

**From:** Kathryn Ayoob  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] EIS  
**Date:** Monday, May 18, 2020 11:33:03 PM

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Stop poaching now.  
Kathryn Ayoob  
Waipio Road  
Honoka'a, HI

**From:** caroline@azelski.net  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.1 Testimony for Friday, May 22, at 9:00 am meeting  
**Date:** Monday, May 18, 2020 7:04:57 PM

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Greetings,

I'm a Big Island resident writing to urge you to increase fines and revoke poachers commercial marine licenses.

The current world pandemic, while tragic, is showing that animals and the environment are rebounding and thriving at unprecedented levels. They're self-healing when given the opportunity to thrive. Our Big Island reefs can do the same with your help by increasing fines and revoking poachers commercial marine licenses.

Thank you,  
Caroline Azelski  
PO Box 551717  
Kapaau, HI 96755

**From:** Robert Culbertson  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F.1 testimony  
**Date:** Sunday, May 17, 2020 7:45:55 PM

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Aloha Members of the Board!

As to this poaching incident. First I want to Mahalo Mr. Nakachi for making this call and making it stick. He is very akamai and while we all talk and grumble about the poachers, he did something about it! And yes, this is but one occasion where the case looks tight as can be. I thank the agency guys and gals who got this right too, as I read the report. But please understand, this in not a 'one off' or rare occurrence. This is non stop! Most of these guys like the ones asking for permits again, just do it anyway like there was no moratorium! You must have seen the pictures and even movies of the shipments going out from the Kona airport, yeah, even during the so-called 'lockdown'. How do you think you are going to stop them now?

So here is my point: the fines are manini..basically a cost of doing business for them. You should take away their commercial license and maybe the boats as well! The kind of 'fishing' these guys do is not PONO! It gives all us other fishing people, for food and recreation and some charter operators too, a really black eye. Time to cut these guys off the line completely!

Mahalo,  
R. A. Culbertson  
Waimea



**From:** Manifest Health  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.1 Testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020 8:52:29 AM

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Aloha,

I am a long term resident of both Oahu and Hawai'i island. I urge you to manage our resources properly by **INCREASING FINES & REVOKING POACHERS COMMERCIAL MARINE LICENSE'S!**

How has this been allowed to continue? The state will be needing revenue now, why not assess the \$1000/illegal fish caught to these greedy criminals. Allowing these people to maintain their CML's is a joke. Let them scoop up every valuable fish in Hawai'i Nei right!

If you continue to allow this destructive and criminal activity you will also be to blame when our reefs as dead on the Big Island as they are on Oahu.

Thank you for listening,

Dr Jill Dietmeyer

**From:** Cy Gabourie  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.1 Testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020 1:27:23 PM

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Aloha,

I am a long time resident of Maui and wiring to plead that consider raising the fines on poaching and consider more stringent laws and study on fish populations. I have witnessed first hand many times fishing in restricted waters on Kaanapali Beach, pulling parrot and other reef essential fish that are on the do not keep list.

The reefs feed our oceans and our are essential in the long term efforts to sustain our edible fish population. Fines are currently worth risk as chances of being caught by enforcement are low. Take a look at other countries and regions with endemic wildlife and what they do to enforce and fine. Prison sentences and major fines will deter this behavior, collect revenue to put back into fishery study and monitoring and protect the moana and it's inhabitants.

Mahalo, Cy

**From:** Alice Gibson  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.1 Testimony  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 20, 2020 8:25:15 AM

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**INCREASE FINES & REVOKE POACHERS Commercial Marine License's**

I am a water front resident in Milolii and tired of seeing known aquarium fishers boats out collecting, even during the current moratorium. I have also experienced first hand these same boats dangerous and aggressive behavior to snorkelers. These people should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law!

Alice Gibson  
Resident of Milolii, Hi

**From:** Janice Glennie  
**To:** [DLNR BLNR Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.1 testimony - increase consequences/fines for poachers  
**Date:** Sunday, May 17, 2020 3:01:09 PM

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Aloha board members,

Will a slap on the wrist stop the 3 individuals who knowingly and crassly broke the laws meant to protect our reef, reef fish and fisheries from reoffending when they know they can make plenty of money breaking those laws?

As a Kailua-Kona resident, I'm appalled by the actions of reef fish poachers, yet the fines they've had to pay (if they did) and other penalties haven't been enough to stop them.

The reefs and the species that depend upon them are Public Trust resources. They're mine. They're yours. They're not for the taking by anyone who wants to use them at their discretion. Why does the State bend over backwards for such a destructive, manini industry when the health of the reefs insures so much broader and sustainable economic wealth when managed properly and fairly?

You are the entity entrusted with protecting those resources for now and into the future. Please increase the fines for these individuals to discourage them from reoffending and, as important, revoke the commercial licenses of all poachers.

Mahalo for using your integrity to up the penalties for those who break the law and break the trust.

Sincerely,  
Janice Palma-Glennie  
Kailua-Kona







**From:** Gregg Gruwell  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.1 Testimony  
**Date:** Sunday, May 17, 2020 11:01:14 PM

ITEM F-1

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I am a Hawaii resident and urge BLNR to increase fines & revoke poachers Commercial Marine License's.

Poaching has been going on for years while DLNR ignored this issue. But things can change.

I greatly commend the DLNR Officers who in February apprehended three poachers. Their arrest shows what little regard collectors have for nature and regulations put in place to preserve it.

Collectors make \$100,000's to \$Millions and a \$37,000 fine does not send a strong enough message.

At a minimum, their licenses should be revoked in addition to a more hefty fine.

Gregg Gruwell  
Honolulu, Hawaii

**From:** Matthew Gurewitsch  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.1 - Increase fines and revoke poachers" licenses  
**Date:** Sunday, May 17, 2020 3:03:33 PM

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Aloha, Members of the Board,

I implore you to do everything in your power to protect the reefs and our fish populations. We read with indignation and disgust of commercially licensed collectors who operate in protected areas, use prohibited fine-mesh nets, and then are assessed penalties amounting to a fraction of those the law prescribes.

To those who wish to use the cover of Native practice, I say this: the First People of Hawaii never sold a single fish for the aquariums across the seas. This is not a Native right. This is theft of a common good, and all of us—Natives, malahini—are as entitled to experiencing the underwater habitat as anyone else. We must all pull together.

Mahalo for your attention.

*m.*

Matthew Gurewitsch  
3415 Kuaua Pl.

Kihei (Maui) HI 96753

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fx/+1 (212) 656-1647

on the web: [beyondcriticism.com](http://beyondcriticism.com)

on skype & twitter: mg1228

**From:** Sunny Seal-LaPlante  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda f-1 testimony  
**Date:** Monday, May 18, 2020 1:01:39 PM

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I am a 45 year resident of the Big Island of Hawaii. I think we should have stiffer fines and consequences for offenders, like revoking there licenses for 3 years. There is no proposal to suspend or revoke their Commercial Marine Licenses (CML's) which allows them to continue to profit by aquarium collecting to this day! As is the case with the o people who were recently cited.

Sicerely, Sunny LaPlante

**From:** Elodia  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Stop aquarium fish poaching  
**Date:** Sunday, May 17, 2020 1:59:53 PM

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I am a resident of the big Island of Hawaii. I am a retired teacher and have lived here for years. I am also a scuba diver, swimmer and snorkeler.

I vote that the BLNR follow the guidelines for the criminal activity of killing reef fish and consequences to the living coral for the use of aquariums. I agree with the heavy fines that it imposes on poachers.

Over the many years I have lived in Hawaii, since 1985, the decline of coral and fish in my experience in the water has been horrendous. If we want visitors to come and experience the beauty of our waters then they have to remain beautiful. We should be going in the other direction of replenishing coral and reef fish.

Sincerely,

Elodia Le May  
808 889-5800  
elemay@twc.com

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** ShaylaMessage  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.1 Testimony  
**Date:** Monday, May 18, 2020 5:48:49 PM

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Aloha Friends-

My name is Shayla Middleton, and I have been an avid water person my whole life. I have lived here on Maui since 2004 and have been coming to the islands since 2001.

I have personally seen the decline in fish in the last decade and a half and believe that the aquarium industry is a large contributing factor to this decline.

I am testifying to increase the fines and revoke poachers commercial marine licenses.

I have read many news stories of multiple violations and operations in illegal areas yet there has been no proposal to revoke or suspend these violators licenses.

It is well known that enforcement manpower is thin, and perhaps even underfunded therefore known offenders should have their licenses revoked or even prohibit them from renewal.

Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony-  
Shayla Middleton  
Kihei, Maui

**From:** Jasons Watergardens  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 Testimony  
**Date:** Monday, May 18, 2020 6:53:29 PM

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Aloha

Since moving to the Big Island 7 years ago I have witnessed several coral bleaching events and seen first hand that we need as many reef fish as we can to help keep our reefs stay alive. Every single fish is important to the reefs health. These impact statements don't even touch on the subject of coral bleaching. The other important factor is tourism. People travel here from far and wide just to see these reef fish. I have been swimming with the same individual fish since I moved here. These native Hawaaiian animals deserve our protection and respect. The fine for poaching these natural resources must be large enough to stop the trade or they will just pay the fines. Reef fish bring in millions of tourist dollars every year so the fines should need to fit the crime.

I have been volunteering at Kahaluu Bay, one of the most impacted reefs on the island and I also volunteer at Legacy Reef foundation helping our precious corals. I am doing my part. Please do your part and stop the collection of aquarium trade fish across all the islands.

It is not pono to sell Hawaiian wildlife.

Mahalo

Jason Murray

Local business owner in Kona



**From:** Lynn Nakkim  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#); [Assoc.Press](#); [Cory Harden](#); [Leina Bernhart](#); [Lynn Nakkim](#); [HAWAII TRIBUNE-HERALD-Dbock](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Illegal taking of tropical fish  
**Date:** Sunday, May 17, 2020 8:39:38 PM

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BLNR:

Please please pay attention, members of the BOARD. It is up to you if Hawaii will go forward with the glimmer of tropical fish on our reefs.

Seriously, as a lifelong resident of Hawaii, and a person who has dived sometimes with diving gear, more often with mask and snorkel, on the long fertile coast of Hana Maui, at Nanakuli, Kaaawa, Waikiki, Makua, Olowalu, Kahoolawe, Kailua Kona, Lelewi, Onikahaaha, Hanalei, Hanakapiae, Manele Bay Lanai, and the whole windward coast of Molokai, I want you to do a much better job of protecting our reef fish by policing the commercial tropical fish hunters who decimate schools of pretty little fish in those sheltered pockets in the reef where the keiki fish spawn and reproduce.

Penalties for breaking the rules and laws must be raised. These fishers just ignore a \$30,000 fine because they are getting \$1000 for a sort of rare fish! And they are netting hundreds of precious fish. Raise the penalty ceiling to at least \$100,000 to have an affect. The kanaka of old knew that you cannot take all the keiki if you want fish to eat, or watch. They had rules about opihi that kept the country well supplied. They never thought of taking tiny baby fish! THAT CRIME IS NEW IN HAWAII, New in the past 50 years. I don't know if you have seen first hand what can happen with over fishing of these finned gems. If you aren't a part time denizen of the deep, please take to heart the advice given today. Leave the fishes alone, let them live and thrive, so that generations from now they will not just be a legend. Are we clear here? You need to reject this environmental Impact statement. IT IS INNACURATE and inadequate.

Sincerely, Lynn Boerner Nakkim, Pepekeo, Hawaii  
808-938-2981

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** M Rose  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] INCREASE FINES & REVOKE POACHERS Commercial Marine License's  
**Date:** Monday, May 18, 2020 11:49:42 PM

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To the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR),

Aloha! I, Michael A. Rose am a resident of Oahu. I love our natural resources and it is important that we enforce and hold accountable all everyone that abuses our marine habitats.

The commercial marine licensees and poachers are exploiting our marine habitats for profit. These people are not concerned with protecting the beautiful and unique species of fish and animals here in the Hawaiian Islands. The more scarce aquarium fish become the more expensive the price of the animal on the market.

Please **INCREASE FINES & REVOKE POACHERS Commercial Marine License's!** Please do not open the protected areas of the Western Hawaiian Islands for commercial profiteering.

We all want economic prosperity and an ocean environment for everyone. But as we have all witnessed during the COVID lock down the ocean can heal. Fish and organisms can be available but only with the strict enforcement and stewardship.

Mahalo nui loa for hearing my concerns and request.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Rose

**From:** Shannon Rudolph  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item F1  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020 8:40:06 AM

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Aloha!

I support **MUCH, MUCH** higher fines for aquarium fish poachers & revocation of their commercial licenses for 3 years. (or longer)

Protect Hawai'i - punish lawbreakers & transition to virtual aquariums.

Mahalo, Shannon Rudolph - Holualoa  
37 year Hawai'i resident

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How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world. ~ Anne Frank

Hawai'i Register to Vote!  
<http://olvr.hawaii.gov/>

**From:** ShaylaMessage  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.1 Testimony  
**Date:** Monday, May 18, 2020 5:48:49 PM

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Aloha Friends-

My name is Shayla Middleton, and I have been an avid water person my whole life. I have lived here on Maui since 2004 and have been coming to the islands since 2001.

I have personally seen the decline in fish in the last decade and a half and believe that the aquarium industry is a large contributing factor to this decline.

I am testifying to increase the fines and revoke poachers commercial marine licenses.

I have read many news stories of multiple violations and operations in illegal areas yet there has been no proposal to revoke or suspend these violators licenses.

It is well known that enforcement manpower is thin, and perhaps even underfunded therefore known offenders should have their licenses revoked or even prohibit them from renewal.

Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony-  
Shayla Middleton  
Kihei, Maui

**From:** karen spachner  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Reef Fish Collection  
**Date:** Monday, May 18, 2020 10:55:25 AM

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To Whom It may Concern,

Over the past couple of decades, I have seen an alarming decline in our reef fish population. I would like to see the collection of these treasures for sale, stopped. These fish are a natural resource. The resource is bottoming out. There are no longer any to spare. How far do we have to go before this practice is permanently checked. Please stop the collecting now.

Aloha, Karen Spachner of Kapaau

**From:** bettievanoverbeke  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Tangs  
**Date:** Monday, May 18, 2020 11:25:32 AM

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Yellow tangs can be aquarium bred. That should be their aquarium future, not desecrating them in the wild.

West Hawaii reefs are very troubled. Nowhere near the fish numbers or reef health of the 80s when I first dove there. One factor is removing algae eating fish like yellow and achilles tangs from the reef. All Hawaii benefits from healthy reefs only a handful of people benefit from removing them for aquarium trade. They also have a high death rate when exploited this way. Saving the tangs, saves the reef. Saving the reef puts more money in the economy than killing tangs to benefit a very few people.

I have lived in Hawaii and dove on Kona reefs since 1984.

Bettie Van Overbeke  
12-423 Ole 'Ole St.  
Pahoa, HI 96778  
(808) 965- 6673

Sent from my Galaxy Tab® A

**From:** Judy Volquardsen  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.1  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020 6:52:28 PM

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My name is Judy Volquardsen and I am a resident of Kailua-Kona Hawaii. I am writing to ask you to please consider increasing fines and revoking the commercial licenses of poachers of aquarium fish. The fines proposed would not be a deterrent but would just be considered a acceptable cost of doing business. In addition why is there no proposal for the licenses of the poachers to be revoked. That should be the minimum consequence of breaking the law.

**From:** Colleen Wallis  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F-1  
**Date:** Sunday, May 17, 2020 11:43:43 AM

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To BLNR

From: Colleen Wallis

Kona resident

Regarding poachers and increasing fines

This whole business of marine poaching has been going on for much too long. If you, BLNR do not crack down on these poachers and put an end to their poaching, our marine creatures will suffer unnecessary hardship and some even death, as we have seen from previous photos of the dead Yellow tangs. In any event, all creatures need to be protected and since you have the power to do so, it is your duty to save our marine creatures.

Please show some compassion and protect those that cannot speak for themselves.

Sincerely,

Colleen



To: BLNR.TESTIMONY@HAWAII .GOV

ITEM F-1

## Agenda F.1 Testimony

FROM: Deborah J Ward, cordylinecolor@gmail.com

### INCREASE FINES & REVOKE POACHER'S COMMERCIAL MARINE LICENSE

- 1) Two persons with Commercial Marine Licenses, who presumably know and are familiar with the rules therein, are cited for an unregistered aquarium collection vessel. An additional person with no valid license is also cited.
- 2) Said vessel is unmarked for aquarium collection, as required.
- 3) Said vessel is fails to post pennant for aquarium collection, as required.
- 4) None of the three persons in the vessel have a valid aquarium collecting permit.
- 5) This person and cohorts are found with aquarium collection gear that is unmarked, not labelled with CML numbers, or persons possessing the equipment.
- 6) Aquarium collection gear discovered is illegal due to mesh size found to be less than two inches.
- 7) Aquarium collection gear is unmarked.
- 8) Vessel contains 550 live aquarium fish, ten species in all.
- 9) One of the collected species is not on the White List of fish (once, but not now) permitted for aquarium collection.
- 10) Despite a court order prohibiting all commercial aquarium collecting within the WHRFMA, and transit through this area, vessel was observed doing so.
- 11) Despite a court order prohibiting all commercial aquarium collecting, possession of gear, and live marine life, the persons on the vessel were found to be doing so.

This egregious behavior, in violation of the rules, harming the habitat and imperiling the constitutional protected rights Native Hawaiian practitioners and Hawaii's citizens is not a one-time occurrence. This behavior and worse is observed by our Sierra Club members and others in the community on a frequent basis and is reported to a mostly indifferent enforcement body of DLNR. The fines, which could be as much as \$550,000 are recommended to be a mere \$38,000 per person? These violators should have their CMLs revoked and should not be allowed to reapply for at least five years. Their gear, all of which we have learned has been returned to them, should be permanently confiscated.

I ask that you consider the violations of these operators in light of the next agenda item that through a baldly biased EIS proposes to permit unidentified operators to begin aquarium collecting once again. I have heard that DOCARE is unable to effectively cite collectors on the water for alck of boating equipment. Operators know that enforcement is lax to non-existent, and may behave with blatant disregard for the Court and the rules they agree to when obtaining a CML, to make a lucrative business of mining our coastal resources for personal gain. Perhaps confiscation of illegal collecting boats would provide a solution.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.



**From:** Jasons Watergardens  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.2 Testimony  
**Date:** Monday, May 18, 2020 6:53:29 PM

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Aloha

Since moving to the Big Island 7 years ago I have witnessed several coral bleaching events and seen first hand that we need as many reef fish as we can to help keep our reefs stay alive. Every single fish is important to the reefs health. These impact statements don't even touch on the subject of coral bleaching. The other important factor is tourism. People travel here from far and wide just to see these reef fish. I have been swimming with the same individual fish since I moved here. These native Hawaaiian animals deserve our protection and respect. The fine for poaching these natural resources must be large enough to stop the trade or they will just pay the fines. Reef fish bring in millions of tourist dollars every year so the fines should need to fit the crime.

I have been volunteering at Kahaluu Bay, one of the most impacted reefs on the island and I also volunteer at Legacy Reef foundation helping our precious corals. I am doing my part. Please do your part and stop the collection of aquarium trade fish across all the islands.

It is not pono to sell Hawaiian wildlife.

Mahalo

Jason Murray

Local business owner in Kona

Cindy Freitas  
P.O. 4650  
Kailua Kona HI 96745  
[hanahanai@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:hanahanai@hawaii.rr.com)

May 19, 2020

State of Hawaii  
Department of Land  
and Natural Resources  
P.O. 621  
Honolulu, HI 96809  
[blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov](mailto:blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov)

RE: TESTIMONY FOR

May 22, 2020

9:00a.m.

Online via Zoom, Live on you Tube

FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE

Agenda Item; DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES  
F 1. and F 2.

Aloha,

My name is Cindy Freitas and I'm 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.

Item F1. Testimony

Board of Land and Natural Resources (thereafter DLNR) should INCREASE FINDS & REVOKE POACHERS Commercial Marine License's for the following reasons;

1. In Larkin and Degner, 2001, there has been an estimated value of \$200-\$300 million per year in marine aquarium trade. The global trade in coral has increased by 500% over the last 10 years, with over one million live corals and 1.87 million of live rock traded in 2002 by Bruckner, 2003. In addition an estimated 20-24 million reef fishes are traded annually, representing 14,50 species in 50 families (Balboa, 2002, Wabnitz et al., 2003)

There is 50-60% of the marine aquarium fishes each year (Wood, 2001)

There is also about 30% of the total global trade in reef fishes exported from five locations Brazil, the Maldives, HAWAII, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam.

Therefore the Hawaii Administrative Rules 13-60.4-4, 13-60.4-7, 13-74-20 and 3-74-14 states the violations and contour to DLNR is such a small price to pay.

The report by Sherry L. Larkin & Roert. Degner, 2001 "Aquarium Sciences and Conservation" that these violators Tyson Terazono, Kacie Terazono and Wayne Newman should have there license revoke for a period of years and and increase the fines

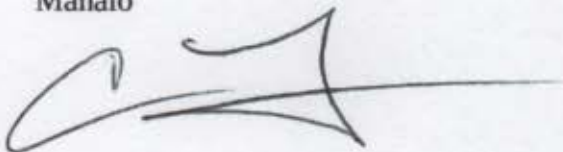
Agenda Item F 2.

I REJECT this Agenda Item F.2, for the following reasons;

1. Human activity is commonly identified as a major contributor to the observed global deterioration of coral reefs, ecosystem health, with loss of live coral cover, declining species diversity and the abundance of species that exist within a region, is another important variable.
2. Many coral reef species are harvested domestically and internationally to supply a growing international demand for seafood, aquarium pets, live food fish, construction materials, jewelry, pharmaceuticals, traditional medicines and other products. Collection is occurring at unsustainable levels, and overwhelming vesting may lead to reductions in the abundance and biomass of target species, shifts in species composition and large-scale ecosystem shifts including population explosion of non-target species or the replacement thriving coral-dominated systems with low-productivity algal reefs.
3. It is my belief as a cultural practitioner to continue my practice as well as saving the environment from irreparable harm.

Therefore agenda items F 1 should be rejected and I Cindy Freitas reserved the right to a contested case if the Board decision is not in favor of my request.

Mahalo

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Cindy Freitas', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Cindy Freitas

**From:** Bianca Isaki  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.1 & F.2 Testimony  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 20, 2020 8:30:07 AM

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Aloha Chair Case and Board Members,

I'm submitting this testimony on agenda items F.1 and F.2 on behalf of KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance.

Under Item F.1, please increase fines and revoke commercial marine licenses for poachers of aquarium fish. The Division of Aquatic Resources is recommending fines of approx. \$37,000 per person, however, this is extremely low, given that the law allows upwards of \$1000 per illegally taken fish, in addition to the fines and penalties for their other offenses. The total penalty proposed could – and should – well exceed \$550,000. Their licenses should also be revoked to the extent of the Board's enforcement powers. These would be appropriate deterrence measures.

Under Item F.2, please reject the proposed EIS for aquarium fishing. The EIS fails to propose and analyze any meaningful mitigation or alternatives that would reduce the impacts and fails to adequately incorporate input of Native Hawaiian practitioners, experts, community members, and consulted parties.

Mahalo for considering our testimony.

Bianca Isaki, Secretary

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Bianca Isaki, Ph.D., Esq.  
KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance  
P.O. Box 37368  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96837  
808.927.5606

**From:** Arthur Mori  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] EIS re opening renewed aquarium trade collections and commercial licenses  
**Date:** Monday, May 18, 2020 8:10:27 PM

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My name is Val Mori and I am a Hawaiian resident and Waikiki Aquarium volunteer. I am very much opposed to both agenda items. Our reefs are already under pressure from the effects of climate change and pollution. There is no need for an aquarium trade. Many of these fishes are shipped off island and I am certain a large number die in transit. Surely aquarium lovers can use freshwater fishes. They are just as colorful and can be bred. Our reef fishes cannot be replaced. Please stop this harmful business!



ITEM F1 & F-2  
(PUBLIC  
TESTIMONY)

**From:** Topher Dean  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] F. 1 & F. 2 Aquarium Trade  
**Date:** Monday, May 18, 2020 11:54:05 PM

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Dear BLNR representatives,

F. 2. I've been a resident of North Kohala since 1996. I'm an avid surfer and love to snorkel. I have seen the decline of the reefs over the decades. A couple of months ago, my Nieces were visiting me and they were snorkeling. Of course they were thrilled and thought it was beautiful. I didn't have the heart to tell them how sad it is. Then my Son, who has worked for the DAR counting reef fish and measuring coral decline, saw a school of yellow tang. There were about a dozen. We pointed it out to my Nieces and my Son said something that broke my heart, "I heard schools of tang like this were common." That is so sad. Twenty years ago, snorkeling in this exact same spot, Mahukona, there were schools of yellow tang, a hundred fish or more. There were huge balls of brilliant yellow fish swirling around. Not just one school. there were always two or three schools. There was never a time when I didn't see several large schools of tang and here's my Son beset with melancholy, knowing that he's missed out on one of nature's spectacular experiences. It's just so tragic and why, so someone can make a buck, so a man in Iowa can look at one lonely yellow tang in a tiny prison, from the comfort of his living room couch? What right does anyone have to take these fish? They don't belong to any individual, they belong to all of us, you, me, my Son and the man in Iowa who will have to buy a ticket to Hawaii to see them. These fish belong to Earth. They have a right to exist. Maybe scientists can estimate the bare minimum of fish to prevent extinction, but what about the balance of life on the reef and what about depriving me of my right to witness the beauty of this amazing planet?

There are many stressors on our reefs: The climate crisis, chemical pollution, sewage, overfishing, tourism, coastal development, plastic trash and nets, the last thing these fish need is people scooping them up in nets. These stressors are getting worse and worse. Instead of needlessly decimating the reefs for the luxury of filling aquariums, we should be doing everything in our power to protect them. I don't want to live in a world where the sight of a few yellow tang is amazing, I want to live in a world where the ocean is swirling with hundreds of yellow tang. I miss them and the other fish too. It's empty out there and it's so sad, that I can no longer go snorkeling, it's just too depressing.

F. 1. Protection of our reefs is creating laws and enforcing those laws. Perhaps your empathy lies in the person who's just trying to make an "honest" living, selling our reef fish. Well, what about Hawaii's number one source of revenue, tourism? By letting



the aquarium trade continue, you're impacting thousands of businesses owners who depend on tourism. What happens when the tourists go home and say the snorkeling sucks in Hawaii, there's no fish or coral? If your heart goes out to people who are just trying to support their family, think of the thousands of local families who depend on the beauty of Hawaii's natural wonders. Why impact those thousands of local families, so a few people can make a buck? Aquarium fish traffickers can find another line of work. Anyone caught violating the aquarium ban should have their boat seized and all their equipment taken as well as suffer a severe fine.

I would like to testify in person if I may.

Topher Dean

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Please take the time to see my efforts to clean the Kohala Coastline:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOghCZh8los&t=2s>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2065480060191671/>

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Fight with aloha,

Topher

ITEMITEM F-1 & F2

**From:** Mike Nakachi  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Items F1 & F2 On Agenda  
**Date:** Thursday, May 21, 2020 6:47:51 AM

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Would like to Testify on both of these items on your agenda tomorrow on F1 & F2. Mahalo for your time and consideration, Mike

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