

From: [Kristina Anderson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support strongest enforcement actions against aquarium poachers.
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 7:55:09 PM

Aloha, please accept my strong support for the highest fines possible and revocation of commercial marine licenses for defendants named below.

F. DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES

1. Enforcement Action against Stephen Howard and Yukako Toriyama for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawai'i Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.
2. Enforcement Action against Jason Beevers for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.

Kristina Anderson
Captain Cook, Hawaii
808-328-2462

From: [Valerie Barnes](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Revoke licenses and impose highest fees for aquarium poaching
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021 10:21:05 AM

Please impose the highest fees possible and revoke the licenses of any poachers of fish for aquariums, particularly in West Hawai'i.

These regulations have teeth, so please use them in these cases.

Mahalo,
Valerie Barnes
Kapa'au

From: [Baya Bloss](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for 2/26 BLNR Meeting
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 8:06:55 PM

Dear Hawaii State Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I, Baya Bloss strongly support for the highest fines possible and revocation of commercial marine licenses for defendants Stephen Howard and Yukako Toriyama, and Jason Beevers, for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposed within the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,
Baya Bloss

From: [Robert Culbertson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Aquatic violations - Items F1 & F2 on 2/26/21 BLNR Hearing
Date: Saturday, February 20, 2021 7:26:29 PM

Aloha board members,

Please show fishers you are serious about aquarium fishing laws by imposing maximum fines and revoking commercial marine licenses for Stephen Howard, Yukako Toriyama, Hitomi Sasaki and Jason Beevers.

Agenda # F 1

Mr. Howard abandoned accomplices Ms. Toriyama and Ms. Hitomi Sasaki in the ocean after they went diving off his boat to collect fish. Mr. Howard lied to DOCARE officers about where the two women were, tried to delete text messages from his cell phone, and threw the phone in the water to avoid giving it to officers. Mr. Howard and his two partner's expired CML's should now be permanently revoked!

Mr. Howard had illegal aquarium collection gear, illegal fishing gear, and illegally collected fish. He operated a vessel with an expired registration, without required safety equipment onboard, without a required boater safety certificate, and a trailer without any plates and registration in the stealth of night.

It appears Ms. Toriyama has not cooperated with the investigation.

Agenda # F 2

Jason Beevers illegally collected aquarium fish, had multiple gear and permit violations, and lied to officers.

I understand that his CML was then re-issued not long after the bust. It should have been revoked!

Mahalo,

R. A. Culbertson

Honokaa, HI



From: [Gloria Jernigan](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Enforcement Action
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 12:43:40 PM

Legal System,

Please enforce laws to fullest extent.
This wrong.

1. Enforcement Action against Stephen Howard and Yukako Toriyama for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawai'i Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.
2. Enforcement Action against Jason Beevers for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.

Thank you in advance.
G.Jernigan
Kapolei, HI
323.287.6791

From: [Kaikea Gallien Fenwick](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for 2/26 BLNR Meeting
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 1:14:54 PM

I, Kaikea Gallien, strongly support for the highest fines possible and revocation of commercial marine licenses for defendants Stephen Howard and Yukako Toriyama, and Jason Beevers, for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,
Kaikea Gallien

From: [Jayden Hall](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for 2/26 Testimony Meeting
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 1:21:38 PM

Dear Hawaii State Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I, Jayden Hall strongly support for the highest fines possible and revocation fo commercial marine licenses for defendants Stephen Howard and Yukako Toriyama, and Jason Beevers, for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,
Jayden Hall

From: [Gabrielle Olson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 1:18:27 PM

Dear Hawaii State Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I, Gabrielle Olson strongly support for the highest fines possible and revocation of commercial marine licenses for defendants Stephen Howard and Yukako Toriyama, and Jason Beevers, for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,
Gabby Olson

From: [Kaitlynn Pitrowiski](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] testimony for 2/26 BLNR meeting
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 1:14:29 PM

Dear Hawaii State Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I, Kaitlynn Pitrowiski strongly support for the highest fines possible and revocation of commercial marine licenses for defendants Stephen Howard and Yukako Toriyama, and Jason Beevers, for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,
Kaitlynn Pitrowiski

From: [Leonardo Rivas](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for 2/26 BLNR meeting
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 1:15:09 PM

Dear Hawaii State Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I, Leo Rivas, strongly support for the highest fines possible and revocation of commercial marine licenses for defendants Stephen Howard and Yukako Toriyama, and Jason Beevers, for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,
Leo Rivas

From: [Shanti Laursen-Weinstein](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 1:13:52 PM

Dear Hawaii State Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I, Shanti, strongly support for the highest fines possible and revocation of commercial marine licenses for defendants Stephen Howard and Yukako Toriyama, and Jason Beevers, for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,
Shanti

From: [Kaylee Schlack](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 1:15:57 PM

Dear Hawaii State Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I, Kaylee strongly support for the highest fines possible and revocation of commercial marine licenses for defendants Stephen Howard and Yukako Toriyama, and Jason Beevers, for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,
Kaylee

From: [Frank Silva](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] testimony for 2/26 BLNR meeting
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 1:15:34 PM

Dear Hawaii State Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I, Frank Silva strongly support for the highest fines possible and revocation of commercial marine licenses for defendants Stephen Howard and Yukako Toriyama, and Jason Beevers, for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,
Frank Silva

From: [Kyle Wehrsig](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] testimony for 2/26 BLNR meeting
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 1:10:21 PM

Dear Hawaii State Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I, Kyle Wehrsig strongly support for the highest fines possible and revocation of commercial marine licenses for defendants Stephen Howard and Yukako Toriyama, and Jason Beevers, for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,
Kyle Wehrsig

From: [Sierra Wettstein](#)
Cc: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 1:12:51 PM

Dear Hawaii State Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I, Sierra Wettstein strongly support for the highest fines possible and revocation of commercial marine licenses for defendants Stephen Howard and Yukako Toriyama, and Jason Beevers, for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Sierra Wettsteiin



February 26, 2021

TO: Board of Land and Natural Resources

VIA Email: BLNR.Testimony@Hawaii.gov and oral testimony

FROM: For the Fishes, Center for Biological Diversity, Moana Ohana, Pono Advocacy

Submitted by: Inga Gibson, Director, Pono Advocacy, PonoAdvocacy@gmail.com;
808.922.9910, PO Box 372028, Honolulu, HI 96837

RE: Agenda Item F-1 Enforcement Action against Stephen Howard and Yukako Toriyama for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawai'i Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i on September 15, 2020

Dear Chair Case and Members of the Board:

First, it is important to note that there would be **no enforcement action for consideration by the Board today if not for the cooperation of the community**, specifically, those who have reported many tips regarding suspected illegal aquarium trade activity of the above defendants and others. This enforcement action only came to fruition due to a tipster providing DOCARE with detailed, on the spot, accounts of suspect activity and the support and guidance of NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement.

The Division of Aquatic Resources recommends that the Board of Land and Natural Resources approve the following proposed administrative fines: 1) Stephen Howard - \$59,615; and 2) Yukako Toriyama - \$48,800. **This proposed penalty is paltry in light of the following:**

- The defendant's actions—abandoning his collectors/divers in the open ocean, led to a full-scale water rescue operation requiring response and costly resources of NOAA, USCG, DLNR and the Hawai'i Police Department and could have resulted in the death of a person or possibly of a first responder in searching for the lost divers.
- The defendant repeatedly lied to DOCARE officers and failed to cooperate with the investigation, even throwing evidence (his cell phone) in the water, to avoid arrest.

Thus, we, the above-noted organizations, representing thousands of our members and marine advocates across the state, urge the Board to institute the following penalties and fines for each of the 2 defendants:

1. The General Administrative Penalty statute (HRS §187A-12.5) allows for a fine of up to **\$1000 per animal taken in violation of the law**. On September 17, 2020, the 2 defendants were cited for taking **235 animals on one trip and face 252 separate civil and criminal counts of violations of law**. Therefore, we recommend a minimum

\$235,000 fine equal to the maximum amount allowed, to be divided between the 2 defendants, in addition to the other fines and penalties relating to illegal gear, lack of required permits and licenses, and collecting in a prohibited area. **The minimum fine per defendant should therefore be \$117,500.00**

2. Prohibit reissuance or renewal of **Commercial Marine Licenses (CML's) for Stephen Howard and Yukako Toriyama** for a period of 1 year, the maximum allowed.
3. **Revoke marine dealer privileges for the 2** defendants who have profited from the sale of thousands of reef animals, likely captured in violation of numerous laws.
4. Separately, **we urge the Board to direct DAR to compare the catch and dealer reports of this defendant, and any others charged with similar offenses.** This could determine if other charges related to documentation failures or inconsistencies exist.

Background and Enforcement Issues:

In December of 2018, DLNR partnered with our organizations in asking for the public's help in reported alleged illegal aquarium activity. This resulted in our launching a 24/7 tip-line and \$5000 reward program for information via 808-NO-POACH. The tip-line has generated dozens of reports and DOCARE has been provided voluminous information, including video and photo documentation over the years, and through the present, on illegal aquarium collection activity.

In fact, DAR (along with the West Hawai'i Aquarium Trade EIS applicants and collectors themselves), recognize that poaching will always be an issue as long as there is any "legal" trade and enforcement will always be a challenge given the nature of the activity, self-reporting with no verification of catch, lack of Dealer permit requirements and lack of state or federal oversight of the hundreds of thousands of reef animals that leave Hawai'i for the mainland and international aquarium pet trade every year.

Past Administrative Penalties Issued by BLNR that support higher penalties:

October 24, 2008 BLNR Hearing (minutes not posted on BLNR website)

See: <http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2008/Oct/25/ln/hawaii810250340.html>

"Maui tour boat firm fined \$542K for coral damage

The state land board yesterday fined a Maui tour boat operator \$542,950.49 for damaging coral reef. The Board of Land and Natural Resources found that Makena Boat Partners killed, damaged or dislodged 538 individual coral colonies when its Kai Kanani catamaran dropped anchor off the coast of the Maui Prince Hotel last year.

The \$542,950.49 fine includes \$1,000 for each of the 538 specimens of coral damaged, as well as \$3,950.49 in administrative costs paid by the state to assess the coral damage.

The seven members of the board unanimously approved the fine by voice vote at one of their regular twice-monthly meetings."

Thank you for your consideration of these increased, appropriate penalties to hold these defendants rightfully accountable for their illegal actions and to deter others from any future similar actions.



February 26, 2021

TO: Board of Land and Natural Resources

VIA Email: BLNR.Testimony@Hawaii.gov and oral testimony

FROM: For the Fishes, Center for Biological Diversity, Moana Ohana, Pono Advocacy

Submitted by: Inga Gibson, Director, Pono Advocacy, PonoAdvocacy@gmail.com; 808.922.9910, PO Box 372028, Honolulu, HI 96837

RE: Agenda Item F-2 Enforcement Action against Jason Beevers for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawai'i Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i on August 27, 2020

Dear Chair Case and Members of the Board:

First, it is important to note that there would be no enforcement action for consideration by the Board today if not for the cooperation of the community, specifically, those who have reported many tips regarding suspected illegal aquarium trade activity of the above defendants and others. This enforcement action only came to fruition due to a tipster providing DOCARE with detailed, on the spot, accounts of suspect activity and the support and guidance of NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement.

This aquarium collector is among 8 people involved in illegal collection of aquatic life in West Hawai'i and the 5th to be charged.

The Division of Aquatic Resources recommends that the Board of Land and Natural Resources approve an administrative fine of **\$69,800** against Jason Beevers. **This proposed penalty is paltry in light of the following:**

- The defendant repeatedly lied to DOCARE officers and failed to cooperate with the investigation, including claiming he had captured the animals in a different location and that his GPS equipment was not working, to avoid arrest.
- DAR renewed Beevers' CML after he had been charged, facilitating potential continued illegal collection by the defendant since the initial charges issued last August..

Thus, we, the above-noted organizations, representing thousands of our members and marine advocates across the state, urge the Board to institute the following penalties and fines for the defendant:

1. The General Administrative Penalty statute (HRS §187A-12.5) allows for a fine of up to **\$1000 per animal taken in violation of the law**. On August 27, 2020, the defendant was charged for taking **336 animals on one trip and faces 344 separate civil and criminal counts of violations of law**. Therefore, we recommend a minimum \$336,000 fine equal to the maximum amount allowed per specimen in addition to the other fines and penalties

relating to illegal gear, lack of required permits and licenses, and collecting in a prohibited area. **The minimum fine per should therefore be \$336,000.00.**

2. Immediately **revoke the current Commercial Marine License for the defendant** and prohibit renewal or issuance of any future CML for a period of 1 year, the maximum allowed.
3. **Revoke Dealer privileges for the defendant** who has profited from the sale of thousands of reef animals, likely captured in violation of numerous laws.
4. Separately, **we urge the Board to direct DAR to compare the catch and dealer reports of this defendant, and any others charged with similar offenses.** This could determine if other charges related to documentation failures or inconsistencies exist.

Background and Enforcement Issues:

In December of 2018, DLNR partnered with our organizations in asking for the public's help in reported alleged illegal aquarium activity. This resulted in our launching a 24/7 tip-line and \$5000 reward program for information via 808-NO-POACH. The tip-line has generated dozens of reports and DOCARE has been provided voluminous information, including video and photo documentation over the years, and through the present, on illegal aquarium collection activity.

In fact, DAR (along with the WH Aquarium Trade EIS applicants and collectors themselves), recognize that poaching will always be an issue as long as there is any "legal" trade and enforcement will always be a challenge given the nature of the activity, self-reporting with no verification of catch, lack of Dealer permit requirements and lack of state or federal oversight of the hundreds of thousands of reef animals that leave Hawai'i for the mainland and international aquarium pet trade every year.

Past Administrative Penalties Issued by BLNR that support higher penalties:

October 24, 2008 BLNR Hearing (minutes not posted on BLNR website)

See: <http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2008/Oct/25/ln/hawaii810250340.html>

"Maui tour boat firm fined \$542K for coral damage

The state land board yesterday fined a Maui tour boat operator \$542,950.49 for damaging coral reef. The Board of Land and Natural Resources found that Makena Boat Partners killed, damaged or dislodged 538 individual coral colonies when its Kai Kanani catamaran dropped anchor off the coast of the Maui Prince Hotel last year.

The \$542,950.49 fine includes \$1,000 for each of the 538 specimens of coral damaged, as well as \$3,950.49 in administrative costs paid by the state to assess the coral damage.

The seven members of the board unanimously approved the fine by voice vote at one of their regular twice-monthly meetings."

Thank you for your consideration of these increased, appropriate penalties to hold these defendants rightfully accountable for their illegal actions and to deter others from any future similar actions.

From: [Janice Glennie](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support strong punishment for ocean poaching
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 8:24:35 PM
Importance: High

Aloha,

I'm writing to ask you to stand strong against the illegal and destructive abuse of our nearshore waters by aquarium poachers including 200 counts of abuse!

I'm going to mention one high profile case that involved Howard and resulted in a full scale water rescue operation given he left his collectors in the open ocean and took off in his boat when law enforcement approached!

Please enforce action against Stephen Howard and Yukako Toriyama for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawai'i Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i; and enforce action against Jason Beevers for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for standing up for the law and the protection of our vanishing and threatened native species that dwell in our nearshore waters and provide a natural balance that we depend upon for our lives, intact native culture, and a sound economy.

Sincerely,

Janice Palma-Glennie

P.O. Box 4849
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96745

From: [Gregg G](#)
To: [DLNR, BLNR, Testimony](#)
Cc: [DLNR, BLNR, Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Aquatic violations - Items F1 & F2 on 2/26/21 BLNR Hearing
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 7:08:50 PM

Dear Board Members,

Re: Agenda items F1 and F2.

When I started snorkeling Kona in 1988, schools of Yellow Tang were abundant. A walk along Alii Drive in Kona Town and you could see hundreds of schools. I would now estimate 75% of the fish are gone. I no longer see puffer fish, box fish, moorish idols.

As the picture below illustrates, Aquarium collectors care nothing about the reef except how much money they can steal out of it. They are wildlife traffickers and, if not stopped, at some point the reefs will be empty as will the hotels.

I recommend the harshest possible penalties for these individuals. They must be hit where it hurts the hardest, in the pocketbook!!!

Mahalo,

Gregg Gruwell
Kamuela, HI



From: [Cory Harden](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] support F 1 & 2 Feb 26 aquarium fishers
Date: Friday, February 19, 2021 9:29:50 PM

please acknowledge receipt

Aloha board members,

Please show fishers you are serious about aquarium fishing laws by imposing maximum fines and revoking commercial marine licenses for Stephen Howard, Yukako Toriyama, and Jason Beevers.

Agenda # F 1

Mr. Howard abandoned Ms. Toriyama and Ms. Hitomi Sasaki in the ocean after they went diving off his boat to collect fish. Mr. Howard lied to DOCARE officers about where the two women were, tried to delete text messages from his cell phone, and threw the phone in the water to avoid giving it to officers.

Mr. Howard had illegal aquarium collection gear, illegal fishing gear, and illegally collected fish. He operated a vessel with an expired registration, without required safety equipment onboard, and without a required boater safety certificate.

It appears Mr. Toriyama has not cooperated with the investigation, but Ms. Sasaki has.

Agenda # F 2

Jason Beevers illegally collected aquarium fish, had multiple gear and permit violations, and lied to officers.

Mahalo,
Cory Harden, Hilo

From: [kymberlee harris](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] enforcement of laws for poaching
Date: Monday, February 22, 2021 9:23:53 AM

To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing to ask that you please enforce the laws to protect the wildlife in the ocean from poachers. There must be consequences and we must stay strong to send the clear message that poaching of fish or other aquatic life will not be tolerated. We are to protect our natural resources as guardians of this planet and cannot allow short sighted negligence of this serious problem. In regards to Stephen Howard and Yukako Toriyama for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawai'i Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i and Enforcement Action against Jason Beevers for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawaii, I ask that you enforce the penalties to the highest extent so that others do not attempt this in the future.

Thank you,

Kym Harris

77-6561 Alii Drive

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

808 224-4870

From: [Gloria Jernigan](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Illegal fishing and gathering to sell
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 12:37:14 PM

Testimony,

Please prosecute to the full extent of the law the two men illegally gathering fish, coral..etc.on your agenda today.

G.Jernigan
Kapolei, HI
323.287.6791

From: [Harlan Miyoshi](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Items F1 & F2 on 2/26/21 BLNR Meeting
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021 9:14:40 AM

Aloha board member,

The BLNR should seek the maximum possible penalties and revoke licenses for the aquarium fish violations to deter future violations.

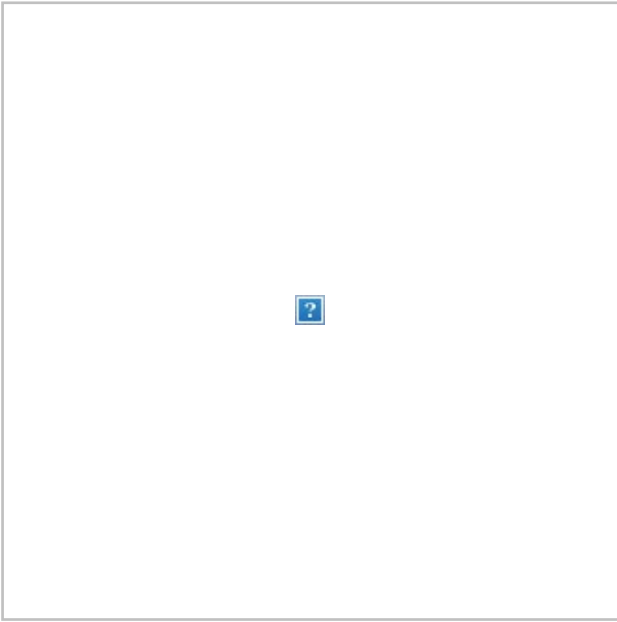
Especially for Stephen Howard because of the egregiousness of his violation and endangering his crew and his attitude in forcing the courts to read through every violation when setting the date of the trial.

F. DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES

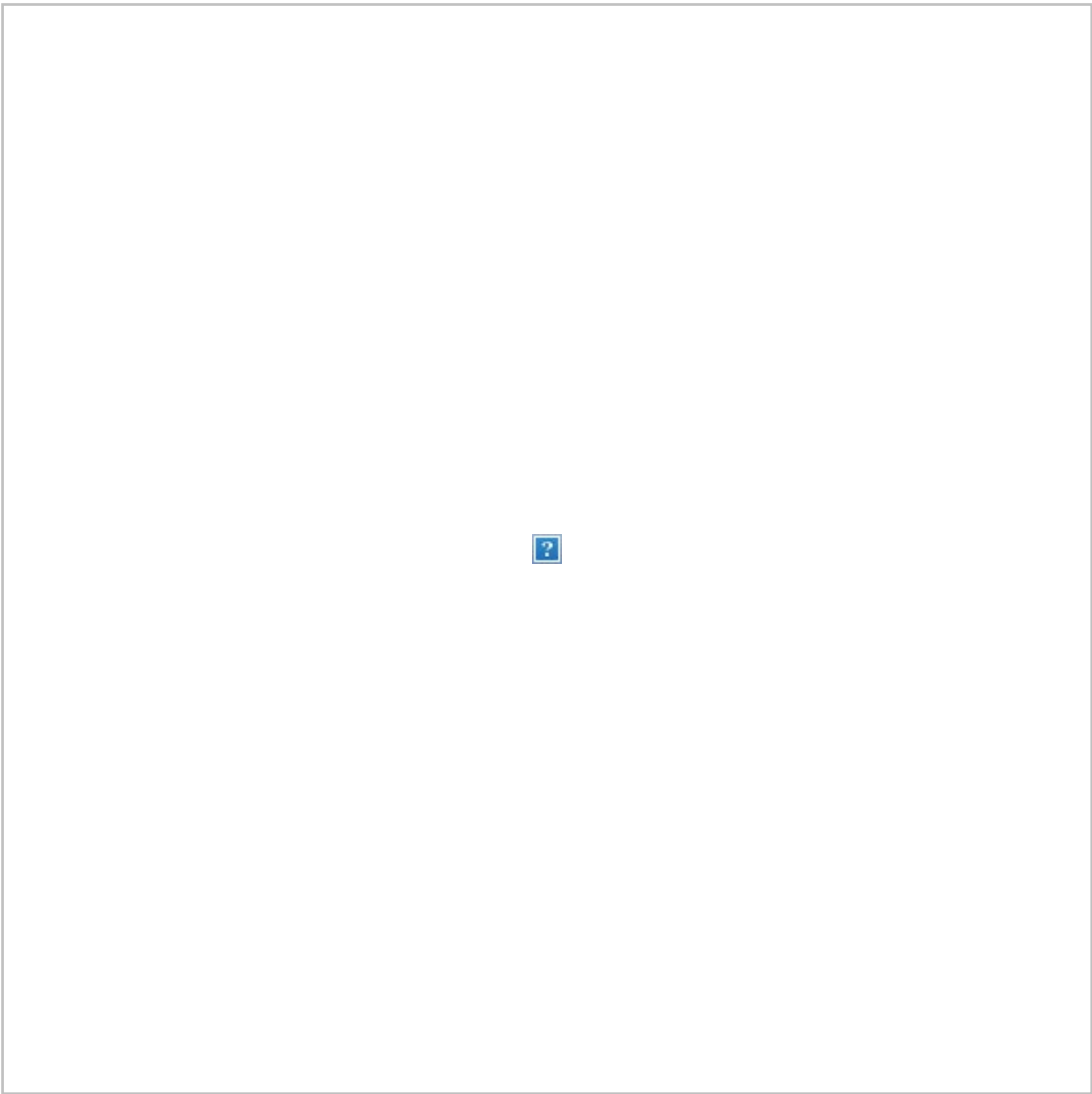
1. Enforcement Action against Stephen Howard and Yukako Toriyama for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawai'i Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.
2. Enforcement Action against Jason Beevers for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

Harlan







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From: [Gretchen Ana Currie Ramirez](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Friday Feb. 26: F. 1 & 2
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 8:41:08 PM

Aloha,

I am writing to express my VERY strong support for the highest possible fines allowable, as well as the PERMANENT revocation of the commercial marine licenses for these defendants:

F. DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES

1. Enforcement Action against Stephen Howard and Yukako Toriyama for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawai'i Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.

2. Enforcement Action against Jason Beevers for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.

These scofflaws have been charged with more than 200 counts of poaching each! And that was only the for the time they were caught; they have very likely been carrying out dozens of illegal fish collection activities that they did not get caught doing. PLEASE give them the fullest possible penalties to ensure that they and others are dissuaded from doing this ever again.

Mahalo for listening,
Gretchen Ramirez
808-443-1989

From: [Shannon Rudolph](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stop marine poachers!
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021 9:40:10 AM

Aloha!

Please levy HUGE Mega-fines on marine poachers and take their marine licenses away, permanently.

Make these fines HURT! If you can't raise the penalties within the DLNR, petition the legislature to raise fines - and the public will support you.

Marine poachers are stealing from the public & visitors - no different than burglarizing our houses & stealing our cars.

Mahalo,
Shannon Rudolph - Kona
40 year Hawai'i resident

--

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

From: [Siena Schaar](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in strong support for the highest fines possible and revocation of commercial marine licenses for defendants named in F.1&2
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 11:42:25 AM

Aloha BLNR:

I am writing today in strong support for the highest fines possible and revocation of commercial marine licenses for defendants named in F.1&2. (The specifics of which are denoted below). This testimony is for consideration at the Friday February 26, 2021 BLNR hearing.

F. DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES

1. Enforcement Action against Stephen Howard and Yukako Toriyama for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawai'i Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.

2. Enforcement Action against Jason Beevers for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.

Today, I am asking for the BLNR to enforce the highest fines possible and revocation of the named defendants commercial marine licenses on the grounds that: 1) It puts teeth behind the protection of our state's marine resources and is consistent with the values of resource protection in the State of Hawai'i, 2) It upholds the State's duty to protect and preserve marine resources that are held in public trust, 3) It serves as a message and mechanism to deter repeat and future offenders, and 4) It is adequate punishment for the crimes committed herein.

The defendants in this case committed a premeditated crime. Being former aquarium collectors when the trade was legal, the defendants knew or reasonably should have known that their extraction of hundreds of reef fish from a protected area was illegal, yet they engaged in the behavior anyway likely assuming that the ocean was expansive enough that they would be able to avoid detection. As punishment, a combination of the highest possible fines and revocation of their commercial marine licenses will help ensure that they are unable to recommit this same crime again. Revocation of their licenses will also ensure that they are further unable to distribute marine ornamental fish through any loopholes in the system as the trade remains illegal throughout the state.

When it comes to protecting the public marine resources, the duty falls on the state to protect these resources for the interest of the public. Being lenient on punishing crimes committed against the public at large (through illegal extraction of resources) essentially makes the judicial decisions and statutes protecting the public marine resources moot and without teeth. This would be inconsistent with the values of the State and especially inconsistent with the 2019 Hawai'i Supreme Court finding that "all public natural resources are held in trust by the State for the common benefit of Hawai'i's people and the generations to come (V. Chind Case, p 1150). I urge the Board of Land and Natural Resources to hold the defendants accountable for their actions, for the crimes committed here are not only crimes against the State, they are crimes against every stakeholder group for which the State holds and protects these resources in trust. Any lesser punishment would be a disservice to all who rely on and benefit from fish

on our reefs - arguably every single person in the state. Let us not allow all economic benefits and lax punishments to fall on the few who extract our resources illegally and who have no interest in protecting these resources for future generations to come. Justice will only be served through the highest potential punishments as they were set-out to be applied when enacted.

Respectfully,
Siena I. Schaar, *MEM*
Co-founder at Keiko Conservation

J.D Candidate, Class of 2023
William S. Richardson School of Law | University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Master of Environmental Management | University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
(310) 427-9509 | Schaar@hawaii.edu

From: [sea.save](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Enforcement Action
Date: Monday, February 22, 2021 1:30:58 PM

F. DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES

1. Enforcement Action against Stephen Howard and Yukako Toriyama for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawai'i Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.

2. Enforcement Action against Jason Beevers for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.

Please Consider the highest fines possible and revocation of commercial marine licenses for defendants named in F.1&2

From: [Lanny Sinkin](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Poachers
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 7:03:54 PM

Those who would exploit the public resources illegally should face the stiffest rebuke in the form of fines and revocation of marine licenses.

Mahalo

Lanny Sinkin
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Hilo, Hawai'i 96721
(808) 936-4428
lanny.sinkin@gmail.com

From: [Vivian Toellner](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#); [DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Strong Support for Reef Wildlife - Friday, Feb 6, 2021
Date: Sunday, February 21, 2021 2:41:51 PM

Testimony regarding: F. DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES

1. Enforcement Action against Stephen Howard and Yukako Toriyama for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawai'i Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.
2. Enforcement Action against Jason Beevers for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.

Here we go again, more greedy persons taking off with Hawaii Natural Resources. This is happening far too often, don't go easy on these poachers any longer. (Terazono and Newman case)

Please upholds the laws that serve to **protect**, conserve and manage Hawai'i's **unique and limited natural resources**, held in **public trust** for current and future generations of visitors and the people of Hawai'i nei.

"Officers questioned Howard about the whereabouts of the two women who were no longer on board, but he was uncooperative. This prompted a multi-agency, land, air and sea search and rescue mission including Hawaii County Fire and Police Departments and the U.S. Coast Guard."

Howard did not care about the cost of his Uncooperativeness....not only money but work, worry and endangering the lives of others.

I hope these cases are also reported to the FBI as Acts of cruelty against animals that are now counted alongside felony crimes like arson, burglary, assault, and homicide in the FBI's expansive criminal database.

Studies show that cruelty to animals is a precursor to larger crime...such as endangering those 2 women, and everyone involved in the search and rescue.

And of course, money....Hawaii economy benefits more by protecting its resources, and showcasing them to the tourist industry.

Thank you for allowing the submittal of testimony and your time.
Aloha & Mahalo,

Vivian Toellner
PO Box 6894
Hilo HI 96720
(808) 345-2753

2.24.21

To: Chairman Suzanne Case and Board Members

From: Deborah Ward

Item F1, F2

Aloha,

I am chair of Hawaii Island Group of the Sierra Club, and our group strongly urges the BLNR to impose the highest possible fines and revocation of commercial marine licenses for the defendants named in Items F1 and F2.

Agenda # F 1

Mr. Howard abandoned Ms. Toriyama and Ms. Hitomi Sasaki in the ocean after they went diving off his boat to collect fish. Mr. Howard lied to DOCARE officers about where the two women were, tried to delete text messages from his cell phone, and threw the phone in the water to avoid giving it to officers.

Mr. Howard had illegal aquarium collection gear, illegal fishing gear, and illegally collected fish. He operated a vessel with an expired registration, without required safety equipment onboard, and without a required boater safety certificate.

Agenda # F 2

Jason Beevers illegally collected aquarium fish, had multiple gear and permit violations, and lied to officers.

Members of our group have spent hundreds of hours monitoring the activities of commercial aquarium collectors, documenting the illegal poaching, observing and reporting encroachment on protected areas, and collecting photographs of illegal activity.

The illegal activity impacts sustainable fishing by cultural practitioners, it impacts the health of the coral reef and its inhabitants, and it diminishes the populations of beautiful tropical fauna that are so attractive to resident and visitor divers and snorkelers who cherish the beauty of our reefs. The laws should be fully enforced, maximum fines should be imposed, and licenses revoked to put this kind of brazen behavior behind us.

From: [linda willaby](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] reef fish poachers need stiff penalties
Date: Saturday, February 20, 2021 9:51:44 AM

Testimony

To whom it may concern,

I give strong support for the highest fines possible and revocation of commercial marine licenses for poachers.

Please take the strongest measures possible against the following criminals:

1. Stephen Howard and Yukako Toriyama for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawai'i Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.
2. Enforcement Action against Jason Beevers for Unlawful Collection of Aquatic Life for Aquarium Purposes within the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area, Island of Hawai'i.

Yours truly,

Linda Willaby

12-280 Mapuana Ave

Pahoa Hi 96778