bill is effective shortly after it passes, it will just contribute to governmental bloat while avoiding any real progress by kicking the can 24 years down the road.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 7:51:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Sepeta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as jug lines used as buoys in this manner of fishing cause entanglement, serious injury, and death to sharks, monk seals, sea turtles, and more. As a marine biologist, high school science teacher, boat captain, and PADI dive master, I recognize how important it is to protect threatened and endangered animals, especially sharks, which help maintain a healthy ocean ecosystem. Please consider the health and longevity of our precious marine ecosystem and SUPPORT this bill!!

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 9:01:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Butterfield	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Anne Butterfield, and I work in wildlife conservation. I am writing in strong support of SB 2973, which would prohibit the use of jug line fishing rigs in state waters beginning July 1, 2026.

I have dedicated my professional life to protecting vulnerable wildlife populations, and I have seen firsthand how preventable entanglement and gear interactions can devastate species that are already struggling to survive. Island ecosystems are especially fragile, and in Hawaii, marine life faces unique pressures due to geographic isolation, limited habitat range, and increasing human activity in coastal waters.

The 2025 monk seal fatality linked to a jug line rig is a sobering reminder that even a single piece of unattended or buoyant fishing gear can have irreversible consequences. For endangered species with small populations, every individual matters. Preventing entanglement is one of the most immediate and effective conservation measures we can take. This is a clear and targeted action that directly reduces risk.

Jug line rigs, because they are buoyant and can remain in the water column, pose a particular danger to marine mammals, sea turtles, and other protected species. Eliminating their use in state waters is a reasonable and science-based response to a documented threat.

Beyond ecological concerns, Hawaii’s ocean wildlife is central to the state’s cultural identity, community well-being, and sustainable economy. Protecting marine species reflects a commitment not only to biodiversity, but also to mālama ‘āina, the responsibility to care for the natural world for future generations.

SB 2973 represents thoughtful and proactive stewardship. By passing this measure, the Legislature affirms that preventable harm to endangered marine life will not be ignored and that conservation policy in Hawaii is grounded in both science and responsibility.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony. I respectfully urge you to support and pass SB 2973.

Sincerely,
Anne Butterfield

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 10:42:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Ban jug fishing and save the sharks. We need them.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 11:28:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meredith Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

sharks, among other species are extremely important to marine ecosystems. i am against jug line fishing as well as any other methods that can harm ocean wildlife.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 11:40:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caleigh Ranjo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sharks are essential to our unique ocean ecosystems. Jug line fishing is dangerous to our wildlife as well as our people in these waters.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 3:49:19 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna Sorrentino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as jug lines used as buoys in this manner of fishing cause entanglement, serious injury, and death to sharks, monk seals, sea turtles, and more.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 5:38:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill as jug lines used as buoys in this manner of fishing cause entanglement, serious injury, and death to sharks, monk seals, sea turtles, and more.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 6:14:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members -

I am writing in strong support of SB2973. This bill will curtail a dangerous method of fishing that causes entanglement, serious injury, and death to sharks, monk seals, turtles and other wildlife. As a scuba diver, all of these animals have their place in keeping our oceans healthy.

Please support this bill.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 8:13:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabrielle Rochon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We all depend on a healthy ocean.

Endangered oceanic white tips are put in danger when jug lines are attached, please ban them.

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tiffany Bruno, and I am writing in strong support of SB2973 to prohibit jug line fishing in Hawai'i.

I am a longtime freediver and reef cleaner. Over the years, I have personally recovered countless fishing lines from our reefs. I have also encountered marine animals — including fish, turtles, and other wildlife — dead, injured, or suffering after becoming entangled in discarded or unattended fishing lines.

Jug line fishing is particularly harmful because it leaves multiple baited hooks suspended in the water column without active supervision. These lines do not discriminate. They entangle protected species, reef fish, monk seals, turtles, and seabirds. Even when not actively fishing, lost or abandoned lines continue to “ghost fish,” trapping and killing marine life unnecessarily.

Hawai'i's reefs are already under stress from warming oceans, pollution, and habitat loss. We should not allow a fishing method that increases preventable harm, bycatch, and marine debris. As someone who regularly removes fishing line from coral and witnesses firsthand the damage caused, I can attest that this is not a minor issue — it is ongoing and widespread.

Banning jug line fishing is a reasonable and responsible step toward protecting our reefs, marine wildlife, and the cultural and ecological integrity of Hawai'i's waters.

Please pass SB2973.

Mahalo for your time and for your commitment to protecting our ocean.

Respectfully,

Tiffany Bruno





SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 8:51:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY OPPOSING SB 2973

To: Members of the Hawai'i State Legislature

Subject: OPPOSE SB 2973 – Prohibition of Jug Line and Jug Rig Variant Fishing Methods

I strongly oppose SB2973 and urge you to consider the following.

Fishing is part of Hawaii locals' way of life. Fishing is part of our quality of life, our food security, and our culture. There are an estimated **226,200 recreational anglers** in the state of Hawaii who spent \$508.9 Million and provided **5 million meals in OUR communities**. I urge you to stop this bill and offer the following recommendations instead.

1. Direct the Division of Aquatic Resources to complete a survey of fishers of the specific methodology of jug fishing, from shore, in our nearshore environment. This would provide a more realistic understanding that is science-based and provide the Division of Aquatic Resources with information to come up with plausible and realistic solutions versus an outright ban. This will allow ALL fishers to be part of co-management and have discussion on this matter.
2. The broad sweeping language of jug fishing extends beyond just shore-based fishing and will impact and ban other methods that are practiced. This bill's broad scope will impact other fisheries such as vertical shortline for monchong, bigeye tuna, and pelagics. This will further impact livelihoods and jobs from different sectors of fishers that are not listed in the above statistics. Broad sweeping legislation and language is detrimental and will cause harm to our community and food security beyond even your original intent. If your intent is to continue this bill, rewrite it and remove language such as: "use on, in, or near state waters" to specify.
3. Monk Seal populations are rebounding. Which is a success story for the species, but comes with unintended interactions and impacts on the community that management has not properly prepared for. The State should seek federal funding or funding out of it's green fee to initiate projects to address the growing impact of monk seals interactions with communities including fishers to ensure that there are appropriate solutions. Banning fishing due to monk seals further creates divisiveness and hatred and resentment from the fishing community and will hurt long-term collective solutions. Continuing to

operate as monk seals are a rarity is not reality, and we need to practice adaptive management and change versus staying stagnant.

The legislature and Government as a whole has continued to restrict fishing rather than work with the community, this bill is one of many that when you begin to stack them on top of each other smothers our community. You currently have Holomua Marine Initiative being run by Division of Aquatic Resources, you have multiple pieces of legislation, there are on-going fisheries management areas being developed, and on top of the Community based fishery management areas. The regulatory burden our leadership is placing on YOUR communities has reached the point where we can no longer stay silent. We want to feed our families, fish sustainably, and stay in Hawaii.

I ask that you stop this bill, and work with fishers to find a solution rather than taking legislative action to ban our fishing.

Sincerely,
Alex Min

References:

1. Economic Contributions of Recreational Fishing Hawaii. ASA. 2021.
<https://asafishing.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Hawaii-2021.pdf>
2. Loomis, Ilima. 2017. Report confirms on-shore fishermen catch a lot of fish
<https://www.hawaiibusiness.com/from-reef-to-plate/>

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 8:59:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Adame	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ban jug fishing. Save the sharks and the ocean.

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 9:09:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
rory west	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a local diver in Kona who also runs wildlife ocean tours, I am on/in the water almost every day. I very often see sharks, and a disturbingly high percentage of them have hooks in their mouths. I support this bill because it is banning a method of fishing with an unacceptable bycatch rate, and virtually no way to lower that rate and continue this style of fishing.

LATE

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 1:19:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rowan Zwicky	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have now known for some time that keeping shark populations plentiful and strong are incredibly vital to keeping the ocean sustainable and full of fish. It's incredibly unfortunate for fisherman to use fishing practices that kill and harm the manō, because without them, fish populations will decline and the whole ocean will suffer. Jug fishing has been one of the main practices observed that harm and kill sharks. Banning this practice could make a huge positive impact to protect our manō. Please, please consider taking every step that we can to protect these aumakua and protect hawai'i's oceans and fish populations.

LATE

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 1:35:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andriana Fragola	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sharks are a vital predator that balance out our oceans, and keep them healthy. Inhumane practices such as these should be banned to help protect declining shark populations, and to keep our oceans healthy. Thank you

LATE

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 2:24:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Liles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support **SB 2973, SD1**, which would **prohibit jug-line fishing and similar “jug rig” methods in Hawaii’s state waters**. This bill recognizes that these non-selective fishing practices allow multiple unattended lines and floats to drift in the water, catching fish and other marine life indiscriminately a method that doesn’t align with sustainable, responsible fishing.

Jug fishing isn’t a targeted, skill-based practice like traditional rod-and-reel fishing. Because the gear floats freely, it *can and does* entangle protected and vulnerable marine species, putting additional stress on populations that are already struggling in Hawaii’s delicate ocean ecosystems. By ending this practice, SB 2973, SD1 helps safeguard marine biodiversity and supports healthier fisheries for future generations.

I urge lawmakers to pass this bill and take a clear stand for conservation, wildlife protection, and sustainable fishing practices that respect both the environment and the long-term well-being of Hawaii’s fishing communities.

LATE

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 3:26:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha my name is Felipe Ruvalcaba, I grew up on the big island of Hawaii surfing in our beautiful waters, recently I have also picked up free diving and spear fishing as a way to still get ocean time in during the periods of no swells, this has helped widen my panorama tremendously on the importance of the ecosystem that I was previously not fully aware of and sharks play a huge roll in that. I understand it can be frustrating for sharks to come and take your catch after a long day of hard work but that is absolutely no reason to harm the shark. We all play a vital role and as humans we should be caring for the animals as God said not harming them. So I feel it is our duty as concisous responsible beings to protect these beautiful beings because we can, we have the power to create or to destroy, choose to create a beautiful world for all beings to live in. Mahalo for your time.

LATE

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 4:16:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samantha Bohorquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as it will prohibit jug line finishing in Hawai'i.

LATE

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 4:32:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathalia Bohorquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill which will prohibit jug line fishing in Hawai'i.

LATE

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 4:44:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leonard Ellis-Rabago	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to this bill

As single hook and single float line fishing is 1 of the oldest simple forms of fishing in the world.

I have fished all different ways styles and the problem is not the jugs it's the line size that's the issue.

Boats have killed wildlife and humans is state water where is the band on boats choose carefully on this .

I have fished Kanaha beach park for ULUA caught 2 in 1 month while have to deal with 12 turtles 5 windsurfers and 3 sharks for 2 fish everyone said it couldn't be done so I did it no jug .

The jug is a tool for some where water is shallow in front it keeps all our line from tangled mess on the shore . It has its place here I have been using wooden floats since I was a young boy 5 or 6 and still use it when needed.

I would also rather see young kids on the beach fishing and having a good time instead of using drugs and getting in trouble I take a lot of youth fishing with me so please consider a solution to this maybe no line heavier than 100lb test from jug to lead and no line heavier that 60lb test main give the fish a chance too . Mine is on YouTube Leonardrabago 50lb test to 100lbhook 28bkn hook 83lb fish and 53lb .

As a swim out jug fisher man I have only caught 11 ulua 5 sharks all released unharmed 0 turtles 5 mu lost 3 jugs due to unstoppable strike but I use 50lb test as it breaks up faster in the ocean as compared to 250lb test or even 400lb test 100lb test for hook line is plenty of chance for me but the fish also has a chance a fair fight 50/50 is all I asking to smash this bill. Aloha

LATE

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 7:14:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth McDermott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB 2973 banning dangerous “jug line” fishing.

I swim 4-5 days a week all around O`ahu and have encountered these jug lines way off shore along nearly all our coasts, from Waimanalo, to Electric Beach, to Makapuu.

Way too often we have found our gentle green sea turtles entangled, slowly being strangled by these heavy lines wrapped around their necks, or with limbs severed or immobilized. Or you may know the story of one of our critically endangered monk seals, Moana, who died after swallowing one of these hooks and lines. It’s heartbreaking.

This is not responsible fishing, as these jugs typically drift way off shore in our high winds, unattended or abandoned. It’s time to end this practice, with fines significant enough to deter those employing this lazy man’s fishing strategy. Our marine life face so many challenges that are hard to get ahead of. This is one problem we can easily solve by enacting this ban.

Please vote to support this bill! Thanks,

Beth McDermott
Oahu resident since 1969 Water woman

LATE

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 7:35:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sam Mullins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Jug lines cause entanglement, injury and death for sharks, turtles, seals etc. Please do the right thing for healthy oceans and ban in Hawaii. Thank you!

LATE

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 7:50:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Cunningham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing to support the ban on jugging fishing methods. This practice is non-discriminate leading to increased levels of bycatch and potential entanglement of Hawaii's protected marine life. Other fishing methods can be more targeted, thus reducing the negative impacts on non-target species and having an overall better outcome for our ecosystems.

LATE

SB-2973-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 8:27:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
WILLIAM MIDDLETON	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing in support of SB2973 SD1. Unattended jugging practices are destructive to critical marine life including large animals and the coral. When the gear becomes lost or abandoned, a persistent hazard is created which magnifies the wasteful damage and risk to marine life exponentially.