

From: [Kevin Weng](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F 2. Molokini Shoal: YES
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 3:49:09 PM

F 2. Molokini Shoal: YES

Please protect Molokini with these updated rules.

Kevin Weng
spearfisherman
Fish biologist
Palolo

From: [Kimberly Jeffries](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Molokini Shoal (F 2)
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 3:41:17 PM

I endorse the protection of Molokini Shoal, especially considering the increased pressure of ocean conditions following the disaster in Lahaina.



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),