

Testimony in `Support of Item F2: Rules relating to Management of Aquarium Life
Request for Approval to Hold Public Hearings on Proposed Consolidation of Hawaii
Administrative Rules (“HAR”) relating to Aquarium Life Management into Proposed HAR
Chapter 13-77.1: and the return of aquarium fishing permits.

blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

BLNR Meeting 10-24-25, 9 am

Aloha Distinguished BLNR Members,

My name is Mary Beth Tubbs, and as a retired Hawaii educator, I stand in support of the Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) relating to Aquarium Life Management and the return of aquarium fishing permits. The rules will bring us closer to once again having Hawaii saltwater aquarium fish in classrooms. Saltwater aquariums are an excellent tool with which to ignite student curiosity and passion about scientific concepts. Not only can students learn how to malama ocean creatures, but many of the fundamental concepts involved in caring for aquariums are applicable to sustaining life on our planet. Fundamental concepts, including those which underlie global warming, are given a meaningful context and application when students care for aquatic life (ex., ecosystems, ocean chemistry, salinity, temperature, the ocean’s carbon sequestering power, ocean acidification). Aquariums are also proven to reduce stress, which can be so helpful in today’s classrooms.

I can hardly believe that it has been two years, and the aquarium fishers still don’t have their permits- even though they have an approved Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which was challenged by Earth Justice, and was upheld by the Supreme Court, who ordered that the aquarium fishers’ permits be granted! The delay makes a mockery of the entire EIS system. The proposed rules package is a positive step in complying with the Supreme Court’s order and in giving students, as well as the general public, via large educational aquariums, the opportunity to learn about aquatic life in a sustainable way.

Hawaii’s fisheries are one of the best-managed fisheries in the entire world. Please vote yes on the proposed consolidation of Hawaii Administrative Rules relating to Aquarium Life.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Tubbs, M.Ed.

National Education Association, Retired

National Association of School Psychologists, Retired

From: [Clemens Mayer](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 9:06:43 AM

Aloha, e Chair Chang and members of the board,

I am Dr. Clemens Kūha‘o Mayer, currently residing in Honolulu, O‘ahu. I strongly oppose the rule package as proposed in item F.2 of the agenda. This rule package represents a breach of public trust and a backslide into secrecy, betraying communities that have worked for decades to protect Hawai‘i’s reefs.

It is a profound betrayal of the public’s trust. What began as a community-led petition to ban commercial aquarium collecting statewide—which was unanimously approved by BLNR—has been turned upside down. Instead of protecting reef life, DAR’s draft rules package gives the trade everything they’re asking for and would allow the capture of hundreds of thousands of reef fish every year.

As someone who has personally worked in reef conservation and community-led stewardship, I am closely aware of the adverse effects of allowing (nearly) unmitigated extraction of precious resources. I strongly believe that those who live most closely together with these ecosystems must have an important say in their resource management; rather than relying on external, only partially informed, parties to make destructive decisions on their behalf.

Please send the rules back for redrafting so that they reflect the community’s call to safeguard reef life—rather than reviving the very trade the proposed rules were meant to end—and restore the public’s trust by keeping the permitting authority with BLNR itself for full transparency and accountability.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Me ke aloha,
Kūha‘o

Clemens (Clé) Kūha‘o Mayer, PhD
he/they; hij/hen; ‘o ia
cjmayer.github.io

From: laura.acasio
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 8:39:50 PM

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Laura Acasio, and I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed vague aquarium fishing rules. I respectfully urge you **not to approve at this time.**

The current proposal no longer reflects the conservation values or intent of our communities. Instead, it opens the door to renewed large-scale commercial exploitation.

This rulemaking is also fiscally unsound—yielding roughly **\$700 per year in permit revenue while costing taxpayers \$300,000–\$500,000 annually** to administer. It disregards the growing body of science showing that **reef fish populations must recover, not decline, if our reefs are to withstand climate change.** Today, I ask you to:

1. **Maintain permitting authority within the BLNR** to preserve transparency, accountability, and the integrity of oversight.
2. **Return these rules for true redrafting**—in genuine partnership with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE—to reflect shared stewardship and public trust.
3. **Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*)** from the whitelist. These species are culturally valued food fish and essential reef herbivores that sustain coral health. Counting them for both subsistence and ornamental harvest is unacceptable.
4. **Remove Yellow Tang and Potter’s Angelfish** from the whitelist. Both species are now successfully bred at the Oceanic Institute of Hawai‘i Pacific University, eliminating any justification for continued wild collection.
5. **Clarify permitting terms and accountability measures** to close loopholes, prevent exploitation, and safeguard ecological balance.
6. **Follow DLNR’s Hierarchy of Use Policy**, which places cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The aquarium trade is not a traditional or cultural practice.
7. **Uphold Hawai‘i’s Public Trust Doctrine**, a constitutional mandate requiring DLNR to protect natural resources for the collective benefit of present and future generations. Public trust resources are not commodities for private export.

Our reefs are not just ecosystems—they are our life support. I urge you to uphold your kuleana and protect them.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. Mahalo for your diligence.

Laura Acasio

Hilo, Moku 'O Keawe

From: [Georjean Adams](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 4:07:38 PM

I oppose the approval of moving forward with the proposed rule package from DAR at this time:

Agenda Item F.2: Request for Approval to Hold Public Hearings on Proposed Consolidation of Hawaii Administrative Rules (“HAR”) relating to Aquarium Life Management into Proposed HAR Chapter 13-77.1: “Aquarium Fishery Management” and on Proposed Amendments to HAR Chapters 13-75: “Rules Regulating the Possession and Use of Certain Fishing Gear” and 13-60.4: “West Hawai’i Regional Fishery Management Area, Hawai’i” for Clarity and Consistency with Proposed HAR Chapter 13-77.1

It is not clear that the DAR has adequately addressed public concerns previously raised about resumption of commercial aquarium fishing on West Hawaii's reefs.

"DAR concluded that, under the RFEIS preferred alternative, the risk of the aquarium fishery in West Hawai'i causing widespread population decline of the eight proposed white list species or major ecosystem decline is *low*. This assessment of low risk does not mean no risk or no impact. All fisheries in the state of Hawai'i are subject to risk and uncertainty regarding impact. When the disposition of how fish are used is put aside, the level of management of the West Hawai'i commercial aquarium fishery provides a comparatively lower risk than most fisheries in the State."

It would appear DAR has set the bar for approving resumption of commercial aquarium fishing very "***low***" for itself. As long as there is not "**widespread population decline**" or "**major ecosystem decline**" - no problem, as far as DAR and commercial aquarium fishers are concerned apparently.

Reef ecosystems are precious to both the local community and visiting tourists. Further degrading reefs long term health and vibrancy for the benefit of a handful of commercial aquarium fishers is unacceptable. West Hawaii reefs are already stressed and in need of remediation. Being better than most fisheries in the state is not enough. The Board should intensely evaluate what the best stewardship of reef ecosystems should look like.

It's also not clear how much DAR worked with petitioners to determine what levels of risk are acceptable. The Board should question the degree to which DAR limited its "public" input to aquarium fishers.

If the proposal is allowed to go forward to hearing, expect a lot of adverse public comments.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Georjean Adams,
Mauna Lani Resort full-time resident, South Kohala

From: [HEIDI AHLSTRAND](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 4:00:49 AM

protect the reefs

From: [Catherine Allchin](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 1:56:45 PM

Dear BLNR,

I'm writing in advance of Friday's public hearing regarding DAR's request to re-open Hawai'i reefs to commercial aquarium collecting. DAR's draft rules package gives the trade everything they've asked for and would allow the capture of hundreds of reef fish every year. I urge you to reject this rules package.

A recent scientific poll found that more than 80% of Hawai'i and Oahu Island residents support permanently ending the commercial capture of reef fish. Fish abundance must increase for reefs to withstand the effects of climate change. It's already an uphill battle! Don't allow mass extraction of herbivores. We must safeguard reef life.

Sincerely,
Catherine Allchin
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i Island

From: [Julia N Allen, PhD, DVM](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 7:36:40 AM

Do not reopen the commercial removal of reef wildlife for sale in the mainland aquarium trade, or for any other use. This exploitation damages ecosystems and marine habitats. Opening the door once again to exploitation of Hawaii's reef wildlife and habitats is wrong on so many levels.

Julia N Allen, PhD, DVM
DrJNA@comcast.net

From: [Thanya Al-Saadoon](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 7:09:32 PM

I am writing to protest the proposed reopening of harvesting wildlife from our precious Hawaiian reefs. As a resident of the island of Maui, I want our reefs preserved for my children and grandchildren to be able to enjoy, as well as for the biodiversity of this important ecosystem to remain intact for all the organisms and animals that live there. Please do not let this happen!

Thanya Al-Saadoon
Haiku, Maui, Hawaii

From: [Zettelyss Amora](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 8:29:02 PM

"Fish abundance must increase for reefs to withstand the effects of climate change. Allowing mass extraction of herbivores defies both science and common sense".

A decision to allow mass extraction of reef fish could easily lead to mass extinction of human life on Earth. This is no exaggeration!!! Over fishing and fish harvesting has both short-term and devastating long-term effects on the health of Hawaii's reefs as well as the sustainability of human life on planet Earth. Myriad scientific data has concluded we have only a few years left in which to enact radical change in how we care for the reefs and oceans of the planet. If we reach the tipping point of ocean ecosystem collapse, Earth's climate would dramatically be altered to the point that prevents humanity to survive. 2030 is the projected date of no return!! ACTION IN REQUIRED NOW!!!!

If our oceans continue to be decimated the consequences are beyond comprehension.

PLEASE WAKE UP AND FACE REALITY AND DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PROTECT THE SEVEN SEAS!!!

Mahalo for taking this serious matter to heart!!!

Zettelyss Amora
Kamuela Hawaii Island resident and daily ocean swimmer since 2004

Energy Flows Where Attention Goes

www.EnergyMovers.me

From: mhussenbux@btinternet.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Subject: October 24 Agenda Item F.2 from Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain.
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 6:18:56 PM

Dear Officers of the Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources – aloha!

I write on behalf of The Animal Interfaith Alliance, an international alliance of faith groups founded in Britain concerned about the welfare of animals. Our member organisations and individual members include Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jains, Jews, Muslims and Sikhs. We are all united by our common concern for animals, based on our various faiths.

We send our compliments and refer to this important Bill. May we please point out that our organisation is in regular contact with the Hawaiian Humane Society and have been submitting Testimony for animal welfare Bills over many years.

In 2017, we wrote to the authorities in protest against the capture of your precious fishes from the reefs and were very relieved that it was stopped.

May we now appeal to you to preserve intact the reefs of the Hawaiian islands. Please do not allow a commercial body to wreck a wonderful and unique environment and kill the legitimate residents – because that is what will happen to many of these delicate creatures.

We trust you to take the enlightened and compassionate course of action in this important matter.

Best regards,

Marian Hussenbux. Secretary International Campaigns

Animal Interfaith Alliance

www.animal-interfaith-alliance.com

Faiths Working Together for Animals

AIA is a unique alliance of the world's most influential faith-based animal advocacy organisations which speaks out on the moral treatment of animals.

AIA is a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) accredited organisation and a member of UNEP's Faith for Earth Coalition.

AIA is a member of the World Federation for Animals and Eurogroup for Animals.

From: [Alarik Arenander](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DAR is not serving the public trust or desire
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 8:40:46 PM

Send the rules back for redrafting so that they reflect the community's call to safeguard reef life—rather than reviving the very trade the proposed rules were meant to end—and restore the public's trust by keeping the permitting authority with BLNR itself for full transparency and accountability.\

There is enough corruption in the public institutions driven by money. The fish need to be protected so the island is protected.

alarik

Alarik Arenander, PhD
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Ebrainmatrix.org
TheLeadersBrain.org
Brainresearchinstitute.org

From: [maria elvira](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:10:28 AM

Good morning

Hawai'i is one of those rare Nature's gifts that no Commission should sidestep from public notice, nor silence community response just to allow fast-track new collection permits. Such lack of care opens the door to uncontrolled and unrestricted exploitation of Hawaii's reef wildlife and habitats by aquarium's dealers.

Please, let's keep Hawaii's reefs intact by controlling that no reef wildlife ends sourcing aquarium businesses. Stop the reef plundering which has already ruined its biodiversity.
Thank you

Mari Elvi
Forest City, NC

From: [Parker Ashbaugh](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24, 2025 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 1:29:27 PM

Aloha Chair Chang and BNLR Board Members,

My name is Parker Ashbaugh. I work for Trilogy and Ultimate Whale watch. Most of our trips year round are snorkel trips so my livelihood depends on robust and healthy reefs. The proposal to allow aquarium collecting, the taking of live fish off of Hawaii's reefs for profit, is in direct conflict with the Department of Aquatic Resources' (DAR) mission:

The mission of the Division of Aquatic Resources is to work with the people of Hawai'i to manage, CONSERVE and RESTORE the state's unique aquatic resources and ecosystems for present and future generations.

The permit fee schedule is a joke.

The harm caused by removing so many fish far out weighs the financial agenda of a handful of selfish 'entrepreneurs'. The fish on our reefs belong to everyone. Don't allow this proposed wholesale reef rape to undo years of good faith conservation that has taken place over the last decade.

With warming seas and extreme water quality issues, the fish that remain are already challenged to survive. Plucking fish off of our reefs for export to hobbyist fish aquarium enthusiasts is a betrayal to all who love Hawaii and to our tourism economy. Geo politics has harmed our small businesses enough, let's not exacerbate our economic strife by decimating our reefs that will be devoid of live fish.

What about our boating industry? Statewide, our snorkel tourism sector represent millions in state revenue, and hundreds of amazing jobs. I beseech you all to reconsider this ill-conceived proposal. Follow DAR's mission to preserve our precious marine resources.

Mahalo,

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Dawn Wallis](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] How small is the aquarium fishery ?
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 4:21:31 PM

Board members

I am writing you to hopefully pass along some information to help you better understand the aquarium fishery in support of F2

In past fishery issues, the Board has approved Total Allowable Catch(TAC) on several commercial fisheries.

You approved 30,000lbs on UHU.

You approved 15,000lbs on KALA

You had almost no data except catch history, but approved these commercial amounts anyway.

When you were discussing the aquarium proposal last year, many of you did not even know the species, and I suspect you are also unaware of the sizing.

To put things into perspective for understanding the entire proposed quota for this aquarium fishery is less than 2500lbs.

That is less than 1 pound a day per fisherman assuming the entire quota is fulfilled.

Can approving someone to take 350lbs of fish a year be reasonable?

I am attaching photos to help you understand how small these fish are due to the size restrictions based on current rules.

A yellow tang within the slot limit rule in West Hawaii is 5grams or less. You read that correctly.

When you analyze fisheries, you need to look at total biomass. The total biomass removed is minimal, and as the Monterey Bay Aquarium explain when they proposed taking larval fish and lobster-these are essentially not really fish yet.

If you can imagine snowfall, not all of it sticks and can be measured. This fishery is catching the snow, it does not effect the amount of fish on the reefs.

So, the DAR proposal on the aquarium fishery is 2500lbs or less compared to other commercial fisheries you have approved with minimal to no scientific understanding or data.

Please approve the full proposed quota and see the attached pictures to better understand how small of an impact this fishery has because it leaves ALL adult size breeding fish which ensures stable populations in perpetuity.

Furthermore, more than half of the West Hawaii coast is closed only to aquarium fishing by way of the FRA system and opponents of this fishery have exclusive use of their areas where aquarium fishing is not allowed. Including the area you snorkel, as you routinely mention.

Through this process the fishery has been told it must use science to evaluate species and numbers, by this very same Board.

Through the cultural impact assessment, the fishery gave up many culturally important fish. It was reduced to 40 species and many fish that are NOT culturally important because we were told to use science.

By further direction of the Board, it had to further reduce to the proposal of 8 species.

Then it had to reduce take on species for mitigation on climate change, cultural impacts, and science.

What's left in the proposal DAR is presenting is a tiny fraction of what the fishery once was.

This is NOT how the process was to go. Every Board meeting more and more reductions, to a point there is nothing left.

You suggested you would be "comfortable" with half the amount at the last meeting.

Why?

You never asked about the science, never asked if our adult population is stable, never asked how much of a reduction this process has had on the fishery...only what your feelings were.

We can not manage by feelings, because everyone feels different. We must let science be our guide, because feelings, cultural impacts, climate change and 2400 pages on evaluating has been done on the intangibles and taken huge chunks out of the fishery.

A pound a day is a very reasonable amount for a commercial fishery that has been proven sustainable and levels 4x the proposal. These other commercial fisheries you have approved are taking 10x this amount of culturally important species yet you passed it without much scrutiny.

Dawn

From: [Angelique Kalani Axelrode](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F-2 BLNR Meeting, Aquarium Fishing Testimony
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 1:00:37 PM

Aloha e BLNR,

I am Angelique Kalani Axelrode residing in the ahupua'a of Honolulu.

In relation to the rules introduced by DAR pertaining to Aquarium Fishing Permits I am requesting that the rules be sent back for redrafting so that they reflect the community's call to safeguard reef life, rather than reviving the very trade the proposed rules were meant to end. By doing so, they may restore the public's trust by keeping the permitting and authority with BLNR itself for full transparency and accountability.

In relation to species, Kole and Umaumalei should be REMOVED from the whitelist entirely, they are culturally food fish that were harvested for sustenance, and are vital herbivores that clean our reefs. Yellow Tang and Angelfish should also be REMOVED from the list as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU)--wild harvest is unnecessary.

BLNR must add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance. They MUST align with DLNR's Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice, and in fact, THREATENS the cultural practice.

They MUST align with Hawai'i's Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for commercial export.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony,
Angelique Kalani Axelrode

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Angelique "Ang" Kalani Axelrode (they/them/'o ia)
multimedia artist/filmmaker, co-founder, postdoc research fellow @ nyu tisch
[personal website](#) | [aka productions](#)

From: [Caroline Azelski](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:48:10 PM

Greetings BLNR,

Please send the rules back for redrafting so that they reflect the community's call to safeguard reef life—rather than reviving the very trade the proposed rules were meant to end—and restore the public's trust by keeping the permitting authority with BLNR itself for full transparency and accountability.

The proposed annual catch limits are **400 percent higher** than what seven collectors reported taking annually for 20 years.

Estimated permit revenue: **\$700 per year**

Estimated management cost (excluding enforcement): **\$300,000 – \$500,000**

These are just a few of the many good reasons to reraft the rules.

Thank you,
Caroline Azelski
Kapaau, HI
Big Island

From: [Michael Badano](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Protect our reef
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:43:58 PM

As a local resident and waterman. I have personal interest in protecting our local reef and fish populations. I live in Kihei on Maui and dive all areas of our island. I personally enjoy our ocean and take tourists for dives regularly. I dive with Maui Mantas locating areas needing to be cleaned and dive with Ocean Defenders Alliance cleaning our ocean weekly.

“Please send the rules back for redrafting so that they reflect the community’s call to safeguard reef life—rather than reviving the very trade the proposed rules were meant to end—and restore the public’s trust by keeping the permitting authority with BLNR itself for full transparency and accountability.”

Thank you for considering my humble opinion.

Michael Badano, MSDI
Cell: 808-866-9103

From: susanblueeyes2-gs@yahoo.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 4:06:15 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time.

Today, I respectfully ask you to:

- 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability.
- 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.
- 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes.
- 4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter's Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary.
- 5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance.
- 6) Align with DLNR's Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice!
- 7) Align with Hawai'i's Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i, present and future.

Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export. The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation. It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It contradicts science, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change. Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Thank you for your time and hearing my plea,
Susan Bambara

Kurtistown
Big Island

From: [D Beal](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October+24+Agenda+Item+F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 10:16:19 AM

Our families have been visiting the Hawaiian Islands yearly for over 40 years. The main attraction that brings us year after year... the scuba diving, snorkeling and whale watching. Our vacations are spent in your waters that are teeming with life and color!

Hawaii is in our hearts and reef wildlife trafficking should NOT be allowed under any circumstance. It will ruin your greatest treasures... the coral reefs.

We implore you to stand up to special interests who only want to exploit and ruin for their profits. The amazing marine life of the islands, belongs free for all to enjoy and savor... not in someone's tank for show

Thank you,

Beal, Matt and Murphy Families of CA and AZ.

From: [J & T](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:58:52 AM

What in the hell is wrong with you people??? You're a prime example of what happens when governments are allowed to do as they damn well please - and all of you should be removed from your jobs. Apparently you don't have to do your jobs, you just get to sell off natural and innocent marine life and somehow, somehow benefit from this. You should be ashamed of yourselves but I know you're not. That would mean you have decent and good morals and ethics, and you've shown the opposite of that. You're also keeping the citizens, the public in the dark and doing this as shady as you can. That's another red flag to what you're doing isn't right, isn't moral, isn't ethical and probably not legal. Your thinking is that if you get this done, by the time you're made to stop if (if ever), the damage will already be done, you'll have your benefits for approving this and then it's a so-what deal.

I've always thought that Hawaii is some magical place, some place that is just a dream land. One of my cousins was stationed there when in the army and he just fell in love with Hawaii. You have to keep their reefs intact, their marine life safe. You're doing the opposite and you should hang your heads in shame.

Theresa Beard
Abbeville, SC

From: [Surfcatsmat](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 1:40:17 PM

Subject: October 24; Agenda Item F.2

Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) draft rules to re-open Hawai'i's reefs to commercial aquarium collecting

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed rule change for the reasons listed below and I respectfully request the rules go back for redrafting so that they reflect a realistic and sustainable reef plan.

- <!--[endif]-->The proposed rule **no longer reflects the community's conservation intent**. It in fact appears to ignore the community interests.
 - The **proposed annual catch limits** are significantly higher than what annual collectors reported taking over past 20 years.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->DAR refusal to set **local limits** to prevent depletion. Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and DAR provides clear evidence of **reef fish stock depletion around populated and accessible parts of the Main Hawaiian Islands**. The study indicated that fishing is the main cause of these declines.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Reef fish abundance must increase for reefs to withstand the effects of climate change.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Under funding of management and enforcement of Aquatic resources leads to abuses.

- <!--[endif]-->Overwhelming public opposition. Many **Hawai'i Island residents** support permanently ending the commercial capture of reef fish.

Background:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->- <!--[endif]-->*A vast majority of wild-caught marine fish die in the aquarium trade, with estimates suggesting nearly all die within the first year of capture.*

<!--[if !supportLists]-->- <!--[endif]-->*Organizations like WWF-Philippines report that roughly 80% of marine fish die before even being sold, and those that do survive are very likely to die within a year of being purchased by hobbyists.*

<!--[if !supportLists]-->- <!--[endif]-->*This high mortality is attributed factors such as:*

<!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->*unregulated capture methods,*

<!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->*poor handling*

<!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]--> *inadequate transportation.*

<!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]--> *Pre-sale mortality: Some reports indicate as many as 80% of captured marine fish may die before they are ever sold.*

Alternative proposals:

From personal firsthand experience with the commercial aquarium trade, I support a ban on commercial aquarium collection on Hawaii Island and in the state of Hawaii in general. However, in the spirit of compromise, some options to consider:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->1. <!--[endif]--> **Permit limited species for sustainable collection.**

<!--[if !supportLists]-->a. <!--[endif]--> Avoid the blanket "white list" of species. Define species by resilience.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->b. <!--[endif]--> Shorter, more restricted list of less resilient species.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->c. <!--[endif]--> Long-term monitoring of key species.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->d. <!--[endif]--> More serious and robust enforcement.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->2. <!--[endif]--> **Impose significantly reduced catch quotas of all species.**

<!--[if !supportLists]-->a. <!--[endif]--> The lower limits create a buffer against environmental changes like climate change and ensure the long-term health of the marine ecosystem.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->3. <!--[endif]--> Introduce **tight restrictions on permitted species.**

<!--[if !supportLists]-->4. <!--[endif]--> **Unlimited take of non-native species.**

<!--[if !supportLists]-->5. <!--[endif]--> Prohibiting the collection of **species available through captive breeding**. Species able to be bred in captivity, made **off-limits to wild collection**.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->6. <!--[endif]--> Better use of community-based management and oversight in making rules related to the aquatic resources management and commercial aquarium collecting.

From personal firsthand experience with the commercial aquarium trade, I support a

ban on commercial aquarium collection on Hawaii Island.

"It's our responsibility to pass on what we inherited, not to squander it, but to build on it."

Christine Gregoire

Respectfully submitted,

Mathew Belcher

10/19/2025

Kamuela HI 96743

surfcats@aol.com

From: [Dominique Bello](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 7:15:39 PM

The beautiful reef life of Hawai should not be collected to go and die in the aquarium trade. The oceans are in much trouble right now and we should take every possible action to protect the reefs, corals and the wonderful diversity they support. Every animal pilfered from its habitat is a loss of future life.

Regards

D Bello

From: [Lori Beraha](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#); [Lori Beraha](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 9:44:41 AM

As a Conservstion marine Biologist I plead with you to appose and ban collection of natural resources in Hawaiian reefs.

Cordially



Lori Beraha
(831) 566-8899

From: [Eric Bergman](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 7:19:56 AM

Hawaii's reefs are a world treasure and vital part of the proud and beautiful state. Please do not allow exploitation of the reef life for the profit of a handful of fish dealers. Do not allow collection or poaching in Hawaii.

From: [Susan Bernat](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 5:54:22 PM

To the Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Hawai'i is a special place. You know this. And anyone who has ever set foot on one of the Hawaiian islands also knows this. Hawai'i is the land of *aloha*. Hawai'i is home to several endemic species. Native Hawaiians have historically served as the stewards of Hawaiian land and Hawaiian waters. Polynesians were some of the first seafarers, who learned to ply the vast expanse of ocean water by celestial navigation.

As a former military dependent, I was fortunate to attend high school in Hawaii. And, socially speaking, those years were the happiest of my life. I treasure friendships formed all those years ago in the '*Land of Aloha*'.

Coral reefs—around the world—are on a precipice of complete destruction, Hawai'i's reefs no less so. Ocean reefs serve as a vital nursery for several marine species, creating species diversity, and contributing to ocean biodiversity. These reefs also provide physical infrastructure, and therefore, storm protection, for the coastlines that they abut. Yet coral reefs are fragile structures, vulnerable to human presence.

Moreover, our entire ocean ecosystem, and the interconnected systems that rely on this ecosystem, are under threat from: overfishing/over-harvesting; ocean warming; ocean acidification; sea level rise; potential deep-sea mining; terrestrial runoff; and plastic pollution.

Hawaiian reefs comprise a treasure that must be protected and preserved. Please engage common sense and vow to preclude any further aquarium trade that originates in Hawaiian waters.

Sincerely,
Susan Bernat
Portland, ME

From: [Ronnie Bolling](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 3:43:48 AM

Greetings,

I am firmly opposed to reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade. I want Hawaii's reefs intact and I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation.

Regards,

Ronnie Bolling
411 Walnut St. PMB 16921
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

From: [Becky Bond](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Ban the collecting of reef fish for the aquarium trade!
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 4:10:57 PM

To the members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Rebecca (Becky) Bond, and I live in Kapa'au/North Kohala on the Island of Hawaii. I snorkel with friends out of Mahukona, and Puako on the west side of the island.

I am against allowing any collection of fish for the aquarium trade. Our reefs are currently under-inhabited as it is, and cannot support removal of fish further. These fish are important for continuing to remove algae from the reef and maintaining overall reef health, providing food for bigger fish which in turn feed our local people, and people come from all over the world for snorkeling and scuba diving, injecting thousands of dollars into our local economy.

To add insult to injury, this is fiscally irresponsible. My understanding is that these permits are sold for hundreds of dollars, while we the tax payers will spend thousands on management costs. And soon there will be no fish to see, eat, or keep our reefs and shorelines healthy.

Please send the rules back for redrafting to reflect the community's opposition to this destructive and greedy practice of collecting reef fish to benefit only a few. Please keep the permitting authority with the BLNR for full transparency and accountability, helping to restore public trust in our government to do as they are mandated by the community.

Mahalo for your attention to this matter,
Rebecca S. Bond
Kapa'au, Hawaii Island
Sent from my iPad

From: [Anne Borman](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 3:13:18 PM

Aloha Members of The division of Aquatic Resources,

Please send the rules back for redrafting so that they reflect the community's call to safeguard reef life.

This new draft does not reflect our Community's wishes.

Allowing and expanding Aquarium Trade does help our fragile reef systems and fishes.

Please restore the public's trust by keeping the permitting authority with **BLNR** itself for full transparency and accountability.

Our Community wants to conserve and preserve our beautiful ocean, reefs and fishes, not destroy and exploit them for profit.

Thank you for your time and hearing my concerns.

Anne Borman

Kamuela

Big Island of Hawaii

From: [Laraine Bowen](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 6:52:25 PM

No reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade. I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation! This is unconscionable. Do the right thing! Our world is too precious to lose.

L. Bowen
Oakville, Ontario, Canada

From: [Taylor Bright](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 11:02:19 AM

Dear members of the Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR),

My name is Taylor Bright. I am a California-based ecologist and a life-long diver of tropical coral reef systems around the Pacific ocean, including Hawai'i's incredible and biodiverse reefs. I regularly visit the island of Hawai'i to conduct mycological research and work with local environmental organizations for the protection of Hawaiian natural resources. Hawai'i is a very important part of my life and I feel devoted to helping protect the lands and waters which provide habitat for so many incredible and unique organisms.

I want Hawai'i's reefs to remain intact for generations to come, and that is why **I strongly oppose reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade**. Healthy coral cover and proliferation of marine biodiversity is essential for food, medicine, eco-tourism and general ecological health which we all rely on, especially native Hawaiian communities. There is long-standing evidence that shows commercial removal of wildlife for sale in the mainland aquarium trade damages coral ecosystems, depletes reefs, destroys marine habitats, and offsets the balance of delicate food webs and ecological interactions.

Please do not allow the travesty of reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade to degrade Hawai'i's reef systems.

Thank you for your time,

--

Taylor Bright (she/her)
Mycologist, Educator, Artist

“We are not on the Earth, we are the Earth in its ongoingness.”
- Bayo Akomolafe

From: [Tracy Callow](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:47:06 AM
Attachments: [Grant Scout logo email.png](#)

As a family of scuba divers, I implore you to not allow reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade. Hawaii's reefs are a treasure that should not be exploited, but should be left intact. Scuba diving also brings money to the local economy, aquarium trade reef trafficking should not be allowed.

The legacy of a healthy, intact reef should be preserved for future generations.

All the best,

Tracy Callow
Grantwriting Consultant, Principal
www.Grant-Scout.com
(512) 757-5103
calendly.com/grant-scout to schedule a meeting with me



From: mimi_campbell
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 9:56:26 PM

To Whom it May Concern;

Please send the rules back for redrafting so that they reflect the community's call to safeguard reef life—rather than reviving the very trade the proposed rules were meant to end—and restore the public's trust by keeping the permitting authority with BLNR itself for full transparency and accountability.

Sincerely,
Mimi Campbell

Mimi Campbell
Kauai Design Group
Design Consulting
www.kauaidesigngroup.com
(310) 422-5507

From: enid0411@yahoo.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 6:28:25 PM

Reefs must be protected. They are vital to the survival of many types of marine life. Many reefs are being lost due to the warming oceans, caused by global warming. Please protect these reefs. They are also important to Hawaii's tourism. People love to scuba and see these fantastic creatures of nature.

Thank you.
Enid Cardinal

From: dgcarsten@aol.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 8:58:30 AM

Aloha,

I live in Kapa'a on Kauai. I am very concerned about the proposed reopening of the reefs to commercial fish catching. This is not aloha; it is not kind to the aina.

Please send the rules back for redrafting so that they reflect the community's call to safeguard reef life—rather than reviving the very trade the proposed rules were meant to end—and restore the public's trust by keeping the permitting authority with BLNR itself for full transparency and accountability.

Mahalo,

Donna Gould Carsten

From: [Cassie Pali](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 3:20:58 PM

Please do not **re-open Hawai'i's reefs to commercial aquarium collecting. Save our seas. We spend so much time trying to clean and keep it safe for future generations.**

Aloha,
Cassie

From: [AOL Mai](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 3:21:36 AM

Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation!.

From: [Ryan Chang](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F-2 BLNR Meeting, Aquarium Fishing Testimony
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 11:16:19 AM

Aloha e Chair Chang,

I am Ryan Chang from Waikīkī on the island of O‘ahu
In relation to the rules introduced by DAR pertaining to Aquarium Fishing Permits, I am requesting that the rules be sent back for redrafting so that they reflect the community's call to safeguard reef life, rather than reviving the very trade the proposed rules were meant to end. By doing so, they may restore the public's trust by keeping permitting and authority within BLNR itself, ensuring full transparency and accountability.

In relation to species, Kole and Umaumalei should be REMOVED from the whitelist entirely; they are culturally important food fish that were harvested for sustenance, and are vital herbivores that clean our reefs. The Yellow Tang and Angelfish should also be removed from the list, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai‘i Pacific University (HPU); wild harvest is unnecessary.

BLNR must add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance. They MUST align with DLNR's Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice, and in fact, THREATENS the cultural practice.

They MUST align with Hawai‘i's Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai‘i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for commercial export.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony,
Ryan Chang

From: [stacie.charlebois](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 4:55:14 PM

Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation!

From: [AJ](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 5:47:09 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I urge the BLNR to oppose all current and future policies allowing corals and other marine life to be removed for the so-called aquarium trade. We cannot afford to lose any more corals when the seventh of nine planetary tipping points has been breached by widespread coral bleaching. Please protect what remains of Hawai'i's coral reefs before it is too late.

Respectfully,

AJ cho
San Leandro, CA

Sent via [Wildhero](#) - email that plants trees.

From: [christopher](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 4:58:28 AM

I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation. Please do everything possible to protect coral reefs and marine wildlife.

thank you.

From: [Audrey Chun](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 5:06:28 PM

Aloha,

I was born and raised in Honolulu, currently living on California. But I intend to move back to Honolulu next year. It breaks my heart that reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade might return. The thought that our native fishes can be caught, the reefs and corals negatively impacted, the beauty of our ocean diminished just so a few can profit, makes me sick. And everyone should feel the same and protect what makes Hawaii such a wonderful place.

Please protect Hawaii's reef wildlife and do not allow the granting of permits to resume this disastrous trade to restart.

Mahalo nui loa,
Audrey Chun

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

From: [Emily Claspell](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rule protecting Hawaii's reefs
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 8:21:46 AM

10/21/2025

Dear BNLR,

My name is Emily Claspell, and I live in Waimea on Hawaii Island. I was shocked to see that the rule change for wide spread and abundant aquarium collecting is being considered, when there was previously so much opposition to wide spread collecting of our Hawaiian reef's fish.

Over 85% of fish harvested for aquariums die within the first year of being taken (according to World Wildlife Foundation, and several other reputable sources), and many before they are shipped out. Why support an industry that not only fails to keep our local fish supply from being decimated, but changes the ecosystem of our reefs. I am a swimmer and paddler, and the joy I feel when I see the variety of fish on our reefs, is such a highlight of my living here in Hawaii. I am sure that visitors to our State feel the same when they come to snorkel to see a healthy reef with plentiful fish swimming around. Our "Gold Coast" was named for the Yellow Tang that was seen all along the Leeward Coast of Hawaii Island, which is not the same today because of over harvesting them. It is exciting to see them again making an effort for a come back. We should be protecting them and the other reef fish as part of our overall commitment to the natural resources that we have.

I ask that you **continue the BAN ON AQUARIUM COLLECTION from our endangered reefs**. If the ban is reversed, every reef would be **vulnerable to degradation and collapse, as occurred decades ago in leeward O'ahu**.

Please send the rules back for redrafting so that they reflect the community's call to safeguard reef life—rather than reviving the very trade the proposed rules were meant to end—and restore the public's trust by keeping the permitting authority with BLNR itself for full transparency and accountability.

Thank you,

Emily Claspell
(808) 885-0530

From: [Sharon Clawson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed rule change by DAR
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 10:29:01 PM

As a property owner in Puako on the Big Island, I want to express my opposition to a proposed rule change allowing large extraction of aquatic life from our coral reefs. The reefs need an increase in fishes to survive current climate realities. Coral reefs must be the priority over profits from providing aquariums.

Keep BLNR the gatekeeper on these matters.

Sharon Clawson, owner
Puako Beach Condominium #310

Sent from my iPad

From: [Leslie Cohen](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 9:46:42 PM

Please protect Hawaii's reef and marine environment.

From: [Carol Collins](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:58:13 AM

Dear Gentlepeople:

Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation

Sincerely,
Carol

From: [Joan Louise](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 5:37:54 AM

We have been Northshore Maui residents since the 80s. Please protect our reefs and prevent aquariums from harvesting in our waters.

Through the years we have already experienced several bleaching events.

Mahalo,

Joan and Michael Conway

321 Kulike Road

Haiku, Hi 96708

808-283-4949

Sent from my iPhone

From: [pablo corvi](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pls.... keep permitting authority with BLNR, Protect the Reef, Do Not allow commercial uses
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 7:53:44 AM

“Please send the rules back for redrafting so that they reflect the community’s call to safeguard reef life—rather than reviving the very trade the proposed rules were meant to end—and restore the public’s trust by keeping the permitting authority with BLNR itself for full transparency and accountability.”

From: [Gérard COUCHOUD](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 8:34:15 PM

Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation!"

From: madanna102@aol.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 3:57:26 PM

Marie D'Anna
516 Russell Ave
Ridgefield, NJ 07657

I have visited Maui, and Hawaii is in my heart—no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade. I want Hawaii's reefs intact, coral cover, and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered by aquarium decimation!

Regards,
Marie D'Anna

From: [Mendy Dant](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#); [LANIHAU-rsmith](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:57:01 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Mendy Dant, and I am testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time.

Today, I respectfully ask you to:

- 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability.
- 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.
- 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes.
- 4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter's Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary.
- 5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance.
- 6) Align with DLNR's Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice!
- 7) Align with Hawai'i's Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export.

The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation.

It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It contradicts science, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change.

Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Thank you for your time,

Mendy Dant
President
Fair Wind Cruises
78-6775 Makenawai St
Kailua Kona, hi 96740

"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. You have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

Jane Goodall

From: [Michael Davanzo](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:36:45 AM

Dear Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Agenda Item F.2, which would grant aquarium collection permitting authority to the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR). I urge you to reject this measure and uphold the court-ordered protection of Hawai'i's fragile marine ecosystems.

The history of the commercial aquarium trade in Hawai'i is one of environmental devastation. The practice of stripping our reefs of wildlife has been proven to damage coral ecosystems, deplete fish populations, and destroy vital marine habitats. The courts have already recognized this harm, ruling to halt the trade pending a legitimate and independent Environmental Impact Statement.

The EIS produced by the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) is fundamentally flawed and fails to meet this standard. Allowing the very industry that profits from this exploitation to write its own environmental review is a clear conflict of interest and makes a mockery of the process. Their report ignores the overwhelming evidence of the damage caused by aquarium collection.

I want, and we should all want, Hawai'i's reefs intact, with vibrant coral cover and rich biodiversity, not the shambles rendered by aquarium decimation. This move to fast-track permits sidesteps crucial public input and transparent review, silencing the community members who have fought for years to protect our natural heritage.

Do not allow the door to be reopened for the unrestricted exploitation of Hawai'i's reef wildlife. Please deny Agenda Item F.2 and protect our precious marine resources for future generations.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Michael Davanzo
Sparks, NV USA

From: [Carol Davies](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oct 24th, Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 3:44:47 PM

It is vital that we save our reefs and corals!! I cannot believe that you are revisiting allowing capture of reef fish. Many of us at Mauna Lani on the Big Island are investing time and money in helping our corals survive the change in ocean temperature. Our fish are very important in helping us do this. Please send the rules back for redrafting so that they reflect the community's call to safeguard reef life—rather than reviving the very trade the proposed rules were meant to end—and restore the public's trust by keeping the permitting authority with BLNR itself for full transparency and accountability.

Carol Davies, Kohala Coast, Big Island

808-885-0671
or cell 408-482-0685

From: [Jillian E Davis](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:40:13 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Jillian, and I am testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time.

I respectfully ask you to:

- 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability.
- 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.
- 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes.
- 4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter’s Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai’i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary.
- 5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance.
- 6) Align with DLNR’s Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice!
- 7) Align with Hawai’i’s Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai’i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export.

The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation.

It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It contradicts science, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change.

Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Thank you for your time,
Jillian Davis

Wailua, Kaua'i

From: [Susie Davis](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2 REEF HEALTH COMES FIRST!
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 10:02:03 AM

My name is Susie Davis and I live in Kapaau on Big Island.

I am a frequent diver with a long history of interacting with the Ocean. It is a known fact that Hawaii's reefs are struggling, and have never fully recovered from the bleaching events between 2014 and 2019. The reef's need their fishes and the fish need the reefs to be healthy. **BLNR must put the health of the reefs first over the interests of the aquarium trade.**

Restore the public's faith in BLNR to protect Hawaii's natural resources by not handing the governance of Hawaii's reefs to DAR. A recent poll found 84% of O'ahu and Hawai'i Island residents support permanently ending the commercial capture of reef fish. Only 10% support the large-scale capture proposed in DAR's draft rule.

Thank you!

Susie Davis

From: [Executive Committee](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DAR Aquarium Trade Ruling
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:17:59 AM

Dear BLNR,

We respectfully ask you to reevaluate the rules concerning wildlife extraction for the pet trade that the DAR is submitting. We do not agree with the intention of these rules that would allow the continuation of industrial wildlife extraction from our reefs. The ocean is under assault from human commercial activities. It's choking on plastic. Commercial fishing is wiping everything out, pollution from oil and gas and other toxic petrochemicals, CO2 and CH4 is raising water temperatures and causing acidification, sonar from the military and commercial operations, sonic exploration for oil and gas, deep sea mining, coastal development, tourism, agricultural chemical runoff, sewage, erosion. The last thing we need is another devastating commercial assault for a frivolous hobby.

A lot of testimony will mention the facts about how life in the ocean is the foundation for all life on Earth. There will be a lot of facts about the devastating economic impacts on people who rely on the ocean for survival. Let me be the one to mention an aspect that is never considered, the destruction of the most beautiful thing that has ever existed on planet Earth. Coral reefs and its associated biology is unparalleled in its amazing beauty. The colors, textures, the performers, it's a symphony like no other, truly the greatest show on Earth. Already, that beauty has been so compromised that I can no longer go snorkeling, because it's heartbreaking to see the loss. Tourists may still come and comment on how beautiful it is, but they don't know what it looked like 40 years ago; I do, and I can't bear the tragedy, it makes me physically ill. To open our reefs up again to the aquarium trade would be a brutal slap in my face and to thousands of others.

I will leave you with this little anecdote. My Son used to work for the DAR. He measured reef decline and fish populations. He shared that one of his coworkers came up from a dive, took off her mask and tears were streaming down her face. Later we were sitting on the dock at Mahukona, North Kohala, after snorkeling. We were chatting when he suddenly exclaimed, "look!" He pointed to a school of yellow tang, drifting back and forth in the rolling sea. Then he said something that will haunt me for the rest of my life, "I heard schools of tang like this were common once." It took a lot of restraint to not break down in tears, because the school he was looking at had less than a dozen tang. I couldn't bear to tell him that when I was his age, I snorkeled in this very same spot and the ocean was packed with enormous clouds of yellow tang, hundreds of fish in each school with dozens of schools up and down that stretch of coast. They were like this fantastic yellow backdrop while you searched for the rare and unusual inhabitants of the reef.

Please, I beg of you, don't break our hearts. Let the ocean alone. Let her heal her wounds; please permanently ban the aquarium trade.

Sincerely,

--



President - Topher Dean
president@recyclehawaii.org
www.recyclehawaii.org

From: [Barry Deutsch](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 8:21:14 AM

To the BLNR members,

Please maintain the protection of Hawai'i's coral reefs from unrestricted exploitation of the reefs wildlife habitats. I often visit with my family the Big Island and Maui - keeping the reefs protected from aquarium collection is important to sense of well-being and our need to keep our ocean from further commercialization! Do the right thing! Keep the reef's intact!
Thank you.

Barry Deutsch, San Francisco

From: [Gerald Dickinson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 4:48:15 PM

It is a disgrace that the citizens of Hawaii would destroy their coral reefs for profit.
Consider your grandchildren's heritage, Shame on you
Gerald Dickinson, Davis, CA

From: [Ann Dorsey](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 5:09:08 PM

Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I urge you to deny aquarium collection permitting authority to the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR). Doing so will sidestep public notice, silence community response and fast-track new collection permits - opening the door once again to unrestricted exploitation of Hawai'i's reef wildlife and habitats.

The state of Hawai'i has allowed the commercial removal of reef wildlife for sale in the mainland aquarium trade in the past. The removals damaged coral ecosystems, depleted reefs and destroyed marine habitats. This cannot be allowed again. These reefs are already at risk because of climate change. They also serve an irreplaceable role in protecting the mainland from water surges and have a unique ecosystem with great biodiversity that must be preserved.

Thank you,

Ann Dorsey

From: [Susan Douglas](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24, 2025 Agenda Item F.2, I OPPOSE
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 3:42:39 PM

Aloha Chair Chang and BNLR Board Members,

My name is Susan Douglas and over the 42 years of snorkeling on Maui I have seen the fish dwindle in numbers and variety, and the reefs bleach. Our lives and livelihoods depend on robust and healthy reefs.

The proposal to allow aquarium collecting, the taking of live fish off of Hawaii's reefs for profit, is in direct conflict with the Department of Aquatic Resources' (DAR) mission:

The mission of the Division of Aquatic Resources is to work with the people of Hawai'i to manage, conserve and restore the state's unique aquatic resources and ecosystems for present and future generations.

The permit fee schedule is a joke.

The harms caused by removing so many fish far outweigh the financial agenda of a handful of selfish 'entrepreneurs.'

The fish on our reefs belong to everyone. Don't allow this proposed wholesale reef rape to undo years of good faith conservation that has taken place over the last decade.

With warming seas and extreme water quality issues, the fish that remain are already challenged to survive. Plucking fish off of our reefs for export to hobbyist fish aquarium enthusiasts is a betrayal to all who love Hawaii and to our tourism economy. Geopolitics has harmed our small businesses enough, let's not exacerbate our economic strife by decimating our reefs that will be devoid of live fish.

What about our boating industry? Statewide, our snorkel tourism sector represents millions in state revenue, and

hundreds of amazing jobs. I beseech you all to reconsider this ill-conceived proposal. Follow DAR's mission to preserve our precious marine resources.

Mahalo,

Mahalo,
Susan Douglas
Sd3@hawaii.rr.com
808-205 1893
Kihei, Maui, HI

From: [Sandy Ednie](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: [Ms sandra folk ednie](#); [Susie Thain](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Puako, Reefs, West Hawaii, Big Island Hawaii
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 9:41:01 AM

Dear friends at Board of Land and Natural Resources, October 15,2025

Richard (Dick) Ednie and I (Sandra Ednie) of Kamuela and Puako, Hawaii (zip Code 96743) are begging you to Review the status and future of our reef in front of our simple older home and all of Puako. We've lived there since the 1950s when Puako lots were first opened for bid.

Our Uncle Bill Ednie was the main Kohala Sugar Mill Engineer and bought his lot at the State of Hawaii auction (a Long trip from Kohala to Hilo to buy land in dry, arid, keawe infested Puako oceanfrontage!) Only one 5/8" water line ran down the newly bull-dozed coral road, but The old-timers knew of the pristine oceanfront water and reef that fronted this West Hawaii coast. Now Our home of 45 years, we acknowledge the unique beauty and rich waters of Puako.

We still swim almost daily. We know the Climate Changes. We know how the sea and sea life has changed. We know the hotels and large luxury homes sapping so much of Hawaii's God given gift of these Islands.

And how we appreciate the governmental rules that work to retain the natural riches of our coastlines!

Please continue to work to retain and restore these riches. The bounty of baby fish are as rare as the rich corals and other living organisms on these reefs!

You are the only voice strong enough to speak aloud for the sustainability of our Reefs.

PLEASE SEND THE RULES BACK FOR RE-DRAFTING. PLEASE DONT PERMIT FISHING IN THESE FRAGILE REEFS!

I Remember when the turtles were caught, and laying, flailing on their backs, before hotel chefs made turtle soup, (usually tasted and then thrown away.) The fish are harder to see and easier kill. Please speak up for these reefs, the nusery of so many visual and valuable gifts!

Sincerly, Sandy Ednie

From: [Mina Elison](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 7:15:04 AM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Mina Elison, and I am testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time.

Today, I respectfully ask you to:

- 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability.
- 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.
- 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes.
- 4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter’s Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai’i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary.
- 5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance.
- 6) Align with DLNR’s Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice!
- 7) Align with Hawai’i’s Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai’i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export.

The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation.

It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It contradicts science, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change.

Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Thank you for your time,
Mina Elison
Ke‘ei, Hawai’i

From: [maria elvira](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:10:28 AM

Good morning

Hawai'i is one of those rare Nature's gifts that no Commission should sidestep from public notice, nor silence community response just to allow fast-track new collection permits. Such lack of care opens the door to uncontrolled and unrestricted exploitation of Hawaii's reef wildlife and habitats by aquarium's dealers.

Please, let's keep Hawaii's reefs intact by controlling that no reef wildlife ends sourcing aquarium businesses. Stop the reef plundering which has already ruined its biodiversity.
Thank you

Mari Elvi
Forest City, NC

From: [Kanani Enos](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F-2 BLNR Meeting, Aquarium Fishing Testimony
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 9:50:32 AM

Aloha e BLNR,

My name is Sonja Kanani Enos. I live in the 'ahupua'a of Hōnaunau, and have lineal ties to the South Kona area, from Miloli'i all the way up to Kealakekua Bay.

In relation to the rules introduced by DAR pertaining to Aquarium Fishing Permits I am requesting that the rules be sent back for redrafting so that they reflect the community's call to safeguard reef life, rather than reviving the very trade the proposed rules were meant to end. By doing so, they may restore the public's trust by keeping the permitting and authority with BLNR itself for full transparency and accountability.

In relation to species, Kole and Umaumalei should be REMOVED from the whitelist entirely, they are culturally food fish that were harvested for sustenance, and are vital herbivores that clean our reefs. Yellow Tang and Angelfish should also be REMOVED from the list as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU)--wild harvest is unnecessary.

BLNR must add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance. They MUST align with DLNR's Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice, and in fact, THREATENS the cultural practice.

They MUST align with Hawai'i's Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for commercial export.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony,
Sonja Kanani Enos

From: [Hilarie Ericson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 4:35:23 PM

Here are some quick talking points to get started... "Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation!"
Hilarie Ericson, Seattle

From: susan204@aol.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 7:33:00 AM

Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation!

Susan Esposito
6 Belfield Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10312
718-554-4667

Sent from [AOL Desktop](#)

Do not pity a shelter animal, adopt one
Those in need are my favorite breed
Curtis Sliwa *for NYC Mayor*

From: [bronwyn.evans](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 9:52:45 AM

Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation!

Thank you

Bronwen Evans

From: [evilbitch_13](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 12:40:19 PM

Please protect the reef. The reef is so important for the Ocean and the animals that live in it.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S10e, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

From: [Cheryl Ann Farrell](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 3:24:42 PM

Aloha,

I am dismayed at the possibility of moving all the permits for commercial aquarium fish gathering to only the DAR and eliminating any input from either the community or BLNR.

Please send the rules back for redrafting so that they reflect the community's call to safeguard reef life—rather than reviving the very trade the proposed rules were meant to end—and restore the public's trust by keeping the permitting authority with BLNR itself for full transparency and accountability

The proposal includes a 400% higher limit than ever was sanctioned before. Removing so many fish from our oceans is environmentally destructive to the reefs - which we need for protection from storms.

Also with revenue estimated at \$700/year with costs over \$300,000 is fiscally irresponsible.

Abundant reef fish is critical to the survival of the reefs



Cheryl Ann Farrell

WO Enterprises

wo.enterprises2020@gmail.com

Cell: 808/652-1284

New BOOK! [Kauai in Haiku - an Anthology](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/cherylann.author/>

Women On Fire

From: [Chris Feleppa](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24th Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 5:40:00 PM

Aloha,

My name is Chris from Waiehu on the Island of Maui.

As a local business owner, I strongly oppose the proposed revisions to commercial reef catchment regulations. The reefs are vital to our ecosystem and economy, supporting both tourism and local fishermen. These changes could lead to severe depletion, harming the reefs, my business, and the livelihoods of those who depend on fishing. Additionally, I feel the preservation fees we've been paying in the form of the Ocean Stewardship program are being misused, as these revisions would allow for the very damage we're paying to prevent.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [Sara Fontani](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 4:49:10 AM

Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation!

Sara Fontani, PhD
Florence, Italy

From: [Mary From](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 4:55:11 PM

My name is Mary From and I live in Washington state. While I am not a resident of Hawaii my family visits regularly. We have visited and snorkeled off the shores of all of the beautiful Hawaiian Islands. The thought of allowing the commercial capture of the island wildlife for aquariums is beyond heartbreaking. The reefs and oceans are a precious resource not to be exploited. I do not want to return to the islands and see no wildlife in the reefs. The entire ecosystem will be impacted and for what? So people can have a tropical fish or other specimen to just kill off in a short while because they don't know how to care for them? To those persons I say leave the reefs and wildlife alone.
Please reconsider your actions and stop the ruin!

Thank you and respectfully,
Mary From

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Christina Frutiger](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:22:42 PM

Alhoa,

"Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation!"

We live in Washington state but we visit Kauai and the Big Island of Hawaii every year and will continue to do so as long as we can. We come for the exquisite natural beauty that is Hawaii and leave as little a footprint as we can while visiting...picking up trash wherever we see it..especially on the beaches, volunteering, buying local, etc. Please do not allow reef wildlife trafficking...the coral reefs deserve our protection not exploitation at all costs. They are disappearing all over the world. Protect yours.

Sincerely,

Christina & David Frutiger
Gig Harbor, Washington

From: [Michael Gaulke](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to DAR Proposed Rules Package
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 6:12:23 PM

Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Michael Gaulke and I own the property at 72-3016 Kakapa Place, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740 on the Big Island. I am writing you to express my strong opposition to the proposed rule package put forward by DAR to re-open Hawaii's reefs to commercial aquarium collecting. **This proposal is a profound betrayal of the public's trust.** What began as a **community-led petition to ban commercial aquarium collecting statewide**—which was unanimously approved by BLNR—has been **turned upside down by the DAR.** Instead of protecting reef life, DAR's draft rules package gives the trade everything they're asking for and would **allow the capture of hundreds of thousands of reef fish every year.**

Please send the rules back for redrafting so that they reflect the community's call to safeguard reef life, rather than reviving the very trade the proposed rules were meant to end. This action is needed to restore the public's trust by keeping the permitting authority with BLNR itself for full transparency and accountability.

Mahalo,

Michael Gaulke

From: [Fern](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 11:58:56 AM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am Debra Gavelek and testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time.

Today, I respectfully ask you to:

- 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability.
- 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.
- 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes.
- 4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter's Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary.
- 5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance.
- 6) Align with DLNR's Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice!
- 7) Align with Hawai'i's Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export.

The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation.

It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It contradicts science, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change.

Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Thank you for your time,

Debra Gavelek
Holualoa, Hawaii Island

From: [Gaye Georges](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:51:21 AM

"The question is not, 'Can they reason?' nor, 'Can they talk?' but rather, 'Can they suffer?' Jeremy Bentham

From: [Vesna Glavina](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 3:24:46 PM

Hello,

My name is Vesna Glavina. Alas, I don't live in Hawaii, but in a small town in Iowa. I'm writing to urge you not to cave to the madness which desecrates our wild places and turns them into marketable bits and bytes that hollow out the natural world, steal our children's inheritance, and deaden the hearts of all who partake.

Wildlife trafficking is wrong. Everything about it is wrong. Allowing it is wrong. Those who are willing to stand up for our remaining natural world, no matter the pressure they're subjected to, are the heroes of our age. Those who understand the value of biodiversity and intact habitats are the wise men and women whom future generations will thank for their foresight and courage.

Thank you for protecting Hawaii's natural treasure, starting with her coastal reefs, her waters, and all the precious creatures who call it home. Thank you for keeping Hawaii a place worth visiting, rather than just another casualty of greed, and another reason for grief.

Vesna Glavina
641.469.5474

From: [Judith Graham](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:54:53 PM

Dear Board Members:

I live in Kamuela on Hawaii Island.

I object to the Division of Aquatic Resources' decision to present an altogether different set of rules for aquarium collection than the Board originally asked for. Also, am opposed to the idea of the DAR withdrawing its aquarium collection decision-making from oversight by the Board. Here are three reasons.

1) If the Board's oversight were so withdrawn, commercial aquarium collection would be withdrawn from public view and input. My experience when contacting DAR was certainly favorable, but that is just a rare point of contact compared to a public hearing before the Board on a topic that everyone understands the public cares a lot about.

2) I recall the Board requesting from DAR a new draft of rules that would cut back on commercial aquarium collection, short of zero. Yet the opposite has occurred: Now DAR is apparently in full support of the industry going on as in the past. Yes, DAR would be likely to lose some staff and funding in the other scenario. Yes, it would have been preferable if the request to cut back on collection had specified and quantified likely effects on the division. It would help if DAR will now provide such projections for the public and the Board. I surely acknowledge that DAR has developed extensive expertise and skill in overall management of this commercial fishery, as it has been called.

3) But that expertise and history will not necessarily be lost. The main concern of everybody is PRESERVATION OF REEF LIFE. It is under threat (in the public's view) from aquarium collection and in both DAR and the public's view from CLIMATE CHANGE. How welcome it would be if DAR repurposed its focus, rather than losing all the skill and funding. I have seen DAR's publication on the importance of surgeon fishes, and no doubt there is a fair bit more on this topic that I haven't seen. BUT a great deal more surely invites attention—more mapping, more history, more projections, more public education

Thank you for considering these thoughts.

Judith Graham

From: [Jamie Greer](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 11:36:38 PM

Please no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade.

This will reopen the door once again to unrestricted exploitation of Hawai'i's reef wildlife and habitats.

**Thank you for reading my email,
Mrs. Greer**

Sent from my iPhone

From: [d.grob](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 6:56:29 PM

Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation!

I want my family members, who live throughout the islands, to keep the pristine nature we all love, as I would like to continue experiencing when I visit from the Pacific Northwest.

Thank you.

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

From: [J. Barry Gurdin](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 5:32:06 PM

Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation!

Thanks,
J. Barry Gurdin, Ph.D.
gurdin@hotmail.com

From: [Matthew Gurewitsch](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 12:53:01 PM

Aloha, Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My wife and I have been full-time residents of Maui going on 15 years. We're in the ocean every day. Incredible how fish stocks are dwindling.

Many factors are in play, and many—rising ocean temperatures, ocean acidification—are beyond local control. Aquarium collecting, which may be the single most devastating factor—is within our control. And 14 months ago, BLNR unanimously approved the community-led petition to ban aquarium collection statewide. It took us *years* of resolute effort to achieve this victory.

And now, DAR has drafted a proposal to reopen Hawai'i's reefs to commercial aquarium collecting? And part of their great plan is to assume control over licensing, without oversight by BLNR? In closed sessions, without public accountability? What a betrayal of the public trust! What a waste of everybody's time!

I implore you to send this draft back for redrafting. While aquarium collecting has been profitable for a few, its impact on the 'āina has been catastrophic. It's hard to see what public interest it serves. If BLNR agrees to permit aquarium collecting *at all*, the terms must be *extremely* restrictive. The decision reached 14 months ago was the pono decision to take. It was hard fought. The collectors had their chance to make their case. The people's was stronger. BLNR sided unanimously with the public. To be considered for public discussion, any DAR draft proposal must acknowledge this basic reality. The proposal that licensing be handed over to DAR to handle at its sole discretion is in itself disqualifying.

Much mahalo for your attention!

M.

Matthew Gurewitsch
3415 Kuaua Pl.
Kihei (Maui) HI 96753

t/+1 (808) 874-8925
m/+1 (646) 512-1973

www.beyondcriticism.com

From: [David H](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 10:10:17 AM

Aloha, My name is David Haake . I live in Kihei, Maui . I have been snorkeling on the reefs of Maui for over forty years . I have seen first hand the degradation of our precious reefs over the years. The reduction of the fish population on the reefs is beyond sad. It is overwhelming. If you allow the collection/ aquarium industry to resume the taking of fish from our reefs it will be the last nail in the coffin. PLEASE , do not let this happen. We need to work towards restoring the reefs of Hawaii for the health of our ocean and for future generations to enjoy. Do not let profits for a few condemn our reefs to ruin. Be Pono and let aloha guide your decision on this matter. Mahalo
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jon Hale](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 1:13:05 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Jon Hale, I am a Captain for Fair Wind Cruises. Over the last 8 years of working in Kealakekua Bay, I've observed less variety and fewer fish overall in the Marine Life Conservation District, as well as along the Kona coast. I am testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time.

Today, I respectfully ask you to:

- 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability.
- 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.
- 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes.
- 4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter's Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary.
- 5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance.
- 6) Align with DLNR's Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice!
- 7) Align with Hawai'i's Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export.

The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation.

It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It contradicts science, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change.

Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Thank you for your time,
Jon Hale
Kealakakua, Hawaii

From: [julie Harris](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 5:49:35 PM

I don't live in Hawaii and have yet to visit your beautiful islands. I want to visit with my grandchildren one day. I cherish the oceans and the earth and oppose the destruction of the reefs or any habitats and their inhabitants by greedy heartless profiteers. Please protect and cherish what you have; for your grandchildren and the world.

Julie Harris
El Sobrante, California 94803

From: [Lori Haynes](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:58:24 AM

Please send the rules back for redrafting for the communities call to save our reefs. This fragile ecosystem is still healing from overfishing. We as a community want full transparency and accountability regarding any permitting practices.

Mahalo,

Lori Haynes

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Michelle Hayward](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 7:50:42 PM

Good morning,

I am from the UK, but I love Hawai'i, and especially your beautiful reefs.

I have been lucky enough to visit Maui and Kauai, and I hope to go again.

Please do not reopen your beautiful reefs to the aquarium trade. It's cruel and highly destructive. Healthy reefs means healthy tourism.

I await your response with hope.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Hayward
58 Ditmas Avenue
Kempston
MK42 7DP
UK

Get [BlueMail for Android](#)

From: [Catherine Hensley](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 9:34:20 AM

To the Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources:

I'm writing to urge you to NOT grant aquarium permitting authority to the Division of Aquatic Resources. Hawai'i is close to my heart, particularly the Big Island and Oahu, where I honeymooned. There should be no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade. Hawai'i's reefs must remain intact! Our planet needs coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered by aquarium decimation.

Sincerely,

Catherine Beauchamp
California

From: [Alana Hindle](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Puako reef
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 4:28:43 AM

Put an end to this destruction!! Life is not only about money!! Hard to believe this is even a topic!! Shameful!
AH
Sent from my iPhone

From: [James Hobbs](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 (Aquarium fisheries)
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 11:58:44 AM

To whom it concerns,

I am a resident of the Big Island in the Puako area. Recently I received a notice that there were changes being proposed to the rules pertaining to aquarium fisheries in Hawaii. I am writing to express my strong opposition to rule changes that would in any way possible increase the number of fish captured in Hawaii for aquarium use.

It makes no sense to me whatsoever why the State would support the removal of fish for the benefit of aquariums, almost all of which are located in other parts of the world. Not even under the guise of environmental awareness and protection. And if it's the fisherman's jobs we are worried about, what about the jobs of all the people who depend on a vibrant reef.

The Hawaii reefs are one of the primary economic drivers for Hawaii. We must do everything we can to protect these valuable ecosystems. We already have problems with cesspools overflowing. Harvesting aquarium fish for the benefit of people outside the state is akin to oil production in national parks.

I think this rule change is being driven by the people who want to harvest more fish. I respectfully oppose the change, and strongly encourage you to follow the wishes of the vast majority of residents in the State.

Thanks.

James Hobbs

--

James D. Hobbs
P.O. Box 686
Ross, CA 94957
(415) 370-7144

From: [Trinity Hobdey](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Commercial Aquarium Catching
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 5:22:11 PM

I oppose re-opening Hawai'i's reefs to commercial aquarium collecting. I request on October 24th Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to deny it for public hearings.

Thank you

Trinity Hobdey

250 Fleming Rd. Lahaina, HI 96761

From: [Gregory L Holder](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 5:11:05 PM

Aloha Board Members,

My name is Greg Holder, and I live in Kilauea, on the island of Kauai.

I'm writing in strong opposition to the proposed rule package that would reopen Hawai'i's reefs to commercial aquarium collecting. This proposal goes against years of community effort to protect reef life and undermines public trust.

I respectfully urge the Board to **reject the current draft, keep permitting authority with BLNR**, and send the rules back for redrafting to reflect the public's call for transparency and true conservation.

Mahalo for your time and service.

Best Regards,

Greg Holder

From: [DAVID HOLLOWAY](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 4:50:57 PM

Dear Sir/Madame:

Hawaii is one of the world's most beautiful places. Its gorgeous flora and fauna and the magnificence of the land and sea must be protected at all costs. Please leave its reefs unharmed. The aquatic species must be spared from depletion caused by the aquarium trade. These reefs are an irreplaceable part of the marine environment. I urge you to do everything to protect this unique environment.

Sincerely,
David Holloway

From: [Michael Holwell](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 5:54:03 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, My name is Michael Holwell and I am testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time. Today, I respectfully ask you to: 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability. 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE. 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes. 4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter's Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary. 5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance. 6) Align with DLNR's Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice! 7) Align with Hawai'i's Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export. The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation. It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It contradicts science, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change. Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them. Thank you for your time,
Michael Holwell
Pahoa, Hawaii

From: [Wendy Honold](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 12:17:26 AM

I am Wendy Honold, living at 5146 Evergreen Drive, Sheboygan, WI 53081

Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation!

From: [Deanna Horton](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 8:41:56 AM

Good afternoon....

Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation!

This is why we visit Hawaii every year - to enjoy the untouched reefs - please don't disturb wildlife for a life of captivity - they deserve to be free.

Sincerely,

Deanna Horotn
Tucson, AZ

From: [MARK HOWARD](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:11:08 PM

TWIMC,

My name is Mark Howard. I'm a homeowner in Wailuku and I've been a scuba divemaster and instructor on Maui for many years. I know firsthand the devastation that commercial harvesting of reef fish has on the health of our marine ecosystems. When commercial harvesting was stopped years ago, I could see the population of yellow tangs dramatically increase, and there were tangs on reefs that had been bare. Visitors bring so much more revenue to our island than is possible from the commercial aquarium fish trade. Why show visitors dead reefs, with no fish? I have had personal salt water aquariums, cared for by my son, who is a Marine Scientist - UH grad! I learned that salt water fish are much more susceptible to environmental changes than fresh water fish. This causes an incredible mortality rate on harvested reef fish. The majority never get to a prospective owner. What a sad waste of our precious resources!

Please, please send the rules back for rewrite so that they echo the our call to safeguard reef life—rather than reviving the very trade the proposed rules were meant to end.

Respectfully,
Mark Howard

From: [Alan Hubbard](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Harvesting Reef Fish
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 6:56:10 PM

Please no, no, no, no as regards commercial reef fish harvesting. This is “out of bounds” on a multitude of levels. Since I am unable to “read minds”, I can only say that it would appear that greed has no limits. Stop the madness.

May Kindness and Common Sense Prevail,
Alan L. Hubbard MD FACS (ret.)

From: [JD Irons](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DAR Testimony
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 4:43:11 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is John Irons, and I am testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time.

Today, I respectfully ask you to:

- 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability.
- 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.
- 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes.
- 4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter’s Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai’i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary.
- 5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance.
- 6) Align with DLNR’s Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice!
- 7) Align with Hawai’i’s Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai’i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export.

The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation.

It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It contradicts science, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change.

Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Thank you for your time,
John Irons

Waimea, Kauai

From: [Renee Janton](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 8:45:39 AM

Please don't reopen the Hawaiian reefs to commercial aquarium fishing.
We need the balance of herbivores to keep the reefs healthy.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [GAYLE JANZEN](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 23 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 7:30:31 PM

Dear BLNR:

I am writing to urge you not to reopen the commercial removal of reef wildlife for sale in the mainland aquarium trade. This cruel and destructive trade damages coral ecosystems, depleting reefs and destroying marine habitats.

It's frustrating that this Thursday, October 23th, the Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) plans to grant aquarium collection permitting authority to the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR). This move would sidestep public notice, silence community response and fast-track new collection permits - **opening the door once again to unrestricted exploitation of Hawai'i's reef wildlife and habitats.**

Activists took this fight to court and won. After years in circuit court, the appellate court and finally the Hawai'i Supreme Court, the courts ruled to end the trade on injunctive relief and pending an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). But instead of an independent review, the mainland aquarium trade group - the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) now known as the Pet Advocacy Network, was allowed to write the EIS itself. Talk about corruption!

How can the BLNR, in all good conscience, allow the Pet Advocacy Network, which is best known for lobbying Congress on behalf of puppy mills, consider them an unbiased contributor to the EIS? They prepared a deeply flawed report that ignored the environmental devastation caused by past aquarium collection in Hawai'i's reefs. The Pet Advocacy Network's EIS on aquarium devastation to Hawaii reefs missed the point and failed due to its financial interests in the aquarium industry.

In these times of climate change, coral reefs are dying all over the planet so keeping their ecosystems in tact should be your top priority instead of kowtowing to a for profit special interest group like the Pet Advocacy Network. Not to mention the fact that fish kept in aquariums, many of which are way too small, prevents them from fulfilling their role in their ocean ecosystems where they belong. Allowing marine habitats to be destroyed for human entertainment and profits, is wrong on so many levels.

Please do the right thing and do NOT grant aquarium collection permitting authority to the DAR. It's a move in the wrong direction!

Sincerely,

Gayle Janzen

From: [ConsciousEmaNation](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BE PONO!
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 8:12:00 PM

Aloha

Please send the rules back for redrafting so that they reflect the community's call to safeguard reef life—rather than reviving the very trade the proposed rules were meant to end—and restore the public's trust by keeping the permitting authority with BLNR itself for full transparency and accountability.

Mahalo

Jenny

Aloha Ke Akua

God is LOVE

Sent from [Proton Mail](#) for iOS.

From: [Bobby John](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OCTOBER 24, 2025 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:34:41 PM
Attachments: [IMG_1821.HEIC](#)

To whom it may concern,

I, Robert John in Kihei Hawaii detest the idea of the removal of reef fishes from our island waters for the aquarium trade. These remote ecosystems deserve to remain intact and as natural as possible. The capturing of reef species for the aquarium trade is often done with poor capture practices further harming our reef ecosystems. Just this year we have pulled over 1500lbs of fishing line, lead, and trash from Maui's waters alone. The reefs are stressed enough. Please do not allow the unregulated capture and removal of our vital reef species. This will only hurt future generations.

Sincerely,

From: [Vicki Johnson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October+24+Agenda+Item+F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:31:07 AM

Please protect Hawaii's coral reefs, creatures, & the ocean. I have been blessed to visit Oahu, Maui, the Big Island, & Kauai.

Vicki Johnson
10735 Spruce Ave.
KCMO 64137

From: [Bridget Judd](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 7:45:52 AM

My name is Bridget Judd, I am a resident of Waimea on Hawai'i Island, and I **strongly oppose** the drafted rule package from DAR to re-open Hawai'i's reefs to commercial aquarium collecting.

BLNR needs to tell DAR to send the rules back for redrafting to reflect our community's precious and limited natural resources. Keep permitting authority with BLNR for full transparency and accountability. Let's do better for our home and not create policies that empty Hawai'i's reef for the profit of a few at the long-term cost for many.

Thank you,
Bridget

--

Bridget Judd
Project Coordinator
Waikōloa Dry Forest Initiative
808.494.2208
waikolodryforest.org

From: [Kale Kanaeholo](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F-2 BLNR Meeting, Aquarium Fishing Testimony
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 8:01:40 AM

Aloha e BLNR,

‘O Kale Kanaeholo ko‘u inoa. Noho au ma Kāne‘ohe, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu.

In relation to the rules introduced by DAR pertaining to Aquarium Fishing Permits, I am requesting that the rules be sent back for redrafting so that they reflect the community's call to safeguard reef life, rather than reviving the very trade the proposed rules were meant to end. By doing so, they may restore the public's trust by keeping the permitting and authority with BLNR itself for full transparency and accountability.

In relation to species, Kole and Umaumalei should be ***removed*** from the whitelist entirely, they are culturally food fish that were harvested for sustenance, and are vital herbivores that clean our reefs. Yellow Tang and Angelfish should also be ***removed*** from the list as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai‘i Pacific University (HPU) —wild harvest is unnecessary.

BLNR must add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance. They ***MUST*** align with DLNR's Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice and, in fact, ***THREATENS*** the cultural practice.

They ***MUST*** align with Hawai‘i's Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people for Hawai‘i, present and future. Public trust resources are ***NOT*** for commercial export.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

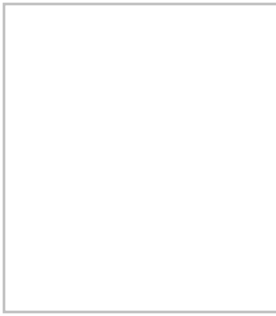
Me ka ha‘aha‘a,
Kale Kanaeholo

--

"He makemake ko‘u e pololei ka moolelo o ko‘u one hanau, aole na ka malihini e ao ia‘u i ka moolelo o ko‘u lahui, na‘u e ao aku i ka moolelo i ka malihini." -S. M. Kamakau, *Ke Au Okoa* 16 Okatoba 1865 ([Buke 1, Helu 26](#))

I want the history of my homeland to be correct. The foreigner shall not teach me the history of my people, I shall teach the foreigner.

Kale Kanaeholo, M.A.
Graduate Assistant, History | Ph.D. Candidate, History
Staff Photographer, *Ka Leo*
Ke Kulanui o Hawai‘i ma Mānoa
2530 Dole Street
Sakamaki Hall B406



Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822

Email: kalek8@hawaii.edu | [Department Profile](#)

From: [Amara Karuna](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 5:48:14 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Amara Karuna, and I am testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time.

Today, I respectfully ask you to:

- 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability.
- 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.
- 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes.
- 4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter’s Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai’i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary.
- 5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance.
- 6) Align with DLNR’s Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice!
- 7) Align with Hawai’i’s Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai’i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export.

The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation.

It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It contradicts science, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change.

Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Thank you for your time,
Amara Karuna
Pahoa, Big Island

From: [marla katz](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October24AgendaItemF.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 8:13:54 AM

Dear Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources,

As a child, I listened to Elvis Presley's Blue Hawaii album over and over again - and dreamed of going there one day. As an adult I moved to Seattle, WA, which brought me closer to my dream. I am begging you to NOT allow reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade or for sale in the mainland aquarium trade, or for any other purpose. Exploiting reef wildlife will create long lasting damaging effects to the already fragile ecosystems and habitats. All species rely on healthy oceans and coral cover for our very existence. Please keep the Hawaiian reef wildlife untouched and a place that I will continue to want to visit.

Thank you for considering my views.
Marla Katz

From: [Kaimi Kaupiko](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 10:05:31 AM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Ka'imi Kaupiko , and I am testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time.

Today, I respectfully ask you to:

- 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability.
- 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.
- 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes.
- 4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter's Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary.
- 5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance.
- 6) Align with DLNR's Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice!
- 7) Align with Hawai'i's Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export.

The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation.

It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It contradicts science, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change.

Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Thank you for your time,
Ka'imi Kaupiko
milolii , Hawai'i

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Hikiola](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Oct 24; Agenda item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 7:59:48 AM

Aloha BLNR Committee,
My name is Denise Kawano from Kaunakakai, Island of Molokai. I am submitting this written testimony against Aquarium Fishery Permits in West Hawaii. Please send the rules back for redrafting. Have the community feedback heard to safeguard reef life in Hawaii.

Aloha,
Denise Kawano

From: [Julie Kaye](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:57:24 PM

All reefs must be protected at all cost

From: [Kaipulaumakaniolono Keala](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 5:22:46 PM

Aloha e ka BLNR,

My name is Kaipulaumakaniolono Keala from Kahalu‘u, O‘ahu and I am writing to fiercely oppose commercial reef fishing, especially for live capture for aquariums. The new rules proposed by DAR represent a massive betrayal of the people of Hawai‘i who went through a painstakingly difficult process to bring a community led petition to ban commercial aquarium collecting statewide, that was then unanimously approved by the BLNR. To take all of our hard work and the opinion of our trusted board members that valorized that work, and contort it in such a way as to invert the very aims of this work in a full 180 degree flip is just outrageous. How could you develop rules for a commercial aquarium collecting **ban** so that the result would be a 400% **increase** in reef fish extraction? The proposed rule no longer reflects the community’s conservation intent. Instead, it now functions as a permitting framework for the large-scale commercial take of reef fish.

Particularly in an age of climate change where marine life is less stable than ever, we need reef fish to promote ecosystem resilience. The fact that DAR also refuses to even set local limits to prevent depletion of fish populations would seem to suggest that they are totally okay with the our precious ecosystems being vulnerable to degradation and collapse. This blatant disregard for the environment is constitutionally opposed to the aims of DAR and the BLNR and as such the BLNR must reject these rules in favor of promoting the vitality of our beloved moana.

Mahalo

Kaipu

--

kaipulaumakaniolono

From: [Sally Kerr](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DAR request re: Hawaii reefs
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 9:19:50 AM

Aloha,

I have live in Puako, Hi on the Big Osland for the past 35+ years and have seen many changes that effect the coastal waters and biology of the waters.

It is inconceivable and totally irresponsible for Hawaii reefs to be open for marine sale opportunities. In today's world where ocean life is struggling against many factors such as plastics, climate change effecting temperatures, etc. Hawaiians are the last chance to protect the ocean life for future generations. And to consider allowing the dwindling populations to be reduced further simply for the sake of collectors in aquariums and such is so un-Ohana like as we consider the world as a direct link with all civilization.

Please don't allow such a practice to be enacted. Be responsible to ocean life who cannot speak for themselves. We have a responsibility to them and ourselves in a world where humans are continually stripping the land, oceans and air for the sake of convenience or beauty.

Mahalo,

Sally Kerr

Sent from my iPhone

From: daniel.makanikaifarms.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 5:15:18 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Daniel Kier, and I am testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time.

Today, I respectfully ask you to:

- 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability.
- 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.
- 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes.
- 4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter's Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary.
- 5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance.
- 6) Align with DLNR's Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice!
- 7) Align with Hawai'i's Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export.

The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation.

It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It contradicts science, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change.

Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Thank you for your time,
Daniel Kier
Hawi, Hawai'i

From: rachelkirby@comcast.net
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:23:16 AM

"Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation!"

We live in Corvallis Oregon but visit the Big Island and Kauai often.

Rachel Kirby

"I do have reasons for hope: Our clever brains, the resilience of nature, the indomitable human spirit, and above all, the commitment of young people when they're empowered to take action." -Jane Goodall

From: [Ward Klein](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re-opening our reefs for commercial aquarium collection & exploitation. (Oct. 24 meeting; Agenda Item F.2.)
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 10:10:53 AM

Dear BLNR,

I am blessed to own and live at a property adjacent to our beloved, yet endangered, Puako protected reef, on the Big Island. Specifically we have been at 69-1740 Puako Beach Drive for over 15 years. During that time I've seen the reef stressed from pollution, warm water coral bleaching AND, in earlier years, unregulated and out of control aquarium collecting at night. I've personally witnessed teams of collectors, with their bright lights, walking and dodging all over the reef in the dark, dragging floating beers coolers behind them, collecting loads of beautiful small fish and loading them into trucks outside my house. I even called the police who came out but did nothing. This sort of destructive activity seems to have gone away over the past few years, thank God!

Now DAR wants to take over and re-open this activity. You've got to be kidding me! Recent scientific polling shows 84% of Oahu and Big Island residents want to permanently END the commercial capture of reef fish. Multiple efforts are underway to reduce pollution, restore the coral, and grow our fish populations and allowing commercial harvesting of reef fishes goes totally against these efforts and for what end?

Please send the rules back for re-drafting so that they reflect the will of the people (the voters and tax-payers), prohibit the commercial collection of reef fish, and have BLNR retain permitting authority where we are more assured of honesty, transparency, and accountability.

Sincerely,

Ward Klein
69-1740 Puako Beach Dr
Wardklein13@gmail.com

From: [toadload](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fridays agenda item F-2 in strong support of proposed rules
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 12:43:44 PM

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

Aloha Chair Chang and fellow Board Members-

I'd like to submit this written testimony in support of agenda item F-2 and the proposed rules.

I'd also like to share some information on the history of this never-ending process.

In 2017 the tourism operator Rene Umberger from Maui sued the state on the basis the aquarium fishery was unregulated and unlimited with little to no oversight. They assured the court this wasn't about banning us, but disclosing numbers. Under that assurance, the court felt environmental disclosure by way of HEPA wouldn't hurt anyone so they ruled in her and Earthjustices favor. That is public record and they mislead the court. They wanted a ban the entire time.

DAR tried an EA that included all fishers, and was open to anyone, Chair Suzanne Case denied it and asked for a full impact statement. These sorts of things are very expensive and beyond the capability of fishermen. Luckily a non profit pro pet group stepped in to give us some help. (PIJAC/PAN) typically this NGO helps with cats and dog issues.

The fishery in West Hawaii prepared a EIS, as did Oahu. Our groups were much larger at the time with more fishers participating so it was easier for the fishers to afford the cost since we had a large hui. When west Hawaii went before the BLNR, our first EIS was rejected. The BLNR board members sent US away with a DENIAL LETTER asking for hard upper limits, reduction in species, more cultural consultation and consideration, and to use science to justify our take. We were literally told the BLNR COULD NOT AUTHORIZE TAKE BEYOND WHAT FISHERY DATA WOULD ALLOW!! we had to raise more money and many fishermen couldn't pay for a second EIS and PIJAC couldn't contribute anymore either. Some fishers were forced to move off island, some got sick and died, some turned to drugs and alcohol. There was a human cost to this dilemma

So, we cut our numbers down well below what the science said was sustainable. We went from 40 species to 8. We went from 275k plus yellow tang to 200. We gave up the Pakui kui for cultural reasons. We had an exhaustive cultural consultation process. All these people complaining all took part in it. Every single one of them. We even granted the protestors at Mauna Kea extra months of time for be included even though we didn't have to. All of these concessions were at the request of the board and the opposition. We seriously scaled back the fishery and did our best to take everyone's points into consideration. We went back to the BLNR and the RFEiS was accepted by operation of law and Chair Suzanne Case said that she was impressed and respected how serious we took the boards requests and that is why she voted to support the document. Since 2021, we've satisfied the original court order yet have never been allowed to fish. All we have received is more process, more meetings and keep being asked to give up more. Board members have come and gone and every new board member acts as if this is the beginning of the process and pay no attention to what's already happened. It's very unfair and bad faith. We are at a point now where there's nothing left to give. The opposition who originally told the Supreme Court This wasn't about a ban, but

science and a disclosure has shifted to openly asking for a ban. They literally petitioned this board in December of 2023 asking for a ban. That's what started this whole chapter 91 rules making process since the board cannot ban. They asked for a ban because the legislature won't give them what they want, and neither will the courts. A ban has been their true intent all along. If they can't get a ban they would like to remove all the fish and basically neuter the fishery to the point it is no longer feasible.

How many times in a process do you guys get to cut us down?

This seems like bad faith negotiation tactics, like double or triple jeopardy.

The BLNR doesn't concern itself with the scientific facts. The science is clear: the fishery is well understood and beyond sustainable. The fishery scientists say there's more than enough of these fish for cultural use, aquarium use and others groups as well...just ask them yourself. But you won't ask them. DAR doesn't matter, the facts don't matter, just overreacting to a group of people selfishly asking for relief to a problem that doesn't even exist. They cry out in pain from the thought of me catching a fish for sale to an aquarium but it's fine if I kill it and sell it. To me, this is absurd and childish.

The only people that have been hurt by all this is the aquarium fishers. We have lost everything trying to please everyone and work through the process that was asked of us. It's become clear that the opponents will say and do anything, shift their arguments whenever, however and that's not pono. We say one thing, they say another, let's see what the scientist we pay have to say because maybe what we have proposed is already very responsible and sustainable

We can't rule by emotion...let the facts and science be the referee. If the science says we have enough of these fish then why is it a problem?

I seen you guys pass the Uhu/Kala commercial fishery for tens of thousands of pounds with no science whatsoever. You asked DAR what the science says but they responded that they knew very little about this commercial fishery. You guys passed it anyway. Last I checked, both Uhu and Kala are culturally important fish. How come those fishers can earn a living off these fish and no one says nothing? You guys have to be more consistent and fair.

Mahalo for the time

Eric Koch
Commercial fishermen
Kaū, Hawaii

From: [Ellen Koivisto & Gene Thompson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 5:22:28 AM

Hi,

My name is Ellen Koivisto and I love visiting Hawai'i because I love the looking at islands formed by crust moving over a mantle hot spot and the biodiversity that can spring up in these wonderful, isolated locations.

That said, it should be obvious why wildlife reef trafficking for the aquarium trade is abhorrent. I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles left by aquarium decimation.

Warm water reefs are endangered and dying all over the planet due to other forms of human stupidity. Please don't add to the death toll.

Thank you,
Ellen

From: [kramerscove](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 9:20:27 PM

My family arrived in Hawaii, from Portugal, in the late 1800s. My grandmother was born on the Big Island as were her sisters and my mother. Though I don't live there, I have certainly been in Hawaii and appreciated its beauty and the fact the native residents seek to protect the sanctity of what they consider their ancestral home. All of nature should be protected. And anyone should fear any transgression against Pele.

Elizabeth Kramer

From: krausies@web.de
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 11:36:38 PM

Dear Sir or Madam,

As I heard you plan grant aquarium collection permitting authority to the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) this Thursday, October 23th.

To allow the commercial removal of reef wildlife for sale in the mainland aquarium trade will be damaging coral ecosystems, depleting reefs and destroying marine habitats.

I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation. Please do not allow reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade!

Yours sincerely,

Marion Kraus

From: [Rhonda Kulhanek](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2 — Protect Hawai'i's Reef Life
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 6:30:27 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board,

I am writing to strongly object to Agenda Item F.2 as currently proposed.

The revised rule represents a profound institutional betrayal of the community's conservation intent. What was meant to protect and preserve reef life has instead been reshaped into a permitting framework that enables large-scale commercial extraction.

The proposed annual catch limits—up to 400 percent higher than historical averages—reflect not stewardship but greed. With no meaningful local limits or safeguards, our reefs will again be left vulnerable to depletion and collapse, as history has already shown in leeward O'ahu.

This proposal is not only environmentally destructive but fiscally irresponsible. It generates minimal revenue while costing hundreds of thousands of dollars to manage, excluding enforcement. Moreover, it contradicts well-established science that stresses the need to increase reef fish abundance to help reefs survive climate change.

Finally, the overwhelming majority of Hawai'i residents—84%, according to recent polling—support permanently ending the commercial capture of reef fish. The rule as drafted disregards the public's will and the community's trust.

Please send these rules back for redrafting so that they truly reflect the intent to safeguard reef life, maintain transparency, and keep permitting authority with the BLNR itself for full accountability.

Mahalo for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Rhonda Kulhanek
512.797.4262 | Hawaii Standard Time

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Leah Labo, and I am testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time.

Today, I respectfully ask you to:

- 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability.
- 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.
- 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes.
- 4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter's Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary.
- 5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance.
- 6) Align with DLNR's Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice!
- 7) Align with Hawai'i's Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export.

The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation.

It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It contradicts science, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change.

Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Thank you for your time,

Leah Labo

Miloli'i, Captain Cook

From: [Sunny LaPlante](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 8:55:16 AM

I, Rebekah Seal LaPlante from Pepeekeo , Hawaii and resident for 51 years am very concerned about this:

What began as a **community-led petition to ban commercial aquarium collecting statewide has been changed and** the proposed rule no longer reflects the **community's conservation intent.**

Please send the rules back for redrafting so that they reflect the community's call to SAFEGUARD THE REEF.

And restore the public's trust by keeping the permitting authority with BLNR for full transparency and accountability.

Estimated permit revenue: \$700 per year.

Estimated management cost (excluding enforcement): \$300,000 – \$500,000.

This seems like extreme financial irresponsibility.

Sincerely, R. Seal LaPlante

From: cmleighty78@gmail.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:20:46 PM

My name is Corinne Lawson. I live in Kailua on Oahu. I am an avid diver and the reef fish populations are already significantly depleted on certain reefs. It is of utmost importance that the aquarium trade not be allowed to further contribute to the destruction of our reef ecosystems. BLNR has historically had oversight of collection permits and this is essential for full transparency and accountability. Transferring this authority to DAR would be detrimental and is not the will of the public. Everything must be done to safeguard our reef life and sustain these ecosystems. Allowing any kind of process that eases collecting for the aquarium trade will be detrimental and in direct conflict with the will of the people of Hawaii who care for and love our reefs.

Sincerely, Corinne Lawson

From: [Madeleine Lee](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 6:21:05 PM

Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation!

Madeleine Lee

From: [Laura Legge](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 8:13:57 PM

My name is Laura Legge. I live on Maui at 292 Alaume Street and am kapuna who has lived here for a very long time, as have my family. Our reef fish have literally disappeared over the 60 years I've been snorkeling and diving in our waters on all our islands.

We don't need anyone taking Hawaii's reef fish for commercial aquarium purposes and pet company profit so that some doctor's office in Peoria or some hobbyist in Hollywood can have a pretty fish tank to look at.... even if the fish live long enough to even get to Peoria or Hollywood.

We desperately need our reef fish to stay on our precious reefs so our islands can survive climate change and our keiki can flourish. Do the right thing! Taking for commercial pet collection purposes should be banned in the entire island chain!

Please send the rules back for redrafting! They need to reflect the community's call to safeguard reef life! Keep the permitting authority with BLNR for full transparency and accountability.

SAVE OUR REEFS! Save our islands! Save our planet for our o'hana! Do the right thing!

Mahalo nui,
Laura Legge

From: [Kevin Leib](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Agenda Item F.2 – Protect Hawai‘i’s Reefs
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 5:42:53 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

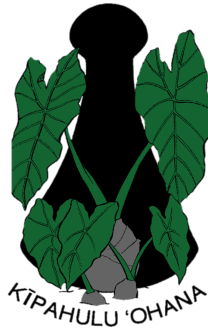
My name is Kevin Leib, and I live on Maui. I’m writing to strongly oppose Agenda Item F.2 on the October 24 BLNR meeting agenda.

I’ve seen firsthand how effective reef protections can be. The Kahekili Herbivore Fishery Management Area has brought back life and vitality to the reefs at Kahekili Park. Before the enactment, the reefs were stressed and dying. But now they are vibrant, teeming with fish, and visibly recovering year after year. It’s proof that initiatives to protect herbivores work and should be expanded, not reversed.

The proposed DAR rule would do the opposite. It would reopen the door to large-scale aquarium collection, putting additional pressure on already fragile ecosystems. Please reject this proposal and maintain permitting authority within BLNR, where oversight and accountability ensure Hawai‘i’s reefs are protected for future generations.

Mahalo for your time, consideration, and commitment to Hawai‘i’s reef life.

With respect,
Kevin Leib
Maui



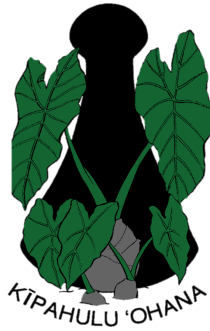
Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Kamalei Lind, and I am testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and respectfully ask the Board to NOT approve public hearings at this time.

These rules do not reflect the intent of community conservation or the guidance previously provided by this Board in December 2023. Instead, they advance a process that excludes Petitioners and undermines the Public Trust responsibilities of the State.

Today, I respectfully ask you to:

- Keep permitting authority with the BLNR. The briefing confirms DAR's intent to issue permits directly—authority previously denied by this Board. Retaining BLNR oversight is essential to maintain transparency, accountability, and public trust.
- Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE. Petitioners were briefed only once—told that none of their input would change the proposed package. This contradicts BLNR's directive for meaningful collaboration.
- Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist. Both are culturally significant food fish and key herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted for both food and ornamental take, a practice that disrespects traditional use and ecological function.
- Remove Yellow Tang and Potter's Angelfish from the whitelist - These species are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute of Hawai'i Pacific University. Wild harvest is unnecessary and contrary to the shift toward sustainable aquaculture solutions that even DAR acknowledges but has not integrated.
- Require clear accountability and enforceability. The proposed framework lacks vessel tracking, cage monitoring, or adequate enforcement officers. DAR admitted there are no dedicated compliance or DOCARE personnel for this fishery, relying instead on volunteer Makai Watch observers. This is unacceptable for a high-risk, commercial export industry.
- Align with DLNR's Hierarchy of Use Policy. The rules privilege private commercial export over subsistence, cultural, and ecosystem needs. Aquarium collection for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice. Kīpahulu 'Ōhana, grounded in the principles of ahupua'a-based management, stands in strong opposition to this misalignment.
- Uphold Hawai'i's Public Trust Doctrine. The State is constitutionally obligated to manage all natural resources for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i—present and future. It cannot privatize access for commercial gain at the expense of ecosystem and community health.



This fishery generates only about \$700 per year in permit revenue, yet costs taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to monitor and manage—a clear fiscal imbalance. DAR admitted it does not have data on its actual administrative and enforcement costs.

Our reefs are already under climate stress. Allowing large-scale extraction of reef herbivores and ornamental species will accelerate reef decline and undermine resilience for food and cultural practices.

This is not a balanced or community-driven proposal—it is an industry-driven deregulation attempt disguised as reform. Please do not advance these rules to public hearing.

Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Cheyenne Kamalei Lind
Executive Director
Kīpahulu 'Ohana, Inc.

From: laura.lumachini@libero.it
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 10:22:40 PM

Dear Madams/Sirs

I live in Italy and hope (soon!) to visit Hawaii.

Please keep this earthly paradise safe and intact for me, for everyone, and for future generations.

Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation!

Thank you for your attention, kind regards.

Laura Lumachini

From: [Yuki Kaea Lyons](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 4:35:10 AM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, My name is [Your Name], and I am testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time. Today, I respectfully ask you to: 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability. 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE. 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes. 4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter's Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary. 5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance. 6) Align with DLNR's Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice! 7) Align with Hawai'i's Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export. The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation. It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It contradicts science, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change. Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them. Thank you for your time,

Me ka 'oia'i'o,
Ka'ea Lyons-Yglesias
Keauhou, Kona, Hawai'i Island

From: [Ry Makai](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Save the reef fish!
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 10:36:08 AM

Aloha,

I am in ___ grade and a student at Kua O Ka Lā online Hīpu‘u program. I have attached written testing for Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules.

Mahalo,

Ryland

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Ryland, and I am testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time.

Today, I respectfully ask you to:

- 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability.
- 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.
- 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes.
- 4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter’s Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai’i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary.
- 5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance.
- 6) Align with DLNR’s Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice!

7) Align with Hawai'i's Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export.

The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation.

It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It contradicts science, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change.

Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Thank you for your time,
Ryland
Pahoa, Big Island

From: [Marsea Marcus-Rotman](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Aquarium Fish
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:27:08 AM

Aloha,

I am a Maui resident, residing in Kihei. I am shocked to hear that you want to allow people to harvest aquarium fish from Hawaiian waters.

I am an avid scuba diver. During the pandemic the fish increased and it was wonderful to watch and experience. Since restrictions ended, it has been tragic to watch the fish populations diminish. Now you propose more? Maui is losing itself as a place to experience the wonders of the ocean.

Please don't allow this to happen!

Marsea Marcus-Rotman
2777 S. Kihei Rd #J-206
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Nancy Maupin](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 1:54:46 AM

I am from the west side of the BI and an avid snorkeler. The degrading health of the reefs on the west side is very concerning. Everything that promotes reef health should be taken into consideration. In that light, the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) drafting of a rule package to **re-open Hawai'i's reefs to commercial aquarium collecting** and, on October 24, will ask the **Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)** to approve it for public hearings is concerning.

The **BLNR should continue oversight of aquarium-collecting permits.**

Mahalo for your consideration.

Nancy Maupin

From: [Kay McBride](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:42:28 AM

My name is Kay McBride. I am a resident of Kailua Kona, HI.
Please send the rules back for redrafting so that they better reflect the community's call to safeguard reef life! Keep the permitting authority with BLNR itself for total transparency and accountability.

Thank you,
Kay McBride

Sent from my iPhone

From: [LYNETTE MCLAMB](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2 Protect Hawaii's Reefs !
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 4:46:43 PM

To Whom it May Concern :

Hawaii holds a special place for our family . We are drawn to the culture, climate and marine biodiversity . We hold the health of Hawaii's coral reefs close to our heart and visit both the Big Island and Maui to snorkel and scuba dive .

We are adamantly against collection of marine species and the marine wildlife trade , which decimates Hawaii's wonderful reefs , reduces biodiversity and impairs tourist experiences in the underwater world.

No reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, our family wants Hawaii's reefs intact !!!

Lynette McLamb
POB 400
Forest Knolls, CA 94933
415-717-3016

From: [Barbara Meglen](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stop DAR proposed rule
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 12:36:23 PM

My name is Barbara Meglen, I own a home in Puako, Kamuela on the big island of Hawaii and have just learned of the proposed new rules affecting the coastline of the hawaiian Islands. I am totally opposed to this.

The proposed annual catch limits are 400 percent higher than what seven collectors reported taking annually for 20 years.

Puako is one of Hawai'i's most important coral reefs, and has plummeted from 53% coral cover to less than 5% in recent years. This proposal is environmentally destructive. DAR refuses to set local limits to prevent depletion. With no guardrails, every reef would be vulnerable to degradation and collapse, as occurred decades ago in leeward O'ahu.

I urge DENIAL of this proposal!!

Sincerely

Barbara Meglen

From: [Asta](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 1:02:37 PM

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please do not accept the rules proposed by the DAR, which revive the exact practices that they were meant to end. Instead of reflecting the community's desire to conserve our reefs, they now serve as a permitting framework for the large-scale commercial take of reef fish.

These so-called rules would result in every reef being vulnerable to degradation and collapse. Research has shown that reef fish abundance must increase for reefs to withstand the effects of climate change, not decrease from commercial extraction.

There is overwhelming public support for permanently ending the commercial capture of reef fish.

Furthermore, there is no financial benefit to the people of Hawai'i to offset the catastrophic losses they would result from reef degradation.

The rules must be redrafted to reflect the community's call to safeguard reef life and restore the public's trust by keeping the permitting authority with BLNR itself for full transparency and accountability.

Thank you,
Asta Miklius
PO Box 1003
Volcano, HI 96785

From: [Jim Miller](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:07:43 PM

I have been a long time water person. Having taught scuba for over 10 years in San Diego and Phoenix where we used the Southern California waters and the sea of Cortez. I also lived on a sailboat in the Gulf of Mexico off the golf coast of Florida for 4 years and understand how important to the people and visitors that a strong coral community is.

My wife and I moved to Maui after 28 years in Alaska during which time we made over 20 trips to Hawaii for scuba and Snorkeling.

Please do all you can to protect and grow the coral communities.

Jim Miller

Kihei, Hawaii 96753

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mary Miller](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:02:39 PM

Please protect our reefs, it is our duty
Sent from my iPhone

From: [MICHAEL MILLER JR](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 5:41:28 PM

Coral reefs and it's wildlife are under duress as it is with climate change and the oceans warming. We have to protect what's remaining and rehabilitate what we've already destroyed. We don't need to sacrifice that for the aquarium trade.

Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation!

I've been to Hawai'i and we'll destroy it's beauty if we let corporations destroy it's coral reef for profit!

Michael Miller Jr
1000 Broad St., APT. 413
Phila., Pa. 19146
267-235-7490

From: [Amanda Millin](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 10:29:43 AM

Aloha e Chair Chang and Members of the Board,

I am Amanda Millin. I live on O‘ahu and work with the biocultural restoration of loko i‘a. I also have a master’s degree in ocean biodiversity and conservation from Scripps Institution of Oceanography. **It is my professional and personal opinion that DAR's efforts to re-open Hawai‘i reefs to commercial aquarium collecting is detrimental both locally to Hawai‘i's ecosystem and globally to the entire Pacific Ocean.** Our oceans simply cannot sustain this increased activity. Having healthy reefs is crucial in the world's efforts to mitigate climate change and to maintain the very air we all breathe.

DAR's kuleana is to conserve and protect our aquatics resources. DAR's release of this draft rules package is a profound betrayal of this kuleana and the public’s trust. What began as a community-led petition to ban commercial aquarium collecting statewide—which was unanimously approved by BLNR—has been turned upside down. Instead of protecting reef life, DAR's draft rules package gives the trade everything they are asking for and would allow the capture of hundreds of thousands of reef fish every year.

I ask that the rules be sent back for redrafting so that they reflect the community's call to safeguard reef life—rather than reviving the trade the proposed rules were meant to end—and restore the public's trust by keeping the permitting authority with BLNR itself for full transparency and accountability.

Mahalo nui for your time and thoughtful consideration of this important matter.

Mālama Pono,
Amanda

--

Amanda Millin
M.S. Publishing, Pace University, 2009
M.A.S. [Marine Biodiversity & Conservation](#),
Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego, 2020
ammillin@gmail.com | c: 760.799.2889

From: [Miriam](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] protect the reefs
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 4:48:08 AM

I ask that no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation!"

From: [Jonathan Mitchell](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 8:34:15 PM

I fell in love with Hawaii when I made my first visit twenty years ago, and it still occupies a special place in my heart. Please, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade! I want Hawaii's reefs intact, with coral cover and biodiversity - not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Mitchell
(concerned citizen - Madison, AL)

From: [Ciprianna Montoya](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 10:41:41 AM

Aloha,

I am in 9th grade and a student at Kua O Ka Lā online Hīpu'u program. I have attached written testing for Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules.

Mahalo,

Ciprianna Montoya

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Ciprianna, and I am testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time.

Today, I respectfully ask you to:

- 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability.
- 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.
- 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes.
- 4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter's Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary.
- 5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance.
- 6) Align with DLNR's Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice!
- 7) Align with Hawai'i's Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state

constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export.

The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation.

It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It contradicts science, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change.

Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Thank you for your time,
Ciprianna
Keau, Hawaii



KE ALA PONO

Kua O Ka Lā New Century Public Charter School
345 Makalika, Hilo HI 96720
Office: (808) 981-5866 Fax: (808) 981-5860

Email: info@kuaokala.org

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P.O. Box 2360 Honolulu, Hawaii 96804 (808) 586-322 or relay CRCB@k12.hi.us

From: [Jackie Moore-Andresen](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 3:15:26 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Jackie Moore-Andresen, and I am testifying in **strong opposition** to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time.

Today, I respectfully ask you to:

- 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability.
- 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.
- 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes.
- 4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter’s Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai’i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary.
- 5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance.
- 6) Align with DLNR’s Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice!
- 7) Align with Hawai‘i’s Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai‘i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export.

The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation.

It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It contradicts science, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change.

Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Thank you for your time,
Jackie Moore-Andresen

Waikoloa, Hawaii (Big Island)

From: [Maki Morinoue](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 8:14:21 AM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Maki Morinoue, and I am testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time. I am from the island of Hawai'i and the ahupua'a of Hōlualoa. I represent an organization called HULI PAC, where we endorse and support candidates and officeholders of integrity who support 'āina and the people of Hawai'i Island to align us with our laws that protect our fragile natural resources.

Hawai'i is home to over 400,000 acres of living coral reefs and accounts for 85% of all coral reefs in the United States. We must remember that a healthy ecosystem plays a crucial role in the production of photosynthesizing algae, such as phytoplankton.

These organisms are responsible for producing up to 70% of oxygen in the air. That is every other breath we take, no matter where we live on Earth.

Today, I respectfully ask you to:

- 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability.
- 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.
- 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes.
- 4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter's Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary.
- 5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance.
- 6) Align with DLNR's Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice!
- 7) Align with Hawai'i's Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit

of the people of Hawai'i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export.

The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation.

It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It contradicts science, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change.

Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Thank you for your time,
Maki Morinoue
HULI PAC, Chair
Hawai'i Island

From: [charity m](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 10:14:01 PM

To Whom it may Concern,

Protecting this unique and valuable natural environment is important today. While you are our oceans continue to warm and become less of a carbon sink protections for places where nature endures and thrives are becoming fewer.

Corporations and individuals who want to 'harvest' life from these waters for short-term greed also shorten the lives of the nature they harvest. It is a very short-sighted view of increasing wealth.

Continuing to protect and support this vital ecosystem remains extremely important.

For our collective futures and those of our children's children please continue to protect it.

Sincerely,

Charity Moschopoulos

From: [Barbara Munini](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Subject: Testimony in Support of Protecting Hawai'i's Reef Wildlife
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 8:28:50 AM

Here's a polished and respectful email draft you can use to submit your testimony:

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Barbara Munini, and while I reside in Bartlett, Illinois, I hold Hawai'i close to my heart. I've had the privilege of visiting the islands and experiencing their breathtaking marine ecosystems firsthand—an experience that deepened my commitment to their preservation.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade. Hawaii's reefs are not commodities—they are living, vibrant ecosystems that support biodiversity, cultural heritage, and the health of our oceans. The decimation caused by aquarium harvesting leaves behind ecological shambles, stripping coral cover and endangering native species.

I stand with those who advocate for intact reef systems, thriving coral communities, and the protection of marine life from exploitative practices. Let us prioritize conservation over commerce and ensure that future generations can experience the wonder of Hawaii's reefs as they were meant to be—alive, diverse, and resilient.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Warm regards,
Barbara Munini
Bartlett, Illinois
Frequent visitor to Oahu and Maui

From: [Pat Lindquist](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: [Pat Lindquist](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 12:43:08 PM

To BLNR of Hawaii –

I am Pat B. Lindquist, President of Napili Bay and Beach Foundation, Napili, Lahaina, Maui.

I am very concerned to hear that BLNR will be hearing a rule package submitted by DAR that would allow commercial aquaria to collect Hawaiian reef fish again!

The reefs in Hawaii are a major natural protection for shorelines that are already being 'challenged' by development on the shoreline and by rising sea levels occurring world-wide. Without the fish, corals cannot thrive and thriving robust coral reefs are essential to healthy shorelines on every island.

As you are aware, DAR refuses to set local limits to prevent depletion which means every reef will be vulnerable to degradation and collapse, as occurred decades ago in leeward O'ahu.

This action is a profound betrayal of the public's trust. Instead of protecting reef life, DAR's draft rules package gives the trade everything they're asking for and would allow the capture of hundreds of thousands of reef fish every year.

Its time and passed time to realize that the best way to protect Hawaii's ocean/shoreline health is to conserve abundant reef fishes to keep fringing reefs healthy.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat

Pat B. Lindquist

President, Napili Bay & Beach Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 10823
Lahaina, HI 96761
<http://www.napilibayfoundation.org>



"Our mission is to protect and improve the health of Napili beach and bay"

P Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: [Wendy Noritake](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24. Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:23:05 PM

Dear BLNR Testimony,

My name is Wendy Noritake, and I am a resident of North Kohala on the island of Hawaii. I swim, scuba dive, free dive in the waters off North Kohala nearly every day of the week. I've seen first-hand the devastation of our reef fish over the past ten years. I've seen my favorite reef fish to photograph disappear. Even their coral homes of antler or cauliflower coral, have been cut down. Many of our reef fish are endemic to Hawaii; they are not found anywhere else on earth!

Reef fish cannot be taken en masse without harming the delicate infrastructure of the reef which is already being taxed by pollution and climate change.

I can't believe we are still having this argument about saving our reef fish. They are a treasure to Hawaii and all who visit as tourists to see these magnificent fish. A recent poll found that 84% of the residents of Oahu and Hawaii islands support the permanent ending of this commercial aquarium trade to capture reef fish. Other than the greed of the aquarium trade, no one benefits, certainly not the fish nor the people who love to see them in their natural environment.

Please deny the access for the aquarium collection of permits, and to redraft the rules so that the community can see the safeguards for the reef fish and to restore the public trust. We need full transparency and accountability to ensure the survival of these fish and our reef.

The fish have no voice, so we must speak on their behalf to save them! Please do the right thing!

Mahalo,
Wendy Noritake

From: [Joy Nuuhiwa](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F-2 BLNR Meeting, Aquarium Fishing Testimony
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 7:06:52 PM

Aloha e BLNR,

My name is Joy Nu‘uhiwa. I am from Wai‘anae, O‘ahu.

In relation to the rules introduced by DAR pertaining to Aquarium Fishing Permits, I am requesting that the rules be sent back for redrafting so that they reflect the community's call to safeguard reef life, rather than reviving the very trade the proposed rules were meant to end. By doing so, they may restore the public's trust by keeping the permitting and authority with BLNR itself for full transparency and accountability.

In relation to species, Kole and Umaumalei should be REMOVED from the whitelist entirely. They are cultural food fish that were harvested for sustenance, and are vital herbivores that clean our reefs. Yellow Tang and Angelfish should also be REMOVED from the list as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai‘i Pacific University (HPU)--wild harvest is unnecessary.

BLNR must add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance. They MUST align with DLNR's Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice, and in fact, THREATENS the cultural practice.

They MUST align with Hawai‘i's Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai‘i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for commercial export.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony,
Joy Nu‘uhiwa
They/Them, She/Her
Graduate Research Assistant at [Native Hawaiian Student Services](#)
M.A. Political Science Student | University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
jnuuhiwa@hawaii.edu

From: [Greg Olsen](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: gregolsen@earthlink.net
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 5:16:33 PM

Aloha:

My name is Greg Olsen. I live in Kailua Kona on the Big Island of Hawai'i. I am against any taking of reef fish for the aquarium business. To say the least, I'm disappointed that DAR thinks this is a good idea. It is not a good idea and it could have unintended consequences which would be detrimental to our beautiful aquatic zones.

I also think it's a huge mistake to allow DAR to remove BLNRs' oversight of aquarium-collecting permits. DAR hasn't done much to help our reefs and to think it would have no oversight over the permitting process tells me that, inevitably, corruption would sneak in.

With sea levels rising and Hawai'i very vulnerable to its impacts, we must do all we can to maintain the reefs to withstand the impacts of climate change. Why would DAR think it's a good idea to endanger our reefs while impending disaster looms ahead of us? Let's think long term of the future for our islands so we don't find ourselves like Florida or Louisiana who took tax-payer money to drain the swamps and now pay dearly for their shortsightedness.

Hawai'i is a unique place but if we lose too many of our reef fish, we lose something valuable and beautiful. During COVID, the reefs began healing and the reef fish were returning. I used to see yellow tangs in large schools at Kamakahonu, but lately, there are just small groups of the tangs visible. They are beautiful and passengers from the cruise ships love seeing them from the pier. Let's not lose even more of our reef fish if this rule passes.

I'm with the 84% of Oahu and Hawai'i Island who support permanently ending the commercial capture of reef fish. Please, do not let this rule stand. It could spell disaster which we can't afford.

Mahalo,

Greg Olsen
Board Member
Destination Kona Coast

From: [Kapua Olson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 8:41:15 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Kapua Olson and I am testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you NOT to approve public hearings at this time.

With respect, please:

- 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability.
- 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.
- 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes.
- 4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter’s Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai’i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary.
- 5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and to ensure ecological balance.
- 6) Align with DLNR’s Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice!
- 7) Align with Hawai’i’s Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai’i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export.

The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation.

It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It contradicts science, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change.

Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Thank you for your time,
Kapua Olson
Kona, Hawai’i

From: [Regina Orlando](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 7:04:43 AM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Regina Orlando and I am testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time.

Today, I respectfully ask you to:

- 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability.
- 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.
- 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes.
- 4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter’s Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai’i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary.
- 5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance.
- 6) Align with DLNR’s Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice!
- 7) Align with Hawai’i’s Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai’i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export.

The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation.

It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It contradicts science, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change.

Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Thank you for your time,
Regina Orlando
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii

From: [Barbara Steinberg](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda F2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 10:42:48 AM

Please protect reefs in Hawaii from tropical fish aquarium trade
Barbara S Orłowski
po box 1764
kihei hi 96753
808-269-6845
Maui
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Paul Osborne](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24, agenda f.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 5:11:32 AM

Hello from Kauai!

This proposal goes against the rule of environmentalism that Hawaii has followed for years and what keeps the islands clean and beautiful.

Please send the rules back for redrafting so that they reflect the community's call to safeguard reef life-rather than reviving the very trade the proposed rules were meant to end-and restore the public's trust by keeping the permitting authority with BLNR itself for full transparency and accountability.

Sincerely,
Paul Osborne
Lawai, Kauai

From: [Tracy Ouellette](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October+24+Agenda+Item+F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 5:30:09 PM

Please do not let the aquarium trade plunder Hawaii's reefs. The wildlife there belong to the ocean and to all of us, and most importantly to future generations. They should not be sacrificed for profit. Hawaii is a unique and amazing place, so please don't be shortsighted and sacrificethe wonders of Hawaii's ecosystem for the short term profits of a few.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tracy Ouellette MD

Edison, WA

Visitor, parent, and grandparent

From: [Sharen](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October+24+Agenda+Item+F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 12:59:52 AM

Hello,

Please keep Hawaii's reefs & corals intact with no wildlife trafficking for aquariums.

Thank you,
Sharen Oxman
Toledo, Ohio, 43614
USA

From: [katie parkinson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 11:57:26 AM

Hi

My name is katie parkinson and I live in kapa'a on kauai.

I am writing this email to urge you not to allow reef fishing for aquariums. I am an avid diver and snorkeler for 20 years here and have noticed a marked decline in reef fish over the years. The fish face so many other threats, pollution, global warming and over fishing.

Hawaii's reefs and reef fish health should be preserved for those who fish for food and to be enjoyed recreationally.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Belinda Pate](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 5:30:58 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Belinda Pate,], and I am testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time.

Today, I respectfully ask you to:

- 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability.
- 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.
- 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes.
- 4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter’s Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai’i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary.
- 5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance.
- 6) Align with DLNR’s Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice!
- 7) Align with Hawai‘i’s Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai‘i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export.

The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation.

It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It contradicts science, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change.

Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Thank you for your time,
Belinda Pate

Kailua-Kona, HI

From: [Andrew Paul](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:28:28 AM

Please don't grant aquarium collection permitting authority to the DAR. This would be a travesty with terrible consequences to our reefs and ecology. &
Andy & Tammie Paul
Haiku, Maui, Hawaii

From: [p.perron](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 5:42:25 AM

Good day!

Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation!

Thank you!

Patricia Perron

From: [Steve Phillips](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 3:08:04 PM

I totally oppose the reopening of our reefs to commercial aquarium fish collection. There are not many fish left in our reefs. This action would likely end most of the enjoyment people get from snorkeling at our beaches. Please do not allow this.

Thanks for listening.

Steve Phillips
Local Harvest, LLC
808-633-5060
steve@localharvesthawaii.com

From: [Mike Ploessel](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24, 2025 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:43:20 PM

I understand that the mission of the Division of Aquatic Resources to manage, conserve and restore the state's unique aquatic resources and ecosystems for present and future generations.

Expanding the aquarium fishing take of the most interesting, and colorful fish will undoubtedly mean fewer fish to be seen by the many tourists that come to Hawaii to snorkel and dive with our beautiful fish. Fewer fish will, without question, significantly reduce tourist dollars coming to Hawaii, when many of our visitors can easily go to the Caribbean to snorkel and dive.

Please make the right decision and do not allow any take of our local fish except for invasive species and for local consumption (food).

Thank you.

Michael Ploessel

From: [Dr. J. Adele Plotkin](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 6:56:15 PM

Although I now live in Arizona, I remember my time in Hawaii quite fondly. The biodiversity and the beauty I saw while there should be available for all to see for generations to come - not decimated or destroyed by the commercial aquarium trade. Please do all possible to maintain, preserve, and protect the unique biodiversity of the reef ecosystem!

Please protect the reefs and their associated ecosystems!

Subject: October 24 Agenda Item F.2

From: [Kahakuhailoa Poepoe](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 – Testimony RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules & Request for Zoom Link (10/24/25, 9:00 AM)
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 7:16:38 AM

Aloha Chairperson Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Kahakuhailoa Poepoe, and I am a generationsl lawai‘a from Moloka‘i who currently resides in Pāpa‘ikou, Hilo Palikū, Hawai‘i Island. I continue to fish using methods passed down through my kūpuna, providing food for my ‘ohana and community in ways that honor the balance between kānaka and kai. Our fishing practices are grounded in aloha ‘āina and the understanding that these resources feed both our bodies and our spirit.

The species kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*), umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*), and lā‘īpala (*Zebrasoma flavescens*) hold deep cultural and subsistence importance to our people. Kole and umaumalei are staple food fish that also play a vital ecological role as herbivores that keep our reefs clean and healthy. In Kona, the lā‘īpala was a known traditional food source, providing sustenance for our kūpuna and families when other resources were scarce. These species are not ornamental to us — they are living connections to our ancestral diet and traditions.

In light of this, I respectfully ask the Board to:

1. Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure transparency, oversight, and accountability.
2. Send the proposed aquarium fishery permitting rules back for redrafting in genuine collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.
3. Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely, as they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and essential reef cleaners. These species are currently being double-counted as both food and ornamental fish.
4. Remove the Yellow Tang (*Zebrasoma flavescens*) and Potter’s Angelfish from the whitelist as well, since they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute of Hawai‘i Pacific University on O‘ahu. Wild harvest is no longer necessary.
5. Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, and conditions to ensure accountability and prevent exploitation, while supporting ecological balance.
6. Align with DLNR’s Hierarchy of Use Policy, which prioritizes cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial or ornamental purposes. The aquarium trade is not a cultural practice.

7. Uphold Hawai‘i’s Public Trust Doctrine, ensuring that our natural resources are held in trust for the people of Hawai‘i — present and future — and not privatized for commercial export.

These actions are essential to maintaining pono management and the integrity of our traditional food systems. I ask that decisions made about these resources reflect both scientific understanding and the lived, generational knowledge of Native Hawaiian lawai‘a who continue to care for our nearshore ecosystems.

Lastly, I kindly request a Zoom link for the 9:00 AM BLNR meeting on October 24, 2025, so that I may deliver this testimony orally.

Mahalo nui for your time, your consideration, and for allowing the voices of traditional practitioners to be heard.

Me ke aloha,

Kahakuhailoa Poepoe

backupkahaku@gmail.com, +1 (808) 646-0341

From: [Kim Potochnik](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rules Package for Reef Fish Harvesting
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 10:28:58 AM

From:
Kim Potochnik
54-3771 Hanaula Place
Kapa'au, Big Island, Hi
96755
415-250-6203
kimpotochnik@icloud.com

Please send back the rules for redrafting. We MUST protect All Reef fish from All collecting/harvesting. My eyes and ears are on you. I will not quit.

Thank You,
Kim Potochnik

Sent from my iPad

From: [Kelley Price](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 12:48:50 PM

Please, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation. I visit the Hawaiian islands to scuba dive and snorkel, and want to see lots of fish, lots of diversity, lots of corals and all of them healthy!

Sincerely

Kelley Price
Kirkland, WA
Frequent visitor to Maui, Hawaii & Kauai

From: [Kathleen Provazek](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to opening our waters to the aquarium industry
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:04:34 PM

Attention to DAR and BLNR,

What is happening in our government that they would allow the taking of our reef fish? I am outraged and saddened that this issue has surfaced again after all of the pushback from citizens who value and work hard to protect our reefs? You can't imagine how hurtful and frustrating it is to see government sell out to an industry that would destroy the very thing that makes Hawaii so special. **ARE YOU NOT LISTENING?** We will never turn our backs on protecting the fish in any way we can.

Please, please, PLEASE! Don't let industry raid our beautiful waters. It doesn't make any sense and it is a betrayal of our conservation intent.

These are some of the many reasons not to open up our waters to the commercial taking of our reef fish:

Why This Matters

Overwhelming public opposition. A recent scientific poll found **84%** of O'ahu and Hawai'i Island residents support **permanently ending** the commercial capture of reef fish. Only **10%** support the large-scale capture proposed in DAR's draft rule.

Institutional betrayal: the proposed rule no longer reflects the **community's conservation intent**. Instead, it now functions as a **permitting framework for the large-scale commercial take of reef fish**.

Obscene greed. The proposed annual catch limits are **400 percent higher** than what seven collectors reported taking annually for 20 years.

Environmentally destructive. DAR refuses to set local limits to prevent depletion. With no guardrails, every reef would be **vulnerable to degradation and collapse, as occurred decades ago in leeward O'ahu**.

Extreme fiscal irresponsibility. Estimated permit revenue: **\$700 per year**.

Estimated management cost (excluding enforcement): **\$300,000 – \$500,000**.

Contradicts science. Researchers agree that reef fish abundance must increase for reefs to withstand the effects of climate change. Allowing mass extraction of herbivores defies both science and common sense.

Kathleen Provazek
Hawaii Reef Steward

From: [Robert Puca](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 4:46:47 AM
Attachments: [updatedversion0808_2707eed3-fddd-4f91-913d-83ac2b85a5f3.png](#)

PLEASE STOP THIS OR ELSE I WILL NOT VACATION IN HAWAII

October 23th, the Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) plans to grant aquarium collection permitting authority to the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR). If approved, this move will sidestep public notice, silence community response and fast-track new collection permits - opening the door once again to unrestricted exploitation of Hawai'i's reef wildlife and habitats.



Robert Puca
Community Outreach Coordinator Level 2

The Church Avenue Community Health Center
2412 Church Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11226
| M: (718) 598-1249
RPuca@sunriver.org
sunriver.org

From: rachel@wedivemaui.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 1:35:55 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board,

My name is Rachel Domingo and I live in Kihei, Maui. I am writing in strong opposition to advancing the draft aquarium fishing rules to public hearing in their current form.

I understand that today's agenda item is specifically to decide whether this draft should proceed to public hearings. However, the framework DAR has brought forward would reopen Hawai'i's reefs to large-scale commercial aquarium extraction, including the capture of hundreds of thousands of reef fish each year. It is deeply troubling that a petition aimed at *reducing or ending* commercial aquarium collecting has resulted in a draft that instead lays the groundwork for reviving the very industry communities sought to rein in.

Hawai'i's reefs are already under extraordinary stress from climate change, warming seas, coral loss, and declining herbivore populations. Our marine ecosystems need recovery, resilience, and caution, not a return to large-scale extraction for the global aquarium trade. The draft rules may be presented as "clarifying" or "streamlining," but the substance enables significant commercial take at a time when the science is clear: we need *more fish on our reefs, not fewer*.

Moving this draft forward as-is will erode public confidence in the rulemaking process and repeat a familiar pattern - where industry needs outweigh the voices of the community, the petitioners, traditional knowledge, and conservation experts. If this goes to public hearing in its current form, the community will be fighting from behind against a framework that does not reflect their intent, their values, or the precautionary approach our reefs urgently require.

I respectfully ask that you **do not advance this version to public hearings**. Please send it back for redrafting so that any proposal that goes before the public:

- prioritizes reef health and climate resilience,
- reflects the community's original conservation intent, and
- upholds the public trust by putting the needs of Hawai'i's reefs before commercial interests.
-

Future generations deserve to inherit healthy, abundant reef ecosystems. We shouldn't be debating how many fish can be removed. We should be working toward restoring what has already been lost.

Mahalo for your time, your service, and your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Rachel Domingo

From: [Anand Ramakrishnan](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 9:06:56 PM

"Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation!"

From: [robert raven](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 8:11:46 PM

Protect Hawaii's Reefs and Wildlife and Tourism!
Robert Raven

From: [Lisa Reich](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 3:54:06 AM

Please dont take any wildlife from their home! Please leave animals alone.
Thank you, Lisa Reich

From: [Martin Reifinger](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reef
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 10:18:20 PM

Dear Madam and Sir,

I was informed that you might sell the life of the Hawaiiis reefs to aquarium owners. This would be a step to destruction of the marine life of your country and against conservation of nature which is of high importance today.
Please dont do this mistake.

Sincerely,

Dr. Martin Reifinger

From: [Thomas Reppuhn](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 7:18:50 AM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is [Your Name], and I am testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time.

Today, I respectfully ask you to:

- 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability.
- 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.
- 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes.
- 4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter’s Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai’i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary.
- 5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance.
- 6) Align with DLNR’s Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice!
- 7) Align with Hawai’i’s Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai’i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export.

The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation.

It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It contradicts science, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change.

Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Thank you for your time,
[YOUR NAME]
[TOWN, ISLAND]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Tanja Rieger](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 11:44:14 PM

Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation!

Tanja Rieger

From: [Emily Robinson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:27:21 AM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I have been swimming in Hawaii's beautiful waters for nearly 2 decades, and the sharp decline in coral and fish is terrifyingly depressing. It is a concern for the planet, and it is a concern for attracting tourism.

There simply aren't enough fish left to harvest for the aquarium trade. At the very least, suspend fish harvesting for a decade until populations rebound.

I am testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time.

Today, I respectfully ask you to:

- 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability.
- 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.
- 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes.
- 4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter's Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary.
- 5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance.
- 6) Align with DLNR's Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice!
- 7) Align with Hawai'i's Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export.

The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation.

It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It contradicts science, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change.

Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Thank you for your time,

Emily and Max Robinson

Kailua Kona

Hawaii County

96740

From: [sonia.romero](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 10:11:48 AM

Buenas tardes:

Soy Sonia, de nacionalidad española. Y les hago llegar este email para decirles:

"¡Hawái está en mi corazón, no al tráfico de fauna de arrecifes para el comercio de acuarios, quiero los arrecifes de Hawái intactos, quiero cobertura coralina y biodiversidad, no el desastre que causa la destrucción de acuarios!"

Sinceramente.

From: [Charles Roth](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 6:02:37 PM

The reefs are a natural prize and we must protect them. They are not man-made. There are a miracle of nature. PLEASE PROTECT THEM FOR ALL OF US. THAT MEANS FOR SEA LIFE AS WELL. — Thank you

From: [Tia S](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 4:29:45 AM

I am writing in strong opposition to re-opening the taking of reef wildlife for the aquarium trade. This poaching devastates beautiful Hawaii's economic and environmental value.

I love visiting Hawaii but it can't be just a barren strip mall of empty oceans and forests.

The idea of reopening take of reef wildlife is corrupt, and isn't a place that has the ethics I want to support or spend money. Thank you for making moral decisions for Hawaii's people, places and wildlife.

From: [Dawn Sagar](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oct24 Agenda Item F2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 7:58:15 PM

I'm shocked and saddened by the short-sided decision to re-open Hawai'i's precious and endangered coral reefs to what comes down to wildlife poaching. This goes against our community's profound call to safeguard reef life. Healthy coral reefs are the life and breath of this extremely fragile place.

Please consider redrafting these rules to reflect the call to protect reeplife, and to restore community trust in the BLNR.

Pamela Dawn Sagar
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii

From: [María Elvira Sagarzazu](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The future in your hands
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 3:10:27 AM

Hi

I'm writing today asking not to allow reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawaii's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation! The future of reefs should go to aquarium owners' pockets but in YOUR hands to protect them.

Sincerely

Marina Sagardua

From: [Margo Salone](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 9:38:30 AM

Good day, Margo Salone here. I own property on Hawaii in the Nanawale Estates.

I want to have the reefs and corals protected in order to promote sealife and reef diversity.
I don't believe aquariums are healthy for the fish and marine mammals therein.

Thank you for your time.

From: [RICK SANDERS](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 1:55:15 PM

I have visited Hawaii multiple times in my life and the coral reefs that surround your islands are very special and very vulnerable. Please do not allow the aquarium trade to further degrade an already sensitive coral reef ecosystem.

Please leave the fish and corals for future generations to enjoy.

Thank you,

Rick Sanders

Biologist

Divemaster, Dive Instructor

Underwater photo and video producer

Rick Sanders

Rick Sanders LLC

ricksanders@comcast.net

From: [Christiane Karuna Santoro](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24, Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 10:41:44 AM

Aloha board members of BLNR,

My name is Christiane Santoro. I am a longtime resident in Pukalani on the island of Maui.

Please help protect our reefs by not allowing commercial aquarium collecting on any of our beautiful islands. I have traveled to Indonesia and Fiji to snorkel; the variety, abundance and beauty of a healthy reef are stunning. Even though Hawaii promotes snorkeling as a tourist activity, when I snorkel here, it breaks my heart.

Please, please help protect our reefs and what is left of the fish population. Please send the rules back to DAR for redrafting so that they safeguard our reef life. Please don't give DAR the power to allow aquarium-collecting permits without oversight or transparency.

Mahalo,
Christiane Santoro

From: [Elizabeth Scherbak](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 6:26:49 PM

Please do not allow the commercial removal of reef wildlife for sale in the aquarium trade.
Please do not allow exploitation of Hawaii reef wildlife and habitats.
Please protect the reefs.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Scherbak

From: [Kristina Schomer](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to commercial aquarium fishing in Hawaii - re: Public hearing this week
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:13:43 PM

Please accept this quick note to OPPOSE the proposed new rules that would permit commercial aquarium fishing in Hawaii.

The beautiful reefs & fish life here are in such a delicate balance as it is - no additional stress needs to be put on the system for the selfish satisfaction of individual or commercial aquarium owners.

Best,
Kristina

From: [Elizabeth](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 3:47:06 AM

These beautiful Islands are ecologically fragile.

Coral in particular, so important to the health of our seas & lands. Please don't decimate this key ecosystem for the wreckage that wildlife trafficking reeks, particularly for something as frivolous as the aquarium trade.

Protect what is crucial to our existence & don't squander it.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Seltzer

Maui

From: [Elsy Shallman](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 7:44:49 PM

Please include your name, home island and town (if you are outside of Hawai'i, please do still submit your testimony and include the islands you visit). Here are some quick talking points to get started... "Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation

Elsy

From: [Noel Shaw](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 9:38:45 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Noel Shaw, and I am testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time.

Today, I respectfully ask you to:

- 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability.
- 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.
- 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes.
- 4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter's Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary.
- 5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance.
- 6) Align with DLNR's Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice!
- 7) Align with Hawai'i's Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export.

The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation.

It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It contradicts science, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change.

Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Thank you for your time,
Noel Shaw
Papakōlea/ Kalāwahine, O'ahu

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Diane Shepherd](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Item F.2 reef fishes
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 9:54:27 AM

NO commercial collection of Hawai'i reef fishes. The public has spoken out against this practice for years. Why is exposing our reefs to further stressors even being considered?

Do not allow this harmful practice.

Aloha, Diane Shepherd DVM
3329 Kehala Dr, Kihei Maui, HI 96753
Sent from my iPad

From: [Cathy Sikes](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 9:24:40 PM

"Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation!"

Sent from my iPhone

From: [James Sinton](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 7:07:26 AM

As a navy trained deep sea diver and marine ecologist with a Masters level degree and founder of the South African Government's Seaweed Ecology Unit, I have always loved Hawaii and particularly the wonderful coastal beauty and biodiversity. I spent some years living on Oahu and Kauai, although I now live in Fairfield Iowa.

Please make sure that there is no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade as this will damage Hawaii's wonderful underwater heritage. What we need is the strongest possible protection for the reefs and underwater coastal regions around all of the Hawaiian islands.

With thanks for caring about Hawaii's beauty.

James R. Sinton
(641) 469 5474 (landline)
(641) 233 7454 cell (text)

Sent from a hardwired computer with all wireless functions turned OFF in order to protect health and save lives.

From: [Harvey Somers](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 5:51:25 PM

As a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (Thailand Group XVIII/TEFL 1967-70) who trained for three months at Pepe'ekeo outside of Hilo in 1967, I am very concerned about plans to to grant aquarium collection permitting authority to the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR). The diversity of Hawaii's marine wildlife -- including its coral reefs -- are a treasure that should be preserved. Please don't move us further down the road to oceanic devastation.

Sincerely,
Harvey Somers
North Miami, Florida

From: [Todd Steiner](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 10:58:06 AM

Please do not take actions that will allow harvesting of reef fishes off Hawai'i's to start back up. My organization works to protect marine life and I personally come to Hawai'i to enjoy the reefs and fish watch.

Reef defenders of Hawaii ended aquarium-trade devastation there after years of campaigning at all three levels of government. The executive branch is now afoot to reopen the trade.

Just a few years ago, the state of Hawai'i allowed commercial removal of reef wildlife for aquarium-trade sale on the mainland, damaging coral ecosystems, voiding reefs, trashing habitat.

Activists went to Court and won! Years in circuit court, appellate court and the supreme court of Hawaii got a ruling to end it on injunctive relief, Environmental Impact Statement pending. The mainland aquarium trade got the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council write the EIS. PIJAC is best known for lobbying congress on behalf of puppy mills, based on the critical need for livelihood. The PIJAC EIS on aquarium devastation to Hawaii reefs missed the point and failed.

Now, this Thursday, 10/23/2025, the Hawaii Board of Land & Natural Resources will attempt to grant aquarium collection permitting to the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR). Greasing the wheels with new permits, this move will eliminate public notice, response and resistance.

This underhanded move will return carte blanche destruction of Hawai'i reef wildlife and habitat.

Sincerely,

Todd Steiner

Todd Steiner
Founder • Special Projects Director
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Cell: (415) 488-7652



Fighting for a Blue-Green Planet!

Visit our Website! <https://seaturtles.org>

From: [Joanie Steinhaus](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 3:26:57 AM

Joanie Steinhaus

Galveston TX

Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation! I have visited Maui, and enjoyed the amazing snorkeling and the beauty of the diversity in the marine life.

Please protect this fragile ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Joanie Steinhaus



Joanie Steinhaus

Ocean Program Director

Turtle Island Restoration Network

Office: 409-795-8426



Fighting for a Blue-Green Planet! SEATURTLES.ORG

From: [Monica Stone](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 8:24:54 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time.

Today, I respectfully ask you to:

- 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability.
- 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.
- 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes.
- 4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter’s Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai’i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary.
- 5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance.
- 6) Align with DLNR’s Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice!
- 7) Align with Hawai’i’s Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai’i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export.

The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation.

It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It contradicts science, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change.

Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Thank you for your time,

Monica Stone
Kailua-Kona, Hawai’i Island

From: [Kirii-Lei Staudinger](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Science
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 10:42:31 AM

Aloha,

I am in 9th grade and a student at Kua O Ka Lā online Hīpu‘u program. I have attached written testing for Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules.

Mahalo,

Kiira-lei

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Kiira-lei, and I am testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time.

Today, I respectfully ask you to:

- 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability.
- 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.
- 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes.
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- 6) Align with DLNR’s Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice!

7) Align with Hawai'i's Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export.

The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation.

It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It contradicts science, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change.

Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Thank you for your time,
Kiira-lei Staudinger
Pahoa, Big Island



KE ALA PONO

Kua O Ka Lā New Century Public Charter School
345 Makalika, Hilo HI 96720
Office: (808) 981-5866 Fax: (808) 981-5860

Email: info@kuaokala.org

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P.O. Box 2360 Honolulu, Hawaii 96804 (808) 586-322 or relay CRCB@k12.hi.us

From: [James Sturz](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 5:25:52 PM

Dear BLNR Representatives,

My names is James Sturz. My wife and I live in Kapaʻau, on Hawaiʻi Island.

I am a journalist and author, and have devoted much of my career to writing about the ocean, including for The New York Times and The New York Times Magazine, The Wall Street Journal, The Boston Globe, The Atlantic, National Geographic, Outside, Men's Journal, Coastal Living, Scuba Diving, and Sport Diver, among dozens of others. I am also a PADI Divemaster, an Explorers Club Fellow and Hawaiʻi Chapter Board Director, and the author of the novel "Underjungle," set entirely underwater. I have lectured widely across the state about the health of our ocean, including at the Kauaʻi Writers Conference, Outrigger Canoe Club, Mauna Kea Resort, Jack's Diving Locker, Kohala Divers, and at numerous bookstores. I was an invited panelist at the Hawaiʻi Book & Music Festival at the University of Hawaiʻi at Manōa in 2024.

I am appalled by the Department of Aquatic Resources's proposed rule package to reopen Hawaiʻi's reefs to commercial aquarium collecting. This package flies in the face of broad popular opposition and it is environmentally destructive, since Hawaiʻi's reef fish protect our coastlines as herbivores. Reports that Hawaiʻi's fish are plentiful enough to support aquarium collecting are patently untrue—any local scuba diver can support this, but especially those who have also dived in other Polynesian, Melanesian, and Micronesian locations where collecting has not occurred. This rules package is also financially unsound, since it will decrease tourism here by making our reefs even less vibrant. It also plunders a living state resource and awards it to one small group for its exclusive benefit. This package further creates a closed-door decision-making process where safeguards and science can be easily and quickly ignored.

As a Hawaiʻi resident and a lover of our ocean, I urge you to reject the DAR's rule package as currently written, and to keep the Bureau of Land and Natural Resources as Hawaiʻi's sole permitting authority.

Mahalo,

James Sturz

[https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://www.jamessturz.com_!!LIYSdFfckKA!z0TVx_iVw74byOn_eiyR6BP5nSxgIQfmBSiBITKUyV1nTNc6WIh8E-KOvTfJEOb50RnmIRVnafwIRuKeyVyuLNUUn\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://www.jamessturz.com_!!LIYSdFfckKA!z0TVx_iVw74byOn_eiyR6BP5nSxgIQfmBSiBITKUyV1nTNc6WIh8E-KOvTfJEOb50RnmIRVnafwIRuKeyVyuLNUUn$)

From: [Andrea Sussel](#)
To: [DLNR, BLNR, Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 6:41:17 PM

My name is Andrea Sussel and I live in Hilo, HI on Hawaii Island. Please send the rules back for redrafting so that they reflect the community's call to safeguard the reef like- rather than reviving the very trade the proposed rules were meant to end-and restore the public's trust by keeping the permitting authority with BLNR itself for full transparency and accountability.

Thank you,
Andrea J. Sussel
Hilo, HI 96720



www.thrivewithandrea.co

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6299030056>

From: [Claire Trester](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AQ TAKES EXPANDED
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 11:04:15 AM

Aloha Chair Lady Chang and Board members,
I'm Claire Trester, a 45 year resident of North Kohala, Big Island and a distance swimmer, over my 45 year residency my swims are in West Hawaii waters, from South Kona to Keokea Beach Park.
I'm dumb struck by the disingenuous attitude regarding The AQ Trade and DLNR Mission Statement.

"ENHANCE, PROTECT, CONSERVE AND MANAGE HAWAII'S UNIQUE AND LIMITED NATURAL, CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESORCES HELD IN PUBLIC TRUST FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS FOR THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII NEI, AND ITS VISITORS, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHERS FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS."

I write this in all caps due to fact you've lost your way, and no longer commit to your Mission Statement above.

Hawaii's reefs and their Herbivores are under assault from many factors including Ocean Acidification, Temperature Rise, Invasive Species, Pollution, and Severe Coral Reef Die off to name a few.

The proposed action for today's meeting is a betrayal of the Public Trust , our Visitors and Future Generations of Hawaii Nei which your agency had made a commitment to, now a broken trust.

A Successful Community led petition to ban commercial AQ collecting State Wide has been turned on its head, to allow for the capture of hundreds of thousands of reef fish each year. We all know how the AQ Trade crashed on Oahu decades ago, now you set the stage for West Hawaii's reef fish crash.

The data points for the take increase is simply inaccurate, and unsustainable.

My face is in the water 3 to 4 times each week, gone are the days in the 1980s where "Clouds of Fish" existed on West Hawaii reefs, long gone. More and more coral die back is apparent, fish are stressed and 70% of reef fish taken die in transport.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING??

Hawaii's Coral Reefs and Herbivores belong to the People of Hawaii and our future generations, they are OUR State Treasures, they SHOULD NOT be for sale to a handful of Reef Rapers.

Yes. They are Reef Rapers.

The days of abandoning what's Pono for the resource to chase the dollars are also long gone. Have you considered the Ocean resource your grandchildren will inherit with your decision today.

Our Actions Here At This Time , Will Echo Throughout Eternity .

Thank you
Claire Trester

From: [Terry Trimmingham](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 7:31:09 PM

Hello,

My name is Terry Trimmingham. Currently I live in Kirkland, WA.

My family came to Maui in 1881, and my ancestors lived on Maui and Oahu. My grandmother grew up riding horses on the slopes of Haleakala before automobiles. Maui is very dear to my heart. Although my family gradually left for the mainland, I have been visiting Maui for many years.

Over the past 50 years I have snorkeled in the waters around Maui and seen a steady and alarming decline of wildlife. The waters are shockingly devoid of the diversity and bounty that was once there.

I urge you to NOT allow commercial harvesting of wildlife for the mainland aquarium trade.

To allow commercial harvesting of wildlife for the aquarium industry would hasten the total demise of these delicate ecosystems in the Hawaiian waters. They are very fragile! It would drive many species to extinction. Extinction is forever.

I want my descendants to be able to see the amazing underwater wonderland here. I want to see diversity protected and maintained. Please DO NOT allow any form of commercial harvesting of wildlife in the waters of Hawaii.

How can you sell out to these industries for the benefit of those on the mainland? Shame on you.

Mālama pono,
Terry

From: [True](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 9:58:39 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, My name is Mary True, and I am testifying in STRONG OPPOSITION to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time. Today, I respectfully ask you to: 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability. 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE. 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes. 4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter's Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary. 5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance. 6) Align with DLNR's Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice! 7) Align with Hawai'i's Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export. The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation. It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It CONTRADICTS SCIENCE, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change. Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Thank you for your time, Mary True, Pepe`ekeo, 96783

PS

As a footnote I feel the need to add that I'm very angry about having to contact you about something this ridiculous. This has to be the most bizarre thing I'm aware of the BLNR doing in the 18 years I have lived on this island. It totally goes against science and common sense!!!

From: [R-Laurraine Tutihasi](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 12:22:19 PM

Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation!

I have been interested in Hawaii since sixth grade (1961). I would like the state to remain the beautiful place I read about and visited three times (Oahu, Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai).

--

R-Laurraine Tutihasi
laurraine@mac.com
<http://www.weasner.com/>

Be nice to Earth. It's the only planet that lets us live on it!
—Lauren Birch

From: [Haley Van Noord](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 3:10:14 PM

Aloha my name is Haley van Weemen van Noord and I live in Kihei Maui. I am a life science teacher in Lahaina and I hold an undergraduate degree in marine biology as well as a masters degree in science education.

Please consider sending the rules back for redrafting so that they reflect a safeguard for reef life—rather than reviving the very trade the proposed rules were meant to end—and restore the public’s trust by keeping the permitting authority with BLNR itself for full transparency and accountability.

Sincerely,
Haley van Weemen van Noord

From: [Karen Vannoy](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oct 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 10:09:33 AM

Dear Sir or Madam,

As residents in Kauai please consider our urgent concern.

Please send the rules back for re-drafting so that they reflect my community's call to protect reef life, rather than increasing the very the proposed rules they were meant to end.

Please restore our public trust by keeping the permitting authority with BLNR itself for full transparency and accountability.

Mahalo,

Karen Vannoy

George Vannoy

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jeff and Diane Jung](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 4:22:40 AM

Although I live in Wyoming, Hawaii is in my heart and a place we love to visit.

We love to snorkel through the reefs and we encourage you to protect the reefs and fish that live and depend on those reefs.

We don't need to open these areas up for any reason. We need to maintain healthy fisheries and places for tourism to see fish, not to export fish for aquariums.

Please do the best for Hawaii's marine ecosystems and protect the fish and reefs. Reefs and coral across the world are collapsing.

Please do all you can to protect the fish and reefs of Hawaii so all future generations can visit Hawaii and enjoy the diversity.

Thank you,
Sincerely,
Diane Verna,

Wyoming, USA

From: [Marie Wakefield](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 5:32:19 PM

Please, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation!

I can see Hawaii from my shore [in my dreams of returning some day].

--

Marie Wakefield
Newport OR 97365
wakefieldm_2000@yahoo.com

From: sugaree01@aol.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 5:47:22 AM

"Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation!"
Whitney Watters St Augustine Florida

From: [Russell Weisz](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 4:36:08 PM

I visit Hawai'i frequently and Hawai'i is in my heart. I support no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation.

Sincerely,
Russell Weisz
319 Laguna St Santa Cruz CA 95060

From: [Kathleen White](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 1:13:17 PM

I am a frequent visitor to Hawaii, most often Kauai and the big Island. I have family on Kauai.
I want the reefs to be there for my grandchildren and their children.
Please continue to protect Thai island's reef.

Sincerely,
Kathy White
90 Harrison Av
Apt E
Sausalito, CA. 94965
K.D. White

From: [Tina Wildberger](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24, 2025 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 12:29:53 PM

Aloha Chair Chang and BNLB Board Members,
In exacerbated opposition:

My name is Tina Wildberger, I live and work on Maui, where aquarium collecting has been banned for years. You have already increased the take permits for Maui Ocean Center who can't keep their captured fish alive, now you want to allow anyone who has \$700 to rape our reefs with impunity.

The proposal to allow aquarium collecting, the taking of live fish off of Hawaii's reefs for profit, is in direct conflict with the Department of Aquatic Resources' (DAR) mission:

The mission of the Division of Aquatic Resources is to work with the people of Hawai'i to manage, conserve and restore the state's unique aquatic resources and ecosystems for present and future generations.

The permit fee schedule is a joke.

The harm caused by removing so many fish far out weighs the financial agenda of a handful of selfish 'entrepreneurs'. The fish on our reefs belong to everyone. Don't allow this proposed wholesale reef rape to undo years of good faith conservation that has taken place over the last decade.

With warming seas and extreme water quality issues, the fish that remain are already challenged to survive. Plucking fish off of our reefs for export to hobbyist fish aquarium enthusiasts is a betrayal to all who love Hawaii and to our tourism economy. Geo politics has harmed our small businesses enough, let's not exacerbate our economic strife by decimating our reefs that will soon be devoid of live fish.

What about our boating industry? Statewide, our snorkel tourism sector represent millions in state revenue, and hundreds of amazing jobs. I beseech you all to reconsider this ill-conceived proposal. Follow DAR's mission to preserve our precious marine resources.

Mahalo,
Tina
808-870-1739
Tina@kiheiice.com

From: [Ava Williams](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2, Reef Fishing Permits
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 3:24:47 AM

To Whom it may concern:

I am deeply distressed about the possibility of DAR re-opening reef fishing rights without further discussion, policy changes, and acknowledgement of the hard work and input from organizations like Puako For Reefs as well as the public petitions that have been submitted. It's odd that BLNR would seek to ban commercial fishing (which I understand they have the authority to do), yet DAR seeks to move forward with this measure to allowing widespread fishing on a scale not seen before..

I grew up on the Big Island and spent a lot of time at Puako as a child, snorkeling and enjoying the pristine reef and waters. I now own a home in Puako and live in Waimea, and my children grew up at Puako. I am deeply concerned with the lack of fish on the Puako reef today. The benefit from a pause in reef fishing became abundantly clear during COVID. The fish came back, the reef was healthier and there were more birds along the shoreline. There was a sense of balance, and calm.

Please reconsider moving forward with this door wide open, almost pillaging policy. Many people involved feel betrayed as there is no compromise in this version that outright favors fisherman and reef fish collectors. We know how important the Puako Reef is, and the same goes for other areas on the island. The surrounding oceans depend on it, and the very notion of a functioning ahupua'a depends on it.

Please send the rules back for redrafting both in terms of the extent to which reef fishing is allowed, and also to restore the public's trust by keeping the permitting authority with BLNR itself for full transparency and accountability. Please seek a compromise that is Pono.

Mahalo,
Ava Williams
Waimea and Puako, Hawaii

From: [Kalaninuiahilapalapaikawekiukalunalilo Wilson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F-2 BLNR Meeting, Aquarium Fishing Testimony
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 6:20:07 PM

Aloha e BLNR,

I am (state name and ahupuaa, island).

In relation to the rules introduced by DAR pertaining to Aquarium Fishing Permits I am requesting that the rules be sent back for redrafting so that they reflect the community's call to safeguard reef life, rather than reviving the very trade the proposed rules were meant to end. By doing so, they may restore the public's trust by keeping the permitting and authority with BLNR itself for full transparency and accountability.

In relation to species, Kole and Umaumalei should be REMOVED from the whitelist entirely, they are culturally food fish that were harvested for sustenance, and are vital herbivores that clean our reefs. Yellow Tang and Angelfish should also be REMOVED from the list as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU)--wild harvest is unnecessary.

BLNR must add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance. They MUST align with DLNR's Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice, and in fact, THREATENS the cultural practice.

They MUST align with Hawai'i's Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for commercial export.

I request a zoom link for testimonial purposes.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony,
Kalaninui

From: [lore](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 7:43:21 AM

To Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources,

As an annual visitor to the Hawaiian islands, I want Hawaii's' reefs to be protected from wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade. The coral cover and biodiversity should NOT be destroyed to fill aquariums with attractive niceties that can be easily replicated without causing such harm.

Instead of perpetuating this harm, your ruling can serve to educate true appreciation of the reef environment.

Lore Wintergreen
Wintergreen.lore@gmail.com
Vashon Island, Washington
USA

From: [Kean Wong](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2 - Public testimony
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 4:04:35 PM

Aloha,

We would like to share our views on the commercial capture of reef fish. As full time residents of the island we both enjoy the presence of health marine ecosystems, and experience the massive economic benefits to the island and state derived from tourism. It is absurd in our mind that commercial capture of reef fish would be considered beneficial to the residents of the state at all. The exploitation of a fragile, precious and threatened resource that is critical to a massive number of tourism dollars and jobs, would be a travesty. The state has no duty to support the exploitative livelihoods of a tiny number of people who seek to plunder our shared resources for the cost of a minimal license fee. It does have a moral obligation to serve the needs of the entire populace of the state to preserve the local reef aquaculture for the economic, cultural and societal benefit of the entire populace of this wonderful place, and the millions of visitors who dream of visiting a Hawaii whose oceans are abundant, beautiful, and a model for sustainability for the entire planet.

Sincerely,
Kean and Mina Wong
Kohala,
Island of Hawai'i

From: tw502@comcast.net
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 10:47:01 AM

Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation.

Anthony M. Wong
Retired Biology Teacher
Vacaville, CA USA

From: [Peter Wood](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 3:46:20 AM

I am a frequent visitor to the Hawaiian Islands.

I OPPOSE reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade! I want Hawaii's reefs intact! I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation!

Peter Wood
Silver Spring, Maryland

From: [Cydnee Yamamoto](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 2:20:55 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time. Today, I respectfully ask you to:

- 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability.
- 2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.
- 3) Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes.
- 4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter's Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary.
- 5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance.
- 6) Align with DLNR's Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice!
- 7) Align with Hawai'i's Public Trust Doctrine. As a legal principle, protected in our state constitution, DLNR must hold all public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export. The proposed rule no longer reflects community conservation intent. Instead, it creates a framework for large-scale commercial exploitation. It is fiscally irresponsible, generating an estimated \$700 a year in permit revenue while costing \$300,000–\$500,000 to manage this industry. It contradicts science, which shows reef fish abundance must increase—not decline—for reefs to survive climate change.

Our reefs are our life support system. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Thank you,
C. Yamamoto

From: [Russell Ziegler](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 4:57:44 PM

Here are some quick talking points to get started... "Hawai'i is in my heart, no reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade, I want Hawai'i's reefs intact, I want coral cover and biodiversity, not the shambles rendered on aquarium decimation!"

Russell Ziegler
22w 61st
downers grove ll 60516