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To:	DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
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Subject:	[EXTERNAL] BLNR Meeting December 7, 2023 testimony Item J-4
Date:	Wednesday, December 6, 2023 4:58:57 PM
Attachments:	Screen Shot 2023-12-06 at 2.02.58 PM.png

Aloha,

Regarding agenda item J-4, staff recommends BLNR consent to a sub-lease by Jack Diving Locker for a space at the Fuel Dock facility in Honokohau Harbor, I support this, but ask that they are held to compliance with the very last section "Special Considerations" clause B. (Scale).

> B. (Scale) Tenant shall be required to purchase, maintain and operate the hoist and certified scale currently located at the Fuel Dock. The purchase price shall be $100. Tenant, at its expense, shall maintain the equipment in good working order and agrees to operate, or cause to be operated, the hoist and scale pursuant to customer demand in the marketplace. Tenant's

For more than 35 years a fishing charter company has occupied the space labeled CHARTERS, and has maintained and operated the scale as per that clause. Jacks now occupies that space CHARTERS and the Special Conditions clause (above) is in their signed lease - and the scale electric control switch is in that leased space too.

Jack's Diving Locker is not a fishing business, and we realize that having a Dive business in charge of a key piece of fishing industry equipment is far from perfect, but until we create a better system, we have to make the one signed for in the lease work. Unfortunately, throughout much of 2023 it did not work.

In fact, the scale was inoperative for most of tournament season, so we used our own scale for tournaments and even provided scales to other operators and to the public for some notable catches.

As example, one was a World Record application - and another was a fish that won a world wide tournament with more than 150 boats scattered around the globe (as well as the Kona event they were fishing simultaneously.)

Volunteers have fallen in to trouble shoot and get repair quotes and line up repairs but many times their submissions go unanswered for long periods of time.

We have also included a mechanism in our tournament sponsorship proposals to help fund repairs, so the fishing community is not just complaining.

But the fact remains, even well meaning volunteers with time, hands and money can't maintain equipment that does not belong to them.

WHY IT MATTERS:

The small boat fishery was estimated to be valued at more than $355 Million way back in the year 2000. This fishery is 98% local folks on boats less than 30 feet long, most trying to make ends meet.

The charter fishing industry was estimated to economic impact of more than $50 million back in 2011.

The fishing tournament industry in Hawaii saw more than $4.3 million in economic impact in 2018.

Again we do not oppose the lease up for consent in item J-4 and in fact we lease space from Jacks during tournaments and have a good working relationship with them.

We all have found ourselves in a situation that is far from optimum for both communities, but it won't be fixed over night.

In the mean time, the fishing community and industry simply can't suffer because a company in a different industry is in charge of integral fishing equipment.

If you do consent to this lease, please include some measure of enforcement of the Special Considerations section while we start a dialog to try and create a better system.

After all, Kona is known as the Blue Marlin Capitol of the World, on top of everything else mentioned herein.

Mahalo

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