

Kāne‘ohe Bay Regional Council Meeting
Agenda
June 22, 2023
6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Online or call-in via ZOOM
(Zoom info listed below)

or

In-person at:
Kāne‘ohe Atrium Building
46-004 Kawa St., Ste. 104
Kāne‘ohe, HI 96744
6:00PM-8:00PM

1. Opening (Non-Action Item)
2. Meeting ground rules (Non-Action Item)
3. Approval of June 22, 2023 Agenda (Action Item)
4. Approval of Council minutes of the May 3, 2023 meetings (Action Item)
5. Approval of Council letter to Chair Dawn Chang strongly urging the Department of Land and Natural Resources to act to permanently end the commercial harvesting of reef wildlife for the aquarium pet trade in the State of Hawai‘i. Proposed letter posted below agenda (Action Item)
6. Follow-up questions from May 3, 2023 Meeting (Non-Action Item)

-Question regarding the sewage spill event at He‘eia Kea Pier last March/April. The Council requests info about the type of sewage system at the Pier, any plans to upgrade/avoid spills in the future?

-Question about the sunken canoe near the south boat ramp – any plans to remove the canoe?

-Question about kite surfers going across the sand bar and slow wake zone – does DOBOR have any information on this?

-Question about a new barge launched in the Bay on May 3 – is the barge permitted? Is the size permitted?

7. Announcements (Non-Action Item)
8. Adjournment (Action Item)

To provide in person testimony:

Attend live at Kāne‘ohe Atrium Building 46-004 Kawa St., Ste. 104 Kāne‘ohe, HI 96744

To provide video testimony:

Attend the scheduled Zoom meeting (details on how to join below)

To provide written testimony:

Interested persons can submit written testimony in advance of each meeting that will be distributed to Board Members prior to the meeting.

Submit electronic written testimony (email) to DLNR.aquatics@hawaii.gov

Submit written testimony by mail to the following postal mailing address:

Department of Land and Natural Resources:
Division of Aquatic Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 330
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Individuals requiring an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, contact Staff at (808) 587-0100 as soon as possible, preferably at least 72 hours prior to meeting. If a request is received within the 72 hours, we will try to obtain the auxiliary aid/service or accommodation, but we cannot guarantee that the request will be fulfilled.

ZOOM INFO

Topic: Kāneʻohe Bay Regional Council Meeting

Time: Jun 22, 2023 6:00 PM Hawaii

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88278075044?pwd=d1ZwTlk0e1JEOXI2emdHa3NtcWxQQT09>

Meeting ID: 882 7807 5044

Passcode: 0q4i8k

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,88278075044#,,,,*566202# US (Houston)

+14086380968,,88278075044#,,,,*566202# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)
- +1 669 444 9171 US
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- +1 719 359 4580 US
- +1 253 205 0468 US
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 507 473 4847 US
- +1 564 217 2000 US
- +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

- +1 646 931 3860 US
- +1 689 278 1000 US
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 305 224 1968 US
- +1 309 205 3325 US
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 360 209 5623 US
- +1 386 347 5053 US

Meeting ID: 882 7807 5044

Passcode: 566202

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/keugATkA37>

AGENDA ITEM 5

PROPOSED LETTER

Chairperson Dawn N. S. Chang
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Kalanimoku Building
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Chang,

The Kāneʻohe Bay Regional Council (“Council”) stands in solidarity with our community, and the communities across Hawaiʻi pae ʻāina, who oppose the commercial aquarium collection trade, and our Council strongly urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources (“DLNR”) to act to permanently end the commercial harvesting of reef wildlife for the aquarium pet trade in the State of Hawaiʻi.

The Council has been tasked with, among other things, (1) serving as the public advocate for Kāneʻohe Bay, (2) making recommendations to the state and county on matters regarding the use of Kāneʻohe Bay by the general public and commercial ocean use activities, including on legislative matters, and (3) the implementation of the Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan, which establishes a framework for the sustainable management of the Bay's natural resources while accommodating a variety of uses. With this kuleana in mind, we call on DLNR to take action to enact administrative rules to permanently prohibit aquarium collection, in Kāneʻohe Bay and—recognizing that the exclusion of one fishery from the aquarium trade will only shift demand and put additional stressors on other communities—statewide.

Our community is firm in its position that the commercial harvesting of reef wildlife for ornamental purposes is neither compatible with the local values and lifestyles of Hawaiʻi's residents and of our host culture. For decades, members in our community have fought to end the commercial harvesting of reef wildlife for the aquarium pet trade, including past and current members of our Council. Numerous boards and committees in our community adopted resolutions calling for legislative action to end commercial aquarium collection in our State, including but not limited to the Kahaluʻu Neighborhood Board, Kāneʻohe Neighborhood Board, Kailua Neighborhood Board, Waimānalo Neighborhood Board, the Koʻolaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, and Koʻolau Foundation, among others. On July 28, 2021, the Kāneʻohe Bay Regional Council choose to stand with our community and similarly call for legislative action to ban commercial aquarium collection.

We know that no aquarium collection permits for O‘ahu have yet come to DLNR for approval; however, for DLNR to simply state that it will consider our ongoing long-held opposition to the trade if/when any aquarium collection permits may come to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (“BLNR”) in the future, is not acceptable. You have repeatedly stated publicly that community input should drive decision-making, and that it is the community itself who should determine and define "sustainable" and what activities, if any, may or may not occur in their respective areas. However, as we write this letter, the mainland Pet Industry is attempting to reopen O‘ahu's reefs to collection despite overwhelming opposition.

Years of community and cultural opposition to the trade has been ignored. This includes DLNR’s continued opposition to legislative efforts to end the trade, including this legislative session, where DLNR again referenced, by its own definition — not the community’s -- that the trade is “sustainable.” This position continues to dismiss firmly held cultural and social values of our community. Coral reefs and the wildlife dependent upon them are public trust resources “held in trust by the State for the benefit of the people.” Haw. Const. Art. XI, § 1. Reef wildlife is a natural resource held in the public trust for all, notably, for native Hawaiians whose cultural values are irreconcilable with virtually every aspect of this exploitive activity. Special interests, consisting of seven collectors in West Hawai‘i and 15 collectors on O‘ahu, who represent the profit-driven motives of mainland wildlife and pet trade dealers should not take priority over the people of Hawai‘i.

Therefore, we now request that DLNR take action to enact administrative rules to permanently prohibit aquarium collection, statewide. The issuance of even one aquarium collection permit anywhere in the state will open the door to poaching and further degradation of O‘ahu's reefs, where collectors have depleted populations of the top species targeted by the trade by more than 90 percent. The trade has already caused potentially irreversible harm to our natural and cultural resources, and in violation of DLNR’s own mandate that priority protection be given to the resource and the people over any commercial interests.

We respectfully await your prompt response.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,