

Via email blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

**STATEMENT FOR BLNR MEETING ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2019
J Division of Boating and Recreation item #4**

Overall, Kama'aina Kids supports the proposed revisions to the Hawai'i Administrative Rules. However, the one change we do not agree with is deleting letter (q).

Eliminating letter (q) prohibits the nonprofit stewardship at Kāne'ōhe Bay conducted by organizations like ours. We have been stewards of He'eia State Park since 2010. We are proud to care for the land, to serve the community, and have made several improvements to the park over the last decade and created a clean and safe community gathering place.

Across all of our programs at Kama'aina Kids, we serve nearly 10,000 children and families daily with 1,200 employees in all our divisions at 100 locations statewide, from Līhu'e to Hilo. For the last 32 years, the main focus at our He'eia Learning Center has been to offer high-quality education programs that highlight Hawai'i's culture and ecology. Striking out letter (q) eliminates the opportunity for bonafide 501c3 nonprofit organizations like ours to provide valuable environmental education on the bay. As global warming becomes a bigger issue, it is critical for us to teach our keiki to respect the land and become good stewards of the environment by experiencing the outdoors.

Kama'aina Kids has operated under the provisions set forth by letter (q) since 1991. These provisions were created by the Kāne'ōhe Bay Regional Task Force, in conjunction with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), and was approved year after year by previous DLNR Chairs. Eliminating letter (q) now jeopardizes our marine education programs and deprives Hawai'i's keiki of the educational opportunities and life experiences they deserve.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

November 6, 2019

TO: The Board of Land and Natural Resources

FROM: Representative Lisa Kitagawa *Lisa Kitagawa*
State House, District 48 – Kāneʻohe, Kahaluʻu, Waiāhole

SUBJECT: Amendments to HAR, Section 13-256-73, Kāneʻohe Bay Ocean Waters

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of the “request approval to initiate rulemaking proceedings, including public hearings, to amend Hawaiʻi Administrative Rules (HAR) Section 13-256-73, Kāneʻohe Bay Ocean Waters, to clarify commercial activity provisions”.

As the State Representative for much of the area that directly borders Kāneʻohe Bay, I would like to take this opportunity to share my support of this request. The community that I represent has shared that protecting our environmental and natural resources are important, not only for our generation, but for future generations as well. Protecting the future of Kāneʻohe Bay is a priority, not only for me, but for many in my community.

It is important that the current rules for commercial activity on Kāneʻohe Bay are clarified and reflect the purposes of the Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan. The Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan was created by a task force of numerous individuals, such as community members, stakeholders, and representatives from neighborhood boards, state agencies, and the City and County of Honolulu. The purpose of the plan is to preserve and protect the natural resources of the Bay for enjoyment by the general public, resolve conflicting use problems between recreational users of the Bay, the general public, and commercial ocean recreation activities, and assess the environmental and ecological impacts of activities on the Bay. Although the plan was written over 25 years ago, it still provides the guidance and desires of the community for how Kāneʻohe Bay should be used and protected for future generations.

I **strongly support** the recommendation and request to clarify HAR Section 13-256-73, relating to commercial activity on Kāneʻohe Bay.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at repkitagawa@capitol.hawaii.gov or 808-586-8540.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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