

From: [Godfrey Akaka](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony for Aquarium fishing agenda item F2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 2:49:56 PM

Aloha, my name is Godfrey Akaka Jr. Representing the Native Hawaiian Gathering Rights Association. We are in support for proceeding Aquarium fishing proposed rules for public hearing. We are also in support for giving the West Hawaii Aquarium fishers the permits needed for them to continue their commercial activities. All EIS and science backed data has been completed and verifies the sustainability of the resource. Therefore, the West Hawaii Aquarium fishers have done all that was required to receive their permits to commence their commercial aquarium fishing. Furthermore, as a Native Hawaiian based group as kanakamaoli, we verify, that fishing in Hawaii both subsistence and commercial, is a very important cultural practice both sustainably and economically.
Mahalo,

From: [Anne A](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 9:52:04 PM

"Please send the rules back for redrafting so that they reflect the community's call to safeguard reef life!!!!!" All government employees should have to take a lie detector test annually. There is huge money involved here and the DAR is betraying the public's trust. Who are the people there? Do we need to hire forensic accountants????????? How can a governmental agency work against the people, environment and state and not be investigated??????? the DAR is supposed to be working for the people, the land and the ocean.

The stated mission of the DAR: Welcome to **DAR** 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

Yet the 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. This is totally at odds to their/our mission.**

Now, DAR is moving to further stifle dissent and silence the public—proposing to remove BLNR's oversight of aquarium-collecting permits and transfer that power to DAR itself, allowing permits to be issued behind closed doors with no public notice, scrutiny, or opportunity for input.

The DAR is being fiscally irresponsible. Estimated permit revenue: \$700 per year. Estimated management cost (excluding enforcement): \$300,000 – \$500,000. There is no amount of money that can replace the fish, the reefs, the shore breaks

after they are raped and the environmental damage is beyond repair.

Please safe guard Hawaii's reefs!!!!!!!

Sincerely,

Anne Allison, resident of Kihei on Maui

From: [Andrew Anaya](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of F2 Opening The Hawaiian Aquarium Fishery
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 3:21:42 PM

Good afternoon,

I am emailing to express my support of F2 and opening the Hawaiian Aquarium Fishery managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Thank you,
Andrew Anaya
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kathy Butler](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 4:26:31 PM

I am a frequent visitor to Hawai'i. My name is Kathleen Butler and I live in Santa Cruz CA. The best part about my many trips to Oahu, Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii, has been snorkeling with the sea life. Hawaii's reefs are some of the best for snorkeling and scuba diving. Please don't let the aquarium trade reduce the biodiversity of the islands. Hawaii is a national and worldwide gem for sea life. Please protect the natural environment. Mahalo.
Kathleen Butler

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Manage listen to the Science and reopen! Tony Chew

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the science.

Sam Pansa

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

reopen the fishery.

Corals Depot


Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Re open. Melissa Espasie

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support reopening Steve Doe

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Re-open the fishing

- Hugo Delgado

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Reopen the fishery Carlos Gonzalez 

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,


I support this case 

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Reopen the fishery!

-Pedro L.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I AGREE TO OPEN FISHERY


Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Re open the fishery plans

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a 'W'.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

reopen the fishery - Daniel Estrada

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I SUPPORT THE HAWAIIAN FISHERY
GIL NARA J.M.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please Re-open ~~the~~ Fishery

Muel Rosel

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Louis Blasco - I support AQ Fishing

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

James Oh Cee

I support the Hawaii Fisheries.

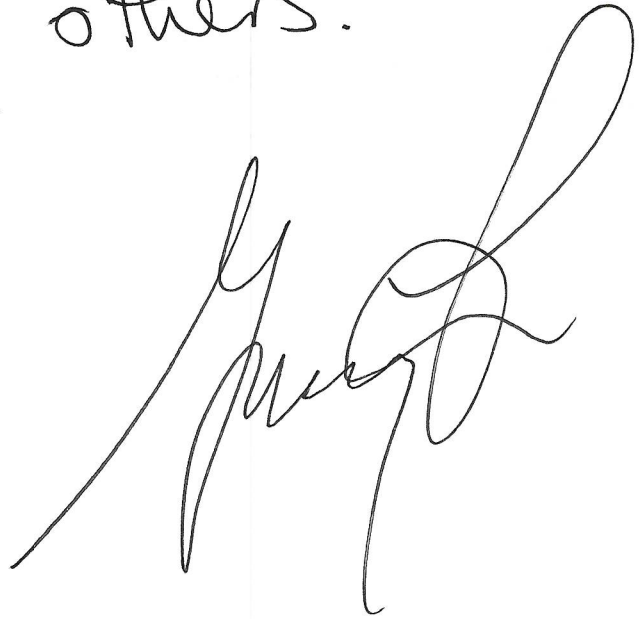
Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Listen to the Science and support our hobby!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. C. Chang". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support science based fisheries. Having these fish and others in my tank has been highly educational for me and many others.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Good Afternoon,

Please Re open Hawaii using this
Sustainable Fisheries - Very important.
Thank you

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please help the fisherys.
We miss the fish,
and famillys depend on the
fish!

Daniel

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Reopen the fishery w/science - Jason Tuscano

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Re open the FISHERY

OMAR MEDINA

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

AS A MARINE ENTHUSIAST AND PADI
CERTIFIED DIVER I WOULD LOVE
TO HAVE THESE FISH SCIENTIFICALLY
SUSTAINABLE WAY.

- WILL SHALER

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Reel Poteed


Reopen fishery

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please reopen the sustainable
Hawaii fisheries! These fisheries
have been very well controlled and
monitored, they should of never
been shut down.

-Melissa Mendez

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the fishery!  Andrew Anaya

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Reopen the Aquarium Fishery now!

Michael Littleton

It's A Must.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Re-opening the hawaii fishery can be done
sustainably and provide good jobs and opportunity
to hawaii and the rest of the USA. David Distelano

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Reopen for science & research!

Mary Singelman
Grand Terrace, CA

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Manage the fishery by science
Montano Juan

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please Reopen West Hawaii Aquarium Fisheries - Philip DeLeon

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support scientific review of fish conservation
in Hawaii. Charles W. Mitsis

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Reopen the fisheries in Hawaii.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Quinn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping tail.

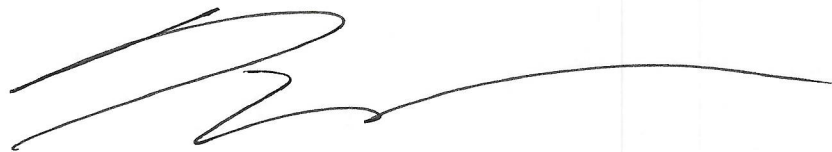
Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

want the rest back given.

Robert Modesta

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Hawaiian Openwater Fisheries are sustainable and needed to maintain the health and balance of the NCEM system. Brings back the science



Tracy Scot Caserio
Zone5FL4@gmail.com

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the sustainable Hawaiian Fisheries, I would like to see
Yellow Tang available in a sustainable way.

Thank you,

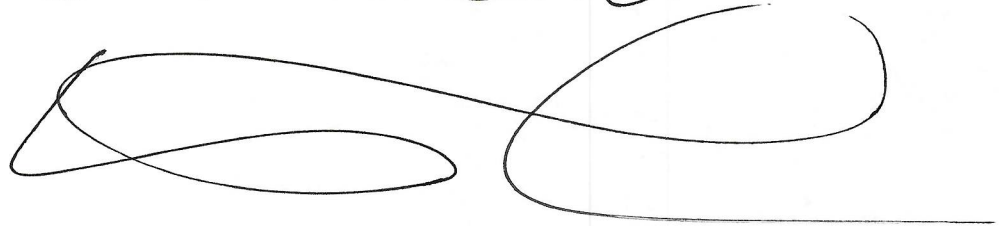
Kamran Adlparvar

(949) 374-4699

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Reopen the sustainable West
Hawaii fisheries!!!!

- Jim Sandefur

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal tail.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE MORE
FISHING OUR HOBBY AS IT IS VERY
SUSTAINABLE AS I HAVE KEPT MY YELLOW
TANOS FOR 12 YEARS.

RICHARD MCKEON



Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I believe in the science and environmental reports! Please reopen the fisheries in West Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Hollie Sandefur

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Hollie Sandefur', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I, Nick Cattivire, believe in science! Please re-open
the sustainable fisheries in Hawaii. - Nicatt.

-Nicholas Cattivire

8/6/23

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I highly believe in the science and research that is completed by the sustainable fisheries in Hawaii. Please re-open these establishments.

- April Triplett



Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I Support Science based Research

of The sustainable fishery in Hawaii

- Samuel Bales

Samuel Bales

Please listen to the science and open back the Hawaii Hatchery.

- Nathan Chan

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

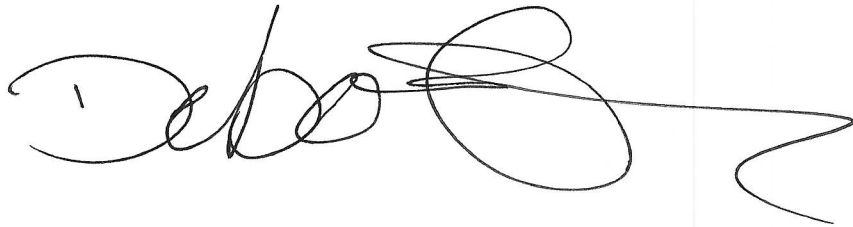
Please bring sustainable Hawaiian fisheries back!

Rufe Li

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the sustainable
fisheries in Hawaii!
Reopen!!

From
Debbie DeLillo

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Debbie DeLillo', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Reopen the fishery, listen to the scientist

Aud! Sarkissian

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Aud Sarkissian', written in a cursive style.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Reopen this fishery & listen to the science!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul".

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Manage the fisheries with science

Schus Sun

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Reopen fishery base on science

 Tony Lee

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Manage fishery by science + indigenous knowledge
- Emily Lucas

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I want the wild Yellow
Tangs back, which have been
sustainably collected from
Hawaii!

From,

Megan Eibarra
~~Megan Eibarra~~

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Listen to the science and reopen the AQ
fishery.

Joe Tran

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the science; I support the Fisheries

- Bush

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

ReOpen the fishery -

A handwritten signature consisting of several fluid, connected strokes.

Saltwater Aquarium .Com

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Jason Glowacki,

Reopen the Fishery & Listen to the
science!

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,


Joshua Valuri - Listen to the science

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Listen to the science and reopen the fishery.

~~-matthew cantu~~
-matthew cantu

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Safe, sustainable opening of the fishery is possible. Listen
to the studies -  Kyle McAtee

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Listen to the science
Re-open AQ Fishery!!!

- Rogelio DePloj

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Listen to the science and reopen
the fishery. - Matt Huisinga

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Listen to the Science, ~~reopen~~ the
fishery

- F. D. D. D. D.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please re-open the very obviously
sustainable fishery

- Nicholas Juarez

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please listen to the science and ^{re-}open the fishery.

Alex Castillo ▽

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Hello, please support reopening the Hawaii fisheries. Legislation should be in place to support local wildlife and businesses.

Sincerely,

Trevor Bellefueille

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

reopen the fishery

Luis Medina.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the fishery. - Susie Ruy

I support the fishery - Juan Hurtado

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Stuart Millan



I support the reopening of the Hawaiian aquarium fishery
for all fish.


Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the science. Please Reopen the Fishery.

Shawn Rodrigan 

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I Support the Science and Fishery


Rick Sanchez
Rick Sanchez

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

We need this vital Resources to
Be here for generations to come
Let's All support those that do.

Woody

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

ERIC FRANCOIS HAS, NOT ONLY RESIDED ON THE ISLANDS, BUT FREQUENTED THEM TO APPRECIATE THEIR NATURAL BEAUTY. MY APPRECIATION BEGAN BY ENCOUNTERING THESE ANIMALS ON THE MAINLAND. THE REOPENING OF THE HAWAII FISHHOOK, SUSTAINABLY AND REGULATED, WILL GIVE GENERATIONS TO COME THE ABILITY TO SEE THESE ANIMALS, IN PERSON, WITHOUT TRAVELING TO THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS. THIS EXPOSURE TO ANIMALS IS HOW WE INSURE STEWARDSHIP.


BEST REGARDS
EJF

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and strokes, positioned to the left of the text.

I Support Fishery mgmt

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Reopen the Hawaii Ocean Fishery! Please! 

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the marine collection industry

David D. Aguirre DAVID D. AGUIRRE

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Sharon Ray @
Hawaiian classic
srclassic.com

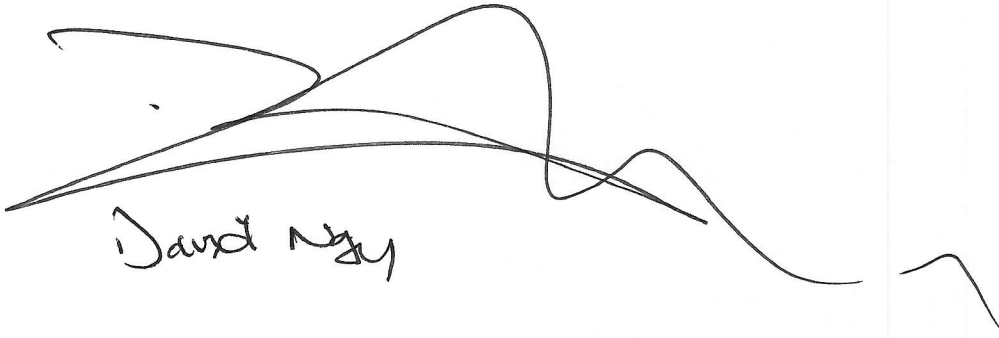
Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I SUPPORT THE SCIENCE AND FACTS

-IRVING CHAMU

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

PLEASE EXPEND FOR OUR AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke.

David Ng


Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I Support the Save the Hawaiian Fishery

Andy Han

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please open the fishery
for Seneca.



Corbett A. Wright

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support science based Fishery management.
Wendy Bauer
Wendy Bauer

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the fishery and the science behind it.



Stephen Wong

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support! Reopen it! - Alan Ruiz

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the fishery and
want to see it back open.

John Bennett

John Bennett

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,


Please support fishery!



Ishai Thatcher

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support science-based management

Jose Olivo 

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the science \times Carol
Eial Sauer

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the aquarium fishery.

x AS

Adam Sauer

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the service behind reopening the
Hawaiian Fishery.

DAVID MENDEZ

David K. Mendez

08/06/23

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support reopening the AQ, I believe the science supports the sustainability of responsible fishing for the openin trade.

David Patrone

DAVID PATRONE


drdp5@yahoo.com

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources

I support the fishery
Mike Alcaraz

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mike Alcaraz', written in a cursive style.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support responsible reef collecting. 

Nick DeKungher

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Support + the science
group

Shane Phillips

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the Science. (West Hawaii Aquarium
Fishery).
Stacy

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the Industry *Juan*
Javier Gamboa

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the science + fishery. Let's Washington 2 _____

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the science based fisheries allowed to collect live animals & fish in Hawaii. Protected areas of non fishing are important while it should be allowed sanctioned collection areas for fisheries. A balance between collection & protection is reasonable and fair while science based monitoring of these areas is employed. Please allow monitored collection in Hawaii again, thank you,

David G. Gaughanone.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

REOPEN THE FISHERY PLEASE CLARIAN CONTRERAS

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Limmy Krumpholtz

Listen to the Science

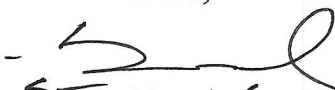
Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,
Dakhan Remington Save the fish

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

In order to know more about our
seen and what we live around we
must have science to learn it

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Chang', written over a horizontal line.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Support the Science - 
STEVEN CONRAD

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the reopening of the fishery

- *Ray Garcia*

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the science and the studies.

Please reopen the fisheries.

Nick Kaneao

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Randall Van Natta



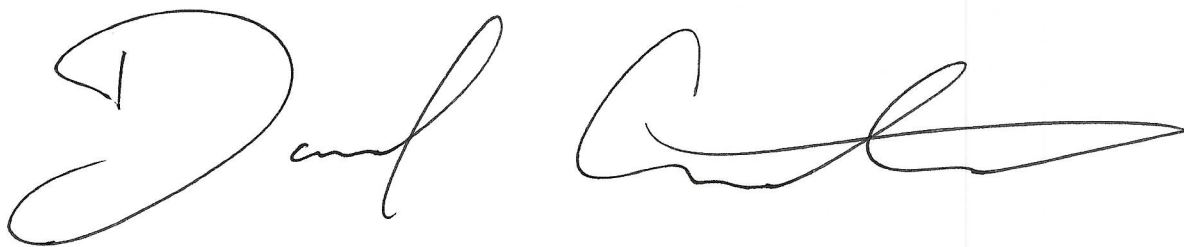
randallvannatta@yahoo.com
I support the fishery's

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

To whom this may concern,

It would be greatly appreciated
if the fishery would be open again.
From all the fact being stated
and backed with evidence it looks
to me like the fish population
are back and thriving.

Daniel Cervantes

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Daniel Cervantes', written in black ink on a white background.

8/6/23

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I believe we should be focusing on science as a
basis for making environmental decisions

Jose Rubio

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, rounded 'J' and 'R' intertwined.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the Hawaii aquarium Fishery. Please
Report Importing/Exporting.

A. Ocampo
Adrian Ocampo

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Support the Science! Sticks Corals - Cheryl Taylor
Cheryl Taylor

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,
I Support Opening the aquaculture industry

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several stylized, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support Aquarium Fishery
Dana Dege

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the House: Aquaculture Fisheries - Jan Clements


Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Roberta The West Hawaii Aquaculture Fishery, Dr. Frank O. O.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support reopening the Aquaticum Fishery

Andrew Schooner

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a long horizontal line followed by a stylized, looped flourish.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I Support the Hawaiian
Agreement

Fischer.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support reopening the Hawaii Aquarium fishing

Chang

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support Aquarium fishery



Bradford Smith

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support Reopening distillery
Michael Miniak

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support reopening this fishery

Daroy Pincen

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

~~Alm Estrada~~

I support reopening this fishery

Abraham Estrada

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Reopen the fishery

Christina Torres
Chair

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am a hobbyist and enjoy taking care of and learning about Hawaiian species. I support the Aquarium fishery.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the fishery

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and strokes, positioned below the text.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Reopen the fishery

Nathan

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I ~~suppna~~ support the fishery

Marissa Breiding

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Reopen the fisheries - I support
West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery.
Keep the Fisheries OPEN!!

Jynn Hegast

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the Hawaiian fisheries opening


Al Enriouaz

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support Hun Fish reopening

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'O. M.', written in a cursive style.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the hawai aquarim fishery

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. J. Chang', written in a cursive style.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support reopening the
aquarium fishery!

~~John~~ Beukia

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

1 Suftor Hawaiian Fishery

Saul Sanche

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support re-opening the equator fishery.

Don Loveless *Donal*

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the hawaiian fishery!

- David Augustine!

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support Re opening Hawaii
Raymond Grillo Reef Creation's

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Yasmin & Sal, we support the
Hawaiian Fishery.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please reopen for
AG *happz*

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the Hawaiian Ornamental Fishery
Michael Simonsen

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the Fishery

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support re-opening WHAF Steven Haycock

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Eric Riech

I support REOPENING the WEST Hawaii
aquarium fishery.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the Fishery
Zone ALVES

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Listen to the fishery !!!

~~He~~ + angasa d/cantaw

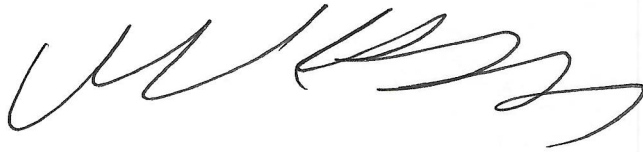
Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I Support the Hawaiian
fishery

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "L. M. ...", written in a cursive style.


Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support this fishery

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, connected strokes that are difficult to decipher as a specific name.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the Hawaiian fishery.
Drew L Balsa
I support the Hawaii fishery
Glenn J. Ferguson

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,
REOPEN FISHERY ASAP! DARYL 

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

hasten to science reopen fishing - 

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

reopen fishery 

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

CRAIG LITNER

I support re-opening Fisheries




Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the fishing
of Hawaii

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support sustainable fish
CPA



I Support Sustainable fish

John

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

REOPEN THE FISHERY PLEASE EMMANUEL S.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

reopen the fish please

-Zone

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the fishery initiative, let's have it back again.

Ray Alfredo Ayala

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I Support the Science.

PLEASE REOPEN THE FISHERY

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long, sweeping line extending upwards and to the right.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,
Reopen the fisheries
Ka: Samreth

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,
Fishes & Cool! Kelly Gacos

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

~~Ricardo Mendez~~ I support the science and fishery

Brianna Martinez I support the science and
Fishery

~~h. King~~

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

It would be nice to have these fish in the hobby
to raise awareness of the issues that face nature.
Keeping people interested in the local habitats and animals all over
the country is key. Kurt Moses ~~travis~~

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I love affordable fish - Logan E.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Logan E.', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned below the text 'I love affordable fish - Logan E.' and extends to the right, ending in a long, sweeping stroke that points towards the top right corner of the page.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I only want a yellow
+ my own

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

PLEASE REOPEN THE FISHERY

KIRBI NIPUES

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the opening of the fishing. It's
the best way to support sustainable collection of
tropical fishes.

Yours truly
John

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support reopening the fisheries and this endeavor to provide sustainable fish for the aquaculture hobby.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. J. King". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.


Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the Fishery.

Michelle 

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

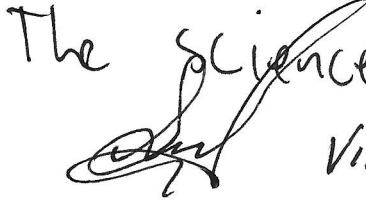
I SUPPORT THE WEST HAWAII
AQUARIUM FISHERY. (HOPE YOU DO TOO)

THANKS
ACEP


Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I, Support the Science re-open the AQ
fishery. — Victoria Becerril

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please reopen the AQ fishery!!!
The science proves this is good!!
 Victor M. Becerra.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the AQ fishery & support the
SCIENCE

Jovana Jozic

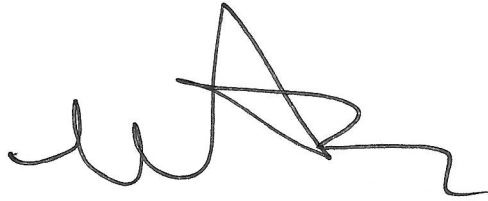
Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the science of the fishery

 Carlos Selva

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Follow the Science, open up the
ornamental Aquarium harvest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mike Noll', written in a cursive style.

Mike Noll

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please allow me to support the Sustainable
Wild capture of the species.



Bryan Schramm

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support
Science
-Based
Fishing

Mike
Nelson

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I believe in the sustainability of fishery collecting in Hawaii. I was there last week and saw for myself, the reefs looked the same as when I was there last. No one cares more about our reefs than aquarium hobbyists. This has proven to be sustainable, and is an important part of the local economy.

- Shane Van Winkle

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the fishery

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Griffin Bentley". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Griffin Bentley

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the Fishery - please reopen it.

Dona ~

Robert Lewis --

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

~~AA~~ I support the science behind the Fishery. - Michael Munn - 3

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the science. Please open

the AQ Ashery




Joshua Karch

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I believe that conservation efforts should be in the hands of the scientists and professionals that dedicate their lives to them. Science driven studies are the only way to assess the best path forward for the health and wellbeing of our reefs and fish. - Nicole Capertina Spectralwe, Inc.

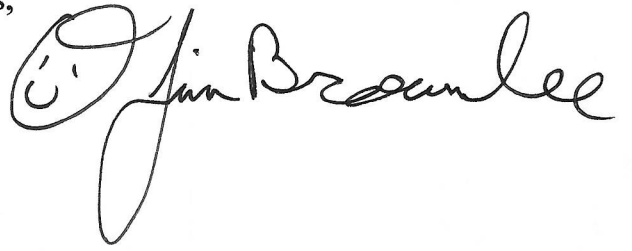
Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support evidence opening of the Hawaiian
Fishing on the Big Islands of Hawaii.


Troy Nagao

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support these science!!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Braumlee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the science and fishery

- Brenda Payne

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the science which shows
the fish are still around and have not
reduced in numbers.

Kurt Hammel
khammel@bomeconstruction.co

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I SUPPORT THE SCIENCE PLEASE OPEN A Q FISHERY



MICHAEL TAO

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please reopen the Hawaiian fishery.

Wanda King *Wanda King*

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support sustainable fisheries!

- Srimal Weerahanaddi ~~Signature~~

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support sustainable fisheries- Reef sensei!

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

 I want the pin back

Ann Banks

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please bring back the fish we used to have.
~~My name is Clayton Stewart. The fish~~

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support science based fisheries

John Hlubec

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support science based fishery.



Robert Ross

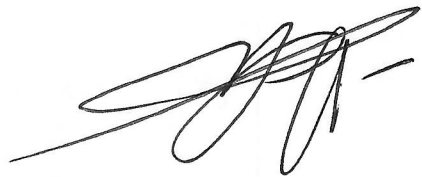
Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,
~~Reopen the Ashurst~~

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,
Bowling Green Research the fish hater's!!!

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Substantially collecting organisms is fantastic
for the adventure trade, helps provide funds for
Breeding projects and take account of fisheries stock.



Alex Kinslow

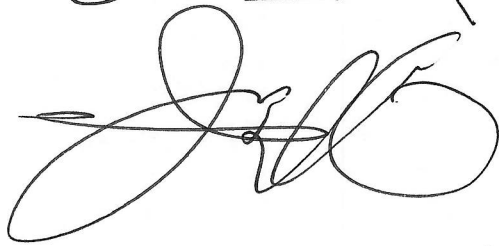
Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I suppose the fish reopening

signature

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I fully support science based
harvesting of Kansas' rangelands -



John T. Gray

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

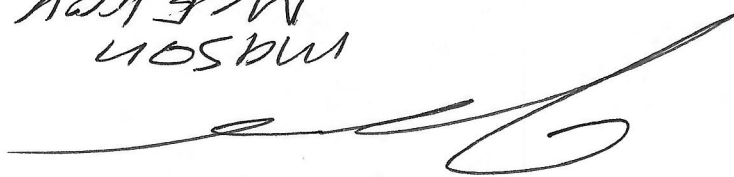
I support science based fishery harvesting.

Elliot Adham



Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

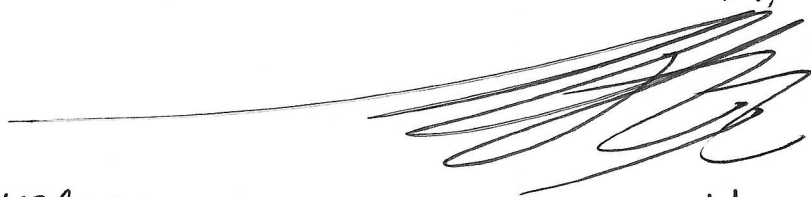
I fully support science based harvesting if done sustainably.



MASON
MCELROY

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

1 Support Science based fisheries

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Kusken Jobs

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support Sustainable Fisheries - *Coltizenhou*

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support reopening of fishery

Alexander Petrosyan.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support re-opening the west
Hawaii aquarium fishery! Bring
back wild yellow tangs please!!

- Andrew Reid

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support re-opening the West Hawaii
Aquarium Fishery!

-Briana Comy

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please re-open the fisher
Christopher Gamboa

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

hey, I support the reopening
of the fishery
-Alex

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Support the Fishery

Steven Dick

SDICK1974@GMAIL.COM

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Asuppori T Reef.

Advice

Ref.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

REOPEN THIS FISHERY CARLOS BRISENO 

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I fully support sustainable fishing

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned below the text.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please reopen the fisheries. I support sustainable fishing.

David DePonte


Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support science and sustainability!
Reopen the Hawaii fisheries and
licenses!

Sincerely,
Cynthia DeLillo

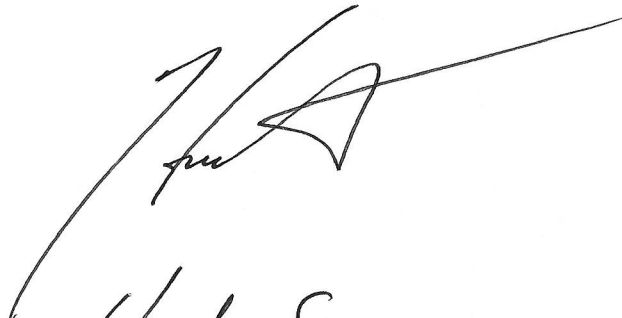
Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support science based management. Please
re-open the fisheries.


Tyrone Chiriquy

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I Support Science based fisheries



Hector Serrano

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

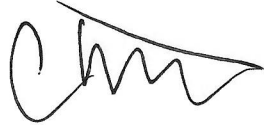
I SUPPORT THE SCIENCE BASED FISHERY

Keith Cox

KEITH COX

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please Help Re open the Fishery.
We have all heard talks from Respect
Scientists such as Reht Talbot who have
stated will not impact the Environment



Chris Schmitz

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Michael E. A. - I support the fishery

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support responsible fisheries
and the West Aquaculture Fisheries.
Keep all fisheries open for
business and use "Science"
only for policy decisions!

Don Kistner

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support Science backed fisheries focused on sustainable practices and ideals in growing and preserving natural environment.

-David Matonga

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the fisheries

Aerinf Mark

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that are difficult to decipher as specific characters.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support science based
management

JON D.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I SUPPORT THE AQUARIUM FISHERY.

 Francisco Moreno

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

~~Shah~~ Please reopen the hawaiin fishery
-Shahaly.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please reopen the fishery.



Edward Bilezikchian


Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please open the fishery trade - Isaac Barriga
Brings jobs back to those who ~~Amac Barriga~~
lost them and help with more
research.

Isaac Barriga

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I will love to see the Hawaii Fishery Open.
Yellow Tangs should be available to anyone who
cares about the Fishery. It will help people from
Hawaii. Please Re-Open Fishery, Thank You.

Nick Ortega


Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

PLEASE REOPEN THE FISHERY
WE SUPPORT THE SCIENCE BASED
MANAGEMENT FOR OUR HOBBY.

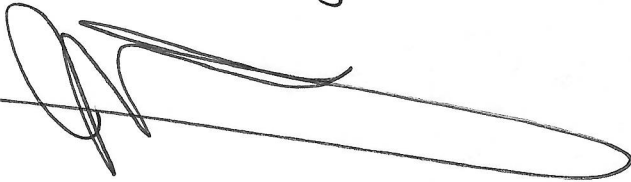


SIMON ASSECIN.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,


I whole heartedly believe in the environmental benefits of the management of fish. I have researched and read papers and believe the land permits should be granted in order to reestablish the population in their care.

John Worthington

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Worthington', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large loop at the end.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please reopen the fishery/aquarium in Hawaii. It's sustainable. It's ethical. It's needed by hardworking families.


Daniel Bannister

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support sustainable fishery's Please
open it up!!

Armando G.

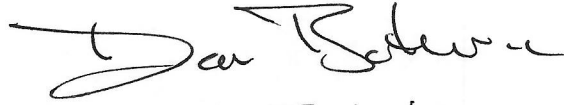
Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support sustainable fishery management
open the fishery Please Please Please

x *Archie B*

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the well regulated Fishing Industry
in Hawaii, Its a sustainable Fishery and it
should be reopened.



David Dotwin

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the Hawaiian Aquaculture Fishery.

G. Kennedy

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the Hawaiian Fishery and would like
the ban to be lifted so we can enjoy the hobby I love.
The ban has caused prices to sky rocket.

Chat W

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I Support science-based fisheries. Please reopen aquaculture fisheries.

X Jonathan Lee

Jonathan Lee

8/5/23

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support sustainable reefing and fish keeping.
I believe in the work that the West Hawaii
Aquarium Fishery is doing.



Ben Burgett

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I SUPPORT SCIENCE BASED RESEARCH RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.

PLEASE OPEN UP THE AQUARIUM FISHERY IN WEST HAWAII

David Salinas
DAVID SALINAS

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support WH aquarium fishery 

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES. PLEASE
REOPEN AQUARIUM FISHERIES.

CHARLES SCHUBERT



Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

The aquarium Fishuary would be AMAZING to have
Reopen please.



Immanuel vita

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support Science Based Fishery management.

Please reopen aquarium Fishery.

L-L

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I Support the Aquarium/coral Industry

Jayle Au

Ryle Au 8/5/23

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support Science based fishery management
Please open the aquarium fishery. - Jimmy Clark


Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support science based fisheries, coral export
also to preserve genetic samples. Reopen!

 John P. Runtich

I support science based and well managed fisheries. Through proper monitoring and collaboration, an environmentally sound balance can be achieved. Both nature and economy can work together to support a long term and sustainable practice. ~~With~~ Hawaii has an opportunity to be a global leader in ~~an ecological~~ science based fishery practice. Through collaboration, black market practice can be eliminated and ^{focus on} supporting a fishery management practice that benefits the environment and the economy.

Sincerely,


Justyne Beavers

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I SUPPORT REOPENING THE HAWAII AQUARIUM FISHER

BEN ROS




BENJAMINROS@GMAIL.COM

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the opening of the Hawaii Aquaculture
Fishery

MARK ODORZGA


HOUSEOFFRODO@EMAIL.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Michael Fuentes - I support Ag

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support reopening the fishery

Ruth Hernandez

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ruth Hernandez', written in a cursive style.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the West Hawaii Aquarium
Fishery!

Allyson

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I SUPPORT THE WEST HAWAII AQUARIUM FISHERY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. F. [unclear]', written in a cursive style.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the West Hawaii Aquarium fishery

Dee Luth

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery.

Amanda Aguilar.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I Support West Hawaii
aquatic survey

Rob Hansson

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

REMAIN RE-OPEN THE FISHERY!

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Reopening the Hawaii fisheries
is extremely important! Listen
to the science. The Hawaii
fisheries are and have been
very sustainable.

Sincerely,

Suke Smith

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Dear Mean People,

Please bring back my favorite fish the yellow Tang. I vow to clean up the beach quarterly if you allow permitting, we hope to see these fish back this year. Thank you for your works in assistance.

Patrick Lal

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

SCIENCE SPEAKS FOR ITSELF
RE OPEN THE FISHERY!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert A. J.", written in black ink.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Support the reopening of fisheries.



Reopen the fisheries in
Hawaii!

Jake Sandefur

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Hello,

I absolutely support the West
Hawaii aquaculture fisheries, because they
employ a proven, science-based solution
for saving the fish + reef.

Richard Sands

From: [Elaine Orenberg-Anderson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Against DAR package to open reef to commercial capture of reef fish
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 8:12:13 AM

Dear Sirs:

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.

The DAR proposal will forever damage the precious treasure of reef fish.

I oppose the DAR plan.

Elaine Anderson
68-1122 N. Kaniku Dr. Apt 208
Kamuela, HI 96743 (Big Island of Hawaii)

From: [Brigitte Axelrode](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F-2 BLNR Meeting, Aquarium Fishing Testimony
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 10:34:50 AM

Aloha e BLNR,

I am Brigitte Leilani Axelrode from 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 of Hawai'i, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for commercial export.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony,

Brigitte Axelrode

Brigitte (Gigi) Leilani Axelrode

(she/her/they/ 'o ia)

MA Political Science

Lecturer,

Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

From: [Mike Balut](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 2:58:05 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mike Balut** <mbalut@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 22, 2025 at 8:17 AM
Subject: October 24 Agenda Item F.2
To: <Testimony@hawaii.gov>

My name is Michael Balut and I travel periodically from Grand Rapids, Michigan to each of the Hawaiian islands to help preserve coral reefs from disease and other forces that harm Hawaii's delicate and critical marine ecosystems. Marine protection policies have proven to be one of the most effective ways to preserve these environments.

I am very concerned about any policies and/or practices such as reef wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade which will most certainly harm Hawaii's delicate marine ecosystem. **Please reject any request to remove reef wildlife, including all marine animals, coral species and live rock.** Doing so will enable your families, future generations and Hawaii's economy to continue to benefit from the coastal protection, food supplies and aqua-tourism that Hawaii's healthy reefs provide.

Please do not be swayed by the biased environmental impact study that was prepared by a single special interest group. Your beautiful islands are far too precious to relinquish for short-term money!

Thank you for your continued care, concern and protection of Hawaii's precious marine ecosystem.

--

Michael Balut
Email: mbalut@gmail.com
Phone: +1.616.292.1218

--

Mike Balut
Email: mbalut@gmail.com
Phone: +1.616.292.1218

From: [Joyce Barbarich](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: [Fern Gavelek](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BAN commercial fishing of reef fish!
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 6:04:48 AM

I understand that the Division of Aquatic Resources is preparing to adopt new rules permitting commercial fishing of eight specific reef fish species by up to seven permittees. This is the OPPOSITE of the “reasonable controls” that had been promised and will lead to a worsening of the already-dire condition of reef populations. Anyone who has been getting in our waters regularly would know that fish populations have fallen. The new rules will permit commercial activities to decimate even more local populations. VOTE NO on the new rules!

Mahalo,
Joyce Barbarich
Keauhou, Kailua-Kona 96740

From: [Donna Bender](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Totally environmentally irresponsible
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 6:36:20 AM

DAR wanting to re-open Hawaii's reef to commercial aquarium collecting is obviously insane.

You see this right?

You are not bamboozled by DAR's proposal?

They want to silence our voices and have more power for themselves.

IF DAR gets their way it shows that Hawaii's conservation intentions will be by passed,
more environmental destruction of our reefs, financial irresponsibility with more management costs,
and don't forget the public opposition to this all.

STAND UP TO THIS.

Donna Bender Colony Surf, Honolulu/Oahu

From: [Bobbie Best](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 1:29:37 PM

Aloha Chair Chang and BNLR Board Members,

In Opposition to Agenda item F.2

My name is ___Bobbie Best___.

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 ridiculous.

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

Bobbie Best, Wailuku
808-350-1554

From: [Harry Betancourt](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oct 24 ; Agenda item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 8:34:45 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. Protect and Conserve this fragile irriplacable resource.

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.

A recent scientific poll found 84% of Oahu and Hawaii Island residents support permanently ending the commercial capture of reef fish. Only 10% support the large-scale capture proposed in this draft rule .

Mahalo for honoring your kūleana
Harry Betancourt
Moku o Hawai'i

From: [Bethany E](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Safeguard reef life
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 5:15:40 AM

Good morning!

I have recently been informed of the possible decision of allowing for fish to be taken for commercial aquariums off the reefs of Hawaii. This is a very saddening situation that disrespects both the community of Hawaii as well as creation itself.

In a world of such much chaos, greed, and blatant evil especially to our environment the last thing we need is for more reefs and its creatures to be harmed.

I beg you to please redraft the rules to align with honor and responsibility. You need to reflect the community's values not betray them. Do not revive the very trade the proposed rules were meant to end. Do not let your legacy be one of destruction and exploitation, but rather one of peace and trustworthiness.

Sincerely,
A Concerned Citizen

From: [Tammara Billik](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October Agenda Item F-2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 2:02:07 PM

Hello my name is Tammy Billik from Kihei, Maui

I am very upset that the re-drafting on this rule completely overturns the original mission of keeping our reef fish safe and in Hawaii.

Please don't sell out. Keep our reefs safe and intact for our keiki!

Mahalo nui loa,

Tammy Billik

From: [Lisa Bishop](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 BLNR Meeting; testimony for Agenda Item F2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 10:09:58 AM

Friends of Hanauma Bay Strong Opposition to DAR's Proposal in Agenda Item F2

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

Friends of Hanauma Bay strongly opposes the rules package that DAR has drafted to re-open Hawaii's reefs to commercial aquarium collecting presented to you today as Agenda Item F2.

This action is a profound betrayal of the public's trust and a backslide into secrecy, since it culminates in the removal of BLNR's oversight of aquarium collection permits by transferring full authority to DAR itself.

What began as a **community-led petition** to ban commercial aquarium collection statewide - **which was unanimously approved by BLNR** - has been subverted. Instead, of protecting reef life, DAR's draft rules package once again bows to the aquarium trade and allows the cruel capture of hundreds of thousands of reef fish every year, most of which die in transport or because of the inhumane measures taken to ready them for transport.

Per instructions from Chair Chang, this rules package was supposed to "take full consideration of the petition to ban" and create "something short of zero." Instead, DAR ignored those directions and, once again working closely with the aquarium trade, created a draft plan that will empty Hawaii's reefs for profit instead of safeguarding them for future generations.

DAR's institutional opposition to protecting Hawai'i reef fishes from the extractive international aquarium collecting industry is remarkable. We all know the fish leave our waters for the national and international marketplace. These extractive international aquarium fish consortia

don't fund major local reef restoration, aquaculture, or educational outreach projects in Hawai'i. Industry profits don't return to Hawai'i. The vast majority of Hawai'i residents oppose the harvesting of our reef fish for the aquarium collection industry that has an obscene kill rate just in transportation alone. Yet leadership in DAR continues to ignore the Chair of BLNR, BLNR, and the majority of Hawai'i residents on this issue. Why?

Further, DAR is also moving to stifle dissent and silence the public by proposing to remove BLNR's oversight of aquarium collecting permits and transfer that authority to DAR. This would allow permits to be issued behind closed doors with no public notice, scrutiny, or opportunity for input. Again, why?

More outrageously, this is a repeat of DAR's August 2024 attempt to bypass BLNR which was withdrawn after public outrage and assurance that permitting would remain under the oversight of BLNR.

We have had great partnerships with DAR over the years, and laud the work their staff does all over Hawai'i Nei.

But they are on the wrong side of this issue.

Please do not approve this draft. Aquarium fish collecting should be banned statewide. Period. And the issue should never be taken away from the oversight of the BLNR.

With Aloha,

Lisa Bishop, MS
President
Friends of Hanauma Bay
Oahu

Lisa

Lisa Bishop, MS

Friends of Hanauma Bay I President

lisa.fohb@gmail.com

(808) 748-1819

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From: [Gary Borman](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 4:09:49 PM

Aloha Members of The Division of Aquatic Resources,

Please send the rules back for redrafting so that they reflect the community's wishes to safeguard our already fragile reef systems and fish.
The new draft does **not** reflect the Community's wishes.

Allowing and expanding Aquarium Trade is a betrayal of the public trust.

Please restore that 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 fish for our island population and our visitors and not destroy and exploit them so a few people can profit.
Please please please.

Thank you for your time and hearing my concerns.
Gary Borman
Kamuela
Big Island of Hawaii

From: [Kim Crawford](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - Opposition to DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 4:20:38 PM

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

My name is Kimberly Crawford 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 a Kia'i Loko (fishpond guardian) to Kaloko Loko i'a. As a kia'i loko we recognize our role as the watchdogs of things that happen both mauka and makai, in the nearshore and the offshore spaces as it all affects the health, wellness, and productivity of our resource. As of current there are an abundance of stressors that are affecting our marine life from Pollution, over consumption of groundwater, overfishing, anthropogenic disturbance, habitat loss etc. We do not need to add the selfish act of aquarium fishing back to the list of stressors that are hurting Hawaii's ability to sustain it self and hurt cultural practices that are protected by constitutional rights.

We need every fish we can get to contribute to a healthy biodiversity of our our oceans because a healthy biodiversity means our oceans community will be able to better withstand environmental changes like climate change. The more fish we have the wider the range of functions that can be performed in a community of fish like herbivores eating overgrown limu on the reef to carnivores weeding out sickly fish and balancing food webs, others creating more habitat. If one species declines the other can step into its place.

Bottom line is Collecting fish for a luxury pet trade is not a reasonable or beneficial use of a food and cultural resource and should never be reinstated. It is the DLNR's responsibility to align and implement the public trust doctrine for the long term benefit of the people of Hawaii not a privatized commercial export.

Thank you for your time,
Kimberly Crawford
Kona Hawaii

From: [Surinder Brar](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oct 24, Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 7:19:58 AM

Dear BLNR;

I am opposed to opening the reef allowing commercial aquarium collection of fish.

I have lived on the Kohakla coast for 14 years and have already seen a dramatic reduction in fish when I snorkel.

BLNR needs to restore public trust by reflecting the community's desire to safeguard reef life.

Surinder Brar
Kamuela
Hawaii

From: [Vanessa Cabilan](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 10:43:39 PM

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

My name is Vanessa Cabilan, 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,
Vanessa Cabilan
‘Aiea, O’ahu

From: fiona@rgcameron.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 BLNR Meeting - Agenda Item F2 - Commercial Aquarium Fishing West Hawaii
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 10:33:19 AM

Dear BLNR

I am a part time resident of Mauna Lani on the Big Island, and appreciate the efforts of the BLNR to protect our West Hawaii environment.

I do not understand why, with so many marine conservation and management areas established in West Hawaii to protect marine life, this proposal to allow commercial aquarium fishing is being proposed.

The proposed annual catch limits are ridiculously high in my opinion. Reef fish are under pressure from climate change and pollution and should be protected, not harvested for aquariums.

This activity should be banned outright. In the absence of that, the limits for annual catch should be severely reduced well below the suggested limits to reduce the impact.

In addition, allowing an entity in Honolulu to control this activity is entirely inappropriate when the impact will only be felt in West Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Fiona Cameron

CHAIR CHANG AND BOARD MEMBERS,

I SUPPORT OPENING THE AQUARIUM FISHERY IN HAWAII. THE SCIENCE SUPPORTS THAT THIS IS A SUSTAINABLE, WELL MANAGED FISHERY AND PERMITS SHOULD BE ISSUED.

THANK YOU,
SARA CHEN

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support issuing permits and reopening the West Hawaii aquarium fishery. This fishery has been through HEPA and has decades of studies and scientific data that support the sustainability of the fishery. It's well managed by DAR based on science.

Mahalo.

Joan Sydney

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support issuing permits for the aquarium fishery in west Hawaii.

Jana Serrano

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support reopening the aquarium fishery because it has been through the environmental review and proven to be sustainable. Sustainable fisheries should be supported and used as examples of how to better those fisheries that are less studied and with less intensive management. DAR has done a great job with the aquarium fishery.

Mahalo,
Phoebe Noi

Dear Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources:

I'm supporting the aquarium fishery and think that permits should be issued.

Thank you,
Gen Bets

I support reopening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Genevive Vitalis

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support issuing permits for the aquarium fishery in West Hawaii. It has completed the HEPA review.

Thank you,
B. Cunningham

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support opening the aquarium fishery in West Hawaii and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Thank you,
Sean Bradshaw

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support reopening the west hawaii aquarium fishery and issuing permits to do so.

Thank you very much,
Kathleen Labio

Aloha Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support re-opening the aquarium fishery in west Hawaii. It's the only fishery to successfully complete the environmental review and it's the only fishery to be so heavily managed which will help keep plentiful fish stocks.

Thank you,
Kathy Marnell

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support issuing permits for the West Hawaii aquarium fishery.

Thank you,
A. Pua

I support reopening the aquarium fishery in West Hawaii and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Seth Cowan

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support the aquarium fishery because it went through the HEPA process and is a sustainable fishery. I support reissuing permits and opening West Hawaii.

Thank you,
Norm Laude

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support issuing permits and opening the aquarium fishery.

Peter DeMaio

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support opening the aquarium fishery and issuing permits for West Hawaii. The scientific data proves this is a sustainable fishery with good management ensuring proper protection and growth of fish stocks.

Mahalo,

M. Levy

Dear Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support issuing permits to reopen the aquarium fishery. Thank you.

Mark Y.

Aloha Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the aquarium fishery and reissuing permits to allow fishing in West Hawaii again. Good management backed by science is key to ensuring it remains sustainable.

Mahalo,
Will Alvarado

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Mickey Flanks

Chair Chang and Board Members:

I support issuing permits for west Hawaii aquarium fishing.

Thank you,
Derick Russell

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support reopening the West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR. With so few permits allowed and catch limits in place for the only eight species that can be caught will really help ensure that fish populations will not be depleted.

Thank you,
Katalina Velasco

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I'm testifying in support of issuing permits to reopen the aquarium fishery in West Hawaii.

Mahalo,
Manu Townes

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support the aquarium fishery and reopening West Hawaii for fishing.

Thank you,
Elana Yasi

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support reopening the aquarium fishery in West Hawaii and managing this fishery in accordance with the science behind it.

Thank you,

M. Lee

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support opening the aquarium fishery.

Thank you,
B. McLeod

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support permitting and reopening West Hawaii aquarium fishing.

Randy Sullivan

Dear Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support issuing permits and opening the aquarium fishery. Management has been in place and has proven to be highly effective.

Chris Sacorro

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support reopening the aquarium fishery on the Big Island. It's a proven sustainable fishery.

Mahalo,
Nora Estabillo

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support issuing permits for aquarium fishing.

Mahalo,
Camille Sevilla

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support reopening the aquarium fishery in West Hawaii. I support issuing permits. The HEPA review has been completed and accepted.

Mahalo,

Dave Melvin

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support permitting and opening the West Hawaii aquarium fishery.

Shelby Lin

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I strongly support issuing permits for the West Hawaii aquarium fishery.

Mahalo,
Cole Patterson
Kona

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support the aquarium fishery and believe permits should be issued so the fishery can be reopened in West Hawaii.

Thank you,
Amy Saari

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I'm supporting reissuing permits to open the aquarium fishery in West Hawaii.

Mahalo,
Theo Sal

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the aquarium fishery and issuing permits for West Hawaii. The fishery is backed by scientific studies showing it's sustainable. And it completed HEPA.

F. Long

Chair Chang and Board Members:

I support the aquarium fishery and issuing permits on the Big Island. The fishery has completed the required HEPA review. As shown in studies done by DAR/DLNR, fish populations are increasing and this fishery is sustainable.

Mahalo,

B. Chun

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support issuing permits and reopening West Hawaii aquarium fishing.

Mahalo,
Tom Soloway

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I fully support issuing permits and reopening the aquarium fishery. It completed the HEPA review. It's sustainable and good management based in science, as set forth by DAR, will see to it that it stays that way.

Thank you very much.

W. Johnson

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members-

I support issuing permits and allowing the aquarium fishery to reopen.

Thank you,

Nelson L.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I support reopening the aquarium fishery and issuing permits for West Hawaii. I believe there is ample scientific data that confirms proper management of this fishery has worked to ensure it is sustainable.

Mahalo.

Yuen Fung

I support issuing permits for the West Hawaii aquarium fishery.

Mahalo,

Nalani I.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support issuing permits for West Hawaii aquarium fishing. This fishery has completed the HEPA review and should be allowed to re-open.

Lani Whitflye

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support issuing permits and reopening the aquarium fishery.

Thanks,

Hailie Go

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support issuing permits and reopening the aquarium fishery in Hawaii as well as managing resources according to the science that backs it up.

Mahalo,
Brad Ray

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support issuing permits and reopening aquarium fishing in West Hawaii. This has been a well managed fishery and it will be only a handful of permits with limits so no danger of over fishing.

Mahalo,

G.H. Tiongco

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I fully support issuing permits for the aquarium fishery in West Hawaii.

Thank you,
Amie Torrez

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I'm in favor of issuing permits and reopening the aquarium fishery in West Hawaii.

Lynda Young

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support re-opening the west Hawaii aquarium fishery and I support science based management provided by DAR.

Gale Bensi

I support reopening the aquarium fishery and issuing permits for West Hawaii.

Hazel Ignacio

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I'm in support of reopening the aquarium fishery and issuing permits for West Hawaii fishing. This fishery has been proven sustainable and with good management and far fewer permits being issued then it certainly will remain sustainable.

Mahalo,

Rob Alvare

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support issuing permits and opening the aquarium fishery.

Thank you.

W. Ramos

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support issuing permits and opening the aquarium fishery as it has years of scientific data that demonstrate the health and vitality of the fishery, which goes to show how effectively the state has managed it.

Thank you,
Flora Reyme

I support reopening the aquarium fishery in West Hawaii and issuing permits.

Mahalo,

Bella Marsh

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support opening the aquarium fishery in West Hawaii and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Thank you very much,
Chloe Herredia

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support issuing permits to allow aquarium fishing in West Hawaii, and
I support managing resources by science as provided by DAR.

Mahalo,
Maria Tiongco

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support issuing permits and allowing aquarium fishing to resume in West Hawaii.

Thank You,
JJ Diep

I support issuing permits for reopening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Jonjon de Vera

Dear Chair Chang and Board Members,

The aquarium fishery on the Big Island has been proven sustainable and I support reopening it. Please issue permits.

Mahalo,
K. Ray

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I'd like to submit my support for issuing aquarium fishing permits. I support reopening the fishery.

Mahalo,

Jeane Louis

I support reopening the West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Mahalo,
Jacquelyn Dominguez

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources:

I support issuing permits and reopening the aquarium fishery on the Big Island.

**Thank you,
Cary Garrett.**

Aloha Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support issuing permits and reopening the aquarium fishery. Resources should be managed by science and this fishery has been a model of good management based on many years of studies and scientific data.

Thank you,
Mitzi Bue

I support reopening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Lito Cayetano

Aloha Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the aquarium fishery and believe it should be reopened again. I support the issuance of permits for West Hawaii fishing.

Mahalo,
Kaipo Rodeck

Hello,

I support opening the aquarium fishery in West Hawaii and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Austin Walton

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support managing resources by science and reopening the aquarium fishery in West Hawaii. Support issuing permits.

Mahalo,
Fey Clark

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support opening the aquarium fishery with sound management backed by science. I support issuing permits for West Hawaii.

Dale Lin

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources Members,

I'm testifying in support of reopening the aquarium fishery and issuing permits for West Hawaii.

Thank you,

Irene Smith

I support re-opening the West Hawaii aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Dianna Aguada

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support issuing aquarium fishing permits and believe this fishery has been proven sustainable. It should be allowed to operate like any other fishery in Hawaii.

Leanna Gonzalves

From: [Melina Clark](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 7:04:56 AM

Regarding the lifting of the ban on aquarium fishing, 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,
Melina Clark,
Waianae, Oahu.

From: [jeffrey.coakley](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24: Agenda Item: F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 10:44:58 AM

Aloha,

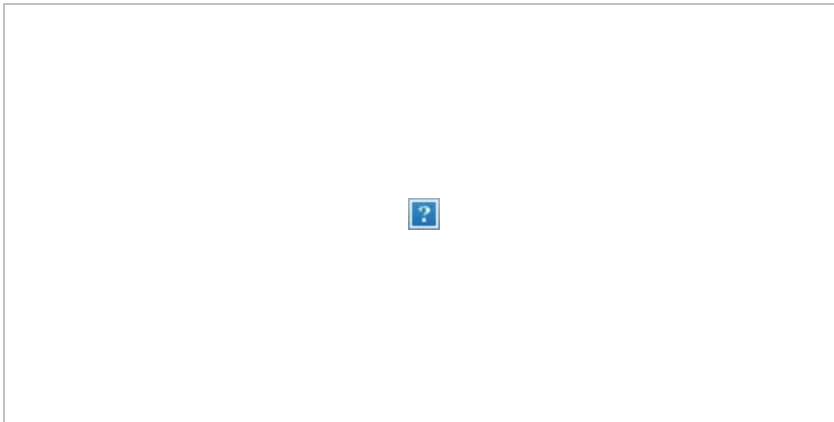
My name is Jeffrey Kalani Coakley. I live on the Big Island district of Kohala in the town of Kapaau. i am 78 years old and have been spear fishing since I was 10 years of age. My father was my teacher and what we caught was to feed our family and to share with our extended family and neighbors.

I am sure you have received numerous testimonies against the aquarium fish trade, citing logical reasons against the commercialization of our reef fish. I can do the same but it would not convey what I would really want to say. What I want to say is that the aquarium reef business is a another form of slavery, but who cares it's just some fish swimming around in the ocean that can bring up to \$150 or more just for one fish. "Imagine" one of our political representatives exclaimed, \$150 just for one fish!

Emotional? Yes! But I know I am right.

Mahalo,
Jeffrey Coakley

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From: [Vivian](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24, 2025 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 8:07:39 AM

As a resident of Maui I and other residents and visitors enjoy snorkeling our beautiful reefs. It is extremely disturbing to hear that there may be reopening of fish collection for selling to the aquarium trade! Please do not allow this as removal of fish will disrupt the balance of reef life. With fewer fish in their natural setting not only will this destroy the ecosystem of the reefs it impact tourism as many come to the islands to enjoy snorkeling and diving to observe the marine life.

Mahalo for reviewing my concern.

Vivian Cohen
Kihei
Maui
Sent from my iPhone

From: [John Cranshaw](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose agenda item: F2 Proposed aquarium collecting rule
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 3:14:33 PM

Dear Chair and Board Members,

Please do NOT approve the DAR proposal to reopen Hawaii's reefs to commercial aquarium collecting.

Past collecting led to severe local depletion of species such as yellow tang, especially along leeward O'ahu and West Hawai'i. Only after nearly half the coastline was closed did these populations rebound. Today there are still no formal stock assessments for the eight species proposed for harvest, and DAR's own review acknowledges uncertainties and cumulative reef stress from warming, runoff, and pollution.

Reopening extraction now would risk reversing decades of recovery. I urge the Board to maintain the current moratorium and focus on reef protection, monitoring, and non-extractive ocean uses that sustain community and ecosystem health.

Mahalo,

John Cranshaw
Kailua Kona
Hawai'i Island

From: [Robert Culbertson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24, Agenda Item F2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 9:01:06 AM
Attachments: [Schaar2020_AQ_CBA.pdf](#)

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

Like many gathered here, I am profoundly dismayed by the perverse turn of events in the DAR presentation. Good faith in working for the public interest has clearly been broken by DAR. (Members should ask themselves, WHY?)

What we are realizing is that DAR intends a reboot of the prior AQ industry driven program, despite the most recent community based 'petitioner's initiative'. But it goes even further this time in its affront to the Public Trust responsibility they and YOU all hold. Now they want to usurp the Board's authority and make rules 'internally'. So, first and foremost, they must not be allowed to rewrite the administrative rules and duck out of public accountability before and with this Board!

I will leave others to cite the compound cultural, ecological and ethical problems we all clearly see. But I ask your attention on just one aspect of the entire enterprise that looms so large it may be taken for granted. I am speaking of the inherent financial inequity and burden imposed on us, the taxpaying public.

DAR's devotion to the industry's solvency has for decades committed the public to a worst-in-kind accounting scam, albeit theft of public resources, both natural and financial. For the mere price of \$100, a single collector could receive a license and right to operate as a commercial collector of aquarium fish, a substantially unsupervised business with virtually unlimited take potential.

Meanwhile, *the financial burden for administration, monitoring, and enforcement amounted to millions of dollars in public expense to our both state and federal agencies.* **What a boondoggle!**

By all intents and purposes the 'capture' of DAR by the collectors appears to be complete, especially now with this bonus proposal to take away any future public hearings and further rule making by THIS BOARD. How does this comport with the Board's public charge?

Finally, common sense and good faith should lead you to ask yourself and each other, *why should we continue to subsidize this trade which damages our reefs, sends economic vitality away from our shores, and stirs anger in our people?*

Thank you for this hearing.

Now, please do the right thing! Reinstate the original petitioner's requests and act on them accordingly, in good faith. You have the power!

For a further cost benefit analysis supporting this case see also:

Schaar2020_AQ_CBA.pdf
(attached)

"The results indicate that the current (status quo) and recent (2016) management frameworks for Hawai'i's marine aquarium fishery are not the most equitable or efficient pathways for management of this fishery. The most preferred policy scenario is a statewide ban on collection and exportation of wild-caught ornamental aquaria from Hawai'i."

R A Culbertson
Honokaa

From: [Genevieve Davis](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 Aquarium Fishing
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 8:54:34 PM

Aloha,

My name is Genevieve & I am a Big Island resident. I am writing this to urge the BLNR not to open our reefs to aquarium fishing and to protect our reef fish population.

Much of the tourism and our economy in Hawaii depends on healthy reefs and tropical fish that people travel from all over the world to see. Many of the species that would be targeted for aquariums are herbivores that eat algae and help to keep our struggling coral healthy.

I work on a tour boat and like many who live on Hawai'i rely on healthy reefs and abundant fish for my livelihood. Decrease in reef fish population would put many jobs at risk.

Our coral reefs and fish are already battling ocean pollution, cesspools, rising water temperatures and overfishing. Protect Hawaii's most precious resource-our coral reefs.

Mahalo
Genevieve

From: [Cynthia Rogala](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of F2 Opening the Hawaiian Aquarium Fishery
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 9:02:36 AM

Good afternoon,

I am emailing to express my support of F2 and opening the Hawaiian Aquarium Fishery managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Thank you

Cynthia A. DeLillo

From: [Steve Dennis](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 9:32:39 PM

Aloha,

We are part time residents on the South Kohala Coast of the Big Island and have been diving and snorkeling here for over 40 years.

The reefs are in trouble. The corals are dying, the urchins are taking over, and the fish population is suffering.

Allowing fish collecting for the aquarium trade is unconscionable.

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.

Steve & Sona Dennis
Mauna Lani Terrace
Hawaii Island

Steven J. Dennis
SJD Consulting
Email: oceansteward@hotmail.com
Mobile: 831 915-8332

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: eaglv@aol.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 8:16:13 AM

Hello,

I've visited Hawaii several times. Hawai'i is in my heart, I want 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! Destroying any part of the biodiversity of Hawaii would be a travesty and all of you know it.

Sincerely,
Anthony Donnici
Kansas City, MO

From: abfishinc@aol.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-2 Proposal - Hawai'i DLNR
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 9:58:24 AM
Attachments: [Embedded1522126979977.png](#)

October 22,2025

Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i

In the past eight years we learned as well as supported the need for Hawaiian fishers and documented science to develop sustainable-ecological programs. We learned Hawaii can continue to manage it's marine ecosystems (some of the best managed in the world) while supporting the economic needs of native Hawaiians.

I support and urge Hawai'i state representatives and governing officials to reopen and submit licenses to responsible fishers who will follow the F-2 Proposal guidelines on October 24th. By doing so, Hawai'i takes responsible control of their economic sourcing of a sustainable commodity. Most importantly eliminating poaching and illegal fishing/exporting practices.

Much like the ancient fish ponds of Ahupua'a, the political aspects of this sociocultural system can contribute greatly to the development of environmentally sourced sustainable livestock for the expansive aquaculture and mariculture network.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

D. Patrick Donston
BS MS Zoology
Aquatic Specialist & Owner

Absolutely Fish 

1080 Route 46 West
Clifton, NJ 07013
<http://www.AbsolutelyFish.com>
973-365-0200

From: [Jennifer Dorse](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] HI Reef Fish
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 7:25:18 AM

Aloha,

A friend forwarded me an email saying that the BLNR is about to open our (Hawaii) reefs to unmitigated take of our marine fish. I to beg you to please not allow this to happen.

I have lived on Maui for 20 years. I swim in the ocean about four days a week. There are hardly any fish left. They are so scarce that it is really quite alarming. The fish face so many challenges including, climate change, pollution/run off, over fishing and now possible harvesting for aquariums. I am not a scientist, but I can see the facts out there while I am swimming. Please do not allow our reef fish to be taken. In fact, protection of our fish should be implemented before it is too late and there are no fish left.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Dorse
Kihei, HI

From: [Rodney Dowdle](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 4:45:36 PM

Aloha,

My name is Rodney Dowdle, I live in Haiku as a permanent resident on the island of Maui.

I strongly oppose permitting any commercial taking of fishes from Hawaiian waters for aquarium or other businesses.

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: [AOL MAIL](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to aquarium fishing rules
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 9:30:29 PM

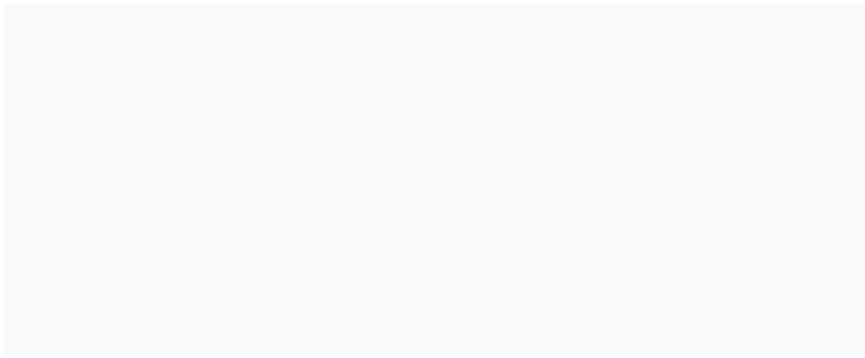
Diane Duke
Hawaii Island

Please do not allow our previous fish to be taken for aquariums. Or refs are in danger. Nothing should jeopardize their restoration. This will.

“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.”

Diane Duke

10.21.25



[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

From: [Marianne Eaton](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] WRITTEN TESTIMONY Agenda item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:05:56 PM

October 21, 2025

Dear BLNR:

I am a kupuna who loves to swim in the ocean and have been for the last 18 years that I've lived here. I live on the Big Island and swim 3 to 4 times a week at Mahukona which is 7 minutes from my home. I cannot believe the Division of Aquatic Resources has drafted a rule package to re-open Hawai'i's reefs to commercial aquarium collecting AGAIN! This is an ongoing threat to our reefs that I thought I wouldn't have to fight for anymore. This action is a profound betrayal of the public's trust.

Here are a few issues why this matters to me:

- A **betrayal** to the community's conservation intent.
- **Greed!** I hear the proposed catch limits are 400% higher than what seven collectors reported taking annually for 20 years
- **Environment destruction.** With no set limits to prevent depletion every reef would be vulnerable to degradation and collapse.
- **Extreme fiscal irresponsibility.** The estimated management costs could exceed \$500,00!
- **Contradicts scientific researchers.** They agree that reef fish abundance must increase here for reefs to withstand the effects of climate change.
- **Not Humane.** Capturing these fish and transporting them thousands of miles in conditions that are often fatal is not humane. 40 percent of wild caught fish bound for pet stores perish before they arrive on the sales floor. Collection methods include cruel practices such as puncturing swim bladders to bring fish to the surface more quickly. Fins and spines are cut before transport to enable the use of cheaper, thinner bags. Fish are starved before shipment so they don't foul the water in the bags.
- **OVERWHELMING PUBLIC OPPOSITION.**

Please send the rules back for redrafting so that they reflect the community's call to safeguarding our reef life. This will restore the public's trust by keeping the permitting authority with BLNR itself.

Yours Truly,

Marianne Eaton
808-640-5749
PO Box 190675
Hawi, HI. 96719

From: [jimelder](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NO!!
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 5:28:41 PM

I can't believe you guys are even considering opening up the AQ rape of the reefs again! What are you thinking? I spent 28 years putting yellow tangs in prison and my conscience is just starting to heal. How many of those poor fish died in containment in China and various countries in Europe with so called experts taking care of them. Not thousands; MILLIONS! I probably took close to a million myself and I wasn't even a heavy hitter! Do not be fooled by the few remaining divers who say they will abide by the rules and only catch so many fish and leave certain species alone. They are LYING! Plain and simple. Why would you reopen this old wound to the whims of just a FEW! There aren't enough divers left to fire this fiasco back up again. I oppose any and all bills connected with any kind of reopening and I was one of the OG's who started the whole thing! Listen to your Elders! I know what I'm talking about. Do not give in and allow these poor fish to be rounded up by the thousands daily and break coral wherever they hunt them down and screw up the whole ecosystem all over again. I have been diving and reporting the Conservation Society about the numbers of returning fish and there is still a very long ways to go. Do the right thing and don't appease these divers. Stand up for Hawaii's reefs and fish! Sincerely, James Elder

From: [Kanani Enos](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 11:47:42 AM

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

My name is Kanani Enos. I am a kupa o ka ‘āina, born and raised in Kapalilua, an area commonly referred to as Kona Hema or South Kona. My father was a kanaka lawai‘a, a fisherman, as was his grandfather before him, who taught him the ways of living with deep respect for the ocean and its natural cycles, so that he could feed his children, his extended family, as well as his community when needed. The ocean and shoreline of Kona Hema fed us growing up, and the fish my father brought home that he caught using his canoe, or his throw net or pole, was our main source of protein and nutrition. He only took what he needed, fished in the right seasons, and respected the life cycles of all that is Kanaloa, the ocean, as did many of our ‘ohana members of our coastal communities and villages along our Kona coast, like the multitude of generations that came before them.

The respect and intelligence with which my father engaged the ocean set the foundation of my life. It is through this lens, inherited from my father, and the many kūpuna like him, that I look at the management of our West Hawaii ocean and its resources and see that there is much opportunity for growth and balance to be restored.

Today, reflecting on my connection to the ocean of Kona and its resources, I am testifying in strong opposition to the proposed aquarium fishing rules and ask you to NOT approve public hearings at this time.

Additionally, I respectfully ask you to:

- 1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability.
- 2) Please send DAR back to work with petitioners on a rules package as directed on December 8, 2023, taking in full consideration the Petitioner request.
- 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 Hawaii'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 the foundation of all of life here in Hawai'i. Please uphold your duty to protect them.

Mahalo nui for your time,
Sonja Kanani Enos
Hōnaunau, Hawai'i



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

October 22, 2025

Email: BLNR.TESTIMONY@HAWAII.GOV

Subject: *October 24; Agenda Item F.2*

To: The Honorable Dawn Chang, Chair, and Members,
Board of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawai'i

Re: Draft Rules on Taking of Reef Fishes for Aquarium Trade, Proposed by
Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR)

Hearing: Friday, October 24, 2025

Position: **STRONG OPPOSITION**

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

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and its Natural Resources Committee are in strong opposition to the draft rules proposed by DAR to authorize potentially very large catches of iconic native reef fishes for the aquarium trade. We are aware that some authorization may be allowed under the Hawai'i Supreme Court's decision on this issue in 2017. However, we believe that DAR's proposed rules open the door much too wide.

The Environmental Caucus has more than 7,000 members statewide. We reside on all the major islands, and many are active in marine activities of multiple sorts.

Our colleagues who focus in detail on the aquarium trade issue believe that the DAR's new rules would allow for collection of more than four times the number of individual fish as were collected under permits prior to the Supreme Court's rule. We believe that the Supreme Court did not contemplate such a very large taking of fishes under reinstated rules.

We strongly urge the Board to reject DAR's proposed rules and send DAR back to revise the rules to ensure that any future permits would allow for collection of far fewer fish than were allowed under the standards that existed before 2017. Our near-shore marine environment continues to suffer from the unmitigated effects of tens of thousands of cesspools that are NOT being shut down, as well as other pollution of our reefs, which are close to collapse in too many areas around our islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

Alan B. Burdick, Co-Chair
Environmental Caucus, and Co-Chair
Natural Resources Committee of the Environmental Caucus

Burdick808@gmail.com 808-927-1500

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

To : BLNR
From : Thalia Fajans Honalo, Hawai'i.

Please honor the requests of the majority of Hawai'i residents and permanently ban the commercial take of reef fish.
Please tell the aquarium trade - 'an'ole.

Mahalo.

From: [Katy Fenn](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 2:32:04 PM

My family lived in Hawai'i many years ago and they impressed on me the magical nature of these islands. It is only common sense that there should be absolutely NO collection of reef wildlife for any commercial purposes. The harms would be completely devastating to an ecosystem already under multiple serious threats, particularly climate change. Hawai'i's future can only be assured by a healthy ocean and that means healthy, biodiverse coral reefs, which when protected, attract billions of dollars in tourism money. Why sacrifice this for the aquarium trade? Not only will it harm the environment and the economy, it is deeply, morally wrong to sacrifice wildlife for the short-term profits of a few. Please protect Hawai'i's reefs and reject reef wildlife collection for any reason except highly controlled, peer-reviewed science in the interest of protecting the health of the reefs or wildlife.

Kathryn Fenn

From: [Cory Ferris](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda item F2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:18:33 PM

Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board,

My name is Cory Lau Ferris, I live in Kaimuki on O'ahu and I am asking that you please send the rules held in item F2 back for further editing so that they may support the community's desires to protect our reef fish.

I'm concerned that the current way things are going will allow even more fish to be harmed.

I want to be able to swim and see our fish in their homes.

Fair weather

Cory

From: [Raynae Fonoimoana](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 9:11:02 AM

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

My name is Raynae Fonoimoana 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,
Raynae Fonoimoana
Ko'olauloa Hawaiian Civic Club
Hau'ula, 'Oahu, Hawaii

From: [Carol](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 2:19:33 PM

From: Caroline Frantzis, Kihei, Maui.

Over the two decades that I have owned a property in Kihei, as an avid snorkeler and diver, I have witnessed a dramatic reduction in aquatic life in reefs all over Maui. I was heartened when commercial tropical fish collection was banned in Hawaii from January 2021 onward.

Now I am appalled to hear that there are plans to reverse this aquarium fishing ban in the State of Hawaii, with dramatically increased catch limits than were in force prior to the ban and no local limits to prevent degradation and collapse of individual reef ecosystems, as has already occurred in leeward Oahu.

Rather than reflecting local communities' overwhelming opposition to tropical fish collection, the proposed rule provides a framework for large-scale commercial aquarium fishing. It is also fiscally irresponsible, with permitting revenues providing less than 3% of the state's management costs for aquarium collection. Furthermore, the barren reefs resulting from the proposed DAR rule package, aside from being an irreversible ecological disaster, will reduce Hawaii's future tourism revenue, as tourists choose to visit thriving reefs in other locations instead.

Currently, BLNR has the legal authority to deny aquarium collection permits. DAR is moving to stifle dissent and silence the public—proposing to remove BLNR's oversight of aquarium-collecting permits and transfer that power to DAR itself, allowing permits to be issued behind closed doors with no public notice, scrutiny, or opportunity for input.

This action 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.

Please listen to the will of Hawaii's residents and continue the ban on aquarium fishing. It is a destructive and wasteful practice. Wild-caught marine fish have extremely high mortality rates, with as many as 50% dying in transit and one study reporting up to 98% dying within a year. Keep Hawaii's tropical fish alive in Hawaiian reefs, rather than dying on the way to a dentist's waiting room aquarium on the mainland.

October 21, 2025

Board of Land and
Natural Resources
Meeting: October 24, 2025
@ 9:00 am
blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

RE: Agenda Item F,2 DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules

He Mele komo a he mele aloha no na kupuna o ke au i hala Aloha mai kakou.

Aloha,

My name is Cindy Freitas and I'm a Native Hawaiian descended of the native inhabitants of Hawai'i prior to 1778 and born and raised in Hawai'i.

I am also a practitioner who still practice the cultural traditional customary practices that was instill in me by my grandparents at a young age from mauka (MOUNTAIN TO SEA) to makai in many areas.

I submit this testimony in strong **opposition** to the proposed rule by the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) regarding the regulation and potential expansion of Aquarium Fisher Permits, starting in West Hawai'i and extending to other islands.

The proposed rule, as written, is **legally flawed, culturally harmful, and violates constitutional protections** guaranteed to Native Hawaiians under Article XII, Section 7 of the Hawai'i State Constitution.

The Proposed Rule Violates Article XII, Section 7 of the Hawai'i Constitution

Article XII, Section 7 mandates:

“The State reaffirms and shall protect all rights, customarily and traditionally exercised for subsistence, cultural and religious purposes and possessed by ahupua'a tenants who are descendants of Native Hawaiians who inhabited the Hawaiian Islands prior to 1778...”

DAR, as a state agency, has an **affirmative duty** to uphold these rights and ensure that **traditional and customary practices**, including gathering of marine life for subsistence, ceremony, and stewardship, are **not merely acknowledged but actively protected**.

However, the proposed rule appears to:

- Prioritize **commercial exploitation** of reef species over Native Hawaiian access;
- Expand aquarium collection practices that have long been documented as ecologically and culturally disruptive;
- Fail to explicitly account for **ongoing traditional gathering rights** in affected areas.

This violates the legal standards set in:

Public Access Shoreline Hawai‘i (PASH) v. Hawai‘i County Planning Commission, **79 Haw. 425 (1995)** — which held that customary and traditional rights remain enforceable regardless of land use designation; and

Ka Pa‘akai o ka ‘Āina v. Land Use Commission, **94 Haw. 31 (2000)** — which requires agencies to identify customary rights, assess impacts, and mitigate harm.

DAR’s proposal **does not meet the Ka Pa‘akai framework** and fails to demonstrate how it will preserve or integrate traditional practices.

The Rule is Dangerously Vague and Invites Arbitrary Enforcement

The proposed rule contains vague or undefined terms such as:

What constitutes “sustainable harvest” under aquarium fishing;

Which species are allowed and under what quotas;

How enforcement will be applied across commercial vs. cultural users.

Under Hawai‘i law, a rule is **unconstitutionally vague** if it:

1. Fails to give a person of ordinary intelligence reasonable notice of what is prohibited or required; and
2. Encourages arbitrary or discriminatory enforcement.

As the Court stated in *State v. Kamal*, **88 Haw. 292 (1998)**:

“Due process requires that a statute provide fixed standards for adjudging guilt and fair warning of the conduct it prohibits.”

DAR’s rule fails this test. It risks criminalizing Native Hawaiian gatherers while granting broad discretion to commercial permit-holders without clear boundaries.

The Rule Favors Commercial Aquarium Fishers Over Traditional Users

This rule continues a pattern of allowing **commercial extractive activities** that:

Deplete local reef ecosystems;

Reduce access to species traditionally gathered for subsistence or ceremony;

Create conflict between local lineal descendants and outside commercial operators.

Despite decades of opposition by Native Hawaiian communities, the rule appears to reopen pathways for **aquarium trade practices** that were largely halted due to prior legal challenges and environmental studies.

This violates the **State’s Public Trust Doctrine**, as reaffirmed in *In re Water Use Permit Applications (Waiāhole Ditch case)*, **94 Haw. 97 (2000)**, which places the State under a duty to manage and conserve resources for the benefit of present and future generations, **not just for economic gain**.

The Rule Was Developed Without Adequate Cultural Impact Review

Under both the **Ka Pa‘akai** decision and **HRS §343-5** (Environmental Impact Statement law), rules that affect cultural practices must include:

Identification of traditional and customary uses in the affected area;

Analysis of how these uses will be affected; and

Protections or alternatives that mitigate cultural harm.

DAR has not demonstrated that it has:

Conducted a **comprehensive cultural impact assessment** for West Hawai‘i and beyond;

Engaged with **lineal descendants and konohiki communities**;

Defined exemptions or protocols for **non-commercial traditional gathering**.

Without this, the rule violates both **constitutional and statutory duties** to Native Hawaiians.

Conclusion and Request

For the reasons stated above, I respectfully urge this body to **reject DAR’s proposed rule** regarding Aquarium Fisher Permits unless and until:

1. A **full cultural impact assessment** is conducted;
2. The rule is rewritten to include **clear exemptions and protections** for Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practitioners;
3. The vagueness and discretionary enforcement issues are corrected; and
4. The agency complies with its duties under **Article XII, Section 7**, the **Public Trust Doctrine**, and the **Ka Pa‘akai** framework.

The ocean is not only a resource but a **living ancestor**, and Native Hawaiians are not stakeholders we are **descendants of the original stewards of these waters**. Any rule that opens the reef to exploitation must first answer to those who have depended on and protected it for generations.

Mahalo,

_____/s/_____

Cindy Freitas

From: [Chad French](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reference October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 7:53:29 AM

I have Hawaii in my heart. Please do not allow fish to be removed for aquariums. The money is not worth it- there are better ways to get it.

Thanks for your consideration,

Chad French

1088 Bishop St 201

Honolulu 96813

713 598 5084

Chad.french76@yahoo.com

From: [Yael Gappell](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to the proposed DAR Reef Fish Collection Guidelines
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:48:10 PM

Name: David Gappell
Town: Kapaau on the Big Island

I would like to express my extreme opposition to the proposed guidelines governing the collection of reef fish. In my view there should be no permits to collect reef fish other than a very small number strictly for research purposes. The removal of reef fish - for purely ornamental purposes!! -- will result in significant damage to the reef ecosystem. This is what all of the science says. Those lobbying to allow for the collection of reef fish are not motivated by the best interests of the public. As one who regularly free dives at Mahukona and Kapa'a here in N. Kohala, I can attest to just how fragile our reefs are. It is time to place the public interest ahead of the very narrow interests of a relatively small number of reef fish collectors whose only interest is to profit from a dwindling natural resource. THE BLNR has the power to stop this - we are watching!

Sincerely,

David Gappell

From: [George B](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of F2 Opening the Hawaiian Aquarium Fisher
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 3:11:06 PM

Good afternoon,

I am emailing to express my support of F2 and opening the Hawaiian Aquarium Fishery managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Thank you,
George

From: [scott.gorrell](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 11:53:35 AM

Aloha;

I am Scott Gorrell of Pa'auilo, Hāmākua, Hawai'i Island.

I'm writing to express my opposition to the reopening of fish collection from our reefs for the commercial aquarium business.

Mahalo.

From: [Rhia Gowen](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Aquarium fishing
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 11:20:44 AM

Aloha,

I am Rebecca Gowen from Kihei, Maui. Our community is horrified to learn of your proposal to re-open Hawai'i's reefs to commercial aquarium collecting.

This is an outrageous betrayal of the public's trust. It constitutes:

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.

Environmental destruction. 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.

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.

We demand that you 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.

We are watching you.

The Gowen Ohana

From: [Lisa Grandinetti](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F-2 BLNR Meeting, Aquarium Fishing Testimony
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 9:21:42 PM

Aloha e BLNR,

I am Lisa Grandinetti from Waipio, Oahu.

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,
Lisa Grandinetti

From: [Michael Greenspan](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 9:29:09 AM

How many times do we have to send comments about the destructive tropical fish collector industry. Is the government getting kickbacks from the industry to get what they want? I snorkel all the time and there keeps being less and less fish because of pollution and global warming, ice caps melting, permafrost melting in Alaska, great garbage floating in our ocean here in Hawaii and u want to let an industry that kills 90% of the fish on the way to market die! How is this helping the problem. Send this back and never bring it back again. Stop making us testify over and over again! The industry has to be bribing Hawaii politicians to keep bringing this up as no swimmers or surfers or large groups of people in Hawaii want this to happen. Only a few tropical fish collectors and the few men or women who are being bribed!

From: [Mary Groode](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24. Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 4:02:56 PM

Aloha,

My name is Mary Groode. I live in Kihei, Maui. I moved here 49 years ago and have been an avid swimmer and snorkeler ever since.

I snorkel nearly every day at Ulua & Mokapu beaches in Wailea. We no longer have enough reef fish to keep the reef healthy. I have been wanting to propose a “no take” for this reef for at least a year to allow the fish a chance to recover.

Now, I see the DLNR is looking at reversing our common sense policy of not allowing the aquarium trade to take what’s left of our tropical fish off the reefs of Hawaii.

Please don’t 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.”

The fish in our oceans bring in tourists year after year that enjoy seeing them. Tourists will find other destinations, Tahiti, Fiji, etc. if Hawaii is allowed to open up the aquarium trade again.

Please send someone to swim here and see what few fish we have before you allow anyone to take them for personal profit. I would be glad to give them a tour.

Sincerely,

Mary K. Groode
3371 A Kaha Drive
Kihei, HI. 96753
(808)283-7889

From: [Tom Gruber](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 1:18:22 PM

Do not allow a small number of greedy interested to destroy the public commons of our tropical fish

Hawaii is a eco destination and cultural and economically tied to the fish.

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW PEOPLE TO KILL OUR TROPICAL FISH

Tom Gruber
Full time resident of hawaii

From: [Nelson George Hairston, Jr](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 9:38:08 AM

Dear BLNR,

There is no compelling reason to allow aquarium hobbyists and others in the aquarium trade to exploit and damage Hawai'i's valuable and fragile reef fish populations.

Please vote NOT to approve the proposal from DAR to control access to our reef fishes .

Mahalo,

Nelson Hairston

Nelson G. Hairston, Jr.
64-5285 Puukapu St.
Kamuela (Waimea), HI, USA 96743
Mobile/Cell: +1 (607) 280-0827
e-mail: ngh1@cornell.edu
web: [Home \(nelsonhairston.com\)](http://Home(nelsonhairston.com))

From: [DON HELOW](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stop Raping Our Reefs
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 11:08:45 AM

Aloha we as humans are slowly and inextricably destroying our environment. You can do something about one little part of this beautiful planet by sending 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 Don & Beth Helow Kona Hawaii

From: [Kahina Hewitt](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:19:18 PM

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

My name is Kahina Hewitt, 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,
Kahina Hewitt
Kailua Kona, Hawai’i

From: [Evie Ho](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:27:18 PM

Dear Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources,

As a teenager growing up in an increasingly fragile world, I'm writing to push against permitting aquarium collecting authority to the Division of Aquatic Resources. Allowing such a decision would lead to damage of coral reef ecosystems, impacting the beautiful biodiversity of these environments. The extraction of marine organisms would open the door to further exploitation of Hawai'i's reef wildlife and start a deadly pattern for future extractions.

Please protect Hawai'i's reefs and biodiversity and serve as a leading example for environmental advocacy and preservation!

Sincerely,
Evie H.
Austin, TX

From: [Lois Hodges](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] End the taking of reef fish
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:51:36 PM

84% of Hawaii's residents oppose the taking of reef fish for commercial profit! Please ensure that regulations are in place that reflect the level of the public's opposition.

Lois Hodges
Kailua Kona, Hawaii

From: jth49@icloud.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 11:50:04 PM

Aloha BLNR Board Members— my wife and I are full time residents of Kapaau on the Hawaii Island. We write to express our vehement opposition to the draft rule proposed by the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to reopen commercial harvesting of reef fishes on west Hawaii Island reefs.

The proposed rule would allow a select few to plunder a unique State resource without transparency or accountability. BLNR should reject the rule for the following reasons among others:

- The community's clearly expressed desire that any new rule focus primarily on conservation is ignored. The rule instead expedites permitting of large scale commercial taking of reef fish.
- The proposed annual catch limits are several orders of magnitude too high-reportedly 400 percent more than what several collectors reported annually for 20 years.
- DAR also refuses to set local limits. This omission, coupled with the unreasonably high catch limits ,subjects every reef's fish population to degradation and eventual collapse, as has occurred elsewhere in the state.
- While a windfall for commercial collectors, the proposed rule makes no financial sense for the state or the vast majority of its citizens. Permit revenue under the proposed rule would be minor and estimated at less than \$1,000 per year, while estimated management costs, excluding enforcement, are \$300,000- \$500,000. Even more important, the depletion of Hawaii's reef fishes, many of which are endemic, would hardly be a boon to Hawaii's most important industry—tourism.
- The proposed rule contradicts science. Researchers all agree that we should be promoting reef fish numbers in order to withstand the effects of climate change.
- As confirmed by valid polling, a large majority of Oahu and Hawaii Island residents support the permanent closure of commercial reef fish taking.

- Instead of implementing the will of its citizens, the proposed rule attempts to silence them by delegating BLNR's permitting authority to DAR, allowing it to issue permits without notice to the public or opportunity to be heard.

Accordingly, the Board should reject the proposed rule and return it to DAR for redrafting with the specific direction to adequately address each of the flaws in the current proposal outlined above.

James Hopkins
Shelley Moore

From: [Kelly Hoyle](#)
To: [DLNR, BLNR Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] fish
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 6:56:38 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: [Isaac Humble](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Save the reef fish
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 7:42:07 AM

To the Board of Land and Natural Resources:

My name is Isaac Humble and I live in Hana, Maui. I am writing today as a proponent of regulating, if not eliminating, reef fish extraction for the aquarium trade.

Please reconsider the environmental impacts of allowing wide-spread extraction of Hawaiian reef fish for the aquarium trade. There are far too numerous of examples of ecological collapse attributed to these types of animal exploitation.

As a Biologist, and just someone who appreciates nature being unspoiled for future generations, I'm asking that the rules be reconsidered and redrafted to respect the community's call to protect reef life, as opposed to reviving the very trade the proposed rules were meant to end.

Thank you for representing the priorities of conservation for the next generations,

-Isaac Humble

From: [Renee Janton](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reef fish
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 10:28:48 PM

Please don't allow commercial aquarium fishing on Hawaiian islands reefs.
The herbivores are essential for our healthy reef ecosystem.
Mahalo
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Lorri Jean](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 agenda item F2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 10:43:25 AM

I have just learned of the division of aquatic resources proposal to reopen our state's reefs to commercial aquarium fishing.

I am appalled by this recommendation given the purpose of this whole process and overwhelming community sentiment against what is being recommended.

I am writing to urge you to send the rules back and insist that they be revised to protect our reefs from commercial exploitation. This is what Hawaiians want and it is what makes the most sense for the environment.

Moreover, it is critical that permitting authority for fishing on our reefs remains with BLNR and that full transparency is practiced for all requests by commercial vendors to exploit our wildlife by pillaging our reefs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lorri L. Jean
Kihei, Maui.
Hawaii

Sent from my iPhone so blame auto-correct for any errors.

From: [Mark A Johnson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 8:40:38 AM

Dear BLNR,

I live in Kapaau on the Big Island. I'm writing to protest the continuation of the aquarium fish industry. *Especially* because of our changing natural world, science dictates that we need to be *protecting* coral reefs and the herbivores that live on them. We need to protect the fish that live on them, and maintain them, not by extracting them off the reef for the short sighted aims of an industry only interested in making money.

I strongly object to giving the aquarium trade permits to kill our fish. That may not be their intent, but the majority of fish taken off the reefs do not survive very long.

Please listen to the 84% of people who live here, and who do not want this trade.

Aloha,

Mark Johnson

From: [Cindi](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 3:25:24 PM

October 23, 2025

Aloha Chairperson Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources

BLNR's kuleana is to oversee aquarium-collecting permits and ensure that Hawai'i's reef life is protected. In July 2025, researchers at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa unveiled a stark warning: [Hawaii's coral reefs, already grappling with ocean warming and pollution, now face a new existential threat—unprecedented acidification](#) likely within the next three decades. Published on July 16 in the [Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans](#), the study found that rising carbon dioxide emissions will push nearshore waters into chemical conditions that exceed what corals and marine life have endured over millennia. Even under optimistic scenarios, the transformation threatens to outpace corals' ability to adapt, while hotter, high-emission paths could lead to the extinction of reefs altogether. Windward coasts, where reefs provide vital coastal protection and biodiversity, show the starkest shifts. We must be diligent in supporting and finding solutions to mālama our coral reefs. Increasing reef fish abundance is essential for reefs to withstand the effects of climate change. Allowing the extraction of herbivores defies both science and common sense.

Please revisit the rules so that they reflect the community's and our scientists' warnings of safeguarding our reef life. Let us make the best decision for our 'aina.

Mahalo
Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy
Kalaoa, North Kona
Hawai'i Island

From: [Arielle Chiara](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item f.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 8:58:24 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to wholeheartedly reject the Division of Aquatic Resources proposal to allow commercial aquarium collecting from Hawaii's reefs. The most recent Global Tipping Points report by scientists at the University of Exeter and 87 other global institutions has just announced that coral reefs have reached a point of no return and that global reef collapse is imminent. This is absolutely not the time to allow further stress and burden to our fragile reef environments by allowing any commercial or aquarium fishing or collecting.

It is unfathomable that this could be considered given the poor health of Hawaii's reefs and the extremely limited scope of rehabilitation efforts being carried out in our islands. We are behind so many countries in reef conservation and restoration efforts - Tahiti, Fiji, Indonesia, all are decades ahead of Hawaii in their coral restoration work. Hawaii's reefs continue to be degraded due to lack of education, aging infrastructure, Marine debris and pollution.

I urge all concerned on behalf of future generations to reject this proposal so that we can instead work to restore health to our reef ecosystems rather than encourage exploitation of these extremely fragile and at risk environments.

Reef collapse will affect the entire marine ecosystem and compromise our ability to feed our families for generations to come. Due to our geographic isolation we are already at risk of food insecurity if supply chains are compromised - we simply cannot allow our limited natural resources to be jeopardized in this reckless and truly pointless manner for the sake of hobby enthusiasts who want reef fish in their aquariums.

For the health of our ocean, for the health of our families, I urgently encourage you to reject this dangerous proposal allowing commercial aquarium collecting from Hawaii's reefs. It is time to work to rebuild our reefs and help them recover from the decades of damage they have endured on our watch, not to further burden them with this harmful behavior.

Sincerely,

Arielle Chiara Khonsary
ariellechiara@gmail.com



Oct. 21, 2025

To: Hawai'i Board of Land & Natural Resources
From: Dr. Roxane Keli'ikipikāneokolohaka, Executive Director, Kia'i Kanaloa

RE: Oct. 24, 2025 Mtg. Agenda Item F-2: Aquarium Fishery Management

Aloha,

On behalf of Kia'i Kanaloa with members across the pae'āina, mahalo for this opportunity to provide written testimony regarding Agenda Item F-2. It is concerning that the proposed rule changes appear to contradict the overwhelming voice of the community in safeguarding our reef life while bypassing a sound system of checks and balances regarding the transparency of permitting.

Kia'i Kanaloa stands in firm opposition to any aquarium fish collecting in our waters, as it does not benefit our ocean ecosystem, nor does it lend to the state's trust responsibility to our elder environment and the people of Hawai'i.

In emulating the essence of Kanaloanuiākea, Hawai'i (including BLNR & DAR) must think more deep and long (the essence of Kanaloa thinking) when it comes to protecting our elder environment. Thinking deep means we must consider all threats to our sources, from the shoreline to the depths of the moana, including threats right here in Hawai'i, such as the aquarium fish trade, as well as current threats beyond our shores, such as seabed mining and fossil fuel exploration in conservation areas. Add to that the stresses of climate change we are currently experiencing, as well as the future climate stresses we have yet to comprehend fully. Included in that consideration is factoring in the potential term or irreparable harm of all these combined threats in all decision-making.

The mission of the Hawai'i Board of Land & Natural Resources is stated to be to "Enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawai'i's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawai'i nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors." We call upon you in this capacity as "Kia'i" to think deep and long, placing our Kanaloa at the center of your decision-making by prohibiting commercial aquarium collecting in our waters.

In service to our Kanaloa,

Roxane K. Keli'ikipikāneokolohaka

Dr. Roxane Keli'ikipikāneokolohaka
Kia'i Kanaloa, Executive Director



(808) 987-0453



kiaikanaloa@gmail.com

Mailing Address

1889-A Kīlauea Ave.
Hilo, HI. 96720

From: [Usha Kilpatrick](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 2:22:28 PM

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

My name is Usha Kilpatrick, 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,
Usha Kilpatrick

Captain Cook, Hawaii Island

From: [Jim Kite](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NLNR
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 9:09:27 AM

Dear Sir,

It has come to my attention that DAR has drafted a new rules package to re-open Hawaii's reefs to commercial aquarium collecting.

This exactly what we do not need.

From a cost / benefit perspective, my understanding is a \$700 license costs the County of Hawaii and/or State of Hawaii several hundred thousand dollars per year to enforce. That makes no sense. The reason our Reefs are so attractive to Commercial Aquarium Collectors is the abundance of tropical fish. The reason there are so many Tropical Fish is, Aquarium Collectors have been limited from collecting from our Reefs for years. The fact the new Aquarium Collection rules allowing four times the annual average catch over the previous twenty years, demonstrates the absurdity of the new rules.

The beauty of our waters and the tropical fish that live with-in, are ours to enjoy and appreciate each day. What a marvelous gift of nature. It is Hawaii, the place every America dreams of visiting.

By Commercial Collection of our Tropical Fish, you would be devaluing our properties and our Island's prosperity.

James E Kite
Island of Hawaii
Mauna Lani Point

From: [leslie klein](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 8:05:03 PM

I am a physician from Los Angeles, Calif.
I frequently visit the Big Island, Maui and Kuaii. for diving and snorkeling and hiking.
Please do not allow the taking of animals from the ocean for sale for aquariums.
That would jeopardize not only the reef, the ocean and the tourism industry, but I would no longer go , consdiering
the fish ALREADY have decreased a lot in Hawaii.

Thank you,
Dr. Leslie Klein

From: [Lisa Koehl](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October+24+Agenda+Item+F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 6:50:13 AM

Please protect our reefs
Thank you

Lisa Koehl Someone Who Cares in Florida



**Kohala Culture & History
Advisory Group**

P.O. Box 659

Kapaau, HI 96755

kohalaculturehistoryadvisory@
gmail.com

October 20th, 2025

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

We are writing in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to the proposed aquarium fishing rules. We respectfully urge you **not to approve public hearings** at this time.

Formed in 2023, the mission of the **Kohala Culture and History Advisory Group** is to protect, preserve, and perpetuate the cultural and historical resources of North Kohala. While our kuleana is rooted in our local community, we stand in solidarity with efforts across the pae 'āina to uphold the values of mālama 'āina, cultural integrity, and responsible stewardship of our natural resources.

We are deeply concerned that these rules prioritize commercial exploitation over ecological health and cultural integrity. This proposal fails to reflect community conservation intent and violates the principles outlined in Hawai'i's Public Trust Doctrine and DLNR's own Hierarchy of Use Policy.

We ask that you:

1. **Keep permitting authority with the BLNR** to ensure transparency and accountability.
2. **Send the rules back** for redrafting in collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.
3. **Remove Kole and Umaumalei** from the whitelist—they are vital herbivores and culturally significant food fish, currently being double-counted for ornamental take.
4. **Remove Yellow Tang and Potter's Angelfish**, which are now successfully captive-bred; wild harvest is no longer necessary.
5. **Add clarity to permitting** terms, conditions, and enforcement to prevent misuse.
6. **Honor cultural and ecological priorities** over commercial interests—ornamental fish collection is not a cultural practice.

This rule framework is fiscally unsound, costing hundreds of thousands to manage while generating minimal revenue. It undermines reef resilience at a time when fish abundance must **increase**, not decline, to face climate change.

The people of North Kohala have long upheld a vision of cultural and ecological preservation, as affirmed in our Community Development Plan. We urge you to do the same.

Please protect our reefs, respect our culture, and reject this proposal in its current form.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

The Kohala Culture and History Advisory Group (KCHAG)

From: [Dana Kurtzman](#)
To: [DLNR, BLNR, Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 8:31:44 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

Mahalo,
Dana Kurtzman
Kailua-Kona
Hawaii Island

From: [Jon Kutler](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24th, Agenda Item F2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:31:28 PM

Aloha - I respectfully request that my comments below be included in testimony.

My name is Jon Kutler. My wife and I have lived on the Kohala Coast of the Big Island for 30 years. I cannot believe that after all this time we are still having to debate the relative benefits to our community of commercial aquarium collecting. The industry sacrifices the health of our reefs and the enjoyment of the whole county (and the tourist dollars that our aquatic life attracts) for the benefit of a very small group of collectors. We have been down this road many times and cannot believe that DAR has misinterpreted the overwhelming interests of the community to try to reintroduce this.

When we first moved to the coast three decades ago, reef fish were plentiful and the reefs themselves were healthy. Now both are a small fraction of their prior condition. Mass tourism and aquarium collecting are responsible for this but the tourism industry is our largest employer and aquarium collecting employees very few. Which shall we ban? Clearly the economic argument is against aquarium collecting.

Collecting is not only environmentally destructive and a poor economic decision, this plan is a big betrayal of public trust and a return to behind door dealings against the public good. I am a boater and pay fees for that every year. My boat is periodically inspected "for my own safety" by State officials. The management cost and enforcement of aquarium fishing, however, costs more than the fees and it is "contrary" to our own safety and wishes.

I strongly urge you to send the rules back for redrafting to reflect the community's strong desire to safeguard our fragile reefs and their inhabitants. The permitting authority should remain with BLNR in the interest of transparency and oversight.

Mahalo,

Jon

From: [Mikey Kyser](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 9:23:24 AM

Aloha e BLNR

As the Board President for Kahu Aina O Puna a 501c3 based out of Pohoiki, Puna, HI. We would formally contest the changes DAR is trying to implement for the harvesting of aquarium reef fish and thier proposed management of the permitting process, to which BLNR has the soul authority at the moment.

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

Michael W Kyser Jr "Mikey"
BOD Kua Aina Ulu Auamo
President Kahu Aina O Puna
mikeypu1980@gmail.com
Program Tech Pohaku Pelemaka
mikey@pohakupelemak.org

From: ["Ihilani Lasconia](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F-2 BLNR Meeting, Aquarium Fishing Testimony
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 7:26:57 PM

Aloha e BLNR,

I am 'Ihilani Lasconia from Waimānalo, O'ahu.

Regarding the rules introduced by DAR about Aquarium Fishing Permits, I would like to ask that the rules be sent back for redrafting so that they reflect the community's call to protect reef life rather than reviving the very trade the proposed regulations were meant to end. By doing so, they may restore the public's trust by keeping permitting and authority within BLNR for full transparency and accountability.

In relation to species, Kole and Umaumalei should be removed from the whitelist entirely; they are cultural fish that were/are 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). Because of this institutional support, the wild harvesting of these fish is unnecessary.

BLNR must add heightened clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent further abuse and ensure ecological balance. This language should align with DLNR's Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecological needs above the commercialization of these resources. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice. Further support of this industry could greatly destabilize our already sensitive environment.

These rules 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 fear that if these rules are changed, it will set a dangerous precedent for other communities in the future.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
'Ihilani



'Ihilani Lasconia, M.Ed.
Assistant Residence Director
Student Housing Services
Graduate Teaching Assistant
Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
cierak21@hawaii.edu

From: [Meg Lawson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Aquarium Fishing
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 6:32:33 AM

Please DO NOT allow this to continue!! Your duty is to protect the natural resources of the islands. Count me as STRONGLY OPPOSED>

S. M. Lawson
Lahaina, Maui

From: [Barry Lewis](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please protect the reef fish
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 2:54:02 AM

Barry Lewis
Kihei
Maui

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

Sent from my iPhone

From: [PJL](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 8:28:03 AM

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

My name is Pekelo Lind, 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.

Mahalo for your time,
Pekelo Lind
Kīpahulu, Maui, Hawai'i



To: BLNR.TESTIMONY@HAWAII.GOV

Subject: October 24, 2025 — Agenda Item F.2: Opposition to DAR's Proposed Aquarium Fishery Rules

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

My name is **Edwin “Ekolu” Lindsey**, and I submit this testimony together with **Lisa Agdeppa**, in strong opposition to reopening Hawai‘i’s reefs to commercial aquarium fish collection.

This extraction is **not pono**. It goes against our *kuleana* and the teachings of our kūpuna to live in balance and reciprocity with nature. Our ancestors understood that the health of our people depends on the health of our ocean — *malama i ke kai, a e ola ka ‘āina*.

Today, our ocean faces countless threats — **sea level rise, ocean acidification, sedimentation, urban runoff, plastics, temperature rise, coral bleaching, and the looming impacts of deep-sea mining**. We cannot afford to take more from an ecosystem already fighting to survive.

Our reef fish are **warriors** — the grazers and guardians that keep coral ecosystems in balance. To remove them for commercial profit dishonors the values of **kuleana and aloha ‘āina** that define us as kanaka.

We believe fish should remain on the reef, harvested only for **subsistence and family consumption**, not for export or ornamental trade.

Please:

- **Reject** this proposed rule package.
- **Honor the public trust and cultural values** that protect Hawai‘i’s reefs for future generations.

Mahalo nui for your kuleana,
Edwin “Ekolu” Lindsey & Lisa Agdeppa
Lahaina, Maui

From: [Katie Ly](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 6:58:59 AM

To whom it may concern,

My name is Katie Ly, a resident of Hāna, Maui. 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. How can you not realise that by allowing commercial operators to take unlimited amounts of "aquarium reef fish" from Hawaiian water will severely impact the health of the reef, our food source and most importantly the tourism industry. This agenda item is solely for monetary greed and entirely irresponsible for immediate gains, not considering the long-term effects. If this agenda item passes we will have another ecological disaster, how dare you.

October 22, 2025

To: Board of Land and Natural Resources

Re: Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules

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

We are submitting testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to the proposed aquarium fishing rules. We urge you to defer approval of public hearings until these rules are thoroughly reviewed and rewritten to reflect community values, scientific evidence, and Hawai'i's responsibility to protect our marine ecosystems.

We respectfully ask the Board to take the following actions:

1. Uphold Hawai'i's Public Trust Doctrine. Under our state constitution, the DLNR is legally and morally obligated to manage natural resources for the collective benefit of Hawai'i's people both present and future. Reef fish and coral ecosystems are public trust resources, not private commodities for commercial export. The state must act as a protector and trustee, not as a broker of our natural heritage.
2. Honor DLNR's Hierarchy of Use Policy. Cultural, subsistence, and ecological needs must come before commercial extraction. Collecting reef fish for ornamental enjoyment is not a Native Hawaiian cultural practice. It is a modern, profit-driven activity that directly conflicts with the principle of mālama 'āina (care for the land and sea).
3. Provide explicit language on permit terms, enforcement, and accountability. Without clear, enforceable rules, this industry will continue to exploit loopholes, evade oversight, and harm reef ecosystems. Transparency and accountability must be central to any regulatory framework.
4. Eliminate Yellow Tang and Potter's Angelfish from the whitelist. These species are now successfully tank-raised by the Oceanic Institute of Hawai'i Pacific University. Their proven aquaculture success demonstrates that there is no longer any need for wild collection. Supporting tank-raised alternatives protects reef ecosystems while sustaining local innovation, research, and ethical commerce. Hawai'i can lead the world in sustainable aquarium trade—without depleting our reefs.
5. Remove Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) from the whitelist. These fish are culturally significant food sources and essential reef cleaners that control algae and maintain coral health. Their inclusion in both the ornamental and food fisheries is ecologically irresponsible and culturally disrespectful.
6. Return these draft rules for genuine collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE. The rulemaking process must involve the community, cultural practitioners,

scientists, and enforcement agencies to ensure that conservation—not commerce—guides every decision.

7. Retain permitting authority within the BLNR. Keeping oversight at this level ensures transparency, accountability, and public trust in how Hawai'i's marine resources are managed.

The current proposal no longer reflects community conservation values. Instead, it creates a pathway for commercial exploitation at the public's expense. The estimated \$700 in annual permit revenue cannot justify the \$300,000–\$500,000 in management costs. From both an ecological and fiscal standpoint, this is unsustainable.

Science makes it clear: reef fish populations must recover and increase if coral reefs are to survive the pressures of climate change. Hawai'i's reefs are our natural life support system—feeding families, protecting shorelines, and embodying our cultural identity.

Captive breeding is the sustainable future of the aquarium industry. It provides economic opportunity without damaging wild populations. By investing in aquaculture and banning unnecessary wild collection, Hawai'i can set a global example of true ecological and cultural leadership.

We strongly urge the Board to fulfill its constitutional and moral duty to protect these public trust resources for the people of Hawai'i, now and for generations to come.

Mahalo,

Marine Advocates Collaborating for Sustainable Aquatic Life through Action and Discipline



October 22, 2025

To: Chair Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources

Re: Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules

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

We respectfully urge the Board to **oppose** the proposed aquarium fishing rules and to maintain protections against aquarium fish collection.

Reef fish play essential roles in maintaining healthy coral ecosystems. Continued wild collection undermines reef resilience, especially in the face of climate change and other environmental stressors.

With successful aquaculture now providing sustainable alternatives, there is no longer a need for wild harvest. Protecting reef fish populations ensures long-term ecological balance and aligns with Hawai'i's commitment to responsible resource management.

In addition, Kole (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) and Umaumalei (*Naso lituratus*) should be permanently removed from the whitelist. These fish are culturally significant food sources and essential reef cleaners that control algae and maintain coral health.

Mahalo for your consideration and continued stewardship of Hawai'i's marine ecosystems,

Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea (MPW) is a grassroots, community non-profit that actively works to care for, educate about, and protect our fragile, near-shore marine ecosystems. Our mission is "working to replenish and sustain the natural and cultural resources of the Pūpūkea and Waimea ahupua'a for present and future generations through active community stewardship, education, and partnerships.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony,

Jenny Yagodich

Director of Educational Programs & Makai Watch Coordinator

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

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*Jenny Yagodich,
Director of Educational Programs
& Makai Watch Coordinator*

Federal Nonprofit Organization
501(c)(3) FEIN 27-0855937
www.pupukeawaimea.org
info@pupukeawaimea.org

From: [marina.cernik](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 8:37:04 AM

Hello my name is Marina Cernik from Kihei, Maui

I beg you to 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.

Our reefs have seen so much damage over the last several years. By allowing this to go through as written every reef would be **every reef would be vulnerable to degradation and collapse.**

Thanks
Marina

From: [barbara.matusik](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 5:53:41 AM

Please save Hawaii's coral reefs from destruction

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Dr. Fiona McCormack
Associate Professor, Anthropology,
University of Waikato
Aotearoa (New Zealand)

Hilo, Welehu – 22nd, ‘Okakopa 2025

ATTN: Ms. Dawn Chang, Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources
DLNR Main Office Kalanimoku Building
1151 Punchbowl St.
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813
Submitted via Email at blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

SUBJECT: **Testimony** for BLNR October 24th 2025 Agenda Item F.2

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

My name is Fiona McCormack. I am an Associate Professor in marine and economic anthropology at Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato and formerly at the University of Hawaii, Hilo (2007-2012). I am writing to oppose the Draft Administrative Rules authorizing commercial aquarium fish collection. My main concern centres on the privatisation underpinning the aquarium licenses proposed under the Draft Administrative Rules. I am also writing to support the expert testimony of Kēhau Springer, currently a PhD candidate at the University of Waikato under my supervision.

1. While once seen as a panacea in fisheries management, Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) or Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) fisheries have now fallen from prominence. This is a consequence of the biological sustainability promise of ITQ fisheries remaining contested, the notion of equitable development being refuted by the disappearance of fishing villages, and fishing rights, once attached to fishers, consolidating to a non-fishing, quota holding class.

Catch Shares are a form of IFQs and 17 catch share programs exist in the United States. There are, however, no catch share programs in the Western Pacific. In Hawaii much consideration was given to adopting catch shares, however, the program was ultimately rejected. This was because i) the monitoring data for key species was deemed insufficient to generate a Total Allowable Catch ii) strong resistance from commercial fishers who were keenly aware of the negative social consequences arising in overseas ITQ managed fisheries and, iii) crucially, catch shares, an individualised private property, were viewed as incompatible with Hawaiian fishing culture and marine governance.

2. The Revised Final Environmental Impact Statement drafted by the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) recommends implementing Individual Catch Quotas for

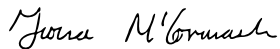
the 8 species on the proposed Revised White List. The Draft Administrative Rules propose the imposition of Individual Catch Quotas at DNLR discretion.

3. Questions arise as to why IQs are deemed appropriate for the Aquarium fishery when they have been rejected for all other fisheries in Hawaii and the broader Western Pacific. This is a particularly important question given the much evidenced incommensurability of privatised fishing rights with Hawaiian fishing culture and marine governance. Further, what does this move to introduce IQs say about the broader exclusive and extractive characteristics of the Aquarium fishery and its future place in the marine socio-ecological environments of Hawaii?

Mahalo nui for your consideration

Na'u

Dr. Fiona McCormack



Associate Professor, Anthropology programme

Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

The University of Waikato

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

From: [Beth McD](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oct 24. Agenda item F2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 7:25:37 PM

I am appalled that DAR is attempting to rewrite the rules meant to protect our coral reef fish, and take BLNR out of the oversight picture with aquarium collectors.

BLNR must retain permitting authority as DAR has proven to be an irresponsible and untrustworthy steward of our reef resources.

The vast majority of Hawaii residents agree— our fish should not be collected as decorations for someones seafood restaurant, corporate lounge, or living room. Our reefs face enough stresses from climate change, ocean acidification, run off, plastics. Our coral reef fish are an integral part of sustaining the health of our coral reefs. Essential.

I snorkel the reefs all over Oahu 4-5 days a week. I've seen how quickly they can become depleted and the fish skittish when aquarium collectors descend.

Permitting authority must remain with BLNR for full transparency and accountability.

Beth McDermott
Honolulu
Hawaii resident since 1969

From: [Michael Menchetti](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Protect Hawaii's reef fish
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 1:50:40 PM

Please reject the proposed rule change regarding fishing for the aquarium trade, it 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**.

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

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**.

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.

Sincerely,
Michael Menchetti
Kapaau, HI

From: [Sarah Milisen](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Aquarium collecting
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 6:22:02 AM

Aloha,

My name is Sarah Milisen, with Ocean Defenders Hawai'i, and I would like to express opposition to opening, ratifying, or justifying aquarium collecting in the state of Hawaii.

I am from Kona, Hawai'i and after the closure here, as a dive professional, I have noted an increase in the typically collected fish species population, due to their protection.

We should NOT be harvesting aquarium fish from the ocean - survival rate is shockingly low, and one person is profiting off the take of our reefs - not for consumption, not for sustenance, just greed.

Please keep the aquarium fisheries closed.

Mahalo,
Sarah Milisen
Kailua-Kona, HI
Sent from my iPhone

From: [David Monasevitch](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DO NOT REOPEN AQUARIUM COLLECTING
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 10:39:49 PM

My name is David Monasevitch. I live in Lihu'e, on the island of Kaua'i.

I am totally against reopening commercial aquarium collecting in all of Hawaii. Please send the rules back for redrafting so that they reflect the wise community demand to safeguard reef life, keep permitting authority with BLNR and remain transparent and accountable to us, the public.

In case you have not heard. We are living through the 6th mass extinction event. We, the greediest and most disconnected from nature, humans are major contributors. I swim in the ocean, with a mask, once or twice a week and I surf for recreation when I'm not swimming. The reefs and the biodiversity of marine life is getting worse, and worse. It's as obvious as can be. It's nothing short of terrible. Shifting Baseline means that what may be pitched as pretty good may in reality be terrible based on when the baseline was first established. We know that the industry lobby, best known for advocating puppy mills, from the mainland, wrote the EIS, which is the basis for this reconsideration. Why, after all the effort and energy and hard work of the previous island generations, that elevated themselves from the plantation and climbed to the pinnacle of public service, with the desire to make their children's, and now children's children lives better, of which we are all the benefactors, the great grandkids are listening to debased and greedy and short sighted and absolute ignoramuses that simply want to exploit the resources of Hawaii nei?

Taking reef fish for commercial aquarium trade was never sustainable. (Up 90% die before living in an aquarium where they will never breed). Today, it is especially not sustainable. Holy Smokes! The political game that is being played- wanting to win, whatever, at any cost, without conscience is destroying life on Earth.

In early 2025, I snorkeled at the ever popular Pu'u honua o'Honaunau Bay. I hadn't been there for over 20 years. By comparison of my previous experience, it's in terrible condition, limited fish and very limited biodiversity, dying and dead corals, less visibility. That's shifting baseline.

Today I snorkeled my usual spot on Kaua'i. Reef more dead than alive, limited fish and very limited variety of species, poor visibility. It's really bad.

To me, anyone on BLNR and in DAR that supports reopening commercial reef collecting in Hawaii must absolutely be either on the severe autism spectrum and are incapable of doing their job and don't really know what their job is or they are

completely crooked and corrupt and character flawed with the worst grandiose narcissistic personality disordered and have fallen under the influence of bad company, the human the animals, lobbying and collecting reef fish for profit. By the way, there's documentation that some collectors have ripped regulators, SCUBA breathing gear, from the people filming their pillaging, at depth. That is, potentially, murderous. Why would anyone support persons of such low respect for life, human or otherwise?

The Garden Island Newspaper recently wrote that one of the biggest threats to our National security is destruction of our fisheries. How is it that at the same time, the state of Hawaii, in the middle of the Pacific surrounded by ocean and reefs, can consider opening up commercial aquarium collection, again, and hiding the permitting and allowing outside interests to dictate and destroy the reef habitat? After years of advocating to end commercial aquarium collecting in the Hawaiian reef ecosystem, I thought, finally, the state people in those positions saw the bigger picture and finally did the right thing and showed foresight out beyond their own generation, Including the State Supreme Court. Again, why are you even considering a petition from people that have no respect for law or democracy? In the Spirit of Patsy Mink, I am pushing back against the bad guys, again. I ask you to be wise adults and take a stand. Be pono. Push back in that same Spirit. The people are with you. The ancestors are watching your behavior and taking note.

DO NOT ALLOW THE MEAN GREEDY WHINING EVIL CON MEN WANTING TO RETURN TO RAPING AND PILLAGING THE REEFS OF HAWAII BY TAKING REEF FISH FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES. INSTEAD ESTABLISH NO TAKE ZONES THROUGHOUT ALL THE ISLANDS FOR 10 YEARS. HIRE LOCAL AQUATIC MARINE BIOLOGISTS AND MEASURE THE POSITIVE IMPACT NO TAKE ZONES HAVE ON THE MARINE ECOSYSTEM.

Honestly yours,

David Monasevitch

From: [Buffy Nakachi](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 3:27:41 PM

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

My name is Buffy Nakachi, 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, as you have outlined in your mission statement: *“Enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawaii’s unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawaii*

nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors.”

Thank you for your time,

Buffy Nakachi
808-640-3872
PO Box 4454
Kailua Kona, HI
96745

From: [John Naylor](#)
 To: [DLNR-BNLR Testimony](#)
 Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24, 2025 Agenda Item F.2
 Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:51:19 PM
 Attachments: [061NUAV78GoOicY.png](#)

Aloha Chair Chang and BNLR Board Members,

In Opposition to Agenda item F.2

I have called Hawaii Home for 42 years and have snorkeled on most of the islands. Each year there are less & less variety and quantity of reef fish. We need our reefs more than ever as a line of defense for storm surge etc... The reefs are bleaching and the fish are already diminished .

Please consider the economics of tourism , climate change & stronger & more frequent storms etc etc... & do NOT allow this !

Sincerely,

John Naylor

PO Box 1749

Makawao, HI 96768

land line 808 573 1941

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.

Look at this table.

These are numbers of SELF REPORTED reef fish takes

DOA = Dead On Arrival

DAA = Dead After Arrival

MAT = Marine Aquarium Trade

Mortalities = Dead Fish

This is from just one year 13 years ago: 2012.

Table 1. Estimated mortalities among the fishes taken by the Hawaii MAT in 2012

Chain of Custody	No. Fishes	Mortality Rate	Source	Mortalities
Collector to Hawaii wholesaler	378,430	3%	Reported by collectors in 2012 Hawaii Island catch reports ¹⁷	11,352
At Hawaii wholesaler (DAA)	367,077	1%	Per a small number of trade member statements ¹⁸ (likely 1 – 2% higher)	3,671
Hawaii wholesaler to Los Angeles wholesaler (DOA)	363,406	3%	Industry self-reporting ^{14, 15, 19}	10,902
Within 3 days at Los Angeles wholesaler (DAA)*	352,504	5%	Study & Industry self-reporting ^{11, 12, 14, 15}	17,625
Los Angeles to retailer (DOA)	334,879	3%	Study & Industry self-reporting ^{11, 12, 14, 15}	10,046
Within 3 days at retailer (DAA)*	324,833	5%	Study & Industry self-reporting ^{11, 12, 14, 15}	16,242
Within 2 weeks at retailer**	308,591	11%	Study ⁴	33,945
Supply chain total mortalities				103,783
Within 1 year in hobby tank; <1% live more than a year in captivity"	274,646	~100%	Industry self-reporting ⁵	274,646

DEAD FISH TAKEN FROM HAWAII

* Much higher mortality rates have been reported elsewhere. For example: "a survey of over 300 aquarium fish retailers indicated that mortality levels of fish imported from the Philippines ranged from 30-60% within three days of arrival in the United States."²

** The longer the fishes are held, the higher the mortalities.⁴

Contact us: info@forthesfishes.org

Please do not allow

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support issuing permits and reopening the West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery. Thank you.

N. Neldi

I support reopening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Cora Ramos

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

As the aquarium fishery has successfully been through the environmental review process, I strongly support issuing permits and re-opening West Hawaii for aquarium fishing. This is a well managed, robust fishery that is sustainable.

Mahalo,
Kory Giron

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Allen Steiner

I support permitting and reopening the West Hawaii aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Krysta Thorne

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I'm supporting the West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery and feel strongly that it should be reopened. It has been and will be well managed so fish populations will continue to grow. It's the only fishery to complete HEPA and should be an open and active fishery in Hawaii.

Mahalo,
Angelina Louis

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support issuing permits for west Hawaii aquarium fishing. The fishery has been sustainable over the years and with continued good management by DAR based on science, the fishery will remain healthy and sustainable.

Mahalo,
Connor Sui

Aloha Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support opening the West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Chuck Purdham

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support issuing permits for aquarium fishing in West Hawaii.

Thanks very much,
Karen Clowers

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support reopening the West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery as it is well managed and has successfully been through the HEPA review process, unlike any other fishery in the state.

Mahalo,
Michaela Rasa

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Micah Jurgansen

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support opening the West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery because it passed HEPA and has been proven to be environmentally sound.

Gordon Makens

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support issuing permits for aquarium fishing in West Hawaii. The fishery has been through the HEPA process and ample precautions are in place to keep fish stocks healthy on the reefs and ensure the fishery is sustainable.

Thank you,
Dennis Leonard

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support re-opening the West Hawaii Aquarium fishery. The fishery is managed very well based on science.

Bryant Hogan

Chair Chang and Board Members

I support the aquarium fishery and issuing permits for West Hawaii. The fishery has completed the required HEPA review and DAR studies have shown increasing fish populations. The fishery is sustainable.

Mahalo,

Ashley Vass

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support re-opening the Hawaii aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Thank you,
Tony Schram

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support the West Hawaii Aquarium fishery re-opening.

Kayla Gillespie

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support the West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery and think that permits should be issued so fishing can resume in West Hawaii.

Thank you,
Dustin Nacion

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support re-opening the West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery. It's the best managed near shore fishery in the State and has more scientific data backing it than any other. I believe the right thing to do is issue permits so fishing can resume.

**Mahalo,
Chet Narak**

Aloha Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the aquarium fishery in Hawaii and encourage you to issue permits for West Hawaii aquarium fishing again. HEPA requirements have been met and it's time to reopen this fishery.

Mahalo,
Tyler Fujita

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I strongly support opening the aquarium fishery and I support managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Thank you,
Lionel Macaraeg

I SUPPORT OPENING THE AQUARIUM FISHERY ON THE BIG ISLAND.

THANK YOU,
NELLY BOISEN

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support issuing permits and reopening West Hawaii for aquarium fishing. This fishery has passed HEPA and should be open.

Thank you,
Ben Kilmer

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please issue aquarium fishing permits for West Hawaii. Mahalo.

Susie Pa

I support re-opening the West Hawaii aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Tae Biel

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support issuing aquarium fishing permits.

Karla Bombongan

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

The aquarium fishery is the only fishery in Hawaii to complete the HEPA process and it should be re-opened and given permits for West Hawaii.

Thank you,
Augustine Dore

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support opening the aquarium fishery and reissuing permits.

Thank you,
Ross Hoskins

Aloha,

I support opening the aquarium fishery in West Hawaii and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Mahalo,
Katya David

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support reopening the aquarium fishery and issuing permits for fishing in West Hawaii.

Thank you,
R. Wingett

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the aquarium fishery and issuing permits for West Hawaii.

Mahalo,
Gigi Tocci

Aloha Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

The aquarium fishery has been heavily managed over the years ensuring sustainability. I support issuing permits and reopening the fishery.

Kimo Aikawa

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support reopening the aquarium fishery in West Hawaii and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Thank you,
M. Labrador

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support issuing permits and opening West Hawaii for fishing.

Mahalo,
Ian Matsuo

Aloha Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I believe the HEPA review that the aquarium fishery has successfully gone through supports the fact that it's a sustainable fishery and should be allowed to be reopened. I support the aquarium fishery and I urge you to issue permits for West Hawaii. Mahalo!

Jenny Dresser

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support issuing permits and reopening the aquarium fishery in West Hawaii.

Carson Butler

Aloha Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support reopening the West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Hilda Acosta

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support issuing permits for aquarium fishing. I support reopening West Hawaii because there are very few permits to be issued and the fish populations will be protected and sustained by the limited catch allowed.

Thanks,

Lea Laudencia

Aloha Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support issuing permits and opening West Hawaii for aquarium fishing.

Erica D.

Chair Chang and Board Members,

Please issue permits and open West Hawaii aquarium fishing. It's the most heavily managed and regulated fishery in the state, and has passed HEPA as required.

Mahalo,
Silas Haley

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support opening West Hawaii for aquarium fishing.

Addison Ceniza

I'm in support of opening the aquarium fishery since it has passed the HEPA process. It's a sustainable fishery and permits should be issued for West Hawaii.

F. Te Rito

Aloha Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I'm supporting issuing permits for aquarium fishing in West Hawaii because this is a proven sustainable fishery with good management by DLNR.

Mahalo,
Janine Thibodeaux

Aloha Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources.

The aquarium fishery should be reopened because it has been through the HEPA process and is proven to be sustainable and well managed, which is what we all want to see in all fisheries. This fishery should not be excluded or banned from operating any longer and I support issuing permits as soon as possible.

Jake Pene

Aloha Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support issuing permits and reopening the aquarium fishery. This fishery has been the best managed in the state and remains sustainable thanks to those efforts.

Mahalo,
Manuel Dolan

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support issuing permits and opening the West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery. All requirements have been met and the fishery has good management to help protect the future fish population.

Mahalo,
Kim Gunning

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support reopening the West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery, and issuing permits.

Albert Barnette

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support issuing permits and re-opening the West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery.
It's been through HEPA and is sustainable.

Valerie Rosales

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support issuing permits and re-opening the West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery. It's proven sustainable and has years of data showing increasing aquarium fish populations which demonstrate how well proper management works.

Ed Nease

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the aquarium fishery and believe permits should be issued because the fishery has been through HEPA and has years of science supporting that it is sustainable.

Emma Chay

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support sustainable fisheries and encourage thorough review of all fisheries to ensure they are properly managed to safeguard future fish stocks. The aquarium fishery has been well established as sustainable through good management and years of scientific studies that back it up. The fishery has been through the HEPA review and should be reopened without further delay. This is a great example for other fisheries in the state and I support issuing permits for the few who will be able to fish West Hawaii.

Mahalo,
Lindsey Keil

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support issuing permits and reopening West Hawaii for aquarium fishing.

Thank you very much,
Christina Esteves

CHAIR CHANG AND BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES,

I SUPPORT REOPENING THE WEST HAWAII AQUARIUM FISHERY. THERE ARE LIMITED PERMITS AND LIMITED ALLOWABLE FISH TO CATCH, THE FISHERY HAS BEEN WELL MANAGED AND IS SUSTAINABLE ACCORDING TO THE SCIENTIFIC STUDIES THAT HAVE BEEN DONE. THIS FISHERY SHOULD NOT BE BANNED FOR REASONS NOT SUBSTANTIATED BY SCIENCE.

**MAHALO,
SKYLAR HUAN**

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support issuing permits and re-opening the West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery as soon as possible.

Thank you,
Sheila Berry

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support opening the aquarium fishery in West Hawaii.

Mahalo,
Marlen Beese

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I am supporting the West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery because it has been through HEPA as it was required to and because it has been proven through years of research and studies to be a viable and sustainable fishery.

Thank you very much,

Beverly Howard

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support opening the West Hawaii aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Thank you,
Doug Witt

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I am supporting the West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery and respectfully encourage the Board to vote in favor of issuing permits and re-opening the fishery.

Mahalo,
Pam Short

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

The aquarium fishery on the Big Island has successfully been through the HEPA process and I wholeheartedly support issuing permits to reopen this fishery now. Thank you very much.

Grant Owens

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support issuing permits to open the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Thank you,
Jerry Miura

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support the aquarium fishery in West Hawaii and encourage you to issue permits and re-open it.

Mahalo,
Thom Ludwig

Aloha Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I respectfully encourage you to issue permits and re-open the West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery. I support the fishery because it has been through HEPA and has good management behind it.

Mahalo,
Katherina Blair

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I support re-opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Mahalo,
Julie Bushido

From: [Colleen Newlin](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 10/24 F.1
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:57:46 PM

I BEG you to ban the stealing of reef fish for profits and pleasure! Our OCEANS can find balance when such disregard for the health of the ocean is ELIMINATED. The entire Earth depends on it!!!!

PLEASE STOP UNHEALTHY PRACTICES THAT HAVE HORRIBLE CONSEQUENCES!

Colleen Newlin, Kauai, HI

From: [Nina Monasevitch](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 2:08:55 PM

TO MEMBERS OF BLNR:

I strongly oppose any plan to reopen Hawaiian reef ecosystem to the destructive aquarium trade.

Clearly individuals in the Department of Aquatic Resources are acting out of pure self-interest. Humanity is living through what is called a mass extinction event. What part of extinction is confusing?

Our oceans are in serious peril. I have witnessed first-hand the decimation of marine life and ocean ecosystems in the past 47 years of living, diving and open ocean swimming in Kauai's near and off shore waters and most of the other main Hawaiian Islands. I have witnessed huge declines in fish and coral, terrible water quality and reef conditions getting worse by the month. All science is documenting that over extraction is one of the top causes of degradation to reefs, and ocean health. It is time to wake up from the spell of greed and protect our ocean home--the ocean is literally our life support system!

We know that the industry lobby, best known for advocating puppy mills, from the mainland, wrote the EIS, which is the basis for this reconsideration. How greedy, short sighted, exploitative, irresponsible and NOT PONO!

The benefits of leaving our fish on the reefs FAR OUTWEIGH the monetary gains of a handful of people who take them off the reef for sale to the AQ pet trade outside Hawaii.

Taking reef fish for commercial aquarium trade was never sustainable, up 90% die before living in an aquarium where they will never breed. Shame!

Scientists say we must increase fish abundance if our reefs are to have a fighting chance against climate change impacts. Sacrificing tens to hundreds of thousands of important herbivores to an unnecessary and destructive activity contradicts best available science and common sense.

The extraction of ocean wildlife for aquariums is inhumane - down right cruel, unsustainable and not pono! To help Hawaii's coral reefs recover from multiple stressors, we need to protect and maintain a healthy population of the herbivorous fish that are essential to reef ecosystems. The AQ trade fundamentally conflicts with local, cultural, and broad social values of our Hawaii home. And is an ecosystem disaster!

The Coast Guard has declared the number one threat to our national security is destruction of our fisheries. How is it that at the same time, the state of Hawaii, in the middle of the Pacific surrounded by ocean and reefs, can consider opening up

commercial aquarium collection, again, and hiding the permitting and allowing outside interests to dictate and destroy the reef habitat? After years of advocating to end commercial aquarium collecting in the Hawaiian reef ecosystem, I thought, finally, the state people in those positions saw the bigger picture and finally did the right thing and showed foresight out beyond their own generation, including the State Supreme Court.

Again, why are you even considering a petition from people that have no respect for law or democracy? In the Spirit of Patsy Mink, I am pushing back against the bad guys, again. I ask you to be wise adults and take a stand. Be pono. Push back in that same Spirit. The people are with you. The ancestors are watching your behavior and taking note.

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.

DO NOT ALLOW THE GREEDY CON MEN WANTING TO RETURN TO RAPING AND PILLAGING THE REEFS OF HAWAII BY TAKING REEF FISH FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES. INSTEAD ESTABLISH NO TAKE ZONES THROUGHOUT ALL THE ISLANDS FOR 10 YEARS. HIRE LOCAL AQUATIC MARINE BIOLOGISTS AND MEASURE THE POSITIVE IMPACT NO TAKE ZONES HAVE ON THE MARINE ECOSYSTEM.

Malama Pono.

Sincerely,
Nina Monasevitch
Lihue, Kauai, HI

From: [MaryAnn O'Connell](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F. Testimony against fish collecting
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 4:49:53 PM

My written testimony. I am AGAINST fish collecting!

“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.”

You have a responsibility to preserve and protect Hawaii’s cultural and natural resources: safeguarding reef life. Allowing fish collection is exploiting cultural values and our inherent subsidence rights.

Mahalo nui loa,

MaryAnn O’Connell
Retired Teacher,
PADI Rescue Diver
Kihei, Maui. HI

From: [Sarah Milisen](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Upcoming testimony! Urgent!
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 6:50:55 AM

Aloha,

My name is Sarah Milisen, with Ocean Defenders Hawai'i, and I would like to express opposition to opening, ratifying, or justifying aquarium collecting in the state of Hawaii.

I am from Kona, Hawai'i and after the closure here, as a dive professional, I have noted an increase in the typically collected fish species population, due to their protection.

We should NOT be harvesting aquarium fish from the ocean - survival rate is shockingly low, and one person is profiting off the take of our reefs - not for consumption, not for sustenance, just greed.

Please keep the aquarium fisheries closed.

Sarah Milisen
Hawai'i Island Chapter Leader
Ocean Defenders Alliance
Sarah@oceandefenders.org

October 22, 2025

Recipient Name
Company Name
4321 First Street
Anytown, State ZIP

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board,

My name is Mary Ann Pahukoa and I am from Ko'olau Moku, ma Maui Mokupuni. I am submitting testimony **in strong opposition** to the Division of Aquatic Resources' proposed rule package to reopen Hawai'i's reefs to commercial aquarium collecting.

This proposal represents a **profound betrayal of the public's trust**. What began as a **community-led kōkua to mālama i nā i'a** and protect the life of our **ko'a** has been twisted into a framework that grants the aquarium trade everything it desires—**wehe i ka puka** for the mass capture of hundreds of thousands of reef fish each year. Instead of **ho'omalulu i ko kākou kai**, these proposed rules would once again **destroy** our reefs, stripping them for profit rather than protecting them for future generations.

The Board's original intent was clear: to take "full consideration" of the petition to ban commercial collecting. Yet DAR ignored these instructions, dismissed community mana'o, and worked in alignment with trade interests rather than conservation priorities. This is **institutional betrayal** at its worst.

Even more alarming, DAR now proposes to remove BLNR oversight of aquarium-collecting permits—handing permitting power to itself behind closed doors, with no public notice or accountability. This move undermines transparency, silences public participation, and breaks the assurance made after the August 2024 backlash that BLNR would retain permitting authority.

The rule package is indefensible on every front, **Greed over stewardship**, Proposed catch limits are 400% higher than historical averages. **Environmental destruction**, Without local catch limits, every reef would be at risk of depletion and collapse. **Fiscal irresponsibility**, The state would collect roughly hundreds in annual permit revenue while spending millions on management. Finally, **Public opposition**, Over 80% of Hawai'i residents support ending commercial aquarium collecting permanently.

I urge the Board to **reject this proposed rule**. Our reefs are not a commodity. They are a living foundation of Hawai'i's culture, economy, and identity. Please stand with the people, not the trade, and protect Hawai'i's reef life for generations to come.

Mahalo nui loa,



Mary Ann Kamalani Pahukoa
Maui Hikina

From: [Doug Perrine](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 4:13:17 PM

Aloha BLNR Board Members:

Since submitting my previous comments on this topic, it has come to my attention that the West Hawaii Fishery Council (WHFC) has not been consulted on this proposed rules package.

Please recall that the WHFC was formed in large part to advise the DLNR on rules for management of the aquarium fishery in West Hawaii. It seems that this rules package has been rushed forward, and announced on a very short timeline, perhaps intentionally to avoid input from the WHFC and the stakeholder groups which it represents.

I therefore advise that the rules package be held back and remanded to the DAR until such time as it has consulted with the WHFC, and allowed time for the WHFC members to consult with their constituent groups, and that the package be amended as necessary to incorporate the advice of the WHFC. As West Hawaii is the primary area which will be affected by any new rules concerning the aquarium fishery, the needs and desires of community members from this area should be given extra weight in formulating the rules.

Mahalo,

Doug Perrine

76-223 Haoa St
Kailua Kona HI 96740

From: [Pete pam](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 1:19:58 PM

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

Our names are Pete Fitch and Pam McBride, 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, we 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.

We have lived here long enough to have seen the change in the reefs from pre-ban days to as it stands today. I can honestly say that the amount, variety, and maturity of fish have made a rebound in recent years since the ban was enacted. We're seeing larger schools and have noted an increase in the amount of turtles, rays, and sharks where before they were few and far between. In my opinion it's more proof that the reef and its stocking are returning to normal levels. Slowly to be sure, but with all of mans impacts to our incredible ecosystem certainly we can remove this significant stressor and preserve our ocean beauty for todays and tomorrows keiki.

Our reefs are our life support system. Please consider it an honor to be responsible for this resource and treat it with respect.

Mahalo,

Pete Fitch and Pam McBride
88-1961 Milolii Road

Captain Cook, HI
96704



Public Testimony — Agenda Item F.2 (October 24, 2025)

To: Chair and Members, Board of Land and Natural Resources
From: Polanui Hiu CMMA (Community Managed Makai Area)
Submitted by: Edwin “Ekolu” Lindsey, Co-Founder
Subject: *Strong Opposition to DAR’s Proposed Aquarium Fishery Rules*

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. My name is **Ekolu Lindsey**, testifying on behalf of **Polanui Hiu Community Managed Makai Area (CMMA)** in Lahaina, one of the founding members of the **Maui Nui Makai Network**. Our hui was built on the principle that healthy reefs feed healthy communities — *i’a pono, ‘āina pono, kanaka pono*.

We stand in **strong opposition** to DAR’s proposed rule package to reopen Hawai‘i’s reefs to commercial aquarium collecting.

1. Breach of Public Trust and Hierarchy of Use

Under Hawai‘i’s **Public Trust Doctrine** and the **Hierarchy of Use Policy (1998)**, our marine resources are to be held *in trust for the people of Hawai‘i*, prioritizing **cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs** before commercial exploitation.

This rule package does the opposite — it converts public trust resources into a private commodity for export. Such action betrays the intent of the BLNR’s earlier unanimous decision to pursue a **ban on commercial aquarium collection statewide**.

2. Ecological and Cultural Harm

These rules would allow **hundreds of thousands of reef fish** to be removed each year — many of which, like **kole (Ctenochaetus strigosus)** and **umaumalei (Naso lituratus)**, are culturally valued food species essential to reef health.

Our reefs are already under extreme stress from warming, sedimentation, and invasive species.



Removing critical herbivores undermines the reef’s natural recovery and violates both traditional and modern stewardship ethics.

For generations, our kupuna harvested reef fish for sustenance and ceremony — not for the ornamental trade. This proposal commodifies what should remain part of our living food systems and cultural practice.

3. Lack of Transparency and Accountability

DAR’s proposed rules transfer **permitting authority from the BLNR to DAR staff**, allowing decisions to occur **behind closed doors** with no public oversight.

This directly contradicts assurances made in 2024 that BLNR would retain oversight. The public deserves transparency in decisions affecting our shared natural resources.

4. Fiscal and Scientific Contradictions

Estimated **permit revenue is under \$1,000 per year**, while **management costs exceed \$300,000–\$500,000**.

This is **fiscally irresponsible** and **ecologically indefensible**. Science shows reef fish abundance must *increase* for reefs to survive climate change — not decrease through legalized mass extraction.

5. A Better Way Forward

We support research and innovation toward **aquaculture-based solutions**, such as culturing yellow tang and Potter’s angelfish through facilities like **Oceanic Institute and Biota Hawai‘i**, rather than harvesting wild populations.

This would create economic opportunity without depleting living reefs and align with true sustainability — *pono* use, not profit-driven extraction.



Conclusion

The aquarium fishery is not a cultural practice. It is a **for-profit export industry** that undermines both ecological balance and public trust.

We respectfully urge the BLNR to:

1. **Reject** the proposed rule package as written.
2. **Retain permitting authority** under the BLNR for full transparency.
3. **Send the rule back** to DAR for redrafting in collaboration with the original petitioner hui.
4. **Affirm the Public Trust Doctrine and Hierarchy of Use** by prioritizing community stewardship and food security over commercial extraction.

Let us not return to the mistakes of the past — where reefs were emptied for greed. Our future depends on balance, restraint, and aloha ‘āina.

Mahalo nui for your time and kuleana.

With respect,
Edwin “Ekolu” Lindsey
for **Polanui Hiu CMMA**
Lahaina, Maui

From: [Nancy Pollock](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No fish for aquariums
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 3:05:54 PM

Please stop what you're doing. Do not allow the taking of fish from the reefs for sale in aquariums, private or commercial. There are fish farms or fish can be purchased not take them from the open water reefs.

Nancy Pollock

Wailea, maui

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mary Marvin Porter](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 6:06:36 AM

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

My name is Mary Marvin Porter and a 30 year resident of Hawai'i Island. 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 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 Marvin Porter
Hawaiian Paradise Park
Keaau, Hawaii, 96749

From: [Samantha Preis](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 10/24/25, Agenda Item F, 2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:58:16 PM

Aloha BLNR,

I am in opposition to moving the delegation of BLNR aquarium fishing regulation and monitoring to the DAR. They have failed in the past to enforce the rules of aquarium fishing. Please send the rules back for redrafting so they reflect the community's values of preserving reef life. The fish in our ocean are critical to the preservation of our fishing culture, the ecosystem health and attraction of tourists.

We already have enough of a problem with illegal fishing and lack of enforcement. Opening up a new way to collect and profit from our reefs is irresponsible and opens the doors for overfishing of a different kind.

--

Aloha,
Samantha Preis
Kahalu'u, Oahu

From: [Gabrielle Provencher](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 7:46:01 PM

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,
Gabrielle Provencher
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jaime Raduenzel](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] opposition to aquarium collecting
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 9:02:48 AM

Aloha BLNR,

Allowing the collection of reef fish is a contradiction to the stewardship mission of the DLNR.

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,
Jaime Raduenzel
Waikoloa, Hawaii Island

From: [anela.ramos](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F-2 BLNR Meeting, Aquarium Fishing Testimony
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 2:52:07 PM

Aloha e BLNR,

I am Anela Ramos from Wailuku, Maui.

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 am a proud Native Hawaiian and hope you do what's right for our waters. Me ke aloha.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony,
Anela Ramos

From: [One Ocean Books](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2 Reef Fish Aquarium Trade
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:24:27 PM

Much aloha,

Re the October 24; Agenda Item F.2 Reef Fish Aquarium Trade.
For the purposes of protecting Hawai'i's reefs, marine life, sustainable activities, and future generations, we ask that you please help stop the collection of fish off Hawai'i's reefs for the unsustainable aquarium trade.

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.

Much aloha,

Ocean Ramsey
One Ocean Conservation, Research, Diving, and Education

From: [Eileen Robb](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Commercial Aquarium Collecting
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:42:59 PM

Please BAN commercial aquarium collecting Statewide. Our reef fish as well as other marine inhabitants are fighting for their existence. They are already battling warmer waters, pollution, sediment and fishing. But if you allow companies to come in and deplete the breeding stocks many species will totally disappear. At what price? Our reefs are fragile and to add further disruption and pressure to their balance would be a crime against nature.

Please DO NOT allow commercial aquarium collecting!!!

Please vote against commercial aquarium collecting!!!

SAVE OUR FISHES!!!!!!

Mahalo,

Eileen Robb

Wailuku

Maui

From: [David Ross](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:34:34 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is David Ross, I own a property in Kihei, Maui. I am opposed to any wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade. Please leave our reefs alone. Thank you.

- David Ross

From: [Colby Sameshima](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 2:19:51 PM

Aloha e,

My name is Colby Sameshima, writing to you from Kailua, fifth generation O'ahu resident.

I am alarmed by many things that have transpired here, the largest one being a lack of transparency and accountability.

Please send DAR's 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.

Re-opening Hawai'i's reefs to commercial aquarium collecting in it of itself is against Hawai'i's values, people, place, and as a result, livelihood and economy. Even further alarming is the process by which this was denied and now is being re-opened, despite lack of support from the public.

With aloha,
Colby Sameshima

--

Founder & CEO
Kālele Enterprises, LLC
www.lauaeconsulting.com



From: [John Santin](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose DAR's Decision to Reopen Reef to Commercial Aquarium Collecting
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 10:51:07 AM

Aloha,

I am writing in response to Agenda Item F.2 for the October 24 BLNR meeting. My name is John Santin, and I have been visiting family in Puako, on the Big Island, for over twenty years. My children have grown up swimming and snorkeling the reef in Puako. I strongly urge the Board of Land and Natural Resources to reject the Division of Aquatic Resources' proposed rule package to reopen Hawai'i's reefs to commercial aquarium collecting.

This proposal betrays the community's call for a statewide ban on commercial aquarium collecting, as unanimously approved by BLNR. Instead of protecting our reefs, DAR's rules prioritize the aquarium trade's interests, allowing the capture of hundreds of thousands of reef fish annually. This defies scientific evidence, public opinion (84% of residents support a permanent ban), and the original intent to safeguard our reefs. Additionally, transferring permitting authority from BLNR to DAR undermines transparency and public trust.

Please send these rules back for redrafting to reflect the community's conservation goals and maintain BLNR's oversight for full accountability. The reefs deserve protection, not exploitation.

Mahalo,

John Santin

From: [Ms. Sara Kutler](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24, BLNR Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 11:08:32 AM

Aloha,

I'm writing outraged at your attempt to once again strip Hawaii of its most precious natural resources - its reef fish. If passed - and I'm pleading with you to do the right thing, stop it once and for all, and protect our ohana. This is simple greed, a few people stealing from the public for private gain. Without reef fish, the reef collapses. Without the reefs, our shorelines degrade, our tourism disappears, and our way of life in harmony with the oceans collapses.

I live near the Ala Kahakai trail in Kohala, Hawaii and swim in the ocean nearly every day. I've seen the fish collectors come to this little bit of coast and vacuum up every fish on the reef. It took years for the reef fish to come back toward a more healthy state, and now DAR wants to bring back this devastation.

The "collectors" are really destructors. This is not fishing for food. This is exploitive fishing, wildlife trafficking, to provide "pets" to people who don't care about Hawaii, and who will never see nor suffer the damage done to our reefs. The "collector" use scuba tanks, fine meshed nets, traps, or even a vacuum, herding schools of fish, damaging them and the reefs they live on, just to select a few for eventual sale. In a fish tank, even if they make it there (so many die in transit) they may live a few months. These methods strip even the eggs in the water, taking out multiple generations of fish. You do know that most of the collected fish die a sad prolonged death before they ever see the inside of an aquarium, and even if they make it to an aquarium, at best they might live a few months?

In the wild, reef fish can live up to 40 years, and every one of those years are these fish are supporting healthy reef life. And it's completely unnecessary! Fish can be raised in captivity without live reef collection, without damaging the reef. Just one example, Biota successfully breeds Hawaiian yellow tangs in captivity. There is no need for this!

If you let this trade starts up again, do you realize how bad it will get? You will destroy the sustainable businesses that honorably breed fish in captivity. You will create and grow a demand for wild reef fish that will voraciously require an ever increasing supply of new captures. If these DAR rules pass, this won't be a one time thing but an ongoing and ever increasing devastation. Once you put these businesses in place, they will only want to grow and grow until the reefs are dead.

Why do this terrible thing? Destroying our collective joy in this precious ocean to benefit just a few people? Do not support such an evil enterprise that goes against Hawaii's soul. Please, Hawaii, let's be sustainable! If people want to see reef fish, come snorkeling. No reef collecting. No wild capture.

Please for our ohana, stop. Don't approve such a terrible terrible business.

Mahalo for reading my letter,
Sara Kutler
68-1052 Honoka'ope Way
Kamuela, Hawaii 9674 3

From: [joseph scarola](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 10:49:28 AM

My name is Captain Joseph Scarola, I live in Kailua Kona on the island of Hawaii.

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.

Joseph Scarola
808-865-8528

From: [Sharon Schmidt](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reef fish
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 8:23:48 AM

Leave the reef fish alone. I am totally against harvesting our waters. If the world wants to see our fish let them come to Hawaii. Sincerely, Scott and Sharon Schmidt, Hawi, HI
Sent from my iPad

From: [maria schotte](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:09:31 PM

To whom ever it concerns

Please I beg you do not allow any further raping of our reefs. As it is there are fewer fish every time I get in the ocean. It is horrible to see our reefs declining and taking even more for profit will put the reefs into a state they cannot recover from. Leave the reef and ocean be it is a delicate balance that is being shaken upset and eventually not recover. If the ocean dies ALL life will die. Please hear my and others please. Stop ! Donot allow any further and make stricter regulations than are present now.

Maria Schotte

Captain, boater, scuba dive paddler ocean lover

Damseldive@yahoo.com

Sent from my iPhone

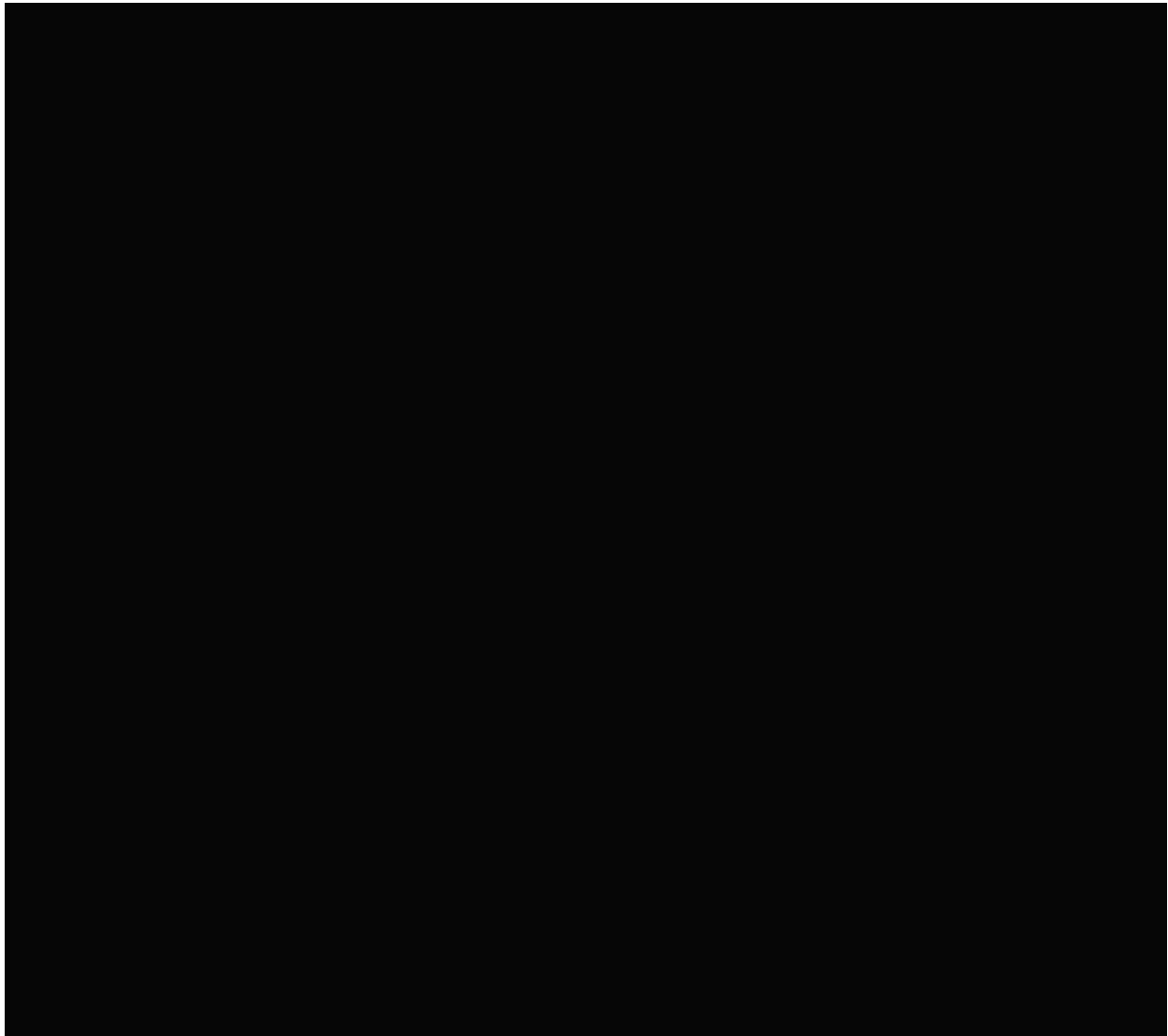
From: [Ann and John Seed](#)
To: [DLNR, BLNR Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Banning of Commercial aquarium hunting on Hawaii's coral reefs
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6:56:35 PM

Hawaii's coral reefs are endangered. With the stresses of climate change and tourism, action should be taken to protect these precious ecosystems. The last thing they need is "aquarium hunters" raiding fish and further disrupting the coral that are vital parts of the reef ecosystem.

We are strongly opposed this proposal to reopen our reefs to commercial aquarium collectors. Please send the rules back for redrafting so they reflect the community's call to safeguard reef life, and restore the public's trust by keeping the permitting authority with the Board of Land and Natural Resources for full transparency and accountability.

Thank you for your consideration of this vital issue.

John and Ann Seed
Kailua-Kona
Hawaii Island



From: [Joan Shapiro](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: rene@forthefishes.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Puako Reef
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 6:58:45 AM

October 21, 2025

To Whom it May Concern, -

Testimony:

I am Joan Shapiro owner of the property located at 69-1679, (formerly 21) Puako Beach Drive, Kamuela Hi. on the island of Hawaii.

My husband Gerald and I built our home here in 1988. We chose to live in Puako because of the natural beauty of its pristine reef and its abundance of sea life.

In this protected environment tropical reef fish, turtles, and other sea creatures could thrive. The balance of Nature and Hawaiian values is honored and preserved.

To invite commercial ventures onto the reef is a betrayal.

Please, “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.
Respectively,
Joan Shapiro

From: [Aron Shevis](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 3:17:34 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

Aron Shevis

"Please consider the environment before printing this email."



From: [Roblynn Silva](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:31:42 PM

Name: Frank P. Silva
Town: Kaneohe
Island: Oahu

Subject:

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

Mahalo.

From: [Kapiolani Spencer](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO AGENDA ITEM F-2 - KAPI'OLANI SPENCER
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:57:47 PM

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

Please accept my written testimony in strong opposition to Agenda Item F-2 on the October 24, 2025 agenda regarding the Aquarium Fishery Rule Package (HAR 13-77.1, 13-75, 13-60.4).

This agenda item expands commercial extraction from Hawai'i's reefs for the aquarium trade—an industry that has damaged reef ecosystems, violated state law, and provides no benefit to Hawai'i's people. Approving F-2 would be a breach of BLNR's fiduciary duty under the Public Trust Doctrine and the Hawai'i State Constitution (Article 11, Section 1; Article 12, Section 7).

I urge the Board to VOTE NO on F-2. Please confirm receipt and include my testimony in the public record for this item.

Mahalo,

Kapi'olani Spencer

Kānaka Maoli – Cultural Practitioner & Lineal Descendant - Protector of 'Āina, Kai and Kūpuna 'Iwi
Email: kapiolanispencer4@gmail.com

OPEN TESTIMONY F2 - KAPI'OLANI SPENCER

Aloha mai e Chair Chang and BLNR Board Members,

'O wau ka inoa 'O Kapi'olani Spencer, and I submit this testimony in strong and absolute opposition to Agenda Item F-2.

This proposal to expand commercial permitting for the aquarium pet trade is not resource management; it is commercial extraction and the continued exploitation of Hawai'i's marine life for private profit. This industry does not feed local families, does not uphold Hawaiian values, and does not benefit Hawai'i. It exists solely to remove living reef species from Hawaiian waters and export them for profit. That is not stewardship, that is extraction.

In West Hawai'i, along the Kona coast from Ka'ūpūlehu to Puakō, Kealakekua, and Hōnaunau, reef decline is already documented. Essential herbivore fish like lau'ipala (yellow tang) and pāku'iku'i (Achilles tang) control invasive algae that suffocates coral. Their removal destroys reef balance and accelerates marine collapse. This harms Native Hawaiian subsistence rights and cultural practice reliant on healthy nearshore fisheries.

This industry also has a documented record of illegal activity in Hawai'i: poaching in restricted areas, deceptive catch reports, and trafficking reef fish without permits. DOCARE has seized thousands of illegally harvested fish on Hawai'i Island. If the State cannot enforce

current rules, expanding extraction is reckless and irresponsible which will only cause increased harm even death of this vulnerable ecosystem.

BLNR has legal obligations that cannot be ignored:

Hawai‘i State Constitution – Article 11, Section 1 – mandate to protect natural resources

Hawai‘i State Constitution – Article 12, Section 7 – protect Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights

Public Trust Doctrine – BLNR must act as trustee, not broker, of public natural resources

Carmichael v. BLNR (2024) – precautionary principle must be applied

Ke Kauhulu o Mānā v. BLNR (2025) – protect Hawaiian beneficiary rights in resource decisions

Approving F-2 would violate the State Constitution and breach BLNR’s fiduciary duty to the people of Hawai‘i. BLNR cannot claim to protect Hawaiian communities while authorizing corporate extraction of Hawaiian marine life.

I speak not only for myself but for my kūpuna who protected this ‘āina and kai before me, and for the generations after us who will inherit the consequences of this vote. Your duty is protection. The people of Hawai‘i are watching, and history will remember this decision.

I strongly urge this Board to VOTE NO on Agenda Item F-2. Hawai‘i is not for sale. Our kai is not your inventory. Do your duty—protect it, not help destroy it.

LEGAL AUTHORITY ADDENDUM

LEGAL AND PUBLIC TRUST REFERENCES – AGENDA ITEM F-2

Hawai‘i State Constitution – Article 11, Section 1 — Conservation of natural resources

Hawai‘i State Constitution – Article 12, Section 7 — Protection of Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights

Public Trust Doctrine — BLNR’s fiduciary duty to safeguard natural resources for present and future generations

Umberger v. DLNR (2017) — Environmental review required for aquarium extraction

Carmichael v. BLNR (2024) — Agencies must apply the precautionary principle

Ke Kauhulu o Mānā v. BLNR (2025) — BLNR must protect Hawaiian beneficiary rights in resource decisions

Conclusion: Rejecting F-2 is necessary to comply with constitutional protections and the

Public Trust Doctrine. Do the PONO thing and VOTE NO.

Mahalo,

Kapi'olani Spencer

Kānaka Maoli – Cultural Practitioner & Lineal Descendant - Protector of 'Āina, Kai and
Kūpuna 'Iwi

Email: kapiolanispencer4@gmail.com

From: [u.stclair](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oct 24 agenda testminy against fish collecting
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 5:50:06 PM

My written testimony. I am AGAINST fish collecting!

“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.”

You have a responsibility to preserve and protect Hawaii’s cultural and natural resources: safeguarding reef life. Allowing fish collection is exploiting cultural values and our inherent subsidence rights.

Mahalo nui loa,
Ursula StClair RN
Certified Diver
Volunteer at Hawaiian Humpback Whale Sanctuary

From: [Jim Steitz](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2 - Do Not Permit Ornamentals Collection
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 8:56:37 PM

As an avid aquarium fish keeper, in addition to a deeply concerned resident of this imperiled Planet Earth, I urge you not to permit fish collection from Hawaii waters for the ornamental aquarium trade. The damage caused by the capture of fish from these reefs over several decades has been well documented. Our reefs are under grueling stress from rising ocean temperatures and acidit. It is morally elementary that we not compound this damage with fish collection, which causes physical damage to these fragile and slow-growing colonial organisms, besides depleting the animals that inhabit them.

The Environmental Impact Statement produced by the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council is not credible or plausible. There is a glaring conflict of interest in allowing a study, whose purpose is predicated upon being truthful and objective, to be written by a party with a vested financial advantage in shading the study results away from truth. It should be obvious that if an EIS is made to falsely claim an industry's exploitation of a resource does not cause ecological damage, that industry will encounter less resistance and fare better in public opinion. PIJAC should therefore have been disqualified from writing the EIS.

Although some my fellow aquarium fish enthusiasts would prefer to imagine that their hobby does not cause damage to reefs, and therefore feel less cognitive dissonance, reality will not permit this comforting delusion. I do not want this hobby tainted by the moral stain invisibly imprinted on fish and invertebrates taken from Hawaiian waters. If we value these animals as more than mere decorations, but as sublime masterpieces of nature's awesome creativity, then we must steward and protect the ecosystems they represent, not transmute the one into the other for superficial displays stripped of global context. The reputable parties to the aquarium trade have known for decades that most of our animals would soon need to be captive bred, and have made major advances in reproduction of many species. This work must be affirmed and continued, not given premature license to disband because Hawaii's waters are open to capture again.

Jim Steitz
St. Louis, MO
435-770-4797

From: [Cynthia Sweeney](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 10:27:09 AM

Please have respect and care for our oceans. Stop aquarium fishing once and for all.

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.

Cynthia Sweeney
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i
808 557-0932

From: [Ane Takaha](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 5:08:30 AM

Aloha

I live on Maui, moved here 18 years ago after coming for the past 40 years for months at a time. We own property, pay taxes and have found a great life here. the biggest part of that is the ocean - snorkeling with our friends everyday. Over the past years the number of fish and other creatures has dwindled to where we can be excited by seeing two of the same fish together. Almost never see a school.

Opening the reefs for aquarium collection is going in the wrong direction for a healthy eco system and a strong tourist draw. It's not good for anyone except the few who plan to make money.

Please halt this action.

Ane Takaha
Maui Meadows

Sent from my iPad

From: [Laurie Tandy](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 6:31:41 AM

No wildlife trafficking for the aquarium trade. If you want to see the underwater wildlife....get yourself a snorkel.
Save our coral reefs and the wildlife that inhabits them!

Laurie Tandy
San Francisco, CA

I have visited Oahu, Kauai, Maui, Big Island, Molokai

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

From: [Debra Taylor](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24th—Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 7:26:59 AM

Sir/Ma'am,

I have lived in Hawai'i (O'ahu and the Big Island) for 18 years (off and on due to work) since the early 1980s. My husband and I are recreational SCUBA divers and have noticed the decline of our beautiful reef fish over these many years. We are now retired in Kona and shocked to hear the State may once again allow the taking of reef fish for commercial aquarium trade.

Please send the rules back for redraft to reflect the views of the residents of these islands, to safeguard our reef fish, rather than reviving the commercial trade the proposed rules were meant to end.

OUR reefs need these fish to survive. This is especially true given climate change and global warming's effects on Hawaii's surrounding reefs. Don't sell them out for commercial gain. This would be a travesty for the future of our reefs, our islands, and the people who live (and visit) here. You have the power to do the right thing. Please do it.

Mahalo,

Debra Taylor
Kailua-Kona
Hawai'i Island

From: [Virginia Tincher](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 6:56:39 AM

BLNR Members,

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.

These rules as drafted are -

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.**

Show Extreme fiscal irresponsibility. Estimated permit revenue: **\$700 per year.** Estimated management cost (excluding enforcement): **\$300,000 – \$500,000.**

Contradict 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.

Hawaii can be a model for environmental stewardship that sends a strong message to the world.

I have family and friends on Oahu, Maui, Kauai and Hawaii Island who are protected by the reefs. We need to protect them.

Regards,

Virginia Tincher

From: [Mary Vandamme](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 Commercial Aquarium Collecting
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 4:42:02 PM

This flagrant and secretive change in the rule package which began as a community-led petition to ban commercial aquarium collecting statewide—which was unanimously approved by BLNR—is now allowing the capture of hundreds of thousands of reef fish every year. Scientific fact proves that overfishing diminishes the health of all reefs. The ancient Hawaiians knew it and scientific data show it, so only the worst of us can try to deny it for financial gain.

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,
Mary Vandamme
Puako
Big Island of Hawaii

From: [Donna VanStralen](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] STOP THE STEAL of our fish!
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 9:13:50 AM

Some of the first few Hawaiian concepts I learned before moving here 6 years ago are Kuleana and Pono. I have volunteered many hundreds of hours to reef cleaning, turtle nest watch, turtle rescue, beach cleans, whale counts, etc. I am one of many who take our kuleana seriously.

This decision represents a serious breach of public trust. What started as a community-driven effort to end commercial aquarium collecting statewide—unanimously supported by the BLNR—has been completely reversed. Rather than safeguarding reef life, DAR’s proposed rules would hand the trade nearly everything it wants, reopening the door to the capture of hundreds of thousands of reef fish each year.

We urge that the rules be returned for revision so they truly represent the community’s call to protect reef life—instead of reopening the very trade they were meant to close—and that public confidence be rebuilt by keeping permitting authority under the direct oversight of the BLNR to ensure transparency and accountability.

Mahalo for your actions to save our reef life.

From: [Bridget Velasco](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F.2 opposition
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 1:33:40 PM

Chair Chang and BNLB Board Members,

My name is Bridget Kaumeheiwa. My 'ohana fished Hawaii's reefs for food, not to make money, and they did so in a sustainable way. We continue to rely on fish for food and environmental balance, not to allow for exploitation.

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 to preserve and protect.

The permit fee schedule is very damaging to our ecosystem. The harm caused by removing so many fish far out weighs the financial agenda of a handful of selfish 'entrepreneurs'. 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 our 'aina and way of life in Hawaii. 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.

I stand in strong opposition to BLNR agenda item F.2.

Sent from Gmail Mobile

From: [Cecile Vimond](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 2:06:01 PM

Aloha Members of the Board,

My name is Cecile Vimond, and I am a resident of Mānoa on the island of O‘ahu and a graduate student at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa studying rare and endangered aquarium fish, including seahorses and other species that would be directly affected by reopening commercial aquarium collection.

I am writing in **strong opposition** to DAR's proposed rule changes that would reopen Hawai‘i’s reefs to commercial aquarium collecting and remove the Board’s oversight of aquarium collection permits.

This proposal represents a breach of public trust and reverses years of community-led conservation progress. The rules would transfer permitting authority away from BLNR and back to DAR, allowing permits to be issued without public notice, scrutiny, or input—undermining transparency and accountability.

As someone who studies the ecology and vulnerability of Hawai‘i’s aquarium species, I am deeply concerned that this reversal would further endanger rare and endemic species already stressed by habitat loss and climate change.

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

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Cecile Vimond

From: [Justin Warner](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2 — Protect Hawai'i's Reefs
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 7:16:32 AM

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board,

My name is Justin Warner, and I am an avid scuba diver based on Maui. I spend countless hours exploring Hawai'i's reefs and have seen firsthand how fragile these ecosystems have become. The impacts of storm runoff, warming ocean temperatures, coral bleaching, and fishing pressure are already severe — our reefs are struggling to recover and need protection now more than ever.

I'm writing to urge you **not to approve DAR's proposed rule package** to reopen commercial aquarium collecting. This proposal betrays the public's trust and undermines decades of conservation progress. Instead of reflecting the community-led call to safeguard reef life, the current draft prioritizes commercial extraction — allowing the capture of hundreds of thousands of reef fish each year, with virtually no meaningful limits or transparency.

Allowing this to move forward would:

- Reverse hard-won gains in reef protection.
- Contradict clear scientific consensus that reef fish abundance must *increase* for coral ecosystems to survive climate change.
- Enable decisions about aquarium-collecting permits to occur behind closed doors, without BLNR oversight or public accountability.

Reefs are not an infinite resource. They are living systems that sustain biodiversity, cultural heritage, and local livelihoods. As someone who has witnessed both the beauty and the decline of Hawai'i's coral reefs, I ask that you **send these rules back for redrafting** so they genuinely reflect the community's conservation intent and **keep permitting authority with BLNR** for full transparency and accountability.

Please, choose to protect reef life — for the future of our oceans, our communities, and the generations to come.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,
Justin Warner
Kihei, Maui

From: [aerie waters](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 7:14:43 AM

If you sell us out now... you will be sold out for the future of this island and your own bloods generations to come.

Do not undo what protection is in place for our most priceless resource and health insurance... the life of the reef.

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.

With deepest concern,
Aerie Waters

From: [Lisa Welter](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 11:03:34 AM

Written Testimony on Agenda Item F-2 (October 24, 2025)

Proposed Adoption of HAR Chapter 13-77.1 “Aquarium Fishery Management”

Submitted to: **Board of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawai**

Chair Chang and Members of the Board,

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on Item F-2, the Division of Aquatic Resources’ (DAR) request to hold public hearings on draft rules establishing a new statewide aquarium fishery management framework.

I appreciate that DAR has worked to consolidate and clarify existing aquarium fishery regulations and that the draft rules will be subject to public hearings. However, I have significant concerns regarding how the proposed framework could affect transparency, accountability, and public oversight once implemented.

Under the proposed Chapter 13-77.1, DAR would become the primary authority issuing and managing aquarium fish permits under the new “State of Hawai Aquarium Fish Permit.” While administrative streamlining can improve consistency, this shift could also **limit opportunities for public notice, Board oversight, and community participation** in individual permitting and enforcement decisions.

Given the long and often contentious history of Hawai’s commercial aquarium trade—and the strong public interest in protecting reef ecosystems—it is essential that the rulemaking process maintain and strengthen, not weaken, public trust and oversight.

I respectfully urge the Department and Board to ensure that any final rules:

1. Preserve meaningful **public participation** in all major permitting and management decisions;
2. Require **periodic reporting to BLNR and the public** on permits issued, catch totals, and enforcement actions;
3. Guarantee **public access to permit and compliance data** to promote transparency; and
4. Include **independent scientific review** of fishery and ecosystem impacts on an ongoing basis.

This rule package represents an important turning point in Hawai’s management of the aquarium fishery. I support continued public discussion and careful review to ensure that any reopening of this fishery proceeds with the highest standards of transparency, accountability, and environmental stewardship.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Welter, Ph.D.
292 Alaume St.
Kihei, Maui, HI 96753
lmwelter@me.com

Hm: 808-874-7539
Cell 213-448-1160

West Hawai'i Fishery Council



October 22, 2025

To: The Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR),

The West Hawai'i Fishery Council (WHFC) has reviewed the “**Request for Approval to Hold Public Hearings on Draft Administrative Rules Updating and Consolidating Aquarium Fishery Regulations into a New Chapter, Hawaii Administrative Rules (“HAR”)**” that is to be presented by the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to the BLNR at the upcoming meeting on Friday, October 24, 2025.

The WHFC wishes to express its concern that these Draft Rules have been prepared by DAR without any prior consultation with this Council. This Request, and these Draft Rules, were only made available to this Council on October 17, 2025, via mass public email.

Upon passage of Act 306 in 1998 that established the West Hawai'i Regional Fishery Management Area (WHRFMA), this Council was convened by DAR for the express purpose of providing the mandated “*substantive involvement of the community in resource management decisions for this area through facilitated dialogues with community residents and resource users*” [HRS §188F-3(7)]. To this end, it has been standard practice for DAR to consult with this Council **prior** to the formal public hearing process. Given that this Council was formed to determine the West Hawai'i community's consensus around fisheries issues – **most prominently and purposefully the aquarium fishery** – we believe that the process by which DAR has formulated these Draft Rules without consulting this Council violates the letter and the spirit of the enabling legislation [HRS §188F].

This Council, by unanimous vote, asks that you reject this Request and that you direct DAR to bring these Draft Rules to this Council for review and feedback in accordance with HRS §188F-3, prior to advancing these or other such Rules to the formal public hearing process.

Thank you, and aloha,

Christopher Funada

Christopher Funada (Co-Chair)

From: [Helen White](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Aquarium Trade
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:38:06 PM

Aloha,

My name is Helen White from Kohala on Hawaii Island. I have been swimming and snorkeling on leeward Hawaii Island for the past 13 years. During that time, I have developed an intimate knowledge of the local reef fish. Like myself there are many residents and visitors who enjoy the colorful variety of fish our island reefs support. However, during those years, I have seen a depletion of these fish particularly the angel fish. There are small reefs that I had nicknamed Potters Condo and Flame condo to name a few that no longer have the fish that they were named after. And these particular places were in the Lapakahi Marine Conservation area. If the aquarium fishing industry cant find enough of these fish outside of a conservation area to the extent they have to come and deplete it too, it doesn't bode well for any legislation that allows for the industry to continue. Banning the aquarium trade has been discussed thoroughly over the years and the community has unanimously agreed that banning the trade and protecting the reef life is essential. Climate change will take its toll on the reef lets not add to it by allowing the trade. Preservation over profit.

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.

Helen White

From: [Michael Wildberger](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 2025 meeting Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 1:42:24 PM

Aloha Chair Chang, and BNLB board members,

Since 1986 I have been a commercial boat captain in Hawaiian waters operating diving, snorkeling, whale watching, canoe escort, and offshore fishing boats. I've taken over a quarter million people snorkeling over these almost 40 years. I also own and operate an ice company that serves commercial fishermen. I can attest from firsthand personal knowledge that nearshore reefs and fisheries are stressed from global and local sources. I can also confirm through ice sales that the take of pelagic fish and deep water bottom fish is getting smaller each year. The last thing nearshore reefs and fisheries need is an additional stressor being introduced in order to profit a small handful of operators.

DAR's mission is to "work with the people to manage, conserve and restore the states, unique aquatic resources, and ecosystems for present and future generations", reopening the reefs to aquarium collectors does not do this. There is no economic benefit in allowing an asset to be removed from Hawaii's common areas when that asset can provide so much more income when left in place for non-extractive industries. The entire proposed annual reef fish take state wide would produce less income in the state than visitors to Maui do in the first two weeks of August alone (Source DBEDT). Visitors will not pay the premium to come to Hawaii to see lifeless decimated reefs. There are many less expensive places for them to visit.

There is certainly no cultural benefit or excuse for the exploitation and extraction of "Hawaii's unique aquatic resources", and it is impossible to describe the taking of live fish as conserving or restoring our aquatic resources. Lastly, many of the whitelisted fish can be bred in captivity making wild capture unnecessary.

This is the equivalent of licensing hunters to hunt Nene's for Thanksgiving dinner rather than buying farm raised turkeys.

From: [Carrie Williams](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 4:36:34 PM

Please stop/refuse to allow future Hawaiian reef trafficking.

Our reefs are already under too much threat from warmer water temps, corral bleaching and ship damages.

Please protect them as reefs provide shelter and balance for so many species. Leave them be!

Sincerely, a mother whose daughter would like to grow up and raise her children to see the reefs in person and not a museum because they are nearly extinct.

Hawaii's beauty should be preserved for all who visit and every creature who lives there to enjoy, not a select few exotic collectors.

Best Regards,
Carrie Williams

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G REVVL 6 Pro device.

From: [Robert Wintner](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 10:47:46 AM

I'm Robert Wintner, Kihei, Maui.

Aloha?

What is aloha? Is aloha a factor on this board?

Is the life of the land perpetuated in righteousness? Or is that only lip service cast in bronze at the Capitol?

Do you see reef wildlife trafficking as pono? Are chains and anchors on coral pono? Tickle sticks, swim bladder puncture, starvation, death in transport, 99% mortality in a year from capture. Sustainable? Pono?

The aquarium trade is not pono, not aloha. This is embarrassing. Can a Board of Land & Natural Resources ignore a public reef trust? Who owns Hawaii reefs? What's the difference between Hawaii and "The State of?"

Do you visit reefs? Do you take the aquarium crowd at their word? Why would DAR promote them? They call it sustainable. It's not.

Aquarium collecting is bad for Hawaii. Hawaii people hate it. DLNR and DAR scoffed Supreme Court injunctive relief with an internal ruling that aquarium permits won't be required. Is that pono? Or is it conflict of interest?

Here we go again. Do *you* visit reefs? Should you see aquarium hunters in action? Kona DAR has a dirty history, warning collectors of enforcement on the way. This board leased state property to an aquarium trader who also ran a "Chinese dating tour." Is pimping pono? The aquarium trade is dirty. Will you violate the public reef trust? Can you call it sustainable? Can you ignore poaching?

FYI, here's a news item, Associated Press, 2010:
State Lawmaker Opposes Aquarium Collecting

Democratic Rep. Josh Green from the Big Island will introduce a bill to ban aquarium collecting in Hawaii. Green says the law is needed because reef wildlife in Big Island and Maui waters has decreased. He says it's time to restore the Gold Coast, as West Hawaii was known for many yellow tangs along the coast.

Aquarium collectors call the move "politically motivated and uneducated, extreme and not warranted."

Now get this: Rep Green changed his bill to describe buoy markers, night lights and rules of the road in gibberish. Kona DAR got to him on political money. Green does not know or visit reefs in the Reef State. He defers to Big Fishing big donors. This is a Josh Green production.

This is embarrassing and shameful. Not aloha.

Robert Wintner
Snorkel Bob's, Hawaii

From: [Jerry Wroblewski](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 agenda item F2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 9:19:27 PM

Hi

It's a repeat of DAR's August 2024 attempt to bypass BLNR, which was withdrawn after public outrage and an assurance that permitting would remain with BLNR. Fourteen months later, that promise has been broken. And it's no coincidence—this about-turn comes just after BLNR finally admitted what advocates have said all along: it has the legal authority to deny aquarium collection permits.

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.

Why This Matters

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.

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.

Take Action Now

1 Submit Written Testimony by Thursday morning, Oct 23

Email: BLNR.TESTIMONY@HAWAII.GOV

Subject: October 24; Agenda Item F.2

In your message, include your name, town, and island. Consider a talking point from above and include a few heartfelt lines such as:

“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.

Regards
Gerald Wroblewski
68-1025 N Kaniku Dr
Apt 205
Kamuela, HI 96743
Big Island Hawaii

From: kaipuna@aol.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules - Testimony in Opposition
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:23:07 PM

Re: Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules

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

I am testifying personally in **strong opposition** to the proposed aquarium fishing rules. I urge the Board to **reject or defer these rules** to protect Hawai'i's fragile reef ecosystems.

As Members of the Board well know, coral reefs are the foundation of life in Hawai'i. They provide food, protect our shorelines, and sustain our culture and identity. Removing reef fish for the aquarium trade disrupts this delicate balance. These fish are not decorations or novelties—they are vital caretakers of our reefs. Allowing their capture, especially at sizes too small to reproduce, is simply **not pono**.

I have major concerns with the inclusion of kole and umaumalei—two vital food fish—on the aquarium fish whitelist. This policy is both ecologically irresponsible and insensitive to the needs of local Hawaiian communities. The current regulations create a deeply flawed double standard. While local fishers, many of whom depend on these resources for food, must abide by size limits (currently 5 inches for kole), the aquarium trade is permitted to collect juvenile fish that have not had a chance to reproduce. Consider the case of the kole: they do not reach sexual maturity until they are approximately 5.7 inches long, a size much larger than the minimum targeted by the aquarium trade. This exploitation has devastating consequences. The removal of nearly 13,000 juvenile kole from our reefs means the loss of tens of millions of potential offspring. This practice is a direct threat to the sustainability of our marine ecosystems and the food security of our local communities. It is illogical to allow for the commercial, for-profit extraction of fish that are a primary food source for local communities. The long-term health of our reefs and the well-being of our people should take precedence over the commercial interests of the aquarium trade.

Today, we have proven, sustainable alternatives. The Oceanic Institute at Hawai'i Pacific University has successfully raised species such as the Yellow Tang and Potter's Angelfish in captivity. This shows we no longer need to harvest these fish from the wild. Hawai'i should be a leader in **innovation and reef restoration**, not in the continued exploitation of our ocean's life for commercial profit.

The aquarium industry benefits only a few while putting our **public trust resources**—and future generations—at risk. Protecting reef life is more than an environmental issue; it is a **moral, cultural, and ecological responsibility**.

I ask you to honor your **kuleana** to protect Hawai'i's reefs by opposing aquarium fish collection and prioritizing the health and resilience of our ocean ecosystems.

Mahalo for your time and for your commitment to safeguarding our natural resources,

Jenny Yagodich

From: [Wendy Yalom](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 3:12:21 PM

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

My name is Wendy Yalom, 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,
Wendy Yalom
Captain Cook, Hawaii

Oct. 24, 2025

Hawaii State Board of Land and Natural Resources

State of Hawaii

Honolulu, Hawaii

Re: Testimony on item F-2

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

My name is Charles Young. I reside in the Ahupua'a of Kealia, South Kona on Hawaii Island. I live within the West Hawaii Regional Fisheries Management Area (WHRFMA) and served on the original Reef Fish Working Group (RFWG). In 1999 I submitted my first written testimony on behalf of my community and their concerns over the collection of reef fish for the Aquarium trade. I have since submitted numerous testimonies and comments regarding this matter with one objective in mind and that is to protect native Hawaiian rights for subsistence, cultural, and religious purposes and the practices and cultural values associated with these rights and practices. My testimony today will not focus on my objections but rather on my hopes.

The Hawaii Constitution and Laws of 1842 on fishing stated "the King hereby takes for fishing grounds from those who now possess them from Hawaii to Kauai, and gives one portion of them to the common people another portion to the landlords and a portion he reserves to himself". "But the fishing grounds from the coral reefs to the sea beach are the for landlords and for the tenants of their several lands, but not for others".

In his publication "The Works of the People of Old" Samuel Kamakau writes "The Hawaiian people were a race of expert fisherman." "The art had been handed down from their ancestors." "The fishing profession was an important one". He goes on to describe the various technics used to catch fish. Kole, Ma'i'i'i, Kala and Hinalea among hundreds of others.

In 1903 the U.S. Government Printing Office in Washington included a publication entitled "The Shore Fishes, The Aquatic Resources of the Hawaiian Islands." A passage from the publication states that "Strange as it may now seem, the Honolulu fish market, in the years 1901 an 1902, provided the authors with their richest and most abundant study materials." "Hawaiian Fishermen, whose ancestors had known the habitats and watched the habits of local fish for a thousand years, were of indispensable help."

Abraham Kauila from Lana'i wrote in his mele Nā 'Ono O Ka 'Āina

"Nā 'ono o ka 'āina	Delicacies of the land
Hali'ali'a wale mai nō	Remember fondly
'O ka mā'i'i'i me ke kole	Ma'i'i'i and Kole fish.

In a separate verse he adds

'O ka māikoikoi ke pala	The māikoikoi fish slightly mellow
'O ka 'ina me ke ka'ukama kai	Sea urchins and sea cucumbers
'O ka 'ōpelu me ke akule	'Ōpelu and Akule
Ahe nui wale aku nā 'ono	My how delicious
Mai apakau na'e i ka ha'i	Don't grab someone else's

Despite this body of information, the 1953 Hawaii State Legislature wrote "Your committee has been informed that a profitable industry for the sale of marine aquarium fish could be established in Hawaii if provisions were made whereby such fish could be taken in a legal manner. Some of these ornamental fishes have little or no value as food fish but will sell as much as \$25 a specimen on the mainland market". That was incorrect then and is incorrect now yet AQ collection has become policy by the DLNR supported in their processes and practices. NOTE that Ma'i'i'i, Kala, Kole and Hinalea are well documented as favored fish in many writings and mele yet they are included for collection.

Since that 1953 pronouncement by the Legislature Article XII, Section 7 of the 1974 Hawaii State Constitution stated that, "The Hawaii provision reaffirms and protects rights for subsistence, cultural, and religious purposes for Native Hawaiians".

In its 2000 decision on the matter of Ka Pa'a Kai O Ka 'Āina vs the Land Use Commission, the Hawaii Supreme Court upheld and reaffirmed the States obligations under Article XII, Section 7.

Whether it's legal or profitable or whether it's characterized as sustainable or highly regulated AQ collection is founded on a misguided assumption and presents a threat to the principles of Hawaii's Constitution and a direct threat to native rights to gather. Nothing could be clearer.

Alternatives that allow for the collection of invasive species such as Taape or Roi have been proposed as well as farmed raised fish. Aquarium fish are successfully being raised here in Hawaii.

DAR's proposal is based on past practice and confidential input from the AQ industry. The number of fish and species targeted for collection were selected to meet profit thresholds while dismissing our history, culture and future aspirations.

During no part of this process has any collector come into our community seeking comments or concerns nor has DAR encouraged them to do so. This is a flaw in the process where the Public Trust is at issue, particularly when there is an abundance of information on the importance of reef fish to communities. This is precisely why a Ka Pa'a Kai Analysis is required.

In summary, my intention is not to express my opposition to this specific proposal but rather to provide Board members with a basis for why this proposal is deeply flawed in its intent and that it only furthers the erosion of our Constitutions aspirations for protecting our rights by supporting and setting precedent for a process that ignores them. I trust in your good judgement when making your decision.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify on the question of whether AQ collection should be renewed. The proposal is flawed and the assumption that reef fish are of little or no value and that their collection for offshore markets can be justified or that the words "sustainability and highly managed" are sufficient to dismiss our heritage.

Respectively

Charles Young

PO Box 505

Honaunau, Hi 96726

From: [karen zauft](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 10:10:30 AM

Aloha Chair Chang and BNLR Board Members,

My name is Karen Zauft. 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 dec

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 hobbist 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,
Karen Zauft

From: [Dana Zebersky](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reef destruction
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 10:46:46 AM

Please Mālama the ocean in Hawaiian tradition

Enough resources have been robbed from these precious islands and people.

The ocean is life.. life is precious.

Please do not allow the continual rape of the precious blessings of these islands for the profit of big business.

Between dumping and pillaging if we don't protect our reefs we are denying the next generation and killing the planet.

I live in Kihei, on Maui.

My name is Dana Zebersky.

Mahalo for your time.