From: brandan Bennett
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F2
Date: Friday, October 24, 2025 7:09:56 AM

Hello
I'm writing thid to voice my concern about the fish and allowed taking of species from the natural reef.

The imbalance of nature and ripple effects it will have is something everyone is well aware of. Why would the State or any level allow this.

Why not utilize or help to start fish hatcheries for the pet sale and mass food consumption of exocit fish.

Just a concerd lover of Earth and the beauty that nature is.

Thank you
Brandan Bennett

From: Bobby Camara
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE AQUARIUM FISHERY
Date: Friday, October 24, 2025 7:48:44 AM

Welina mai,
Please! Absolutely no aquarium fishing. No ! A‘ole! Nope! None!
Reef ecosystems are in peril because of ocean heating and sea level rise. Any perturbation in the system will cause irreparable harm.
No no no to ANY aquarium fishing.
Mahalo
Bobby Camara
Keaau HI

https://dispatchesfromvolcano.blogspot.com/

From: Maui Dreams Team
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24, 2025 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Friday, October 24, 2025 1:41:32 PM

Aloha Chair Chang and BNLR Board Members,

In Opposition to Agenda item F.2

My name is Christina Cantellops. I have lived on Maui for over ten years. I own several dive businesses and am active in ocean conservation. My passion is the ocean and our wildlife. I used to work closely with some conservation agencies and U of H Hilo. I saw first hand the POSITIVE impact that the cessation of commercial collection had to fish populations here on Maui and the repopulation of some critical species. 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 minimal and ineffective as a deternet as does not equate to loss of species.

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

With warming seas and extreme water quality issues, the fish

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

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

Mahalo,

Mahalo,

Christina Cantellops

clradii7@yahoo.com

Kihei, Maui

808-793-9474

--
Maui Dreams Dive Co
1993 S Kihei Rd Ste 22
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MauiDreamsDiveCo.com
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Instagram.com/MauiDreamsDiveCo
www.diveislandstyle.com
facebook.com/islandstylediving

From: Faye Cummins
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2
Date: Friday, October 24, 2025 11:38:46 AM

Hello-

Please do a better job protecting the important natural systems and the legacy of Hawaii's reef life. We do not live in Hawaii, but my brother-in-law does. We visit every year and love the islands.

If more fish are allowed to be harvested, it will undermine the natural beauty of the islands.

Please reconsider. At the very least, reduce the allowable catch size.

Thank you,

Faye Cummins and Fred Berman
Corvallis, Oregon

From: Cynthia Curren
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] safeguard reef life
Date: Friday, October 24, 2025 1:23:22 AM

Im on Maui and love the reefs and all the species we see here. Please dont pander to big business or money and sacrifice this majestic area to do so!!
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: Darcie Asakura
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support Agenda Item F2
Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025 8:49:10 PM

I am in support of agenda item F2. This is a model fishery. Give the fishermen their permits back!

Thank you
Darcie
Sent from my iPhone

From:	Mahesh Cleveland
To:	Chang, Dawn; DLNR.BLNR.Testimony; Neilson, Brian J; Dubiel, John E; Swenson, Danica L
Cc:	Kylie Wager Cruz; Dru Hara; Elena Bryant
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Opposition to Request for Disqualification Regarding October 24, 2025 Agenda Items F.1 and F.2
Date:	Friday, October 24, 2025 9:18:46 AM

Dear Chang Chang and Board Members,

We are writing to urgently to respond to Geoff Davis's unwarranted, eleventh-hour request on behalf of the Virginia-based Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council that to disqualify Board Members Kaiwi Yoon and Riley Smith from the above-referenced agenda items regarding commercial aquarium collection. Mr. Davis submitted his request at 2:44 p.m. yesterday, after the deadline for public comments had closed, and cited no legal authority for such a request or for pausing the Board's sunshine law-compliant agenda and meeting to hold a hearing on it.

There is, moreover, no factual basis for Mr. Davis's request, since Board Members have previously voted and taken positions on all sides of commercial aquarium collection debate. For example, all Board Members, including Board Members Yoon and Smith, recently unanimously voted that the Board lacks authority to ban commercial aquarium collection. Chair Chang has sent letters on behalf of the Department of Land and Natural Resources stating the Department's intent to pass rules to "regulate" commercial aquarium collection, rather than ban it in accordance with the community groups' Board-approved rulemaking petition. Chair Chang has also submitted testimony to the legislature in support of exempting commercial aquarium collection from environmental review. While we have disagreed with the Chair's and Board Member's positions on these particular matters, they have also voted in favor of our positions on other issues regarding commercial aquarium collection. Thus, the Board's varying views on commercial aquarium collection over time are part of a robust and healthy democratic process and categorically not grounds for disqualification or recusal.

Mr. Davis's last-ditch request to disqualify Board Members Yoon and Smith is nothing more than a brazen attempt to harass, intimidate, and unfairly influence the Board on the eve of an important, properly noticed decision-making process. The Board must disregard and dismiss this attack on Hawai'i's democracy.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this matter.

_____

Mahesh Cleveland

Senior Attorney

Earthjustice

850 Richards St., Suite 400

Honolulu, HI 96813

T: 808-599-2436

F: 808-521-6841

www.earthjustice.org

He ali'i ka 'āina, he kauwā ke kanaka.

The land is a chief, humanity its servant.

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*please consider the environment before printing

From: Eleonore Koury
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24, 2025 Agenda Item F.
Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025 6:40:56 PM

Sample Testimony

Aloha Chair Chang and BNLR Board Members,

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 harm caused by removing so many fish far out weighs the financial agenda. The fish on our reefs belong to everyone. Don't allow this proposed wholesale reef 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 hobbiest 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,

Eleonore

From: Christine Fisher
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F2- BLNR must regulate aquarium collectors
Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025 10:10:10 PM

Aloha
Please do not allow fish to be taken for aquariums. I am a scuba diver and you do not see the amount of fish here in Hawai'i that was here 20 years ago.
Christine Fisher

From: Michael Flanary
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support Agenda item F2
Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025 7:12:55 PM

Blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Subject line : Support Agenda item F2

I am in support of agenda item F2. This is a model fishery. Give the fishermen their permits back!

Thank you!
Sent from my iPhone

From: Glenn Fukuda
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Aquarium Fishing Permits must be issued for Hawaii Island
Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025 10:49:17 PM

Fairly pursued and accomplished by law thus to re-issue permits despite any amount of opposition, especially when zero facts but dislikes are evident. DAR represents facts of no detrimental decreased populations of aquarium fish caught now and during all the years before, totaling some 50 years. Even with hurricane Iwa and iniki which devastated our fauna, the resilience of nature never hampered the future of commercial fishing. It is a resource and no different from food fish, but people don't realize how or why and feeling it serve no purpose ridiculous

Glenn Fukuda fisherman

From: Benjy GARFINKLE
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I am against aquarium trade
Date: Friday, October 24, 2025 6:30:44 AM

Aloha
I have been watching this trade for 50 years there is NO reason to allow this to continue
Thanks,

Benjy Garfinkle
808.651.2764

From: Sarah Hausman
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2
Date: Friday, October 24, 2025 9:31:02 AM

I think I might be too late to weigh in, but please don't sell our wildlife to the aquarium trade. It benefits very few.

Thank you,

Sarah Hausman
Kailua, HI

From: jeana kelekolio
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Subject: October 24 — Agenda Item F.2: Opposition to DAR Proposed Rules on Aquarium Collecting
Date: Friday, October 24, 2025 10:20:07 AM

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board,

I am submitting testimony on behalf of **Hui ʻOhana o Hōnaunau** in **strong opposition** to the Division of Aquatic Resources' proposal to reopen Hawaiʻi's reefs to commercial aquarium collecting. This action betrays the community's trust and reverses the intent of the original petition to protect reef life. Instead of safeguarding our marine ecosystems, DAR's draft rules allow for the large-scale removal of reef fish — hundreds of thousands each year — while removing BLNR's public oversight.

Our reefs are already struggling under climate stress. Allowing mass extraction of herbivores and reef species defies science, cultural values, and common sense. It serves private profit at public expense, with permit revenues under $1,000 per year versus hundreds of thousands in management costs. Hawaiʻi Island communities, cultural practitioners, and 84% of residents statewide oppose reopening this trade.

We urge BLNR to **reject the proposed rule package**, **return it for redrafting** that truly reflects the community's conservation intent, and **retain BLNR oversight** for transparency and accountability.

He aliʻi ka ʻāina, he kauwā ke kanaka — The land and sea are the chiefs, and we are their servants.

Please stand pono for our reefs, our culture, and future generations.

Mahalo nui,
Hui ʻOhana o Hōnaunau
Submitted by: **Jeana Kelekolio**, Member
Hōnaunau, Hawaiʻi Island

Sent from my iPhone

From: Aj Jaeger
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for agenda item F-2
Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025 9:27:35 PM

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

It was astounding to read that there is the possibility of a change to allow collection of live reef fish for aquariums again!
I urge you to **reject**the staff recommendation for rulemaking that flies in the face of your previous direction to Division of Aquatic Resources staff, to come up with rules that would prohibit commercial aquarium collection to the extent possible.

I accordingly applaud the BLNR for previously taking a stand with Kānaka ʻŌiwi and other community groups calling for a ban on commercial aquarium collection, and urge you to continue doing so. Please do NOT let the Division of Aquatic Resources simply ignore your decisions in favor of industry advocates, and please reject the rules they have put in front of you today.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,
Aj Jaeger

Sent from my iPhone

KAHELE

October 23rd, 2025

Aloha,
Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and Madam Chairperson.

I am Taha'a H. Kahele. I write to you today this testimony in strong opposition to the proposed guidelines to Aquarium Fisheries. I come before you today humbly as a Native Hawaiian and Lineal Descendant of Miloli'i one of the last traditional Hawaiian Fishing villages with fishing practices that are sustainable and predate those of the Aquarium Fisheries and are still in use to this day.

It has come to my attention that the Division of Aquatic Resources has made efforts to try to restore the unsustainable practices of the *aquarium fisheries*. After being given extensive scientific data, reports from the Division of Conservation and Recreational Enforcement, as well as numerous public testimony against the aquarium fisheries. Leading to its complete moratorium.

After a series of hearings, testimonies, and even a supreme court case, the Board along with DAR still persists in opening up our waters to such a cruel, unsustainable, and destructive fishing practice. With reefs and marine habitat loss numbers increasing day by day, DAR still considers the possibility of permitting AQ fishers, what kind of barbaric notion is this? Not only is it Ironic but is rather a complete contradiction to both DLNR and DARs Mission statement. Not only is it a complete fallacy but it is also a direct misinterpretation of what the public wants.

So I humbly ask you with the utmost respect to remove the following species of fish from the whitelist permitted for the use of Aquarium Fisheries, the following are… Kole (Ctenochaetus Strigosus), Umaumalei (Naso Lituratus) as they are of cultural importance to my people as a food and habitat contributor species.

Also with the recent efforts of the cultivation of the Yellow Tang and Potters Anglersfish thanks to the Ocean Institute of the Hawai'i Pacific University. I see no reason why to harvest these species in the wild, by doing so you risk injuring other species, as well as habitat degradation.

I also beg of you to add some clarity to the proposed terms and conditions as well as the stipulations of the permits that are to be issued to AQ Fishers. I also challenge the department to also have detailed specifications regarding the accountability and enforcement of AQ Fishers that have committed violations in accordance with these proposed rules. To ensure the ecological balance and security of these species.

I challenge you to not only keep the permitting authority with the Board of Land and Natural Resources to ensure transparency and accountability of both fishers and administration. I also charge you to concede to the Hawaii Public Trust Doctrine which is a merited legal principle within our state's constitution. I also ask the department to remember that you are put in trust of the public's natural resources to be used accordingly, sustainably and conservatively for the benefit of the people. Public resources cannot be privatized for the use of commercial export.

The Proposition no longer reflects the public and communities conservational intent of a sustainable marine biome. In its place you have begun to open the pandoras box of commercial exploitation. Not only is it fiscally incompetent with permit revenue estimates below $1000 a year, while its management costs are above $300,000. Not only does it

contradict the scientific data that shows the need for reef fish abundance. In order for the survivability of coral reefs in an ever changing environment caused by climate change.

The public has trusted you in the stewardship of my ancestors and peoples resources, God has trusted you with the stewardship of his creation as said in Genesis 1:26–28. Let the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14–30 be an example of what a good and bad steward is and let Isaiah 24:4-6 be an example of the consequences we face if we as God's stewards of the land continue to misuse, exploit, and unsustainably harvest natural resources from both the land and the ocean.

As many of my people, the Native Hawaiian people, lose trust in the department and the board of Land and Natural Resources, I will continue to have trust that in your care my people's resources can be governed properly, sustainably and conservatively. To ensure that the next generation may inherit these resources in a way where the worries of food and marine biome insecurity will be no more.

Finally I challenge the department and board of Land and Natural Resources to listen to the people and their thoughts. To give them a chance to help our oceans heal and recover from both global warming, and overfishing. With scientific data predicting that 90% of the world's coral reefs may go extinct by the end of the century. Why does the board and DAR insist on having AQ fishers back in the water? By doing this not only do you speed up the process of coral reef and fish depletion, but you also contribute to the deprivation of my peoples and the future generations resources.

I ask you to ask yourselves “What legacy am I going to leave young people, what world am I going to leave my family, will the pristine waters and reefs I see now be there for the future? Or am I contributing to its destruction.”

Sincerely,

Taha’a H. Kahele

From: Makanui Kitahara
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony for Aquarium fishing agenda item F2
Date: Friday, October 24, 2025 10:37:00 AM

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

Thank you, members of the Board, for the opportunity to provide this testimony. I Cheyenne Paris ‘Makanui‘ Kitahara respectfully submit this testimony in opposition of DAR item F2. As a Hawaiian, a mother, a cultural practitioner, an eleventh generation grand-daughter of Kekahawai‘olenākona, and fifth generation kia‘i loko, I strongly oppose the collection of i‘a (fish) from Hawaiian waters for any and all aquarium commercial purposes. Our i‘a (marine life) are vital to our native ecosystems and any sort of collection of i‘a as pets, for public exhibition, for public display, or for sale in aquariums, amusement, or decoration is HEWA.

> “Herbivores are the critical maintainers of coral-algal dynamics and are key in promoting reef calcifiers (e.g. Scleractinians and crustose calcifying algae) over fleshy macroalgae. This, in turn, is paramount for reef recovery after bleaching events, especially important for Hawai‘i which is still recovering from the 2014-2015 and 2019 bleaching events,” they wrote. They noted that nine of the top 10 collected aquarium fish species in Hawai‘i are herbivores and represent 97.7 percent of total aquarium catch in 2017.” (Environmental Hawaii, 2020)

There is absolutely no way you can convince me that the annual removal of over a quarter of a million i‘a (fish) will not cause substantial effects and impacts on our i‘a (marine life), oceans and people. I, guided by my ancestors, ask the board to immediately pause the existing rule and plan approval process. Placing it back into a draft phase, and allowing the input of the community to be considered. The proposed rules and plans must return to the redrafting phase to ensure that they reflect the current and future protection of Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights, and the community’s needs, and concerns.

My family and I have practiced our culture through fishing and diving for sustenance as our ancestors have our entire lives. I've read testimony from opposing parties who gain financial benefit from this pono ‘ole i‘a collection, stating that in their experience certain fish are rare, and not visible in the day. I will tell you 20 years ago there were so many fish, back in those days I never questioned the future abundance of our ocean and survival of my kin. In the 20-30ft depth, there were once tons of Kole, tons of Paku‘iku‘i and in my lifetime alone have seen significant drops in fish count, and witness more and more people without kuleana or pilina (connection) to these lands taking, collecting, desecrating usually for $$$. Kole (Goldring Surgeonfish, Ctenochaetus strigosus), is one of my favorite i‘a, when I was in high school there used to be paper plate sized fish just off the shoreline throughout most of Kekaha, Kona. Today, I must go out farther, deeper to even locate “legal” sized i‘a. Additional hardships occur when commercial marine vessels are allowed

to come closer to shorelines to conduct their for-profit business, thus interfering and impeding our ability to safely continue our cultural practices, and pass this knowledge on to our children. How does my eight year old learning to dive harvest a Kole in 45ft waters? Where did the fish on the shoreline go? Our future is still being built and your decision making affects and impacts the survival of my kin, how do you suggest we respond? It is your kuleana, to protect our future, and to regulate those who threaten the Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights.

I unfortunately I missed last meetings agenda item F2, the Special Activity Permit to George Peterson, and California‘s Monterey Bay Aquarium to:

> “Collect, possess or transport regulated organisms (lobster spp. / Scyllaridae and Palinuridae spp.; larval/zooplanktonic stage) and non-regulated organisms (various spp. of gelatinous zooplankton and zooplankton [larval/zooplanktonic stage] and jellyfish [larval though adult stages]), as listed in Table 1 on Page 1, in areas of offshore waters (2 to 20 miles offshore) of Honokōhau, Hawaii, including a regulated area (West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area – “WHRFMA” – in areas in the WHRFMA in the 2-3 mile zone offshore outside of all smaller FMA, MLCD, FRA and NRA) and the non-regulated areas of offshore waters (3 to 20 miles offshore), using non-regulated gear (jars). The objective of the activity is to collect gelatinous zooplankton, zooplankton and jellyfish for the purposes of educational live display in a deepwater exhibit (“aquarium purposes”) and associated research (e.g. husbandry captive research and/or culturing) at Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey, CA. The collections will support the established Into the Deep Exhibition that opened in 2022 at the aquarium, featuring the mid-water and deep-water marine species. *Note: The collection activities as proposed for this project fall under activities described under "Aquarium purposes" as defined under §13-60.4-3: Aquarium purposes means to hold aquatic life alive in a state of captivity, whether as pets, for scientific study, for public exhibition, for public display, or for sale for these purposes.”

Collection, collection, collection, take, take, take, “education”, PROFIT, PROFIT, PROFIT.

It's disheartening reading public testimony of benefiting parties that include pure haole (foreign) ignorance. Offensively imposing opinions like “When managing its most renewable, sustainable resource, Hawaii's stupidity needs to change.” Let‘s be real, there is no benefit to the Hawaiian people - this foreign collection is an example of continued desecration of our resources, continued oppression and lethal acculturation. Attempting to convince me that your purpose is for our benefit? ‘A‘OLE. Valuing our way of life, our lands, our oceans and our resources in dollar amounts, numerical figures and percentages - our way of life, our oceans, and our people are not commodities and have constantly suffered from outside haole (foreign) influences, and it needs to cease. Protect our i‘a, protect our wai, and protect our Hawaiians.

In conclusion, I ask the Board of Land and Natural Resources to please do the following:

1. Keep Aquarium Fishery Permitting authority with the BLNR so the community is included in the processes, allowing transparency and accountability.

2. Return the proposed rules and plans back to the redrafting phase to ensure that they reflect the current and future protection of Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights, **AND** the community's needs, and concerns.

3. Remove Kole (Goldring Surgeonfish, Ctenochaetus strigosus) from the whitelist immediately.

4. All wild collections of all Aquarium species being cultivated in labs, or farms must be removed from the whitelist entirely. Our wild habitats do not need to be impacted if they can be sourced from cultivators, labs or farms..

5. Provide more clarity around permitting, terms, conditions, rules and accountability to prevent further abuse, negligence and desecration.

6. Prioritize Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights, needs and concerns regarding subsistence over commercial extraction in alignment with DLNR's Hierarchy of Use Policy. As I stated earlier, The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment IS HEWA AND NOT A CULTURAL PRACTICE!

7. Remember that the Hawaii's Public Trust Doctrine, is the legal principle protected in the State of Hawaii's constitution. DLNR, BLNR and all related and affiliated entities have a responsibility to hold ALL public natural resources in trust for the benefit of the people of Hawaii, present and future. Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export.

And I leave you with these questions. How do these institutions, for-profit companies, and individuals give back to the lands, the people and the resources that they financially and intellectually benefit from? As Hawaiians we were raised trusting that our oceans, and our fishponds were like the "icebox" for our families, why are you stealing the nourishment from the mouths of my children?

Concerned Hawaiian daughter and mother,

Makanui Kitahara

From: rowan kotner
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 - RE: DAR Aquarium Fishery Permitting Rules
Date: Friday, October 24, 2025 8:51:05 AM

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

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

Today, I respectfully ask you to:

1) Keep the permitting authority with the BLNR to ensure full transparency and accountability.

2) Send these rules back for redrafting in true collaboration with the 2023 Petitioners Hui and DOCARE.

3) Remove Kole (Ctenochaetus strigosus) and Umaumalei (Naso lituratus) from the whitelist entirely—they are culturally respected food fish for sustenance and vital herbivores that clean our reefs. They are being double-counted as both food and ornamental takes.

4) Remove Yellow Tang and Potter's Angelfish from the whitelist, as they are now successfully cultivated by the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU) in Oahu—wild harvest is unnecessary.

5) Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, conditions, and accountability to prevent abuse and ensure ecological balance.

6) Align with DLNR's Hierarchy of Use Policy, prioritizing cultural, subsistence, and ecosystem needs above commercial extraction. The Aquarium Fishery for ornamental enjoyment is not a cultural practice!

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your time,
[YOUR NAME]

[TOWN, ISLAND]

From: Lyla Andrews Bashan
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025 5:57:02 PM

Hello -

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.

I live in Captain Cook on the Big Island.

Thank you,

Lyla

From: Suzanne Mankoff
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Today's testimony - sorry for the late submission
Date: Friday, October 24, 2025 2:26:26 PM

Seriously, again we are bringing up commercial aquarium fishing?

I thought this was settled. C'mon, Hawaii. Get your act together and do what is right for all the people of Hawaii, and it's vital ecosystem!! Why are we doing economically unviable activities for a few commercial fishermen??

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.

A few notes to highlight from people who know what they are talking about and rely on scientific evidence to make decisions:

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.

I sure hope you did the right thing!!

-Suzanne Mankoff
Kamuela, HI 96743

Begin forwarded message:

On Monday, August 19, 2024, 10:08 AM, Suzanne Mankoff <smankoff@yahoo.com> wrote:

> Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,
>
> My name is Suzanne Mankoff. I am a resident of Kamuela, near the town of Kawaihae, and I am a frequent swimmer, snorkeler and scuba diver on these shores.
>
> I OPPOSE issuing commercial aquarium permits in West Hawai‘i and I OPPOSE delegating authority to the Department Chair.
>
> Regarding Terms & Conditions to Issue West Hawai‘i AQ permits, I request you reject DAR's AQ Terms and Conditions and deny any and all permits. I have been swimming on the shores of West Hawai'i for decades and have witnessed, first hand, the changes wrought by climate change and human influences. Must we also now further degrade the marine environments by enabling people to take creatures that are so vital to this important habitat? The aquarium trade has already taken so many fish away from Hawai'i - and most of those fish perish. The economic gain of very few people would be the source of unimaginable economic, cultural and environmental loss for the whole island.
>
> Regarding Delegating Authority to Issue AQ Permits to the Department Chair, do not delegate authority to the Department Chair. Retain the discretionary authority with the Board who will continue to utilize their diverse island communities, specialize knowledge, and expertise to weigh in and make informed decisions together.
>
> Mahalo for this opportunity,
> Suzanne Mankoff
> Ouli, Moku o Keawe

From: Devin Mannoia
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F-2
Date: Friday, October 24, 2025 7:06:39 AM

Aloha ,
I vote no one aquariums stealing our fish for their personal gain. We don't farm fish, and in October is our fishes breeding time

Devin Mannoia Dmannoia@gmail.com

From: Simon Michael
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 2025 Agenda item F.2
Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025 7:23:08 PM

Dear Chair Chang and BNLR Board Members,

Please reject the proposal allowing collection of Hawaii's reef fish for aquariums. Every time I go in the water I see fewer fish. It is our responsibility to conserve and support fish to thrive in their natural habitat. Allowing them to be harvested in large numbers, to survive for a few months in transit or in a tank, for the short term profit of a few, would be short sighted and wrong. Please help to defeat this proposal. Thank you for being accountable to future generations and intervening in this matter.

Mahalo,

-Simon Michael
Hali'imaile

From: Daniel Moth
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025 6:10:19 PM

Don't let short term greed create long standing destruction - send the rules back for re-drafting!

From Kihei, Maui with serious concern
Daniel Moth

From: nihipalim001@hawaii.rr.com
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Agenda item F-2
Date: Friday, October 24, 2025 6:50:02 AM

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

I urge you to **reject** the staff recommendation for rulemaking that flies in the face of your previous direction to Division of Aquatic Resources staff, to come up with rules that would prohibit commercial aquarium collection to the extent possible. These rules would instead only further facilitate the re-establishment of the aquarium collection industry in West Hawai‘i and throughout our islands.

Reef fish - including and particularly the herbivorous species targeted by aquarium collectors - are essential components of a healthy nearshore ecosystem, including the coral reefs that protect our shorelines from degradation by rising seas and coastal erosion. They are also critical components of traditional and customary subsistence fishing practices, have cultural and spiritual significance, and are a precious resource for residents and visitors alike.

Commercial aquarium collection, driven by the immense profit to be made by selling certain reef fish for purely ornamental purposes - such as kole and lau‘ipalā - may have a disproportionate impact on reef biodiversity and ecological functions; compromise our cultural, subsistence, and recreational practices; and promote the belief that our public trust resources should be prioritized for corporate exploitation.

I accordingly applaud the BLNR for previously taking a stand with Kānaka ʻŌiwi and other community groups calling for a ban on commercial aquarium collection, and urge you to continue doing so. Please do NOT let the Division of Aquatic Resources simply ignore your decisions in favor of industry advocates, and please reject the rules they have put in front of you today.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Michele Nihipali
54-074 Kamehameha Hwy. #A
Hauula, HI 96717

From: Pikachu Billionaire
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Agenda Item F2 by Pikachu Shelby Billionaire
Date: Friday, October 24, 2025 2:50:16 PM

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I. Ohana Unity Party, Chairman www.Ohanaunityparty.com Presidentbillionaire@gmail.com October 24, 2025 Board of Land and Natural Resources State of Hawai‘i Kalanimoku Building 1151 Punchbowl Street Honolulu, HI 96813 Subject: Opposition to Proposed HAR Chapter 13-77.1 and Amendments to HAR Chapters 13-60.4 and 13-75 Dear Chair Case and Honorable Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, As Chairman of the Ohana Unity Party and a representative of the Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I., I write to formally oppose the proposed consolidation of aquarium fishery management regulations into Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) Chapter 13-77.1, “Aquarium Fishery Management,” and the associated amendments to HAR Chapters 13-60.4 (“West Hawai‘i Regional Fishery Management Area”) and 13-75 (“Rules Regulating the Possession and Use of Certain Fishing Gear”). I respectfully urge the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to cancel this rulemaking process and prioritize a science-based, culturally grounded, and community-inclusive approach to managing Hawai‘i’s marine resources. The proposed rules, while intended to streamline regulations, pose significant risks to Hawai‘i’s marine ecosystems, Native Hawaiian cultural practices, and the livelihoods of small-scale fishers. As a leader committed to the unity and well-being of our communities, I am deeply concerned that these changes fail to honor the interconnected relationship between our people, our culture, and our oceans. Below, I outline specific objections to the proposed measures and offer recommendations to ensure sustainable and equitable fishery management. ### Concerns with the Proposed Rules 1. **State-wide Permit Ignores Regional Diversity** The introduction of a standardized, state-wide aquarium fishing permit disregards the unique ecological and cultural contexts of Hawai‘i’s diverse regions. From the coral reefs of West Hawai‘i to the coastal waters of O‘ahu, each area faces distinct environmental pressures and cultural uses of marine resources. A uniform permit risks oversimplifying management, potentially leading to ecological degradation in sensitive areas and economic hardship for fishers who rely on region-specific practices. 2. **Erosion of West Hawai‘i Protections** The repeal of the West Hawai‘i aquarium permit under HAR Chapter 13-60.4 and its replacement with a geographical endorsement and species whitelist under HAR Chapter 13-77.1 threatens the robust protections established for the West Hawai‘i Regional Fishery Management Area (WHRFMA). This region’s marine ecosystems, home to species like the yellow tang (*Zebrasoma flavescens*), are particularly vulnerable to overcollection. The proposed whitelist and annual catch limits lack transparent, peer-reviewed scientific evidence to ensure they adequately protect these species. Weakening region-specific rules could exacerbate ecological harm and undermine decades of conservation efforts. 3. **Economic Hardship for Small-Scale Fishers and Dealers** The expansion of vessel registration and marking requirements to a state-wide level, combined with new commercial aquarium fish dealer regulations, imposes excessive financial and bureaucratic burdens on small-scale fishers and businesses. Many fishers in our communities operate modest, family-run operations that cannot easily absorb the costs of additional compliance measures. These regulations risk pushing legitimate operators out of the industry, potentially fueling unregulated or illegal trade rather than curbing it. Without clear evidence that these measures will enhance enforcement, they appear overly restrictive and disconnected from the realities of local fishers. 4. **Neglect of Native Hawaiian Cultural Values** Hawai‘i’s marine resources are integral to Native Hawaiian cultural practices, which have sustained our oceans for centuries through traditional ecological knowledge. The proposed rules fail to meaningfully incorporate input from Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners, who rely on specific marine species for customary practices and hold invaluable insights into sustainable management. This oversight risks alienating communities whose stewardship is essential to the health of our marine ecosystems and violates the principles of cultural respect and collaboration. 5. **Lack of Robust Scientific Data** Effective fishery management demands current, comprehensive data on species populations, ecosystem dynamics, and the impacts

of aquarium collection. The proposed species whitelist, catch limits, and other measures lack a transparent, peer-reviewed scientific foundation. Without such data, the rules may either be overly restrictive, harming fishers' livelihoods, or insufficiently protective, allowing continued depletion of marine resources. This uncertainty undermines the credibility of the proposed regulations. 6. **Premature Push for Public Hearings** Advancing to public hearings at this stage is premature, as the proposed rules do not adequately address the concerns raised during public scoping. The process has not sufficiently engaged fishers, Native Hawaiian communities, or other stakeholders who depend on or steward these resources. Moving forward without broader consultation risks further dividing our communities and eroding trust in DAR's management processes. ### Recommendations To address these concerns, I respectfully urge DAR and the BLNR to take the following actions: 1. **Cancel the Proposed Rulemaking**: Halt the development of HAR Chapter 13-77.1 and amendments to HAR Chapters 13-60.4 and 13-75 to allow for a more thorough and inclusive process. 2. **Conduct Independent Scientific Research**: Commission peer-reviewed studies to assess the ecological, economic, and cultural impacts of aquarium fishing, ensuring that any future regulations are grounded in robust data. 3. **Engage Stakeholders Comprehensively**: Convene a task force that includes small-scale fishers, Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners, marine scientists, and community leaders to co-develop management strategies that reflect the needs and values of all stakeholders. 4. **Incorporate Traditional Ecological Knowledge**: Center Native Hawaiian perspectives and practices in fishery management plans, recognizing their proven effectiveness in sustaining marine ecosystems. 5. **Explore Alternative Solutions**: Develop less burdensome measures, such as enhanced monitoring, targeted enforcement, or community-based management models, that achieve conservation goals while supporting fishers' livelihoods. ### Closing I strongly urge the Board of Land and Natural Resources to reject the request to proceed with public hearings on the proposed HAR Chapter 13-77.1 and amendments to HAR Chapters 13-60.4 and 13-75. Instead, I respectfully request that the Division of Aquatic Resources cancel this rulemaking process and commit to a science-driven, culturally inclusive, and community-centered approach to aquarium fishery management. Mahalo for your dedication to safeguarding Hawai‘i's marine ecosystems and cultural heritage. I welcome the opportunity to engage in further discussions to support sustainable solutions that honor our shared responsibility to protect these invaluable resources. Sincerely, Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I. Ohana Unity Party, Chairman www.Ohanaunityparty.com Presidentbillionaire@gmail.com Facebook: @Keikiokalani Instagram: @Ohanaunityparty, @Legendarybillionaire X: @Ohanaunityparty, @AmericanpartyOG YouTube: @PikachuBillionaire

From: Dominic Pouzin
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Resumption of aquarium fishing
Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025 7:57:06 PM

Please do not allow resumption of aquarium fishing. As a resident of Kona, I like many other residents find this practice totally unacceptable. A fish belongs in the ocean not a small “cage”.

Thank you.

Ano ai ke aloha,

Please let the following serve as testimony for myself, Conall Kahaka'ioikamalie Ravenscraft, resident and generational lineal descendant of Kealakekua, Hawaii.

I am speaking in unison with community advocates in West Hawaii and across Ka Pae Aina with deep concern and strong opposition to the dangerously vague and ecologically irresponsible rules for Aquarium Fishery Permits that DAR is introducing. DAR through these rules as so far indicated, disregards and discredits generations of traditional ecological knowledge, fails to provide substantial data in support of their position to open West Hawaii's waters for AQ collection, and violates both the State of Hawaii's own *Public Trust Doctrine* and the DLNR's own principals of *Hierarchy of Use.*

In a recent conference call with DAR leadership regarding the introduction of these proposed rules, DAR leadership made it abundantly clear that their data was nothing short of arbitrary if not non-existent at all, and required constant reminding of what their agency is intended to serve; when pushed for transparency DAR leadership spoke of being "between a rock and a hard place", please allow this testimony to provide clarity, the "rock" is YOUR communities and the natural and cultural resources you are sworn to protect, and the "hard place" is the foreign COMMERCIAL interests these proposed rules benefit solely. REMEMBER WHAT YOU SERVE

E MAU KE EA O KA AINA I KA PONO

O KA AINA KE ALII

O KE KANAKA KE KAUWA

It is the intent of this testimony herein to call on the BLNR to:

I. Ensure full transparency and accountability for the permitting authority.

II. Suspend the proposed rules for redrafting in true collaboration with the *2023 Petitioners Hui*, Kai Kuleana Network, MLCD and CBSFA community-management orgs., and DOCARE.

III. Remove Kole and Umaumalei from the whitelist entirely - as both important subsistence food species and vital herbivores for ecological health and stability – and furthermore remove La'ipala (yellow tang) and Potters Angelfish entirely due to the success of controlled cultivation by the Oceanic Institute of Hawaii Pacific University rendering wild harvest of these species unnecessary.

IV. Add detailed clarity around permits, terms, and conditions, and ensure accountability to prevent abuse of permits and protect the sensitive ecological zones the DAR and BLNR are sworn to protect.

V. Align with the *DLNR's Hierarchy of Use policy*:

a. **Natural and cultural resources:** The highest priority is the conservation and protection of Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources. Commercial or public activities cannot be allowed if they would cause undue damage to these resources.

b. **Public access and activity:** Second in the hierarchy is access for the general public, provided that it does not damage natural and cultural resources. If restrictions on access become necessary, they will be applied to commercial users before the general public.

c. **Commercial activity:** The lowest priority is commercial activity. It is only permitted if it does not damage resources or compromise general public use.

VI. Align with the Sate of Hawaii's *Public Trust Doctrine* ; the Hawai`i Supreme Court described the public trust doctrine as "the right of the people to have the waters protected for their use [which] demands adequate provision for traditional and customary Hawaiian rights, wildlife, maintenance of ecological balance and scenic beauty, and the preservation and enhancement of the waters . . ." "For the benefit of present and future generations, the State and its political subdivisions shall conserve and protect Hawaii's natural beauty and all natural resources, including land, water, air, minerals and energy sources, and shall promote the development and utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation and in furtherance of the self-sufficiency of the State. All public natural resources are held in trust by the State for the benefit of the people." Public trust resources are NOT for privatized commercial export and this doctrine must not be violated least of all by the DAR and BLNR whom are to serve these public natural resources first and foremost.

Me ke aloha haahaa

Nou no ka pono,

Conall Kahaka'ioikamalie Ravenscraft

Napoopoo, Ka Hema o Kona, Hawaii o Keawe

From: Pea Dog
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stop allowing the destruction of our reefs!
Date: Friday, October 24, 2025 6:14:09 AM

Dear sir or madam,

My name is Pamela Small and I live in Kawaihae on the Big Island.

I am appalled that I need to write this message as the courts and the public have already spoken very very strongly about the importance of protecting the reefs and reef fish of Hawai'i from aquarium collection.

Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) has drafted a rule package to **re-open Hawai'i's reefs to commercial aquarium collecting and removing oversight by the BLNR.**

This is an extreme breach of public trust. The proposed rule no longer reflects the **community's conservation intent. 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.**

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.**

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.

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

Thank you for your consideration,

Pamela Small
Kawaihae

From: Maggie Sutrov
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Friday, October 24, 2025 5:52:03 AM

Dear BLNR,

As the manager of a small family business who regularly takes part in ocean conservation work, diver, educator, and lifelong Maui resident, I oppose reopening Hawaiian reefs to the aquarium trade.

Our reefs are threatened from a multitude of angles, some of which we have local agency over, and others, such as climate change operate at a global scale. We owe it to our reefs to do everything in our power to maintain our reefs.

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,

Maggie Sutrov

Maui Pacific Divers
(808) 229-3999

MAUI PACIFIC DIVERS & PRIVATE CHARTERS

From: Erin Tjornhom
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Commercial aquarium collecting testimony
Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025 7:39:49 PM

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.

every reef would be **vulnerable to degradation and collapse, as occurred decades ago in leeward O'ahu. Keep the reefs safe from trade and damage.**

From: tracztracz@aol.com
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Agenda Item F.2
Date: Friday, October 24, 2025 6:31:22 AM

Harvesting tropical fish from ocean reefs is harmful for several ecological and ethical reasons.

Here's a breakdown of the key issues:

Coral destruction: Collectors often use cyanide to stun fish hiding in coral crevices. This poison kills coral, invertebrates, and other marine life, leaving behind dead zones.

Disruption of reef balance: Many reef fish eat algae that would otherwise smother coral. Removing these fish allows algae to overgrow, weakening the reef's ability to regenerate.

Loss of biodiversity: Overharvesting depletes key species, reducing genetic diversity and destabilizing the ecosystem.

Collateral deaths: For every fish successfully captured, many more die during collection, transport, or handling. Cyanide exposure alone is estimated to kill millions of reef organisms annually.

Unsustainable practices: With up to 30 million ornamental fish taken from reefs each year, wild populations—like the Banggai cardinalfish—have been pushed toward extinction.

Threat to local communities: Many coastal populations rely on reef fisheries for food and income. Overfishing undermines their livelihoods and cultural traditions.

Tourism loss: Healthy reefs attract divers and tourists. Damaged reefs reduce tourism revenue and local economic opportunities.

Animal welfare: Wild-caught fish often suffer stress, injury, and death during capture and transport.

Alternatives exist: Captive breeding programs offer a sustainable way to enjoy ornamental fish without harming reefs

Hawai‘i’s coral reefs are among the most biodiverse and fragile ecosystems on Earth. Reopening the door to commercial extraction—especially under a flawed Environmental Impact Statement authored by the very industry it seeks to regulate—would be a grave mistake.

From: Luca Vartic
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Subject: October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025 7:58:54 PM

“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,
Luca Vartic

From: Kimberly Welch
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24 Item F.2
Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025 10:56:09 PM

Aloha e Members of the BLNR,
I am writing to express my opposition to the re-opening of commercial aquarium fish collection in Hawaii. Born and raised in Hawaii, I grew up in a family that spends as much time in the ocean as on land. I learned to swim before I could walk. Diving is a way of life that continues to sustain our family mentally and physically. The idea of removing fish to cater to private collectors is not sustainable and does not support the people of Hawaii. Scientific studies have shown that this practice significantly reduces fish populations, particularly species critical to reef health, such as yellow tangs. Our Hawaiian reef fish are not easily replenished, and their removal has cascading effects on the entire marine ecosystem. Hawaii's reefs are already facing threats from warming waters and coral bleaching. Adding the pressure of commercial collection is unsustainable and irresponsible. Additionally, the removal of our Hawaiian reef fish from their natural habitat, to be sold to collectors around the world for a profit that benefits only a few, is completely counter to Hawaiian culture and shows complete disrespect for the connection between the ocean, the land, and the people. Please take a stand for conservation and protect Hawaii's natural resources for future generations.

Mahalo,
Kimberly Malia Welch
kmwelch@hawaii.edu

From: Zena Wetzel
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Aquarium collection of fish in Hawai'i for Sale
Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025 9:38:39 PM

Please do not allow collection of our fish for commercial purposes. We don't need people exploiting our coastline for personal gain collecting fish for sale. I worked my first job in an aquarium store . The most beautiful tropical fish retailed for 50-100 dollars. Only really experienced people with very expensive water filtration systems could keep the fish alive. More often than not the fish would be brought back dead in a short amount of time.

We need more conservation districts and moratorium on fishing . Our coastlines need more fish . Not less .

If they were going to take fish , why not take Nenue. They are plentiful. How about invasive Roi.

Please keep the ban on aquarium collection.

Zena N S Wetzel

HI MAT 9710

From: keri zacher
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for agenda item F-2
Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025 8:20:37 PM

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

I urge you to **reject** the staff recommendation for rulemaking that flies in the face of your previous direction to Division of Aquatic Resources staff, to come up with rules that would prohibit commercial aquarium collection to the extent possible. These rules would instead only further facilitate the re-establishment of the aquarium collection industry in West Hawai‘i and throughout our islands.

Reef fish - including and particularly the herbivorous species targeted by aquarium collectors - are essential components of a healthy nearshore ecosystem, including the coral reefs that protect our shorelines from degradation by rising seas and coastal erosion. They are also critical components of traditional and customary subsistence fishing practices, have cultural and spiritual significance, and are a precious resource for residents and visitors alike.

Commercial aquarium collection, driven by the immense profit to be made by selling certain reef fish for purely ornamental purposes - such as kole and lau‘ipalā - may have a disproportionate impact on reef biodiversity and ecological functions; compromise our cultural, subsistence, and recreational practices; and promote the belief that our public trust resources should be prioritized for corporate exploitation.

I accordingly applaud the BLNR for previously taking a stand with Kānaka ‘Ōiwi and other community groups calling for a ban on commercial aquarium collection, and urge you to continue doing so. Please do NOT let the Division of Aquatic Resources simply ignore your decisions in favor of industry advocates, and please reject the rules they have put in front of you today.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.
Sincerely,
Keri Zacher

From: Med Dyer
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] October 24; Agenda Item F.2
Date: Saturday, October 25, 2025 4:07:06 PM

Please do not enact the proposed changes to aquaria collecting. Many places in the islands are nearly fished-out already and the remaining fish populations should not have to deal with this unnecessary added attack. There is no value add here for anyone other than the collectors. This is a terrible move and will likely end up with a legal dispute.

Thank you,

Med Dyer
1677 Pe‘e Rd.
Kōloa, HI 96756

From: Heidi Ewing
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony regarding aquarium collection.
Date: Friday, October 24, 2025 4:55:37 PM

Aloha,

As a constituent that spends time in the ocean every week I was appalled to read that reopening aquarium collection on our sensitive and struggling reefs was being considered. I must add my voice to what I hope is a long and loud list of people that strongly oppose this idea. Our entire planets ecosystems depend on healthy reefs and we must stop taking from them. I noticed a healing over the last 5 years and we need to keep trending forward stewardship. Please consider our roles as humans and how much power we wield. We can take and destroy, or we can be stewards that help these ecosystems thrive.

From: dph0277@gmail.com
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Against DAR's requested changes to Aquarium Fish rules
Date: Friday, October 24, 2025 6:19:01 PM

There is no doubt that Hawaii residents overwhelmingly oppose the capturing of our reef fish only to be forced to live in aquariums. But DAR continues to push this agenda. Stop this madness now! While there are many species under threat in Hawaii that we a have limited ability to help, the fish captured only for the enjoyment of aquarium owners is one that we can and should defend. Do the right thing and stop DAR's proposed changes.
David Hill
Captain Cook, HI