

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

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STATE PARKS

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

Before the Senate Committee on  
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Wednesday, March 4, 2026  
9:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 2975, SENATE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO MARINE LIFE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Senate Bill 2975, Senate Draft 1 authorizes the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to close all or portions of any marine life conservation district (MLCD) for various periods of time and to adopt rules for the regulation of commercial activity within an MLCD, provided that the MLCD is located on or adjacent to the shores of Oahu. **The Department supports this measure and offers the following comments.**

The Department's Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) has designated ten MLCDs statewide and has adopted rules regulating the take of marine life in order to conserve and increase marine resources within these special areas. The number of visitors in some MLCDs has increased substantially over time, resulting in adverse impacts to the resources and habitats within these areas.

The carrying capacity study completed pursuant to Act 31, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022, for the Pūpūkea MLCD found evidence of declining ecosystem conditions associated with high visitor use. Fish abundance, species richness, and coral health declined across the study period at heavily visited sites. At peak periods, the Kapo'o tidepools area within the MLCD experienced visitation exceeding 100 individuals in the water simultaneously.

Regarding commercial activities in MLCDs, recent reports of commercial operators potentially causing damage to MLCD resources have raised concerns within communities.

Furthermore, commercial operations such as guided snorkel or SCUBA tours may result in increased visitor traffic to MLCs. This measure would enhance the Department's ability to regulate commercial activities specifically within MLCs on Oahu to protect marine resources from overuse by non-extractive commercial activities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA PĀKA A ME NĀ HANA HO'ONANEA  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

1000 ULU'ŌHI'A STREET, SUITE 309 • KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707  
PHONE: (808) 768-3003 • FAX: (808) 768-3053 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov/parks

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DIRECTOR  
PO'O

KĒHAULANI R. PU'U  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
HOPE PO'O

March 3, 2026

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: SB 2975 SD1 – Relating to Marine Life Conservation Districts

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) of the City and County of Honolulu (City) **OFFERS COMMENTS** on Senate Bill (SB) 2975 SD1 Relating to Marine Life Conservation Districts.

DPR is the manager of beach parks/reserves that serve as entry points to all three Marine Life Conservation Districts on O'ahu (Hanauma Bay, Pūpūkea and Waikīkī). DPR also grants permits for commercial activities within these three Marine Life Conservation Districts. Thus, DPR is seeking clarification on the City's role if this bill is passed and closures and restrictions to commercial permits are implemented.

Additionally, DPR respectfully requests that Hanauma Bay Marine Life Conservation District be exempted from this bill. The current two-day-a-week closure of the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve seems sufficient as the Hanauma Bay Marine Life Conservation District has retained its enhanced water quality since re-opening after Covid with these restrictions in place. Further closures, on different days/times as currently scheduled, would be very disruptive to the City's management of Hanauma Bay.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2975.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura H. Thielen".

Laura H. Thielen  
Director



## *Hui Aloha Kiholo*

*Our mission is to protect, perpetuate and enhance the cultural and natural landscape of the Kiholo Bay area through collaborative management and active community stewardship.*

House Committees: WLA, CPN  
Hawai'i State Capitol - Room 401  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

16 February 2026

**Subject:** Support for SB2975 from Hui Aloha Kiholo

Dear Honorable Senators:

The Native Hawaiian Organization Hui Aloha Kiholo supports SB2975 to authorize the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to close all or portions of any Marine Life Conservation District (MLCD) for various periods of time and to adopt rules for the regulation of commercial activity within an MLCD.

Our 501(c)3 organization formed 18 years ago to engage our community to help Kiholo State Park heal. We have an active curatorship agreement with State Parks Hawai'i that allows us to lead education, conservation, resource management, stewardship, and maintenance activities in close partnership with DLNR.

We support this measure for many reasons, including:

- **Commercial Ocean Tourism Damages Coral Reef Habitat:** A preponderance of scientific evidence demonstrates that SCUBA diving tourists damage and kill live coral. Without intending to do harm, SCUBA divers physically kill coral<sup>1</sup>. Divers increase stressors like coral disease<sup>2</sup>. The reefs that attract the most visitors experience the most degradation.
- **Places Need Rest:** Camping at Kiholo is designed with multi-day pauses between camping weekends to allow the land

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<sup>1</sup> Wiener et al, 2008, University of Hawai'i (UH), Oregon State University, York University  
Hawkins et al, 2002, University of York, Bonaire Marine Park

Zakai et al, 2002, Israel Nature and Parks Authority, Interuniversity Institute for Marine Science  
Tratalos and Austin, University College, Department of Environment - Cayman Islands

<sup>2</sup> Lamb et al, 2014, James Cook University, Australian Institute of Marine Science, Australian Research Council, Center for Biodiversity in Peninsular Thailand



## *Hui Aloha Kiholo*

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to recover, with help from our Hoa 'Āina<sup>3</sup> field team. In our experience, resting areas benefits both people and place by creating space for ecological and cultural healing.

- **We Must Give Back to Places that Feed Us:** Marine Life Conservation Districts (MLCDs) demonstrate what protection can achieve. They were initially intended to restrict all harmful activities<sup>4</sup>. Our fishing community has made a sacrifice to grow abundance in MLCD's, yet tour boat exhaust, engine and depth sounder noise, disinfectant from gear rinsing, fish feeding, and biofouling pollution endures. A respectful reciprocal relationship with nature sometimes requires sacrifice that puts ecosystem health above personal interest.
- **The Environment is the Economy:** Ocean tourists want to see healthy coral and colorful fish<sup>5</sup>. Operators have a responsibility to educate them, and the state must not allow activities that harm the public trust. Allowing activities to continue when places are stressed or at risk exacerbates damage that may take decades or generations to heal.
- **The Time is Now:** Following the 2014-15 Pacific Ocean heatwave, West Hawai'i reefs showed uneven recovery. Science is clear: multiple stressors – pollution, overfishing, trampling, SCUBA tourism, anchors, and ocean warming – kill and harm coral<sup>6</sup>. Nourishing water, healthy fish populations, respect, and rest promote healing.
- **Safety Benefits:** During a recent wildfire fuelbreak project, some parking areas were temporarily closed so professional crews could safely remove fire-prone trees without damaging cultural sites. Coordinated closures allow essential restoration and risk-reduction work to proceed responsibly.

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<sup>3</sup> Hoa 'Āina - lit. Friend(s) of the Land

<sup>4</sup> Pers comm, Senator Lorraine Inouye at hearing on this bill. February 18th, 2026

<sup>5</sup> Lin et al, 2022, Princeton, Arizona State University, University of Hawai'i

<sup>6</sup> Maynard et al. NOAA



## *Hui Aloha Kiholo*

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- **Management Benefits:** In 2025, we assisted with invasive fish removal at Kealakekua MLCD, which required temporarily closing the bay to commercial boats. With uninterrupted access, divers were able to work safely and effectively. Focused closures can be essential to restore ecological balance – and healthy ecosystems benefit everyone.

Hui Aloha Kiholo supports local livelihoods, including those associated with well-managed commercial tourism activities. We are grateful to provide purposeful competitive jobs that sustain members of our community through work that heals nature and educates learners. However, jobs that confer damage to bio-cultural ecosystems must not be prioritized over the health of the environment upon which all of our livelihoods and practices depend. We must work hard together to safeguard our ocean.

While Kiholo is not a designated MLCD, many of our community partners in Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui Nui, and here on Hawai'i Island, and we support their efforts to keep the ocean healthy.

The ability for a place to rest and recover from harm is vital if our precious protected areas are to benefit the community and support local livelihoods now and in the warmer oceans of the future.

Respectfully,

Chad Wiggins  
Executive Director  
Hui Aloha Kiholo  
[cwiggins@kiholo.org](mailto:cwiggins@kiholo.org)  
808-756-2080  
[hualohakiholo.org](http://hualohakiholo.org)



## *Hui Aloha Kiholo*

*Our mission is to protect, perpetuate and enhance the cultural and natural landscape of the Kiholo Bay area through collaborative management and active community stewardship.*

### **References Cited**

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Maynard, J., Gove, J., Dieter, T., Johnson, J., Lecky, J., Conklin, E., van Hoodonk, R., Donovan, M., Hospital, J., Kleiber, D., Brainard, R., Williams, I., Swanson, D., Oliver, T., Walsh, W., Wiggins, C., Kramer, L. 2019. Coral Reefs: Vulnerability to Climate Change in West Hawai'i. NOAA PIFSC Special Publication, SP-19-002.

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**SB-2975-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 7:20:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Denver Saxton Coon	Testifying for Ocean Tourism Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We appreciate the Legislature's revision of SB2975. The earlier draft was overly broad and would have had unintended consequences for MLCDs statewide. By narrowing the bill's scope to O'ahu, the Legislature has taken a more targeted approach to addressing the specific concerns at issue. We support the bill in its current form and thank you for your careful consideration and responsiveness.



# FRIENDS of HANAUMA BAY

CONSERVE • PROTECT • RESTORE

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*Dedicated to the conservation of coastal and marine environments,  
emphasizing stewardship of the natural resources of Hanauma Bay*

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**Founded in 1990 / Entering our 36th year of advocacy for Hanauma Bay**

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Hearing: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 9:30 AM

March 1, 2026

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2975 SD1** - RELATING TO MARINE LIFE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Aloha Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Committee Members,

Mahalo for hearing this important bill, and for allowing us to testify in strong support of its passage.

Providing DLNR the authority to close all or portions of marine life conservation districts (MLCDs) and to adopt rules for the regulation of any commercial activity conducted within an MLCD, is critical to reducing immediate and long-term adverse impacts of both overtourism and natural disasters on these fragile marine ecosystems.

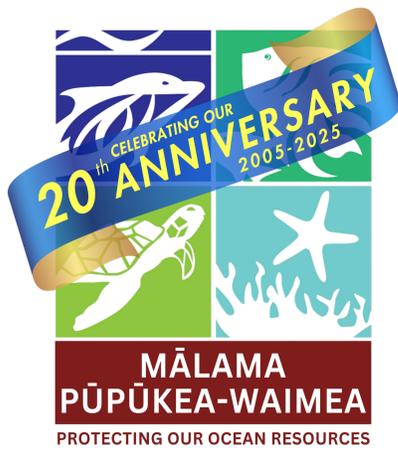
While we prefer that this authority be granted to DLNR statewide, beginning with Oahu is a measured first step because Oahu has the only two MLCDs with ongoing carrying capacity study programs, and its engaged community stewards can actively inform DLNR's rulemaking processes.

We urge you to pass this bill!

With Aloha,

Lisa Bishop, MS

Friends of Hanauma Bay I President



March 4, 2026  
CPN Hearing, 9:30 am  
**SB2975 SD1 – In Support**

Aloha CPN Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members,

Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea (MPW) is a Hawai'i non-profit organization founded on the North Shore of O'ahu in 2005. Our mission is "working to replenish and sustain the natural and cultural resources of the Pūpūkea and Waimea ahupua'a for present and future generations through active community stewardship, education, and partnerships."

For twenty-one years, we have focused our collaborative stewardship and education efforts on the Pūpūkea Marine Life Conservation District (MLCD), **one of only three MLCDs on O'ahu.**

**MPW strongly supports SB2975.**

**Note that WLA's SD1 limited the scope of the bill to O'ahu MLCDs.**

In 2022, the Legislature passed Act 31 (SB3330) authorizing the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to conduct a carrying capacity program for the sensitive areas of the Pūpūkea MLCD. MPW was honored to be awarded the contract for this program and gathered extensive data on human impacts on marine life over a three-year period. DLNR submitted the [Act 31 Final Report](#) to the Legislature on January 5, 2026.

The report found that high levels of visitors – year-round and every day of the week - to the Kapo'o (Sharks Cove) area of the Pūpūkea MLCD on the North Shore of O'ahu are causing significant damage to marine life. **Management measures including partial or full area seasonal closures are urgently needed to prevent further damage.**

This bill provides **DLNR clear authority to better manage MLCDs on O'ahu for human use** using seasonal, day, or time-based closures, and to adopt rules to limit commercial activity, in response to ecological threats to our highly valued marine reserves.

Mahalo for passing SB2975 SD1!

Denise Antolini  
President, MPW

Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea  
Post Office Box 188  
Hale'iwa, HI 96712

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501(c)(3) FEIN 27-0855937  
[www.pupukeawaimea.org](http://www.pupukeawaimea.org)  
[info@pupukeawaimea.org](mailto:info@pupukeawaimea.org)

# HAWAI'I OCEAN LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE



March 4, 2026

Hawai'i State Legislature  
Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

Re: Testimony in **SUPPORT** for SB 2975 SD1, Relating to Marine Life Conservation Districts

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and esteemed members of the committee,

The Ocean Legislative Task Force—a coalition of more than 150 individuals across over 20 organizations statewide—**supports** SB 2975 SD1, relating to marine life conservation districts. This measure authorizes the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to close all or portions of any marine life conservation district for various periods of time and to adopt rules for the regulation of commercial activity within a marine life conservation district; provided that the marine life conservation district is located on or adjacent to the shores of Oahu. The Ocean Legislative Task Force supported the original measure of this bill which was not limited to Oahu. We continue to support it as a step in the right direction.

Protecting Hawai'i's coral reefs and coral reef fish is one of our core priorities this legislative session. These ecosystems are foundational to the health of our nearshore waters, cultural practices, and coastal protection. Yet many reef systems remain under increasing pressure from climate impacts, overuse, and localized stressors. SB 2975 SD1 provides DLNR with the adaptive management tools it needs to respond to changing conditions, prevent further degradation, and allow impacted areas the opportunity to recover.

By enabling targeted closures and thoughtful regulation of commercial activity, when necessary, this measure helps ensure that marine life conservation districts fulfill their intended purpose: conserving biodiversity, sustaining fish populations, and safeguarding Hawai'i's unique marine resources for future generations. These proactive approaches are essential to long-term reef resilience and to maintaining the balance between ocean stewardship and responsible use.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this important measure.

*The Hawai'i Ocean Legislative Task Force advocates for measures that advance cesspool conversion and wastewater management, protect Hawai'i's coral reefs and reef fish, ensure transparent and sustainable implementation of the Green Fee program and long-term environmental staffing, and support other measures that strengthen Hawai'i's coastal and marine ecosystems.*

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy  
Supporting SB2975 SD1, Relating to Marine Life Conservation Districts  
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
March 4, 2026 at 9:30 am  
Conference Room 229 and via Videoconference**

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Hawai'i and Palmyra supports SB2975 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to close all or portions of any marine life conservation district (MLCD) for various periods of time and to adopt rules for the regulation of commercial activity within a marine life conservation district; provided that the marine life conservation district is located on or adjacent to the shores of Oahu.

Nearshore fisheries and coral reef ecosystems are among the State's most significant natural resources, supporting food security, cultural practices, recreation, and local livelihoods. The growing population and increasing visitor use place significant pressure on these resources. MLCDs were created to conserve and replenish marine life by limiting or prohibiting extractive uses and providing safe areas for fish and other species to grow, reproduce, and thrive.

Over the course of the past 25 years, TNC has worked closely with the DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources, communities, and other stakeholders to facilitate the creation of Conservation Action Plans and Community Action Plans for several MLCD sites including Honolua-Mokulēi'a, Molokini Shoal, Mānele-Hulopo'e, and Kealakekua Bay. These areas are also among the most cherished and heavily visited sites for snorkeling, diving, and experiencing the reefs of Hawai'i.

Carrying capacity studies show that restricting visitor use can improve marine health and support the conservation goals these districts were established to achieve. Granting DLNR clear authority to implement partial or full closures within MLCDs will ensure that the State has the tools it needs to balance public access and the long-term health of these critical marine ecosystems.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB2975 SD1.

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*Guided by science, TNC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 84,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and 18 managed areas and have supported over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands.*

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March 03, 2026

To: Chair Jarret Keohokalole, Vice Chair Carol Fukunaga and the Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

Subject: **SB2975 SD1**, Relating to Marine Life Conservation Districts

Aloha,

I am writing in support of SB2975 SD1. This measure clarifies and strengthens the Department of Land and Natural Resources' authority to temporarily close all or portions of Marine Life Conservation Districts when necessary to prevent resource degradation and protect public safety. SB2975 SD1 requires DLNR to adopt administrative rules governing commercial activities within these districts. These amendments ensure transparency, due process, and consistent regulatory standards for businesses operating in protected marine areas.

Marine Life Conservation Districts were created to safeguard fragile reef ecosystems, yet many are experiencing intense commercial and recreational pressure. Without clear statutory authority and standardized rulemaking, management can become reactive and inconsistent. The SD1 amendments provide clear guidance to DLNR while also giving commercial operators regulatory certainty. Establishing formal rules creates a level playing field for responsible businesses and ensures that commercial use does not undermine the very natural resources that support Hawai'i's visitor economy.

From a consumer protection perspective, healthy marine ecosystems are foundational to Hawai'i's tourism industry and to the public's trust in how these shared resources are managed. Temporary, science-based closures are a practical and balanced tool to prevent long-term damage, reduce liability risks, and protect both local users and paying visitors who expect safe, sustainable experiences.

The State has a public trust responsibility to actively steward marine resources for present and future generations. SB2975, SD1 supports responsible commerce, clear regulations, environmental sustainability, and long-term economic stability.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection to pass SB2975, SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Carlin McFadden & the Food+ Policy Team  
#fixourfoodsystem

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**The Food+ Policy internship** develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2026, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals working in the food system. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



**MAUI**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**LATE**

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 229  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026 AT 9:30 A.M.**

To The Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection,

**OPPOSE SB2975 SD1 RELATING TO MARINE LIFE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

The Maui Chamber of Commerce has concerns about SB2975 SD1, which authorizes the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to close marine life conservation districts (MLCDs) and regulate commercial activity within these areas.

SB2975 would allow closures to be imposed without rulemaking, clear standards, or procedural safeguards. This bypasses established administrative processes designed to ensure transparency, accountability, and public participation, which creates severe operational uncertainty and could effectively eliminate authorized uses without due process. This uncertainty would negatively impact small businesses, jobs, and Maui's broader visitor economy.

We recognize the importance of balancing environmental stewardship with the vitality of local businesses and the broader economy and have seen examples where permitted operators work closely with state agencies to be environmental stewards of the places they visit to reduce impacts and support conservation. These cooperative approaches demonstrate that meaningful stakeholder engagement and adaptive management under existing authority can be effective without eliminating permitted access or bypassing established processes.

The Maui Chamber of Commerce supports responsible stewardship of our natural resources and recognizes the importance of protecting Hawaii's unique marine ecosystems. However, any changes to MLCD management should be developed through a transparent, collaborative, and balanced process that includes clear standards, scientific justification, and stakeholder consultation.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to defer SB2975 SD1 and instead work with local stakeholders on specific MLCD's to find winning solutions.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap  
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

**SB-2975-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:10:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A marine life conservation district isn't worth much without the ability to implement measures which allow the conservation of marine resources within the district. I wholeheartedly support SB2975.

**SB-2975-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:57:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L Perry, Support

2975 SB RELATING TO MARINE LIFE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS.

**SB-2975-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 2:54:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Millikan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB2975, which empowers the DLNR to respond quickly to protect reefs during safety risks and resource decline.**

**In Hawai‘i, our reef biodiversity is essential to daily life and to the health of our mauka to makai systems. Overfishing, habitat loss, and food chain disruption have been harming our reefs for too long, and we are beginning to see the spillover effects of these consequences in our agriculture and healthcare.**

**By giving the DLNR the authority to act quickly and strategically, this policy allows Hawai‘i to protect vulnerable reef areas before they reach a point of collapse. It shifts us from a reactive system to a proactive one. Hanauma Bay has already proven that a framework of strong management is successful. When visitation was reduced and rest periods were introduced, reef health improved and wildlife returned, while tourism thrived with increased accountability and reverence. Similarly, after seven years of protection at Kahekili, parrotfish biomass increased by nearly 170%, and surgeonfish biomass increased by 24%. These herbivorous fish are essential because they graze down algae that would otherwise smother coral, directly improving reef health. These two examples demonstrate that protection and access do not have to be in conflict.**

**This bill also recognizes that not all reef areas are the same. By allowing targeted, temporary closures, it protects the most sensitive zones such as nursery reefs, turtle resting areas, and monk seal haul-out sites, while keeping less vulnerable areas open. This balanced approach protects the ecosystem’s priorities without isolating communities.**

**Our reefs are the foundation of life in Hawai‘i. They feed our families, protect our ‘ohana from storms and strengthen our economy, all while supporting the cultural identity that connects mauka to makai. As an educator, fisher, mother and community member, I am**

**committed to protecting our Marine Life Conservation Districts now, so we may continue partnering with them for many years to come.**

**Thank you very much for your support of youth engagement in environmental policy. I respectfully request that the WLA Committee pass SB2975 with a favorable recommendation.**

**Sincerely,**

**Debbie Millikan**

**Honolulu, HI**

**SB-2975-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 11:05:10 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
An Vo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is An and I'm a public health student on O'ahu. I am a member of Climate Future Forum who shared this bill with me. Please support SB2975.

Mahalo,  
An  
Honolulu

**SB-2975-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 1:29:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Roberts "Bob" Leinau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Marine Life Conservation Districts need all of the regulatory authority they can get. Many of the these hot spots see thousands of people a day. What would help our nearshore natural resources the most is more MLCD ...especially on Oahu. The natural nearshore water resources are diminishing ; (

**LATE**

**SB-2975-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 8:48:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of this measure.