

From: [Lynn Allen](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: [Lynn Allen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F-3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 2:30:17 PM

Honorable Board Members,

It is with great respect that I offer this testimony in support of approval of this petition. My name is Lynn Allen, and I live in Kihei, Maui and Vista, California.

The presence of fish on intact coral reefs is of value to all. Breaking coral reef with the intent of harvesting fish for the aquarium trade has NO benefit to Hawai'i, and those practices are at DIRECT odds with Hawaiian values to take only what is needed. If Hawai'i's precious coastal ecosystems are to remain intact, the aquarium trade must be banned.

Please approve this petition.

Thank you for your time,
Lynn Allen

From: [Hugh Baker](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony - BAN AQUARIUM TRADE IN HAWAII
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 3:32:04 PM

Aloha BLNR Board Members:

It is time to end - once and for all - the aquarium fish trade in Hawaii. I have personally witnessed the harvesting of fish by the aquarium hunters. It is cowardly and inhumane. It cannot be a good thing to upset the balance of life in a reef ecosystem.

For those who don't buy into the ethical and environmental downsides, consider the economics. Aquarium fish harvesting constitutes a taking of natural resources that belong to the citizens of Hawaii, without adequate and reasonable compensation to citizens. Historically, the cost of a permits is not reflective of the economics of fish harvesting. In other words, aquarium fish harvesting is essentially theft from Hawaii's citizens. **STOP THE BRAZEN THEFT OF RESOURCES THAT BELONG TO THE PEOPLE.**

Ban fish harvesting altogether (preferably) or set the price of permits at a level that a) sends some of the profits to the people and b) pays for strict enforcement of limits.

Hugh Baker
Kailua Kona, HI

From: [Kerri Ballard](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 8:41:13 PM

My name is Kerri Ballard and I am a full time Makawao resident. I am a self confessed fish geek and passionate snorkeler who spends two days a week watching fish behavior and removing trash from our reef.

Our island reef environment is being negatively impacted due to warming water temperatures, agricultural and other runoff, along with intense human activity.

We truly need to do everything we possibly can to help relive the pressure! Continuing to allow an activity that is cruel and destructive like aquarium collecting is heartless and unwarranted and stopping it is just a tiny step toward what is needed. If we take no action, we deserve no hope.

Many thanks,
Kerri Ballard

Sent with love

From: [Warren Blum](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 4:13:14 PM

Aloha, My name is Warren Blum and I live in Kihei, Maui.

I have lived in Kihei for the past 22 years and have worked non-stop as a Scuba Divemaster, Instructor and Boat Captain. I have done approximately 8,000 dives here.

I have witnessed the degradation of the reef colonies all around Maui and Molokini Crater. I have also seen the decrease in our precious unique fish population.

I have seen fish collectors abuse the reefs and collect way too many of our fish. The fish should be left on the reef as our precious natural resource that brings not only joy to many visitors as well as locals but also brings many tourist dollars into our economy. The degradation of our fish population for the private benefit of a few fish collectors is not right or Pono.

Please support a rule ending commercial aquarium collection. Thank you.

Warren Blum

From: [Patricia Cadiz](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] formal petition to enact a rule to prohibit collection of reef wildlife for the aquarium pet trade
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 6:27:29 PM

Aloha Chairperson and Board members,
My name is Patricia Cadiz. I am from Paia, Maui, Hawaii.

I support the petitioners request that the Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources enact a rule to prohibit collection of reef wildlife for the aquarium pet trade.

The aquarium trade negatively impacts the healthy of our precious reef environment. A healthy reef is one of the most important natural mitigation measures that protects our beaches and shores from erosional effects of wave energy. Healthy reefs will be ever more important as we face rising seas and climate change.

It is your responsibility to protect the lands of Hawaii including submerged lands and our reefs. Please grant the petitioners request in its entirety.

With appreciation,
Patricia Cadiz
Sent from my iPhone



November 3, 2023

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LAND
AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Agenda Item F-3**

November 9, 2023, 9:15 a.m.

DLNR Boardroom, Kalanimoku Building
1151 Punchbowl St., Room 132

**Re: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF THE PETITION FOR RULEMAKING
TO PROHIBIT THE TAKE OF MARINE LIFE FOR COMMERCIAL AQUARIUM
PURPOSES (WITH EXEMPTIONS).**

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

Please accept these comments submitted by the Center for Biological Diversity (Center) in **strong support of Agenda item F-3**, which would begin the rulemaking process to prohibit the take of marine life for commercial aquarium purposes.

The Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) membership corporation dedicated to the protection of native, threatened, and endangered species and the habitats they depend on to survive. Through science, policy, and environmental law, the Center is actively involved in endangered forest bird protection issues throughout Hawai'i. The Center has more than 88,000 members throughout the United States, including Hawai'i, with a direct interest in ensuring the conservation of our struggling marine species and the healthy habitat they need to survive.

The Center has long advocated for the cessation of commercial aquarium collection in Hawai'i, as it is an issue of paramount significance to the preservation of our singular marine ecosystems. This initiative, led by native Hawaiian and marine protection groups, seeks the establishment of a regulatory framework designed to prohibit the collection of reef wildlife for the aquarium pet trade. If granted, the Department of Land and Natural Resources - Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) would be entrusted with the mandate

to initiate rulemaking procedures and conduct public hearings to address this matter comprehensively.

The commercial aquarium collection practice in Hawai'i has persisted over the years, resulting in the annual extraction of hundreds of thousands of coral reef fishes and aquatic wildlife from their natural ocean habitat. These species, including hermit crabs and various invertebrates, are primarily harvested for non-food purposes, namely as decorative items and sources of entertainment within the aquarium trade.

Unfortunately, this activity has had a profound and adverse impact on the ecological and cultural significance of Hawai'i's near shore reefs and their respective wildlife inhabitants.

Scientific data supports the detrimental influence of this trade, notably in the decline of herbivores, which are indispensable for coral reef health. The historical data from West Hawai'i underscores that the aquarium trade has consistently surpassed the combined take of herbivores by subsistence, recreational, and commercial food fishers. Proposed environmental impact assessments further substantiate the urgency of a permanent ban on the commercial aquarium trade.

The necessity of terminating the commercial aquarium trade is underscored by compelling data points. First, it is evident in the collapse of yellow tang populations in South-West O'ahu over three decades ago and the continued island-wide depletion of species targeted by the trade, surpassing 90%. Second, an alarming 80% decline in yellow tangs was observed in West Hawai'i reefs as recently as 2016, representing the last full year of commercial aquarium trade collection before a temporary court-imposed cessation. Third, documented incidents of commercial aquarium trade collectors intentionally damaging coral, at times employing crowbars, in their pursuit of reef-hiding species such as Potter's angelfish illustrate the disregard for ecological integrity. Fourth, the widespread acknowledgment of illegal poaching within the commercial aquarium trade, with no fewer than seven commercial aquarium trade collectors facing charges for poaching over 1,000 fish, highlights the disregard for legal and ethical standards. Fifth, the inherent conflict between the AQ trade and local culture and native Hawaiian values, notably the practice of "pono" fishing, which emphasizes taking only what is necessary, reflects a cultural misalignment. Sixth, rigorous cost-benefit analyses reveal that Hawai'i residents derive no discernible benefits from the commercial aquarium trade while bearing the substantial costs, highlighting an unjust economic burden. Lastly, a consistent pattern of the commercial aquarium trade's disregarding crucial facts and opposing public commentary within their manifestly flawed and biased Environmental Impact Statements raises concerns about transparency and accountability within the industry.

Furthermore, it is imperative to emphasize the legal and constitutional obligations that underscore the urgency of enacting permanent protections. Article XI, Section 1 of the Hawai'i Constitution mandates the conservation and protection of "natural beauty and all natural resources...held in trust by the State for the benefit of the people." Additionally, Section 6 enforces the establishment of mariculture operations under legislative guidelines, ensuring the protection of the public's use and enjoyment of the reefs.

Therefore, the Center urges the Board to recognize the compelling scientific, ecological, cultural, and legal rationales that advocate for the immediate cessation of commercial aquarium collection in Hawai'i. The stakes are high, and our marine ecosystems, culture, and economy are inextricably linked to the prudent stewardship of these resources.

It is our collective kuleana to protect our invaluable natural and cultural heritage for current and future generations. Your decisive action in approving this petition and directing DAR to undertake the requisite rulemaking is the most effective means to ensure the lasting welfare of Hawai'i's near shore reefs and their irreplaceable inhabitants.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of Agenda Item F-3.**

/s/ Maxx Phillips

Maxx Phillips, Esq.

Hawai'i and Pacific Islands Director, Staff Attorney

Center for Biological Diversity

1188 Bishop Street, Suite 2001

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

(808) 284-0007

MPhillips@biologicaldiversity.org

From: ruma.costello@coastal.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ending of Commercial Aquarium Collection
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 4:50:34 AM

My name is Ruma Costello

I own property in the Waikoloa Beach Resort, West Hawaii, Big Island

I would like to add my name to the group who support the ending of commercial aquarium collection.

The fish native to the Hawaiian Islands need to be protected in order to live and thrive in the waters they were born in. It is key to maintaining their various species.

Mahalo,

Ruma Costello

From: [Judith Cucco's gmail](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 2:39:13 PM

Please enact a rule to permanently prohibit collection of reef wildlife for the aquarium pet trade. I've submitted more than 1,300 species and abundance surveys from Oahu for the Reef Environmental Education Foundation over a thirteen year period and have proof of the decline in both species and abundance on Oahu. The people of Hawaii do not benefit from this pillaging of our natural resources in the ocean and the collecting is often accompanied by damage to our fragile and precious reefs.

Sincerely,
Judith Cucco
Honolulu, Oahu

From: [Robert Culbertson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please END the Aquarium trade in Hawai'i nei!
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 7:18:17 PM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resource members!

From the Big Island, I and my ohana send greetings and fervent wishes to see the ending of this pernicious and *un-alo*ha business!

For too long we have waited patiently for your common sense to prevail while fish like the Yellow Tang have been pulled off our reefs in unimaginable quantities; to be wasted in transit or in tanks far away, never to breed, never to clean the algae off the backs of Honu, never to be enjoyed by wide eyed keiki.

Now as the reefs are shown to be declining in health and coverage, the state agencies are getting a clue; commercial level extraction is not healthy or 'pono'.

We should have adhered to the stated policy which ranks commercial uses below the subsistence fishers and the health of the organisms in the first place. Now it is sad and many say plainly, too late!

At least you can fix just one thing here. Stop the legalized poaching and killing of our reefs, our 'ice box' of last resort.

You have this power. Now please use it, finally!

R A Culbertson
Honokaa

From: [Kat C](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F3
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 3:04:34 PM

Aloha kakou,

I support putting on agenda and voting on ending the commercial aquarium collection in Hawai'i.

It is destructive to the reefs, fish population, tourism and the state of affairs we leave to our keiki.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Kat Culina
Pahoa, Hawai'i Island

From: [David Darbyshire](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 1:42:22 PM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

I am testifying today and asking you to please ban aquarium collection PERMANENTLY in Hawai'i State and uphold the DLNR policy code; Hierarchy of Uses Principle.

We urge the Board to approve the petition and direct the Division of Aquatic Resources to begin rule making.

We live in a time when all herbivore species are in a degraded state of mass decline—a CRISIS.

Our herbivore species perform a critical function on our coral that we, as humans, can not be a substitute for. We need all reef species in abundance for more than just food. We need them in vast numbers to increase coral resilience and stabilize our ocean ecosystems.

The tipping point for a coral collapse is near. We must remember that a healthy ecosystem plays a crucial role in the production of photosynthesizing algae, such as phytoplankton. These organisms are responsible for producing up to 70% of oxygen in the air. That is every other breath we take, no matter where we live.

The increased opposition from outside Hawai'i should NOT DISTRACT BLNR from making a regenerative decision. We can not continue to degrade our natural resources further and continue to break our Hawai'i State Constitution for Native Hawaiian Traditional and Customary Rights.

We lack a healthy symbiotic relationship on our coral reef; therefore, drastic measures to protect them are necessary. On November 9th, 2023, YOU ALL will be able to protect our ocean ecology and make Hawai'i State a global example of what culturally grounded and regenerative leadership looks like.

Mahalo

David Darbyshire
Holualoa, Hawaii

Movement Solutions International

From: [Topher Dean](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 2:24:27 PM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

By now you've read what's written below, but as a surfer, diver, and founder of Clean The Pacific, let me tell you, the last thing our reef fish need is to be abducted and sentenced to life in prison in some dentist's office in Ohio. This industry is TOTALLY immoral. With the climate crisis, coastal development, toxic chemicals, microplastics, overfishing, tourists, our reefs need serious help.

When I snorkeled on the reefs of the West Coast of Hawaii Island in the 80s and 90s, there were so many fish, it was like a blizzard of fish. Now, you're lucky if you see a school of yellow tang larger than 6.

Please, I've been desperately trying to get people to understand what's happening for decades. Finally, we have a chance. I know you'll do the right thing.

I am testifying today and asking you to please ban aquarium collection PERMANENTLY in Hawai'i State and uphold the DLNR policy code; Hierarchy of Uses Principle. We urge the Board to approve the petition and direct the Division of Aquatic Resources to begin rule making.

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regenerative leadership looks like.

Mahalo,
Christopher Dean

From: [Valerie Delahaye](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 1:33:09 PM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

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Mahalo
[FULL NAME]
[ISLAND & TOWN]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Walter Dods](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 2:19:45 PM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

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Mahalo
Walter Dods
Oahu, Honolulu

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Susan Douglas](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please End Aquarium Collecting
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 9:44:23 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Please prohibit collection of reef wildlife for the aquarium pet trade. I urge the Board to approve the petition and direct DAR to begin rulemaking.

As a resident of Maui for past 40 years and a snorkeler, I've seen the degradation of our reefs and their fish to a point where I've lost interest in snorkeling. The final nail in the coffin was a trip to Roatan, Honduras where the snorkeling was amazing, so now I'm really spoiled! It was interesting to see the fish population begin to grow again during the pandemic.

Warmest Mahalo and Aloha!

Susan Douglas

Writer & Healthy Life Coach

Kihei, Maui, HI 96753

Best: H Landline: 808 879 1112 (You can call 24/7, if you get my machine you can leave a long message, NO texts)

C: 808 205 1893 (You can leave texts but I only check once/day)

sd3@hawaii.rr.com (I'm faster to respond by email than phone)



From: [Sunshine Eckstrom](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 4:26:46 PM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

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Mahalo

Sunshine Eckstrom, DVM, CVA
Haleiwa, Oahu

From: [Thalia Fajans](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 3:26:34 PM

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Mahalo.
Thalia Fajans
Honalo, Hawai'i Island

From: [Conceicao Farias](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 4:16:03 PM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

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Mahalo

CONCEICAO FARIAS
HAWAII ISLAND.

From: [Shelly Feduniw](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 9:29:25 PM

Aloha;

My name is Shelly from Captain Cook on the Big Island Hawaii.

I am writing to express my concerns regarding aquarium fish collection around the Hawaiian Islands. It is imperative to the health of our coral reefs to stop all aquarium collecting. The amount of algae overgrowth threatening the reefs, and lack of reef fish to assist in algae control is wt an all time high. The oceans and reef need this fishes, not aquariums in homes and office buildings.

I have personally witnessed the waste of juvenile fish in the past, and the exceptionally high numbers of fish taken from the reefs in the past. This must stop.

I urge you to rule against all fish collecting for the health of our reefs and ocean eco systems.

Thanking You in advance,
Shelly

~Sent from beautiful Planet Ocean~

From: [Doug Fetterly](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please ban the aquarium trade
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 2:52:05 PM

Mahalo. It has gone on too long, and the numbers of reef fish is seriously depleted.

Take care.

Doug

Doug Fetterly

From: [Michael Gaulke](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 3:04:31 PM

Dear Board;

My name is Michael Gaulke and I am a homeowner in Kailua Kona. I am writing to let you know how important I think it is to preserve fish life and coral reefs of the Hawaiian Islands. My wife and I start nearly every day with either a paddle or swim in the ocean off the Kona coast. The return of fish life in the area where the collection reef fish by the aquarium trade has been prohibited has been dramatic. For the generations of Hawaiians to come to be able to enjoy this wonderful resource, it is imperative that the reef fish be protected.

Mahalo,

Michael Gaulke

From: [michael gilbert](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Aquarium Trade
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 3:43:47 PM

Aloha

As a resident active diver and former international Liaison Earth Trust I have seen first hand total destruction of the reefs at Makena Landing .

I saw the same boats gathering fish every week literally striping them

When I dove out to see what they were doing I was threatened.

Can't you understand how terrible a practice this is

I saw them take coral banded shrimp, eels , and even a rare slipper lobster.

Use your common sense there is no need for this

Michael Gilbert MA. CR.

Sent from my iPad

From: [Janice Glennie](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: [CAPITOL2023-senkanuha](#); [CAPITOL2023-repkahaloa](#); [CAPITOL2023-replowen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Time to end aquarium fish collection
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 5:23:13 PM
Importance: High

Agenda Item F.3 Testimony

Aloha Board members,

After many years of taking fish from the ocean to sell for aquarium use, we can see the negative affects in our seas which are already near or at a tipping point from other severe stresses, including and especially climate change. In Kona where I live, we went from having reef fish by the plenty to a nearshore situation that looks scary even to the casual observer who has seen it in previous years and decades. And those collected fish die (tragically and wastefully) in huge numbers before they even get to their final, sad “resting place” in a tank or a bowl.

Please support ending the commercial aquarium trade finally — now and forever.

Mahalo for considering my views on this topic which has come up time and again, taking our energy and natural resources for the benefit of a very few collectors.

Best regards,

Janice Palma-Glennie

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

From: [Mary Groode](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 10:16:39 AM

ALoha,

My name is Mary Groode, I live on Maui, in Kihei. I have lived here since 1976. I have noticed a decimation of the reef fish on the reefs of South Maui for 40 years. It is crucially important that you approve the petition and direct the DAR to begin rulemaking to save what reef fish remain.

The Aquarium Trade has profited from our natural resources for many years. Even though Maui has tried to stop people from selling our reef fish. Still, it has been happening. We need real rules and consequences for those who ignore the value of having tropical fish on the reefs, and octopus and eels. Our economy is shored up by visitors wanting to see healthy reefs.

Many places in the world protect their reefs and fish to be attractive destinations for tourists. Hawaii needs to do the same in order to compete with these islands and countries.

Sincerely,
Mary Groode
3371 A Kaha Drive
Kihei, HI. 96753

From: [Kencho Gurung](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 9:36:28 PM

Ending commercial aquarium collection is vital to preserve Hawai'i's marine life and cultural heritage. The decline of species like the yellow tang and the intentional destruction of corals emphasize the urgent need for this ban. By supporting this rule, we uphold our values of pono, ensuring a harmonious coexistence with nature. Let us stand united to protect our oceans, safeguard our traditions, and create a legacy of ecological abundance for future generations.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Kencho Gurung
Kapa'au, Hawai'i Island

From: [Nancy Haag](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] End reef fish collecting by commercial enterprises
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 10:55:57 AM

Aloha! I am writing you today to request an end to reef fish collecting by commercial enterprises and support the petition by "For the Fishes". I do not believe it is the right to allow people to make money from our natural resources that are so precious to our community. It is time to protect our natural resources, not to enrich the incomes of a few individuals. Please create the rule making to protect these treasures. Thank you,

Nancy Haag
981 Kupulau Drive
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Doug Hackett](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F 3 testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 11:12:03 AM

From Douglas Hackett, Volcano, HI ... Big Island

We have lived in Hawaii for almost 30 years and love our island waters, coral and fish. We support a rule ending commercial aquarium collection. Save our reefs!

'
808-987-0449

Transform yourself so you can help transform the world



Virus-free www.avg.com

From: [Daniel Harrang](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Aquarium collection
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 2:55:04 PM

Hello,
And thank you for considering my input.

At one time I used to work in the Air Cargo facility, @oGG, as such, I know who was exporting tropical fish, how often and how they conducted themselves. Did you know that between 25% and 75% of wild animals exported this way die before reaching their destination?

Unfortunately, it's still "profitable" even if only a small number survive. I don't need to educate you about reef collapse when people continue taking and taking and taking...

Aquarium collecting benefits very very few at the cost of everybody, at the cost of all, not just people but the entire ecosystem.

Please do what you can to minimize or end this bad practice.

The nickname for one of the companies, "reef savers" is more accurately **reef rapers**.

Dan - Wailuku

From: [JEANNETTE HEIDRICH](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 8:56:23 AM

Jeannette heidrich

Kailua Kona, Big Island

Please end the aquarium collection of fish in the State of Hawaii. The reef fish are critical to the health of the reef. Live fish on the reef add to the attractiveness of Hawaii as a destination for tourists, a huge source of income for the State.

Vote to end AQ Collection!

Thank you
Jeannette Heidrich

From: [Christiana Hetzel](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 4:00:32 PM

Aloha,

My name is Christiana Hetzel, from Ka'awaloa (Captain Cook), Big Island. I'm writing you in support of the proposed ban on Aquarium collection in Hawai'i. A lot of our populations of fish collected by the aquarium trade have been decimated by their ruthless practices, & many times, live coral gets broken in the process of them capturing an animal. The entire practice goes against Hawaiian cultural practices, including pono fishing, to only take what is needed. Please do the right thing & protect our precious resources so that many generations of keiki can enjoy them in the wild, where they belong. Mahalo nui loa.

Christiana Hetzel
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Laurie Hillyard](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 3:21:16 PM

Stop the aquarium trade it's of no worth or benefit to our community and ocean
The environment is so stressed now that any additional stress is just too much.
Why should a few harvesters benefit while the reefs and fish disappear?
Please stop all.

Laurie Hillyard
Kailua Kona,
Hawaii
808.333.6114

From: [Nastassia Hill](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 1:31:57 PM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

I am testifying today and asking you to please ban aquarium collection PERMANENTLY in Hawai'i State and uphold the DLNR policy code; Hierarchy of Uses Principle. We urge the Board to approve the petition and direct the Division of Aquatic Resources to begin rule making.

We live in a time when all herbivore species are in a degraded state of mass decline—a CRISIS.

Our herbivore species perform a critical function on our coral that we, as humans, can not be a substitute for. We need all reef species in abundance for more than just food. We need them in vast numbers to increase coral resilience and stabilize our ocean ecosystems.

The tipping point for a coral collapse is near. We must remember that a healthy ecosystem plays a crucial role in the production of photosynthesizing algae, such as phytoplankton. These organisms are responsible for producing up to 70% of oxygen in the air. That is every other breath we take, no matter where we live.

The increased opposition from outside Hawai'i should NOT DISTRACT BLNR from making a regenerative decision. We can not continue to degrade our natural resources further and continue to break our Hawai'i State Constitution for Native Hawaiian Traditional and Customary Rights.

We lack a healthy symbiotic relationship on our coral reef; therefore, drastic measures to protect them are necessary. On November 9th, 2023, YOU ALL will be able to protect our ocean ecology and make Hawai'i State a global example of what culturally grounded and regenerative leadership looks like.

Mahalo
Nastassia Hill
Hawaii Waikoloa

From: [Lois Hodges](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 4:25:25 PM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

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Mahalo
Lois Hodges
Kailua Kona, Hawaii

From: [Etsuko Ichikawa](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 1:34:07 PM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

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Mahalo

[FULL NAME]

[ISLAND & TOWN]

From: [Megan Isaac](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 11:21:31 PM

Dear Board of DLNR

Please direct DAR to rule and put an end to the harvesting of wild aquatic life for commercial purposes.

It is common knowledge that the colonies of fish and marine life on our reefs is diminished and challenged due to over fishing, environmental pollutants and 'coral death' as well as the burdens caused by development, tourism and other human impacts.

Please do what is right and end the 'poaching' of our fish for commercial purposes. It is not appropriate that this would continue .

I am 100% in support of a rule ending commercial aquarium collections

Thank you. Please kokua.

Aloha

Megan Isaac
resident : Hilo, Big Island

From: [Amber Johannson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 9:48:55 PM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

I am testifying today and asking you to please ban aquarium collection PERMANENTLY in Hawai'i State and uphold the DLNR policy code; Hierarchy of Uses Principle.

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The increased opposition from outside Hawai'i should NOT DISTRACT BLNR from making a regenerative decision. We can not continue to degrade our natural resources further and continue to break our Hawai'i State Constitution for Native Hawaiian Traditional and Customary Rights.

We lack a healthy symbiotic relationship on our coral reef; therefore, drastic measures to protect them are necessary. On November 9th, 2023, YOU ALL will be able to protect our ocean ecology and make Hawai'i State a global example of what culturally grounded and regenerative leadership looks like.

Mahalo,
Amber Johannson
Makawao, Maui

From: [Jennifer J](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 8:23:24 PM

Aloha,

My name is Jennifer Jordan, I live in Kailua-Kona on the Big Island of Hawaii. The reefs fish need to be protected from becoming a pet doomed to a captive death. These fish are an integral part of the underwater ecosystem and (I feel) should be protected. It's unnecessary for people to harvest the wild animals freedoms while all these people want is something to amuse them.

Thank you for your time and efforts to read through this email.

Mahalo,
Jennifer Jordan
Only1jen808@gmail.com

From: [Kaimi Kaupiko](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 2:56:50 PM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

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We urge the Board to approve the petition and direct the Division of Aquatic Resources to begin rule making.

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The increased opposition from outside Hawai'i should NOT DISTRACT BLNR from making a regenerative decision. We can not continue to degrade our natural resources further and continue to break our Hawai'i State Constitution for Native Hawaiian Traditional and Customary Rights.

We lack a healthy symbiotic relationship on our coral reef; therefore, drastic measures to protect them are necessary. On November 9th, 2023, YOU ALL will be able to protect our ocean ecology and make Hawai'i State a global example of what culturally grounded and regenerative leadership looks like.

Mahalo
Ka'imi N Kaupiko
Milolii , South Kona

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Malina Keawe](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 5:05:40 PM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) I am testifying today and asking you to please ban aquarium collection PERMANENTLY in Hawai'i State and uphold the DLNR policy code; Hierarchy of Uses Principle. We urge the Board to approve the petition and direct the Division of Aquatic Resources to begin rule making. We live in a time when all herbivore species are in a degraded state of mass decline—a CRISIS. Our herbivore species perform a critical function on our coral that we, as humans, can not be a substitute for. We need all reef species in abundance for more than just food. We need them in vast numbers to increase coral resilience and stabilize our ocean ecosystems. The tipping point for a coral collapse is near. We must remember that a healthy ecosystem plays a crucial role in the production of photosynthesizing algae, such as phytoplankton. These organisms are responsible for producing up to 70% of oxygen in the air. That is every other breath we take, no matter where we live. The increased opposition from outside Hawai'i should NOT DISTRACT BLNR from making a regenerative decision. We can not continue to degrade our natural resources further and continue to break our Hawai'i State Constitution for Native Hawaiian Traditional and Customary Rights. We lack a healthy symbiotic relationship on our coral reef; therefore, drastic measures to protect them are necessary. On November 9th, 2023, YOU ALL will be able to protect our ocean ecology and make Hawai'i State a global example of what culturally grounded and regenerative leadership looks like. Mahalo [FULL NAME] [ISLAND & TOWN]

From: [James Kelleher](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 7:05:15 AM

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is James Kelleher and my wife and I reside in Kailua Kona on the Big Island where we are Kona coffee farmers. We have been avid scuba divers for over 50 years and have witnessed the absolute destruction of the coral reefs in Key Largo, FL. We moved from the Florida Keys to Kona and have also witnessed the degradation of both the inshore reefs and the amount and variety of the indigenous fish. If we care at all about the health of our local waters and sustaining this ecosystem we must stop the harvesting of the local "aquarium" fish. It's just a senseless practice which serves no purpose other than lining the pockets of the collectors.

Thank you for addressing this issue, as it will benefit us now and well into the future for our children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,

James Kelleher
Kailua Kona, HI

From: [Sue Kellam](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F 3 Testimony: END AQUARIUM TRADE in Hawai'i
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 3:03:20 PM

Aloha,

I live in South Kona on the Big Island. There are dozens of important reasons why the commercial collection and sale of reef fish should end in Hawai'i. You know it. I know it. The only residents of Hawai'i who benefit from this hideous industry are the handful of collectors who sell their "product" to the mainland.

Please. After decades of many environmental groups begging the DLNR and the state to stop this industry, I hope that you will listen to the people of Hawai'i. Our reefs are critical. Our reef fish should thrive, not be removed from the reefs. Tourist dollars should be more important than the handful of AQ collectors. The money from tourists strengthens our communities while leaving our reefs in tact.

Mahalo,
Susan Kellam
87-3208 Carissa Rd
Captain Cook, HI 96704

From: [Erin Kelly](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 11:09:06 PM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

I am testifying today and asking you to please ban aquarium collection PERMANENTLY in Hawai'i State and uphold the DLNR policy code; Hierarchy of Uses Principle.

We urge the Board to approve the petition and direct the Division of Aquatic Resources to begin rule making.

We live in a time when all herbivore species are in a degraded state of mass decline—a CRISIS.

Our herbivore species perform a critical function on our coral that we, as humans, can not be a substitute for. We need all reef species in abundance for more than just food. We need them in vast numbers to increase coral resilience and stabilize our ocean ecosystems.

The tipping point for a coral collapse is near. We must remember that a healthy ecosystem plays a crucial role in the production of photosynthesizing algae, such as phytoplankton. These organisms are responsible for producing up to 70% of oxygen in the air. That is every other breath we take, no matter where we live.

The increased opposition from outside Hawai'i should NOT DISTRACT BLNR from making a regenerative decision. We can not continue to degrade our natural resources further and continue to break our Hawai'i State Constitution for Native Hawaiian Traditional and Customary Rights.

We lack a healthy symbiotic relationship on our coral reef; therefore, drastic measures to protect them are necessary. On November 9th, 2023, YOU ALL will be able to protect our ocean ecology and make Hawai'i State a global example of what culturally grounded and regenerative leadership looks like.

Mahalo
[FULL NAME]
[ISLAND & TOWN]

Sent from my iPhone

From: nahrink@yahoo.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 9:51:45 PM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

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We lack a healthy symbiotic relationship on our coral reef; therefore, drastic measures to protect them are necessary. On November 9th, 2023, YOU ALL will be able to protect our ocean ecology and make Hawai'i State a global example of what culturally grounded and regenerative leadership looks like.

Mahalo
Nahrin Khoshabian
Maui - Kihei

From: mak221@aol.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 1:53:49 PM

I agree with everything in this testimony. We do not need more exploitation of our resources. Businesses can raise their own fish.

Mark Koppel
Umauma

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) I am testifying today and asking you to please ban aquarium collection PERMANENTLY in Hawai'i State and uphold the DLNR policy code; Hierarchy of Uses Principle. We urge the Board to approve the petition and direct the Division of Aquatic Resources to begin rule making. We live in a time when all herbivore species are in a degraded state of mass decline—a CRISIS. Our herbivore species perform a critical function on our coral that we, as humans, can not be a substitute for. We need all reef species in abundance for more than just food. We need them in vast numbers to increase coral resilience and stabilize our ocean ecosystems. The tipping point for a coral collapse is near. We must remember that a healthy ecosystem plays a crucial role in the production of photosynthesizing algae, such as phytoplankton. These organisms are responsible for producing up to 70% of oxygen in the air. That is every other breath we take, no matter where we live. The increased opposition from outside Hawai'i should NOT DISTRACT BLNR from making a regenerative decision. We can not continue to degrade our natural resources further and continue to break our Hawai'i State Constitution for Native Hawaiian Traditional and Customary Rights. We lack a healthy symbiotic relationship on our coral reef; therefore, drastic measures to protect them are necessary. On November 9th, 2023, YOU ALL will be able to protect our ocean ecology and make Hawai'i State a global example of what culturally grounded and regenerative leadership looks like. Mahalo [FULL NAME] [ISLAND & TOWN]

From: [Arnie Kotler](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 4:31:14 PM

Aloha BLNR,

Over the decades I've lived in the islands, there seem to be fewer and fewer reef fish. I support a rule ending commercial aquarium collection. I know this will be difficult, as the livelihood of individuals is at stake. But the health of the oceans and the reversal of the loss of life of so many species, in my opinion, demands it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Arnold Kotler
Kihei, Maui

From: [Nicole LeClaire](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 2:41:19 PM

Dear BLNR,

Please protect marine wildlife and stop commercial aquarium collection.
Leave the fish in the ocean where they belong.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Nicole LeClaire

Maui Nutritional Therapy
Nicole LeClaire NTP, CGP
808-463-7783

From: [Liz Lees](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 7:49:20 AM

Aloha,

I live on the west side of the Big Island (Kona area) and swim and snorkel almost every day in our local waters.

PLEASE **do not allow** aquarium collecting in Hawaii waters. I used to see collectors at Kahaluu Bay ...UGH. Since the collection has been banned, I personally have seen so many juvenile fish that I did not see before.

Aquarium collect only benefits a few individuals, while seriously depleting the local juvenile fish stock and damaging the reef and ecosystem.

END COMMERCIAL AQUARIUM COLLECTION. The ocean and its inhabitants should be a PUBLIC resource, not a money generation enterprise for a few individuals.

Liz
77-110 Nahale PL
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

From: [Laura Legge](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony -- SUPPORT a rule ending commercial aquarium collection
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 12:04:02 PM

Aloha,

I am a resident of Maui.

I have been enjoying our Maui waters for over 50 years. I am a PADI certified Dive Master and spend hours in our local Maui County waters. All the change I have seen underwater in those 50 years would break your heart. Where have all the beautiful reef fish gone? Why are so many of our beautiful reefs covered in algae or bleached? Why aren't we doing more to stop this degradation and destruction?

Enough is enough! We need to keep HI's fish **on** our reefs and NOT in someone's living room or doctor's office in Peoria, Illinois.

For our the sake of our keiki, for the health of our island home and for our planet, *please* do the right thing and **once and for all STOP this mining of our reefs by the mainland pet trade for profit.**

Mahalo nui,

Laura K. Legge
Kihei, HI
96753

From: [SylviaLitchfield](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 6:40:18 PM

Aloha,

Agenda Item F.3 Testimony:

Please ban the aquarium trade and help save our reefs and fish population!

Thank you,

Sylvia Litchfield
Makawao, Maui

Sylvia Litchfield
phone: 619-987-3722
sylvialitchfield@gmail.com

From: [Cameron McDonald](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 3:22:19 PM

Board of Land and Natural Resources
To Whom it May Concern:

I started diving in Oahu in 1970. My first five in West Hawaii was in 1973. I have been diving consistently in West Hawaii waters since that time.

Over the years, I have noticed a slow decline in many fish species and the decline in size of adult species such as parrotfish.

While I believe that some of the decline is due to climate change, I also believe that aquarium fishing adds to the lower number of fishes in general.

Climate change will continue, and if we want the reefs to stay healthy, we will need to work towards decreasing any threats the reefs and the fish population may endure.

Out of a hundred fish taken by an aquarium fisher, at least 90% will die before being put in an aquarium. Those that make it to an aquarium do not live long in the inadequate environment of an aquarium.

And then, there is the damage to the reef by the collector, whether intentional or accidental, it is still damage and the reef takes a long time to repair itself.

So, with all the threats, current and future to our beautiful reef structure and it's inhabitants, I do not want to see any aquarium fishing in West Hawaii.

Cameron McDonald

From: [Lisa Marten](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 2:04:54 PM

Aloha Board members,

Please put the health of our natural resources and reef ecosystems above a small commercial interest. Ban aquarium trade fishing.

Mahalo,

Lisa Marten

From: [Mary Matthews](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stop collecting aquarium fish
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 1:22:36 PM

Hawaii's tropical fish should remain in the ocean where everyone can appreciate their beauty. Stop people from harvesting them.

Mary Sue Matthews. Kihei
808 463-9810
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Eileen](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 7:40:54 PM

Aloha,

I am writing this testimony in support of a rule ending commercial aquarium collection. As an avid snorkeler, I've witnessed the degradation of our reef systems due to the rampant over-tourism that the state has been experiencing. While ours is a subsistence style environment, the taking of any species for the aquarium trade to be shipped out of state is abhorrent.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Eileen McKee
Kihei, Maui HI

Sent from my iPad

From: [Colleen Wallis](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Aquarium Fish collecting and sales
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 7:14:48 AM

Our natural resources should be allowed to live out their lives in their natural habitat, How would you ufeel if you were dragged out of your home and sold off to live in an different location which was foreign to you,

Mankind playing God with God's creatures is so very wrong, No one should be allowed ro take our fishes away from their home in Hawaii.

Please save our natural resources and STOP ISSUING AQUARIUM COLLECTING PERMITS!!!

Sincerely,

Colleen Miyose-Wallis

From: [Voltaire Moise](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 1:36:53 PM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

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The tipping point for a coral collapse is near. We must remember that a healthy ecosystem plays a crucial role in the production of photosynthesizing algae, such as phytoplankton. These organisms are responsible for producing up to 70% of oxygen in the air. That is every other breath we take, no matter where we live.

The increased opposition from outside Hawai'i should NOT DISTRACT BLNR from making a regenerative decision. We can not continue to degrade our natural resources further and continue to break our Hawai'i State Constitution for Native Hawaiian Traditional and Customary Rights.

We lack a healthy symbiotic relationship on our coral reef; therefore, drastic measures to protect them are necessary. On November 9th, 2023, YOU ALL will be able to protect our ocean ecology and make Hawai'i State a global example of what culturally grounded and regenerative leadership looks like.

Mahalo
[FULL NAME]
[ISLAND & TOWN]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [SARAH MOON](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Regarding Agenda item F.3
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 11:14:12 PM

Hello, my name is Sarah Moon and I live in Volcano on the Big Island. I grew up in Hilo along the coast of Hilo Bay that has many coastal county parks. I have snorkeled in 3 of these spots and the fish are varied but not plentiful. A aggressive collector could wipe these areas clean in no time. I have also snorkeled along the Kona coast and it is world class for variety and abundance. But it's not sustainable for aquarium collecting. I believe we should conserve our resources for future generations.

Thankyou,
Sarah Moon
Sent from my iPad

From: [NORIKO MORISAKI](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 1:37:26 PM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

I am testifying today and asking you to please ban aquarium collection PERMANENTLY in Hawai'i State and uphold the DLNR policy code; Hierarchy of Uses Principle. We urge the Board to approve the petition and direct the Division of Aquatic Resources to begin rule making.

We live in a time when all herbivore species are in a degraded state of mass decline—a CRISIS.

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Mahalo
Noriko Morisaki Donna
Holualoa, Hawaii Island

From: [Peter Morrow](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] End Commercial Aquarium Fish Collection.
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 4:34:07 PM

Aloha,

I am in favor of a permanent ban on commercial aquarium fishing. I live in Kailua-Kona and I am a frequent canoe paddler along the Kona coast. It's wonderful to see fish swimming in their natural habitat. Leave them be- there is no good reason to allow a resumption of commercial aquarium fishing.

Mahalo,

Peter Morrow
76-6352 Kaheiau Street
Kailua-Kona, HI 97740
206-650-1937

From: [Karlene Morrow](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] End aquarium collecting
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 3:29:02 PM

As a West Hawaii resident for the past 12 years I have seen the damage done by allowing the capture and removal of reef fish. Allowing a few people to remove a valuable asset of Hawaii for personal gains is wrong. We should be doing everything in our power to protect and preserve our ocean assets.

Ban aquarium fishing now!

Karlene Morrow

Sent from my iPad

From: [Svenja Muentner](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 4:18:45 PM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

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Mahalo,
Svenja Muentner
[formerly Holualoa, Hawai'i]

Sent from my iPhone

From: jason@jasonswatergardens.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 3:38:36 PM

Aloha

Please stop the collection of aquarium fish in Hawaii waters permanently. I am a resident of the Big Island and own a local business here on the island. I am an avid snorkeler and have seen the destruction of the reefs caused by this horrible industry first hand. Many of the fish that I swim with on the daily are the same individual fish that I have been seeing for the last 10 years. Each fish counts...every single one. We have enough fish being taken by local fishers for food we don't need to have more taken for tanks on the mainland. Please be the voice for the sea and stop this for good.

Mahalo

Jason Murray

<http://www.jasonsmarinelifelife.com>

From: [Randall Myers](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: [Cain, Michael](#); [Fitzpatrick, Trevor J](#); [Denise Antolini](#); [Blattau Jim and Sue](#); [Steve Albert](#); [Randall Myers](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 11/09/2023 BLNR Meeting, Agenda Item K1.
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 3:30:53 PM

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

There is an urgent need for the Board to act and require the Freemans to remove the hundreds of plastic sandbags which were installed in late 2022 and earlier this year. Here's why: There is a high probability that many, if not most, of these sandbags will be washed into the ocean within days or weeks. I tried to testify at last month's meeting but a continuance disallowed it. Meanwhile, a few weeks ago, two big west swells swept Sunset Beach and fortunately, the illegal sandbag groin was not washed into the shore break. The big wave season has begun and it's doubtful that the sandbags will last until the new year.

My family has lived a few houses from the Freeman's for over forty years and I've witnessed many rogue attempts to thwart the power of the ocean. The following photos illustrate this point.

*A massive unpermitted seawall installed in 1977 and destroyed in a powerful swell in 1993.

*A 2/17/2022 photo showing rock, rubble, and remnants of the 1977 seawall, all dumped in by beachfront owners.

*Freeman's futile and illegal installation of plastic sandbags.

*A photo of a shredded sandbag after 6 months.

Along with friends and neighbors, I have retrieved many sandbags and burrito/tarp material from the shoreline but Freeman's use of hundreds of plastic sandbags is so egregiously offensive to the public interest that the cleanup work and the massive fine should be imposed immediately!

I will attend the Board Meeting to testify and answer questions. Mahalo for your action.

Randy Myers
(808)295-8674
59-191 Ke Nui Rd.
Haleiwas, HI 96712



1977 Illegal seawall installation (brown house is Freemans)



2/17/2022 Remnants of the seawall, rock, and rubble dumped on the beach over the years.



11/10/2022 Initial Freeman sandbag installation (above)

1/30/2023 Install of sandbag groin (below)



6 month old sandbag.

From: [Kapua Olson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 2:36:29 PM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

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Na'u,

Kapua Olson
Kona, Hawai'i

From: [Barbara Steinberg](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] end aquarium gathering
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 4:36:44 AM

barbara steinberg orlowski
po box 1764
kihei hi 96753

testimony to end aquarium gathering
Sent from my iPhone

From: [ascendingstarseed](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 11:38:40 AM

To Whom It May concern,

I am a 14yr resident of the Big Island's Puna District. I support the petition to ban AQ Aquarium collecting. Here are just a few examples of the need to permanently ban the AQ trade:

- South west O‘ahu’s collapse of yellow tang populations 35 years ago and the continued **island-wide depletion of upwards of 90% of those and other species targeted by the trade**
- West Hawai‘i reefs open to the trade experiencing an **80% decline in yellow tangs** as recently as 2016, the last full year of AQ collection before the court temporarily ended it
- AQ collector’s **intentional breaking of coral** – sometimes with crowbars – in the capture of Potter’s angelfish and other species which hide within the reef
- Widespread illegal **poaching that the AQ trade admits continues to this day**, and at least 7 AQ collectors who were charged with poaching more than 1,000 fish
- The trade inherently **conflicts with local culture and native Hawaiian values**, including pono fishing practices to only take what is needed
- Published cost/benefit analysis shows **residents receive ZERO benefits from the AQ trade**, but suffer ALL the costs
- The AQ trade’s persistent disregard for important facts as well as for public comments opposing their conclusions in their **deeply flawed and skewed Environmental Impact Statements**

Mahalo,
Annette O'Toole

From: [Bettie Van Overbeke](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Aquarium fishing
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 8:56:28 AM

I have lived in Hawaii 35 years and I snorkle a lot. We had clouds of tangs in the 80s. Nearshore they are now mostly gone. Spear fishing, aquarium fishing unregulated shore fishing are destroying the ecosystem and we are losing most of the algae eating little reef fish. All this is for a few greedy unaware individuals to rape our ocean for aquarium fish. Stop aquarium fishing NOW.

SINCERELY,
Bettie Van Overbeke
12-423 Ole'Ole st
Pahoa, HI 96778
808 785,6186

From: [Eden Marie Peart](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 3:39:08 PM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

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Mahalo
[FULL NAME]
[ISLAND & TOWN]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Robert Pecoraro](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 3:15:27 PM

Aloha,

My name is Robert Pecoraro. I am a resident of Kailua Kona, on the Big Island. I am an avid scuba diver and an environmental-minded citizen, wishing to weigh in on a proposal to ban aquarium fishing in the Hawaiian Islands. This is my second stint as a full-time resident of Hawaii. I lived here before in the mid 80's and early 90's (on Oahu). It is during that time that I fell in love with the sea, and when I became a life-long diver. I was mesmerized by the amount of life below the surface, as well as the beauty of the reefs. I began to realize how unique this place is, and the fact that nearly 25% of the fish life here is found nowhere else on earth.

Things have changed a lot in the 35 plus years, since my first Hawaii residency. The reefs are decimated in many places, due to climate change, and they are struggling to survive. The fish on the reef, particularly the herbivores, which are highly prized in the aquarium trade, are vital to the survival of the reefs. They are needed to keep the algae from taking over, preventing the regeneration of new corals. Our reefs don't stand a chance without their help. When I moved back to Hawaii, in 2016, I was shocked by the changes that I saw. However, I have been encouraged in recent years, seeing some of the reefs showing improvement and seeing greater numbers of herbivores, and other rare fish that were once collected for private aquariums. From an observational standpoint, the recent ban on aquarium fishing has been good for our reefs, and for those who enjoy them on a daily basis, including visitors who come here to dive and snorkel. I think that it is unfair to put our reefs in further jeopardy for the profit and pleasure of a few, to the detriment of the many. Please permanently ban aquarium fishing in Hawaii, and help give our reefs a fighting chance. Mahalo.

Robert Pecoraro

From: [Brooke Porter](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 10:50:03 PM

Whom It May Concern:

My name is Brooke Porter, I am an American living abroad; however, I was lucky enough to call Maui home for a decade. Having swam in, surfed on and studied the waters of Hawai'i, I can confidently say that a rule to end commercial aquarium collection is necessary. The costs of commercial aquarium collection, significantly outweigh any said benefits. The taking of marine organisms for decoration and entertainment purposes comes at a great cost to the marine ecosystem.

Sincerely,
Brooke Porter, PhD

From: [Laurie Recchio](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 testimony
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 2:11:11 PM

To whom it may concern,

My name is Laurie Ann Recchio, Kailua-Kona, Hi.

I am in full support of ending commercial aquarium collecting permanently in the entire state of Hawaii. These species have been severely depleted, and need to recover, as well as the coral reefs that have been damaged and depleted by this practice. This practice has no place in Hawaii, as it has taken a huge toll on the ocean environment. In addition, food fishers should be required to reduce their take, as these species are also critical for coral reef health.

Please support this petition.

Thank you,

Respectfully,

Laurie Ann Recchio

From: [Nancy Redfeather](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: [Nancy Redfeather](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 3:00:55 PM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

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We urge the Board to approve the petition and direct the Division of Aquatic Resources to begin rule making.

We live in a time when all herbivore species are in a degraded state of mass decline—a CRISIS. For 1,000s of years the people who live along the Kona Coast have been fishing to put food on the families table. We know that our inshore reef system is the Nursery for the smaller fish that will later migrate to out to the ledge or further. While the aquarium gatherers are not taking those fish the ones they are taking diminish the reef ecosystem as a whole. Biodiversity matters and helps create healthy ecosystems. This we know.

Our herbivore species perform a critical function on our coral that we, as humans, can not be a substitute for. We need all reef species in abundance for more than just food. We need them in vast numbers to increase coral resilience and stabilize our ocean ecosystems.

The tipping point for a coral collapse is near. We must remember that a healthy ecosystem plays a crucial role in the production of photosynthesizing algae, such as phytoplankton. These organisms are responsible for producing up to 70% of oxygen in the air. That is every other breath we take, no matter where we live.

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Mahalo
Nancy Redfeather
Honalo, Hawai'i

From: [Trish Regan](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F 3 testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 11:10:54 AM

From Trish Regan, Volcano, HI ... Big Island

We have lived in Hawaii for almost 30 years and love our island waters, coral and fish. We support a rule ending commercial aquarium collection. Save our reefs!

”

TRISH REGAN'S BLOG

www.trishregan.com

Spiritual Insights, Dolphin & Whale Stories

Photographic Phenomena and more

808-987-5694



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From: [Thomas Reppuhn](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Aquarium fishing
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 2:36:49 PM

Please stop giving away our natural resources. Stop all aquarium collecting and please stop all the poaching and reef destruction that is still taking place
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Susan Rhymes](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F-3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 8:04:00 AM

PLEASE STOP SOMETHING THAT ONLY TAKES AWAY FROM OUR WATERS. Aquarium collectors take and give nothing back.

My name is Susan Rhymes and I live just above Keauhou Bay on the Big Island.

From: [Sparky Rodrigues](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reef fish collection :STOP ALL NOW
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 3:48:49 PM

Testimony against further REEF FISH COLLECTION in HAWAII.
A balanced ecosystem requires every organism living in harmony.
STOP ALL REEF FISF COLLECTIONn

James Rodrigues
86-222 Puhawai road
Waianae 96792

From: [Cheryl Romer](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 6:18:39 PM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

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Mahalo,
Cheryl Romer
Kailua Kona, Hawaii

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Shannon Rudolph](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony - Agenda Item # F3
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 12:44:29 PM

Aloha!

I am a 40 year resident of Hawai'i and am adamantly against the aquarium trade.

The fish are public assets & should not be turned over to private businesses.

These are Hawai'i natural resources that should stay in Hawai'i.

There are realistic aquariums now that can be run from your cell phone - let's move beyond the dark ages of resource depletion of all we hold dear and make certain our natural world will thrive.

And survive.

The aquarium industry should be shut down completely in Hawai'i. No ifs, ands or buts.

Mahalo,
Shannon Rudolph - Kona

--

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

From: [Jancis Salerno](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 6:55:02 PM

Jan Salerno here for the health of the reef and fishes and to protect these native lands and seas. I've worked on and under the water on Hawaii island for 19 years. I've been in meetings for legislation and supervision of reef fish taking for the Aquarium industry. I call for a halt in the reef fish taking for at least 5 years to bring up the native numbers and bring the reefs to health as in done in other island nations managing over fishing or taking of animals. Within the complete halt better management of the restrictions and of the resource can be implemented after a deep dive into the situation of the last 2 decades. I have seen many tropical reef fish in the dumpster at Honakahau harbor wasted due to faulty practices.

Mahalo nui loa

Jan Salerno
PADI IDC Staff Instructor
180369

From: [Sandia](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] rule that protects reef fish and cora;
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 5:32:00 PM

I strongly support the rule that prohibits the aquarium pet trade from collecting reef fish and greatly damaging coral through their practices. The commercial companies practices in collecting decimates reef fish along with the coral..T

The great majority of the fish don't reach their destination and the coral is damaged ,even killed. This also goes against traditional Hawaiian values of only "take what is needed". I live on the Island of Hawaii and greatly appreciated when we had fish replenishment areas to protect the reef fish and coral.

-Thank you for passing this important rule.

Sandia Siegel

Sandia Siegel

author of Enjoy the Ride

www.enjoytheride.us

"Let's Donate Our Happiness"

info@enjoytheride.us

From: [WILLIAM SMITH](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Aquarium Fish collection Ban
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 9:15:19 PM

I support the ban on the take of Hawaiian fish for the aquarium trade. I have been coming to the Big Island for snorkel trips for over a decade and have noticed a sharp decline in the fish count in near-shore habitat.

I have never visited the nw Hawaiian islands and don't expect to. However, I feel strongly that poaching should stop and poachers punished.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Bill Smith
408-888-1149
Watergourd@gmail.com

From: [Frederick Smith, Jr](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Against aquarium collecting in west hawaii
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 1:14:57 PM

Hi,

I am against allowing the aquarium trade to harvest fish from Hawai'i island waters. Aquarium industry can grow their own fish. The fish on Hawai'i are sacred. Please support this petition and stop aquarium harvesting in hawai'i.

Frederick Smith
Homeowner and State Resident in Captain Cook
82-5996 Napoopoo Road, 96704

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Motter Snell](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 3:07:59 PM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

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Mahalo
Mo Snell
Holualoa , Hi

From: [Ane Takaha](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 6:27:45 AM

Aloha

I understand that there is a decision coming to possibly end commercial aquarium fishing.

I totally support this!!

In the 40+ years I have been visiting here and the 15+ years I have lived here the fish population has practically disappeared in the close reefs where we swim everyday. I know there are other stressors, like pollution and over tourism but this one is something we can change right in front of us.

Please support this ruling

Thank you

Ane and Marc Takaha

Maui

From: [Arthur Tarsa](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 2:24:20 PM

Arthur Tarsa, Kailua Kona, Hawaii Island

I am totally against the taking of Hawaiian reef fishes for the aquarium trade. As an active SCUBA diver in Hawaiian waters for the past 27 years I have noticed a decline in the size and number of reef fishes over that span. Allowing aquarium fishing to further reduce fish stocks beyond those taken for subsistence fishing will only continue this trend.

From: [Swimmerjan1](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] aquarium fishes
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 6:33:15 PM

Dear Sir.

I am Janet Taylor of Pahoehoe, Hawaii and I am opposed to the taking of fishes from the reef and elsewhere to sell as aquarium fish.

I swim in the ocean at least several times per week and enjoy watching the beautiful reef fish.

The resources of the ocean are for all of us to enjoy, not for a select few to steal them and sell them for profit!

Please deny aquarium collectors the right to take fish to sell.

Mahalo,
Janet Taylor

From: [Jane Taylor](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F. 3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 7:17:13 PM

To whom it may concern:

I support banning all aquarium fishing trade here in Hawaii. In a time of unprecedented environmental and ecological harm coming to our oceans, the removal of fish purely for trivial entrepreneurial purposes is unacceptable.

Thank you.

<https://janewordtaylor.blogspot.com>

From: [Cynthia Urry](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 5:01:29 PM

Aloha ,

My name is Cynthia Urry and my ohana and I have lived in Kailua Kona , Hawaii for 25 years as a resident and part time for 34 plus years. We have a real problem before 2016 with fish AQ trade here in West Hawaii . We have lost so many of our beautiful fish that we used to see ,but now they are starting to make a comeback. The algae eaters are really important (Tangs , etc.) and our beautiful Potters Angelfish are captured by AQ poachers using crowbars to break the coral heads up to get them . Please stop this horrible destruction of our reefs and fishes.

Mahalo !

Cyndy Urry

From: [Momi Vee](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stop the stealing of Hawai'i's Archipelago ocean life for aquarium use
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 5:46:36 PM

Aloha to the BLNR - Board of Land and (protecting) "Nature's Resources," We need to protect All of whats left of our Natural Resources here in Hawai'i Nei. This is a cry to protect our land and sea's from what has been a great need for Hawai'i's sea creatures. Endemic or indigenous species to endangered ones we have without a doubt the ability to do what's necessary to protect our environment and care for them as long as we possibly can. In the past experience has been rough as for protection of our native environment. In Hawai'i Nei large losses of native ocean species have been taken away due to the ease of access.!!! Dwindling numbers of endemic fish is seriously cause for monitoring and protection around the clock. Something has to change, consider voluntary monitoring without the need for compensation.? Thank you for your time and support. Momi Vee, Kahului, Maui Hawai'i 96732

From: [Cassandra Vigil-Alip](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 5:31:51 PM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

I am testifying today and asking you to please ban aquarium collection PERMANENTLY in Hawai'i State and uphold the DLNR policy code; Hierarchy of Uses Principle.

We urge the Board to approve the petition and direct the Division of Aquatic Resources to begin rule making.

We live in a time when all herbivore species are in a degraded state of mass decline—a CRISIS.

Our herbivore species perform a critical function on our coral that we, as humans, can not be a substitute for. We need all reef species in abundance for more than just food. We need them in vast numbers to increase coral resilience and stabilize our ocean ecosystems.

The tipping point for a coral collapse is near. We must remember that a healthy ecosystem plays a crucial role in the production of photosynthesizing algae, such as phytoplankton. These organisms are responsible for producing up to 70% of oxygen in the air. That is every other breath we take, no matter where we live.

The increased opposition from outside Hawai'i should NOT DISTRACT BLNR from making a regenerative decision. We can not continue to degrade our natural resources further and continue to break our Hawai'i State Constitution for Native Hawaiian Traditional and Customary Rights.

We lack a healthy symbiotic relationship on our coral reef; therefore, drastic measures to protect them are necessary. On November 9th, 2023, YOU ALL will be able to protect our ocean ecology and make Hawai'i State a global example of what culturally grounded and regenerative leadership looks like.

Mahalo,
C. Vigil-Alip
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii Island

From: [Keo Von Gogh](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stop the aquarium trade!
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 4:29:30 PM

Aloha,

- South west O‘ahu’s collapse of yellow tang populations 35 years ago and the continued **island-wide depletion of upwards of 90% of those and other species targeted by the trade**
- West Hawai‘i reefs open to the trade experiencing an **80% decline in yellow tangs** as recently as 2016, the last full year of AQ collection before the court temporarily ended it
- AQ collector’s **intentional breaking of coral** – sometimes with crowbars – in the capture of Potter’s angelfish and other species which hide within the reef
- Widespread illegal **poaching that the AQ trade admits continues to this day**, and at least 7 AQ collectors who were charged with poaching more than 1,000 fish
- The trade inherently **conflicts with local culture and native Hawaiian values**, including pono fishing practices to only take what is needed
- Published cost/benefit analysis shows **residents receive ZERO benefits from the AQ trade**, but suffer ALL the costs
- The AQ trade’s persistent disregard for important facts as well as for public comments opposing their conclusions in their **deeply flawed and skewed Environmental Impact Statements**

Mahalo for your time,
Keomailani Von Gogh
Po box 5864
Hilo, HI
96720Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jill Wagner](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 2:16:22 PM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

I am testifying today and asking you to please ban aquarium collection PERMANENTLY in Hawai'i State and uphold the DLNR policy code; Hierarchy of Uses Principle.

We urge the Board to approve the petition and direct the Division of Aquatic Resources to begin rule making.

We live in a time when all species are in a degraded state of mass decline—it is a global CRISIS. The aquarium fish business is putting too much pressure on the species that are fragile due to fishing for food, and ocean warming. This business is not a necessity and is inappropriate for our time.

Our ocean species perform a critical function on our coral that we, as humans, cannot be a substitute for. We need all reef species in abundance for more than just food. We need them in vast numbers to increase coral resilience and stabilize our near shore ocean ecosystems.

The tipping point for a coral collapse is near. The State of Florida is an example that we don't want to follow. We must remember that a healthy ecosystem plays a crucial role in the production of photosynthesizing algae, such as phytoplankton. These organisms are responsible for producing up to 70% of oxygen in the air. That is every other breath we take, no matter where we live.

We cannot continue to degrade our natural resources further and continue to break our Hawai'i State Constitution for Native Hawaiian Traditional and Customary Rights. In any case, the aquarium business does not feel like a traditional and customary right.

We lack a healthy symbiotic relationship on our coral reef; therefore, drastic measures to protect them are necessary. On November 9th, 2023, each of you will be able to protect our ocean ecology and make Hawai'i State a global example of what culturally grounded and regenerative leadership looks like. Thank you so much for your caring of Hawaii for future generations.

Mahalo
Jill Wagner
Kailua Kona, Hawaii

From: [Karie Smart](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 7:22:56 AM

I support the permanent ban on aquarium fishing in all Hawaii waters. Depleting our natural resources and destruction of our reefs for viewing pleasure has to stop. Since the ban on AQ in West Hawaii a few years back, I've seen some rebounding of the flame angel fish. Now I still haven't seen any adults, only juvenile, but I still have hope that their populations will continue to rebound. This can only happen with the continued ban on AQ fishing.

Please help Hawaii keep its reef life intact, and Permanently ban AQ in all Hawaii waters.

Mahalo for your time.

Karie Wakat
Hawaii County resident
District 8

From: [DeborahWallace](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F.3 testimony
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 2:32:51 PM

I am an O'ahu resident and I have seen the damage that aquarium fishing has done.

Aquarium fishing has absolutely no benefit to anyone other than the aquarium fishermen. Aquarium fishing destroys our reefs and reduces our population of fish, making our corals and our fish population, less resilient, less healthy and less sustainable.

There is also a huge amount of bycatch which is just thrown out.

It makes absolutely no sense to harm our islands for the benefit of a very, very few.

Aquarium fishing must be made illegal if we care about the health of our islands end of our island culture.

I swim in our oceans, almost daily, and it is heartbreaking to see the damage caused by aquarium fishing.

Please help to end this practice

Deborah Wallace

Makaa st, Honolulu.

Sent from my iPad

From: [Kaleo Wassman](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 2:58:42 PM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

I am testifying today and asking you to please ban aquarium collection PERMANENTLY in Hawai'i State and uphold the DLNR policy code; Hierarchy of Uses Principle.

We urge the Board to approve the petition and direct the Division of Aquatic Resources to begin rule making.

We live in a time when all herbivore species are in a degraded state of mass decline—a CRISIS.

Our herbivore species perform a critical function on our coral that we, as humans, can not be a substitute for. We need all reef species in abundance for more than just food. We need them in vast numbers to increase coral resilience and stabilize our ocean ecosystems.

The tipping point for a coral collapse is near. We must remember that a healthy ecosystem plays a crucial role in the production of photosynthesizing algae, such as phytoplankton. These organisms are responsible for producing up to 70% of oxygen in the air. That is every other breath we take, no matter where we live.

The increased opposition from outside Hawai'i should NOT DISTRACT BLNR from making a regenerative decision. We can not continue to degrade our natural resources further and continue to break our Hawai'i State Constitution for Native Hawaiian Traditional and Customary Rights.

We lack a healthy symbiotic relationship on our coral reef; therefore, drastic measures to protect them are necessary. On November 9th, 2023, YOU ALL will be able to protect our ocean ecology and make Hawai'i State a global example of what culturally grounded and regenerative leadership looks like.

Mahalo
Kaleo Wassman
Kailua-Kona

Sent with Aloha

From: [Bruce E. Watkins](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 7:43:01 PM

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to encourage you to ban commercial aquarium collecting in Hawaii.

As a frequent scuba diver on the West Coast of the Big Island, I believe our reef fish should be available to all Hawaiian residents and not sequestered in Mainland aquariums. Protecting our reef fishes leads to a healthy reef environment, and the money that divers spend to experience them is good for Hawaiian residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Bruce Watkins
Kailua Kona, Hawaii

From: [Jennifer J](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 8:23:24 PM

Aloha,

My name is Jennifer Jordan, I live in Kailua-Kona on the Big Island of Hawaii. The reefs fish need to be protected from becoming a pet doomed to a captive death. These fish are an integral part of the underwater ecosystem and (I feel) should be protected. It's unnecessary for people to harvest the wild animals freedoms while all these people want is something to amuse them.

Thank you for your time and efforts to read through this email.

Mahalo,
Jennifer Jordan
Only1jen808@gmail.com

From: [Jason Worchel](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 7:40:05 PM

I write to request you permanently ban aquarium fishing. As an avid scuba diver, I have seen the degradation of our exquisite reef fish over the past 25 years. Our fragile marine environment is already experiencing increasing devastation from climate change and pollution. It makes no sense to further devastate our declining coral fish population. Only a handful of people profit from the aquarium trade while everyone else suffers the loss of this most valuable and fragile resource. Please protect our marine habitat and all its inhabitants for current and future generations.

Jason Worchel
Honokaa, Hi

Sent from my iPad