

From: [Local I"ā](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] §187A-52 testimony
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 7:57:40 PM

Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I kindly urge the board to approve the final adoption of the Ocean Stewardship Fee rules. With millions of people visiting and enjoying our ocean waters every year, when implemented, this fee will help generate much needed funds to support for enforcement for Hawai'i's marine conservation and protection.

Our nearshore waters are a key foundation of Hawai'i's environment, culture, climate resiliency, and economy and deserve proper management to ensure our island's health for generations to come.

Mahalo for your time

Ashley Watts

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Steven Williams](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 7:34:42 AM

Subject line: Testimony for agenda item F-1

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I kindly urge the board to approve the final adoption of the Ocean Stewardship Fee rules. With millions of people visiting and enjoying our ocean waters every year, when implemented, this fee will help generate much needed funds to support Hawai'i's marine conservation and protection, and importantly the Department of Land and Natural Resources' work.

Our nearshore waters are a key foundation of Hawai'i's environment, culture, climate resiliency, and economy and deserve proper management to ensure our island's health for generations to come.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,
Steven Williams

From: [Kevin Weng](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F 1. Ocean Stewardship User Fee: YES
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 3:48:31 PM

F 1. Ocean Stewardship User Fee: YES

I support this fee to provide much needed funding to DLNR to manage our precious resources. Funds must go to DLNR and should not be raided and put into the general or other categories of the state budget.

Kevin Weng
spearfisherman
Fish biologist
Palolo

From: [donna.raupp](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ocean Stewardship Fee
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 10:32:21 AM

Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I kindly urge the board to approve the final adoption of the Ocean Stewardship Fee rules. With millions of people visiting and enjoying our ocean waters every year, when implemented, this fee will help generate much needed funds to support Hawai'i's marine conservation and protection, and importantly the Department of Land and Natural Resources' work.

Our nearshore waters are a key foundation of Hawai'i's environment, culture, climate resiliency, and economy and deserve proper management to ensure our island's health for generations to come.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely
Donna Raupp

From: [Kimberly Jeffries](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ocean Stewardship User Fee (F 1)
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 3:40:49 PM

- **Ocean Stewardship User Fee (F 1):** I support this fee to provide much-needed funding to DLNR. Funds must go to DLNR and should not be diverted into the general or other categories of the state budget. Tour companies must be transparent about visitor numbers, given the current conflicts at Mala Boat Ramp and Maunalua Bay's ramps, beyond capacity with commercial and subsistence fishers.

From: [Lenley Lewis](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ocean Use Fee
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 10:34:39 PM

I urge the board to approve adoption of the Ocean Stewardship Fee rules. This fee will help generate funds for Hawai'i's marine conservation and protection, and the work of the Department of Land & Natural Resources

Sincerely,

Lenley Lewis
Laupahoehoe

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Diane Sawatzki](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: comments to Board of Land and Natural Resourcesmeeting Dec. 7
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 8:30:22 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to comment on Agenda items F-1 and F-3:

In regards to F-1 (Ocean Stewardship Fee) I strongly urge you to pass this proposal to generate more funding for marine resources.

In regards to F-3 (Aquarium Fish Collection) I strongly urge passage of rules prohibiting commercial take of marine life for commercial market,

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely

Diane Sawatzki

pdpmark@hotmail.com

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From: wiggett@twc.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for agenda item F-1 BLNR December 7, 2023
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 8:52:48 PM

Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I kindly urge the board to **approve the final adoption of the Ocean Stewardship Fee rules**. With millions of people visiting and enjoying our ocean waters every year, when implemented, this fee will help generate much needed funds to support Hawai'i's marine conservation and protection, and importantly the Department of Land and Natural Resources' work.

And, please encourage your staff to develop ways/procedures/programs to derive stewardship money from shoreline and personal watercraft fishers who should also be supporting Hawai'i's marine conservation and protection, and importantly the Department of Land and Natural Resources' work. The huge quantity of lead fishing weights that I see scavenged by a few, well-meaning collectors at casting distance from the shore indicates the **huge amount of trashed fishing gear that is fouling our nearshore waters**.

Our nearshore waters are a key foundation of Hawai'i's environment, culture, climate resiliency, and economy and deserve proper management and conservation to ensure our island's health for generations to come.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,
William Reese Liggett

William Reese Liggett

Help Protect and Recover the

Natural & Cultural Features of Wāwāmalu Beach!

808 732 4489r 808 222 2088c

From: [Pete Wilson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for agenda item F-1 Testimony:
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 10:15:27 PM

Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I kindly urge the board to approve the final adoption of the Ocean Stewardship Fee rules. With millions of people visiting and enjoying our ocean waters every year, when implemented, this fee will help generate much needed funds to support Hawai'i's marine conservation and protection, and importantly the Department of Land and Natural Resources' work.

--

Pete Wilson
13-927 Kahukai Street
Pahoa HI 96778
808-557-8108

From: [Bobbie Best](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for agenda item F-1
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 10:01:49 AM

Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I kindly urge the board to approve the final adoption of the Ocean Stewardship Fee rules. With millions of people visiting and enjoying our ocean waters every year, when implemented, this fee will help generate much needed funds to support Hawai'i's marine conservation and protection, and importantly the Department of Land and Natural Resources' work.

Conservation couldn't be more important. Our nearshore waters are a key foundation of Hawai'i's environment, culture, climate resiliency, and economy and deserve proper management to ensure our island's health for generations to come.

Mahalo for allowing testifying on this important matter.

Bobbie Best
280 Hauoli
Wailuku

From: [nan harter](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for agenda item F-1
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 5:46:59 AM

Testimony for agenda item F-1

Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I kindly urge the board to approve the final adoption of the Ocean Stewardship Fee rules. With millions of people visiting and enjoying our ocean waters every year, when implemented, this fee will help generate much needed funds to support Hawai'i's marine conservation and protection, and importantly the Department of Land and Natural Resources' work.

Visitors to our islands are all able to enjoy our oceans but so many people have had negative impact on our waters and it's time for us to start insuring that our waters remain protected and respected by establishing a fee for all visitors to aid in the funding of the care and conservation of our waters. Visiting here should be a privilege and should come with required funding to protect and maintain our waters.

Our nearshore waters are a key foundation of Hawai'i's environment, culture, climate resiliency, and economy and deserve proper management to ensure our island's health for generations to come.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,
Nancy Harter

From: [Kristina Jenkins](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for agenda item F-1
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 8:15:35 AM

Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, I am writing to request that the Board approve the final adoption of the Ocean Stewardship Fee rules. This fee will help generate much needed funds to support Hawai'i's marine conservation and protection, and importantly the Department of Land and Natural Resources' work.

I am born and raised in Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu, and I want my sons to be able to grow and play in an ocean abundant with fish, limu, healthy reefs and clean water.

A healthy nearshore environment is essential to Hawai'i's culture, economy, and climate resiliency. It is where we all go for healing and sustenance. Our oceans deserve the best management we can provide them to ensure our islands and people thrive for generations to come.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,
Kristina Jenkins

From: [Arnie Kotler](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for agenda item F-1
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 3:36:26 PM

Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I kindly urge the board to approve the final adoption of the Ocean Stewardship Fee rules. With millions of people visiting and enjoying our ocean waters every year, when implemented, this fee will help generate much needed funds to support Hawai'i's marine conservation and protection, and importantly the Department of Land and Natural Resources' work.

Our nearshore waters are a key foundation of Hawai'i's environment, culture, climate resiliency, and economy and deserve proper management to ensure our island's health for generations to come.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,
Arnold Kotler
Kihei, Maui

From: [Ms. Lilith](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for agenda item F-1
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 2:18:42 PM

Dear Chair Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I kindly urge the board to approve the final adoption of the Ocean Stewardship Fee rules. With millions of people visiting and enjoying our ocean waters every year, when implemented, this fee will help generate much needed funds to support Hawai'i's marine conservation and protection, and importantly the Department of Land and Natural Resources' work.

Our nearshore waters are a key foundation of Hawai'i's environment, culture, climate resiliency, and economy and deserve proper management to ensure our island's health for generations to come.

Although I do not live in Hawai'i, I'm very concerned about the health of the Pacific Ocean and feel that it this a reasonable fee to help with marine conservation and protection.

Thank you.

Lilith

3060 Channel Dr., #8

Ventura, CA 93003

From: [Marilyn Mick](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for agenda item F-1
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 2:26:05 PM

Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I kindly urge the board to approve the final adoption of the Ocean Stewardship Fee rules. With millions of people visiting and enjoying our ocean waters every year, when implemented, this fee will help generate much needed funds to support Hawai'i's marine conservation and protection, and importantly the Department of Land and Natural Resources' work.

Our nearshore waters are a key foundation of Hawai'i's environment, culture, climate resiliency, and economy and deserve proper management to ensure our island's health for generations to come.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Aloha, Marilyn Mick, Honolulu

From: [Nina Monasevitch](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for agenda item F-1
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 7:53:03 PM

Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I kindly urge the board to approve the final adoption of the Ocean Stewardship Fee rules. With millions of people visiting and enjoying our ocean waters every year, when implemented, this fee will help generate much needed funds to support Hawai'i's marine conservation and protection, and importantly the Department of Land and Natural Resources' work.

Mahalo,
Nina Monasevitch

Nina Monasevitch
oceanmana@hawaiiintel.net
808-246-4457
Lihue, Kauai

From: [Greg Puppione](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for agenda item F-1
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 10:10:04 PM

Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I kindly urge the board to approve the final adoption of the Ocean Stewardship Fee rules. With millions of people visiting and enjoying our ocean waters every year, when implemented, this fee will help generate much needed funds to support Hawai'i's marine conservation and protection, and importantly the Department of Land and Natural Resources' work.

Our nearshore waters are a key foundation of Hawai'i's environment, culture, climate resiliency, and economy and deserve proper management to ensure our island's health for generations to come.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,
Greg Puppione
Honolulu, HI

From: [True](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Agenda Item F-1
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 3:59:24 PM

Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I kindly urge the board to approve the final adoption of the Ocean Stewardship Fee rules. With millions of people visiting and enjoying our ocean waters every year, when implemented, this fee will help generate much needed funds to support Hawai'i's marine conservation and protection, and importantly the Department of Land and Natural Resources' work.

Our nearshore waters are a key foundation of Hawai'i's environment, culture, climate resiliency, and economy and deserve proper management to ensure our island's health for generations to come.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Mary True

28-1141 Mamalahoa HWY

Pepeekeo, HI 96783

From: [L.Osterer](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Land Board meeting 12/7/2023
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 3:58:52 PM

In favor of Ocean stewardship fee **Agenda item: F-1** and Aquarium fish collection petition **Agenda item: F-3**
(In addition to earlier email testimony **Land Agenda Item D-6**)

F1: I support the board in approving the final adoption of the Ocean Stewardship Fee rules. This fee will help generate much needed funds to support Hawai'i's marine conservation and protection. A \$1 nominal fee would not impact tourist business. It would support reef education and sustainability.

F3: Reef fish are essential components of our ocean ecosystem. Commercial aquarium collection has not been properly managed in spite of decades of concern. To date the DLNR has not been able to properly manage this industry. West Hawai'i Island rules were continually violated until a recent lawsuit temporarily invalidated all commercial aquarium collection permits. A commercial aquarium collection ban is the only way to prevent this industry from further impacting our coral reefs. Aquarium fishing usurps our tourist attractions, clearly more important to Hawaiian commerce.

Thank you for your consideration,
Lorraine Osterer, longtime Kauai resident and registered voter

From: [Marva Chun](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: [Marva Chun](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony to preserve our ocean
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 4:15:42 PM

Subject line: Testimony for agenda item F-1

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I kindly urge the board to approve the final adoption of the Ocean Stewardship Fee rules. With millions of people visiting and enjoying our ocean waters every year, when implemented, this fee will help generate much needed funds to support Hawai'i's marine conservation and protection, and importantly the Department of Land and Natural Resources' work.

I'm in the water almost every day, surfing, kayaking, swimming, and walking the beaches.

Our nearshore waters are a key foundation of Hawai'i's environment, culture, climate resiliency, and economy and deserve proper management to ensure our island's health for generations to come.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Marva Chun

Aquarium fish collection petition

Agenda item: F-3

What is happening: Community groups including Kalanihale, KUPA Friends of Ho'okena Beach Park, Moana 'Ohana, Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, and For the Fishes, have petitioned the Department of Land and Natural Resources to establish rules prohibiting the taking of marine life for commercial aquarium purposes.

The commercial take of marine life for the aquarium market has been a

concern of Kānaka Maoli subsistence communities, ecologists, recreational fishers, and reef enthusiasts for decades. However, the DLNR has been unable to properly manage this industry, with O‘ahu rules that are not about environmental protection but to reduce waste, and West Hawai‘i Island rules that were continually violated until a recent lawsuit invalidated all commercial aquarium collection permits, albeit temporarily. These community groups have finally said that enough is enough, and that a commercial aquarium collection ban is the only way to prevent this industry from further impacting our coral reefs.

Reef fish are essential components of a healthy nearshore ecosystem. They help to maintain the coral reefs that protect our shorelines from rising seas and coastal erosion; are a critical component of traditional fishing practices; have cultural and spiritual significance; and are a precious resource for residents and visitors alike. Commercial aquarium collection, driven by the immense profit to be made by selling certain reef fish - such as kole and lau‘ipalā, herbivores that are critical to coral reef health - may have a disproportionate impact on reef biodiversity and ecological function, yet has not been properly managed in spite of decades of concern. As our economy rebuilds, the temptation to see our reef fish as nothing more than swimming dollar bills will only entice more and more companies to enter the trade - even further impacting our ecological integrity, cultural practices, food security, and climate resilience.

Community groups across the islands have long fought to stop the take of marine life for commercial aquarium purposes. This is your opportunity to support these groups and help protect our precious life sustaining coral reefs for generations to come!

Testimony:

Email: blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Subject line: Testimony for agenda item F-3

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I kindly urge you to reject the staff recommendation, and approve the petition submitted by Kalanihale, KUPA Friends of Ho‘okena Beach Park, Moana ‘Ohana, Ko‘olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, and For the Fishes to

enact the administrative rulemaking process to prohibit the take of marine life for commercial aquarium purposes.

Reef fish are essential components of a healthy near-shore ecosystem including the coral reefs that protect our shorelines from degradation by rising seas and coastal erosion, and are a critical component of traditional fishing practices, have cultural and spiritual significance, and are a precious resource for residents and visitors alike.

Commercial aquarium collection, driven by the immense profit to be made by selling certain reef fish - such as kole and lau'ipalā, herbivores critical to coral reef health - may have a disproportionate impact on reef biodiversity and ecological function, yet has not been properly managed in spite of decades of concern. As our economy rebuilds, the temptation to see our reef fish as nothing more than swimming dollar bills will only entice more and more companies to enter the trade - even further impacting our ecological integrity, cultural practices, food security, and climate resilience.

I stand with the Kānaka Maoli and other community groups calling for a ban on commercial aquarium collection and urge you to do the same.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Marva Chun

Herbivore rules

Agenda item: F-5

What is happening: The BLNR will consider granting final approval to a set of rule changes intended to better steward our coral reefs, by establishing greater protections for certain herbivorous surgeonfish and uhu (parrotfish).

Herbivorous fish play key roles in the health and maintenance of our reef ecosystem, particularly in “grazing” algae and limu that can smother coral or prevent coral from growing. This in turn helps to enhance our climate resilience and reduce coastal erosion, while ensuring a healthy and abundant ecosystem for fishers, cultural practitioners, ocean enthusiasts, and all who have a stake in our ecological and cultural integrity.

By increasing size limits for kole and manini, setting more reasonable bag limits for kala (unicornfish) and uhu (parrotfish), and establishing annual commercial catch limits and additional commercial restrictions on the take of kala and uhu, these rules will help to better steward essential building blocks of a healthy coral reef ecosystem. These modest proposals will also still allow fishers to harvest more than enough of the targeted species to feed their families (and maybe a neighbor or two).

There has been some concern about the final proposed draft rules not including stricter bag limits on kala, a highly sought-after and long-lived species (studies on wild fish have shown that they may attain over 50 years of age), nor a ban on the taking of “blue” uhu that can disrupt reproductive cycles and lead to diminished reproductive output.

Testimony:

Email: blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Subject line: Testimony for agenda item F-5

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support, with amendments, the proposed rule changes to better protect herbivorous fish species that play a vital role in our reef ecosystems.

By increasing size limits for kole and manini, setting more reasonable bag limits for kala (unicornfish) and uhu (parrotfish), and establishing annual commercial catch limits and additional commercial restrictions on the take of kala and uhu, these rules will help to better steward critical species that are essential building blocks of a healthy coral reef ecosystem.

I appreciate that there have been many changes made to these rules since they were originally proposed, including the removal of nenu, wana, and several surgeonfish species from potential regulation, and the removal of bag limits for kole and manini. I do respectfully ask that the board consider reinstating the original proposed bag limit of 2 for kala - a long-lived and highly sought after species that may merit stronger protections. In addition, I also ask that you consider reinstating the proposed protection of “blue” uhu or supermales, given that the taking of these individuals can have a

disproportionate impact on reproductive cycles and reproduction rates of these particularly important species.

Accordingly, I ask that you vote in favor of adopting these rules, with the amendments requested above. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,
Marva Chun

Fines for illegal beach modifications

Agenda items: K-1 and K-5

Position: Support proposed fines and penalties

What's happening (from our friends at Surfrider O'ahu): The Board of Land and Natural Resources will be evaluating recommendations from the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands to bring fines and penalties against homeowners who have ignored notices of violation and expired temporary permits. Although Hawai'i has a strong policy against shoreline hardening, it is only in more recent years that OCCL has taken a stronger stance in ensuring that private property owners are held accountable for their actions. One of the homeowners on the agenda is Joshua VanEmmerik who laid rebar and poured concrete on the public beach in the fall of 2022. [Read more from Surfrider O'ahu here.](#)



Hawai'i Wildlife Fund

PO Box 1801, Kealahou HI 96750 (Hawai'i) & PO Box 790637, Paia HI 96779 (Maui)

Celebrating 27+ years of protecting Hawai'i's native wildlife
through research, education and conservation.

06 December 2023

Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96809

Re: Support for three BLNR Agenda Items pertaining to the Division of Aquatic Resources:

- F1: "Ocean Stewardship User Fee"
- F2-A: "Molokini Shoal Marine Life Conservation District, Maui"
- F5: "Rules Regulating the Taking and Selling of Certain Marine Resources."

Dear Chair Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

On behalf of Hawai'i Wildlife Fund (HWF), we are writing in **SUPPORT** of Agenda Items **F1** (Request for Final Approval to Adopt a New Chapter Under Hawai'i Administrative Rules as Title 13, Chapter 13-78, "**Ocean Stewardship User Fee**"), **F2-A** (Request for Final Approval to Adopt Proposed Amendments to and Compilation of Hawai'i Administrative Rules Chapters 13-31, "**Molokini Shoal Marine Life Conservation District, Maui**"), and **F5** (Request for Final Approval to Amend and Compile Chapter 13-95, Hawai'i Administrative Rules, "**Rules Regulating the Taking and Selling of Certain Marine Resources**").

Founded in 1996, Hawai'i Wildlife Fund (HWF) is a small nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of Hawai'i's native wildlife. We engage and inspire our communities through education, outreach, marine debris removal, conservation, habitat restoration, research, and advocacy campaigns to keep Hawai'i alive and wild.

Pertaining to Agenda Item **F1** ("Ocean Stewardship User Fee"), HWF is excited to see the concept of a marine user fee come into fruition and we **support** the clarification of commercial operator requirements and due dates to help facilitate smooth implementation. We request that the distribution of funds generated from these user fees are applied directly to local marine conservation efforts, with funding and support provided to proactive conservation projects conducted by non-profit organizations and community groups. We are looking forward to a gradual increase of this fee, based on the findings of the "Willingness to Pay" survey of visitors completed collaboratively by HWF and other NGOs in 2001.

Pertaining to Agenda Item **F2-A** ("Molokini Shoal Marine Life Conservation District, Maui"), HWF **supports** the rules amendments requiring a Molokini MLCD Use Permit for commercial activities, prohibiting anchoring within the MLCD, and clarifying the Permit Fee schedule. We believe that these

updated rules will help minimize preventable coral and marine resource damage in this delicate area. Similar to the Ocean Stewardship User Fee, we request that the distribution of funds generated from the Molokini MLCD Permit fees are applied directly to local conservation efforts conducted by non-government organizations and other partners.

Pertaining to Agenda Item **F5**, “Rules Regulating the Taking and Selling of Certain Marine Resources,” HWF **supports** the Final Approval for the rule amendments, intended to enhance populations of coral reef grazers, including manini, kole, kala and uhu. Coral reef grazers are a critical part of coral reef ecosystems in Hawai‘i, as they create space for coral regrowth and new coral settlement through their consumption of algal competitors. Since the severe loss of coral cover due to warm seasonal sea temperatures and coral bleaching in some areas of the state in 2015, 2016, and 2019, HWF appreciates the work of DLNR to develop a Coral Bleaching Recovery Plan and new rules to promote coral reef resiliency into the future. Enhanced protection of herbivorous fish and invertebrates was listed as a key strategy in this document, and HWF agrees that the proposed rules can help improve coral reef resiliency into the future. Additional recommended strategies for improved coral reef resiliency include pollution reduction, water quality improvements, invasive species prevention, and the development of coral restoration techniques. We hope to see additional rule interventions and amendments to support these other strategies in the future.

Mahalo for your consideration of these important new rules and rule amendments.

Me ka mahalo pumehana,

Hannah Bernard | HWF Co-founder & Executive Director (hannah@wildhawaii.org)

Megan Lamson, M. Sc. | HWF President & Program Director (megan@wildhawaii.org) &

Lindsey Kramer, M. Sc. | HWF Coral Reef and Resources Specialist (lindsey@wildhawaii.org),



December 5, 2023

ATTN: Hawai'i Department of Land & Natural Resources
Board of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street, Boardroom
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Submitted via Email: BLNR.testimony@hawaii.gov

SUBJECT: Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo's (KUA) Support for Agenda Item F-1, Request for Final Approval to Adopt a New Chapter Under Hawai'i Administrative Rules as Title 13, Chapter 13-78, "Ocean Stewardship User Fee," BLNR Meeting Dec. 7-8, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

Aloha pumehana kākou:

Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo ([KUA](#)) submits this letter in response to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR's) request for public comments regarding the proposed adoption of new rules to implement the collection of Ocean Stewardship User Fees through the DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR). KUA **supports** the adoption of these rules and laud their potential to increase DAR capacity and effectiveness for protecting our precious ocean life. **We strongly encourage the Board to ensure that a portion of the generated funds go directly toward community-led efforts and increasing DAR's capacity to reciprocate and collaborate with communities across Hawai'i.**

"Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo" stands for "grassroots growing through shared responsibility," and our acronym "KUA" means "backbone." Our mission is to connect and empower communities to improve their quality of life through the collective care for their biocultural (natural and cultural) heritage, serving as a "backbone organization" that supports creative and community-driven solutions to problems stemming from environmental degradation. Hawai'i's biocultural resources continue to be negatively impacted by political, economic, and social changes, and the increasing dangers of climate change make fostering and empowering resilient communities acutely critical.

"Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo" stands for "grassroots growing through shared responsibility," and our acronym "KUA" means "backbone." Our mission is to connect and empower communities to improve their quality of life through the collective care for their biocultural (natural and cultural) heritage, serving as a "backbone organization" that supports creative and community-driven solutions to problems stemming from environmental degradation. Hawai'i's biocultural resources continue to be negatively impacted by political, economic, and social changes, and the increasing dangers of climate change make fostering and empowering resilient communities acutely critical.



KUA works to increase our communities' resiliency, adaptation, and transformation through community-based biocultural (natural and cultural) resource management, currently supporting three major networks of: (1) almost 40 mālama 'āina (caring for our 'āina or "that which feeds") community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together); (2) over 60 loko i'a (fishpond aquaculture systems unique to Hawai'i) and wai 'ōpae (anchialine pool systems) sites in varying stages of restoration and development, with numerous caretakers, stakeholders, and volunteers known as the Hui Mālama Loko I'a ("caretakers of fishponds"); and (3) the Limu Hui made up of over 50 loea (traditional experts) and practitioners in all things "limu" or locally-grown "seaweed." Our shared vision is to once again experience what our kūpuna (ancestors) referred to as **'āina momona** – abundant and healthy ecological systems that sustain our community resilience and well-being.

A primary function of KUA includes development of an **'auwai**, or a system of resources, tools, bridges, relationships, and networks that cultivate and elevate our communities' efforts to greater levels of collective impact in the care of our natural and cultural resources. A core catalyst for the flow in this 'auwai includes increasing aloha 'āina reciprocation or "giving back" to the community-led efforts on the 'āina and in the kai - those directly impacted by and caring for our natural environment and animals that feed our bodies, minds, and souls in neverending ways. **The funds generated through these Ocean Stewardship User Fees are a step in the right direction toward increasing 'āina momona here in Hawai'i.** We strongly support adoption of these rules as an opportunity to further support our mālama 'āina communities.

Pūpūkahi i holomua e ho'okanaka!

Let us all unite to better the human condition!

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to provide comments.

'O ke aloha 'āina no nā kau ā kau,

Kevin K.J. Chang
Executive Director

Olan Leimomi Fisher
Kua'āina Advocate



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Testimony – In Support

Decemberr 7-8, 2023 BLNR Hearing

F. DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES - 1. Request for Final Approval to Adopt a New Chapter Under Hawaii Administrative Rules as Title 3, Chapter 13-78, “**Ocean Stewardship User Fee**”

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea (MPW) is a Hawai'i non-profit organization founded on the North Shore of O'ahu in 2005. Our mission is “working to replenish and sustain the natural and cultural resources of the Pūpūkea and Waimea ahupua'a for present and future generations through active community stewardship, education, and partnerships.” Our stewardship and education efforts focus on the Pūpūkea Marine Life Conservation District (MLCD), one of only three MLCDs on O'ahu.

We strongly support DAR's proposed rules for the Ocean Stewardship User Fee, implementing Act 46 (SLH 2021) - Hawaii Revised Statutes § 187A-52. The straightforward rules proposed by DAR are appropriately short, simple, follow the language of the statute, and create a reasonable and transparent reporting system.

We are encouraged that DAR plans to make the fee reports easily accessible to the public and to all commercial operators through a **dashboard**. This transparent data sharing will incentivize the industry to police itself (one of the key points made at the O'ahu public hearing was that “bad” operators would not provide accurate reports) and allow the public to assist DLNR in making this fee successful.

The DAR “**Overview and Spend Plan**” is a sensible, informative guide on how the OSUF will be implemented and spent. The OSUF fee will fund important DAR programs that benefit responsible commercial operators and support community stewardship projects.

MPW also strongly supports DAR's intention “to request the Legislature to **repeal the sunset** provision,” which would otherwise pour the OSUF funds into the general fund starting January 1, 2029. With commercial operator cooperation, the fund will succeed and the sunset provision will be repealed no later than the 2026 Session.

Mahalo nui and best regards,

Denise Antolini, President, MPW

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
In Support of Agenda Item F-1, "Request for Final Approval to Adopt a New Chapter Under
Hawai'i Administrative Rules as Title 3, Chapter 13-78, 'Ocean Stewardship User Fee.'"**

**Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources
December 7, 2023, 9:15 AM
Kalanimoku Building, 1151 Punchbowl St., Room 132 and via Teleconference**

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members:

The Nature Conservancy supports the Division of Aquatic Resources' (DAR) Proposal to Adopt a New Chapter Under Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) as Title 13, Chapter 13-78, "Ocean Stewardship User Fee," which proposes a process for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to collect user fees for the use and enjoyment of the State's ocean resources. **We ask the Board to approve the proposed rules.**

DAR is responsible for managing and protecting Hawai'i's coral reefs, nearshore fisheries, and other important coastal resources, and it is imperative that they have the financial resources necessary to do so. The proposed rules will enable DAR to begin collecting a \$1 fee for each customer of commercial vessels, watercrafts, or water sports equipment that are required to have a commercial operator permit or commercial use permit. These fees will provide critical revenue to DAR for essential marine resource protection, restoration, and management. Collected fees will be directed into a special fund managed by DAR, and residents and visitors alike would benefit from healthier and more resilient marine resources provided by enhanced management.

Life in Hawai'i is concentrated along our spectacular coasts, where residents and visitors take full advantage of tropical waters and vibrant coral reefs teeming with life. The reefs that line our coasts are environmental, economic, recreational, and cultural treasures that support our island lifestyle and livelihoods. Each year, they provide flood protection to people, property, and jobs valued at more than \$836 million, support nearshore fisheries worth \$13.4 million, and contribute more than \$1.2 billion through reef-related tourism to the state's economy. Yet local pressures from overfishing and land-based pollutants have contributed to a 60% decline in living coral reefs in some areas over the past 40 years, and as much as a 90% decline in some important nearshore fisheries. The impacts of global climate change, such as warming and rising seas and more powerful and frequent storms, hasten the loss of coral reefs and threaten coastal areas with flooding and erosion. We must reverse this trend to protect the environmental engine that drives our economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this rulemaking process to provide the funding necessary for DAR to protect and restore the unique marine resources that make Hawai'i a

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global destination for discerning visitors and an irreplaceable home that will sustain us and generations to come.

To support our ocean resources, we ask that the Board support and approve the Ocean Stewardship User Fee rules. Mahalo for your support and stewardship of Hawai'i's natural resources.

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i and Palmyra is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll and has supported over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 nature preserves in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We forge partnerships with government, private parties, and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and for the many benefits they provide to people.
