

From: [Anne A](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] save our reef fish and the reefs!!!
Date: Sunday, December 3, 2023 3:51:44 PM

I have noticed a decimation of the reef fish on the reefs of South Maui for 8 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,

Anne Allison, Kihei, Maui resident

From: [Aqua Dreams](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] we oppose agenda item F3
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 10:38:59 AM

Chair Chang and the board of land and natural resources:
We oppose agenda item F3 the banning of aquarium fishing
thank you

Aqua Dreams & InfinityReefs.com
8 Southwick st
Feeding Hills, MA 01030
413-786-1000 fax 413-786-1008

www.Aqua-Dreams.com
www.InfinityReefs.com
www.Facebook.com/AquaDreamsAquarium
www.Facebook.com/InfinityReefsUSA
www.instagram.com/infintyreefs/

From: [Bruce Berger](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Sunday, December 3, 2023 9:30:20 AM

Aloha,

I am writing to strongly support necessary legislation to prohibit any collection of fish, corals and other aquatic based life for commercial use. I have lived in South Kihei for over a decade and it is distressing to hear from those who have lived here longer how the corals and fish life have suffered drastically.

A few years back a boat crashed at the South Kihei boat ramp during a storm. Hundreds of dead fish were subsequently found floating around the boat. The boat was never removed by the owner and over the ensuing weeks and months broke apart. Foam parts were found on beaches miles away. DLNR did nothing to ensure that the boat was removed in a timely manner. And to the best of my knowledge the owner was never sanctioned.

It is my understanding from others that this will be the subject of an investigation by Civilbeat.org.

In this context, in order for any rules to be meaningful there has to be mandatory financial and perhaps incarceration consequences.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce E. Berger M.D.

159 Ahekolo Place

Kihei

Sent from my iPad

From: [Gregg Blue](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stop the Fish, slaughter
Date: Friday, December 1, 2023 1:35:13 PM

Aloha, please Stop the needless collecting of all of our beautiful Fish to sell for a few dollars... It throws the total ecosystem out of balance and is no longer sustainable. Gregg Blue, Haiku, HI 808-575-9477.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [richard bodien](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F-3 Testimony of Support for Rulemaking to Prohibit Commercial Aquarium Collection in Hawai'i
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 11:50:11 AM

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

Please prohibit aquarium collection.

Enough is enough.

Mahalo,
Richard Bodien
96719

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

From: peggy@bondcarr.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: [Jonnetta](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 12:28:12 AM

I am writing to urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources - Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to begin rulemaking and hold public hearings to enact a rule to prohibit collection of reef wildlife for the aquarium pet trade. The time for this action is long overdue.

Stopping collection of reef fishes in Hawaii was one of the issues on which I work when I was a Marine Resource Specialist at the University of Hawaii Manoa Campus. I am not a marine biologist but I had the unique experience to live for two weeks underwater in the Tektite II habitat as the engineer of the all-women's team of aquanauts. It was there that I accompanied biologist on dives and were able to spend hours monitoring and observing the reef wildlife. Reefs are beautiful and wonder-filled.

Life underwater is little different than life on land. Everything and everyone fill their own niches. Fish are the birds of the sea. Some travel together like flocks of geese. Other are solitary like owls. They have homes, offsprings, and mates. The reef fishes deserve the same protections as those given to land wildlife that inhabits fragile and endangered environments. These protections include prohibitions against collection and/or killing.

Collection of reef fishes is killing. The survival rate of the fishes is low, and even if they survive, they spend the rest of their lives imprisoned in small aquariums, eating processed food, and separated from their clans.

I now live on Molokai, and our coral reef and most reefs in Hawaii are very endangered by climate change, pollution, silting, and overuse. **Prohibiting the collection of reef wildlife is imperative.**

Mahalo,

Peggy Lucas Bond
Tektite II Aquanaut
peggy@bondcarr.com

From: [Jamie Brown](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Commercial aquarium collection; Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, December 1, 2023 2:02:40 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-i05msgmj.png](#)

Aloha,

I am a lifelong waterman and resident of Oahu since 1987. Since that time, I have seen a dramatic decline in our reefs and the life on the reefs. We have over a million residents and 10 million visitors who severely strain our reef ecosystems just by looking at those ecosystems. Commercial exploitation amplifies the problem and is completely incompatible with our local culture and native Hawaiian values.

The commercial aquarium trade exploits and dramatically degrades one of the major natural resources that make Hawaii attractive for both locals and visitors. So, from a pure economic perspective, the commercial aquarium trade negatively impacts our economy as a whole, and will hurt us severely in the long run.

Please stop commercial aquarium collection ASAP. Hopefully it's not too late for our reefs to recover from the devastating exploitation of this industry.

Jamie Brown

President, CCIM, SIOR

Hawaii Commercial Real Estate

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 [Book time to meet with me](#)

From: [George B](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose F3
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 7:13:24 AM

Attn Chair Chang and BLNR,

Do not ban fishing, manage it

Regards,
George Bui

From: [Steven Businger](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Sunday, December 3, 2023 8:59:16 AM

Dear BLNR,

I first came to Hawaii in 1965 and have made Hawaii my permanent home for over 30 years. During this time interval the changes that I have seen in Hawaii's reef environment have been heartbreaking. In addition to human activity, climate change is putting unprecedented pressure on our reefs. Protecting our reef environment from unnecessary commercial aquarium collection is a no brainer. Yes, there will be some relatively small economic impact, but these will be offset by the benefits of a healthier reef. Please vote on the right side of history and enact a rule that should have been enacted long ago to benefit our important reefs, but also the people of Hawaii.

Respectfully, Steven

Dr. Steven Businger
4837 Sierra Dr.
Honolulu, HI 96816
808-429-7251 cell
businger@hawaii.edu

From: [Patricia B Cadiz](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, December 1, 2023 2:04:54 PM

To Chairperson and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources;

My name is Patricia Cadiz. I am from Paia, Maui. I support a rule ending commercial aquarium collection because aquarium collection activities are proven to harm the reef eco system. The reef eco system is not only intrinsic to our culture and identity, it is also are best defense agains sea level rise and protection of our shorelines and beaches.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Aloha,
P Cadiz

From: [Healani Cahill](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F-3 Testimony of Support for Rulemaking to Prohibit Commercial Aquarium Collection in Hawai'i
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 4:10:08 PM

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the

We are in CRISIS – many herbivore species are in huge decline and, without them, our coral reefs are projected to begin dying within the next decade. I am answering the call for action and need your help.

<< SHARE A STORY THAT TESTIFIES TO THE DECLINE OF FISH OR CORAL REEFS DYING >>

Herbivore species perform a critical function on our coral reefs 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 to climate change impacts. The very survival of the ecosystem is dependent upon this.

Coral reefs are protective barriers to our nearshore and a crucial host in an ecosystem that generates photosynthesis, producing up to 70% of all oxygen. That is every other breath we take, no matter where we live. Culturally, we know how significant ko‘a (coral) are – its foundation in the order of life of our marine ecosystems.

I am asking you to continue to uphold the Department of Land and Natural Resources policy code, Hierarchy of Uses Principle – preserving and protecting the cultural and natural resources as your highest priority. I urge the Board to approve the petition and direct the Division of Aquatic Resources to begin rulemaking to ban aquarium collection PERMANENTLY in Hawai'i.

Aquarium collection is not a cultural practice. What started over 5 decades ago has decimated populations of herbivores, and weakened our critically important coral reefs.

Do not allow this exploitation and degradation of our cultural and natural resources to continue further. On December 8th, 2023, collectively you will be able to answer to the call for action – to preserve and protect our marine ecosystem and cultural landscape, making Hawai'i a global example of what culturally grounded and regenerative leadership looks like. Approve the petition before you to prohibit aquarium collection.

Mahalo

<< YOURHealani Cahill FULL NAME >>

<< 'Ohana/Community, Island >>

Sent from my iPhone

Testimony Re: Agenda Item F.3 December 5, 2023

The Honorable Dawn Chang, Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources

We are writing to reaffirm our support for the West Hawai'i Aquarium fishery. In 2020 we joined our colleagues in a letter published in West Hawai'i Today outlining why we accept the data demonstrating that this fishery is clearly sustainable. Since that time, nothing has changed to alter that conclusion.

In this era of social media, it has become easy to affect public opinion with campaigns of disinformation, hyperbole, and untested hypotheses presented as facts. The public is often confused or unwilling to critically evaluate such statements, and too often accept false evidence on face value. The West Hawai'i Aquarium fishery has been under assault by such a campaign for many years, even though the populations of key aquarium species, such as the Yellow Tang and Kole, have increased over the past twenty years. The fishery has not been without fault during its 50 years in existence, but these incidents have been the exception and do not, in our experience, represent the high ethical standards that these fishermen exercise during the collection, care and handling of live fishes.

The BLNR has a rare opportunity to turn this controversy into a teachable moment for the public. You have access to decades of data methodically collected by DLNR biologists, as well as detailed reports presented every five years to the Legislature. Compare these data, analyses and conclusions to the statements made by opponents to the fishery. They have no comparable, long-term data sets and therefore resort to using anecdotes, fear, and untested hypotheses to support their agenda. At this pivotal moment, you can act in the public interest to separate facts based on data, from arguments that are data-free and therefore baseless.

Science can provide conclusive evidence supporting this fishery as sustainable. There is also ample evidence that the fishermen act ethically in their treatment of the animals from the moment they are collected until they are shipped to their destination. Philosophical, moral, and cultural arguments are mostly beyond what science can resolve. However, we feel that the fishermen and their advocates have provided an excellent review of these topics in their EIS. In addition, we find it difficult to justify shutting down a fishery that strives to keep fishes alive and in good health, while continuing to permit many of the same species to be killed and eaten. We do not contest the argument that killing fish for food is acceptable (provided it is done sustainably), but aquariums also have significant value, as evidenced by the number of aquatic biologists who were inspired by their home aquariums to pursue careers in science. It is hypocritical to claim killing fishes is moral but keeping them in aquariums is not.

Please take the time to study the data reports prepared by your staff biologists based on thousands of transects that required many, many hundreds of man-hours to collect and to analyze. They did not set out to demonstrate that the fishery is sustainable but that is clearly the conclusion after 20+ years of effort. Campaigns of disinformation should be recognized and rejected. Use your authority to establish a process whereby data and science become the basis for decisions. Permanently closing what many consider the best monitored and regulated inshore coral-reef fishery in the world, would be a precedent with significant implications for all other Hawai'i fisheries.

Bruce A. Carlson, Ph.D.
Richard Pyle, Ph.D.
William J. Walsh, Ph.D

From: [jenny.cartwright](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No commercial fishing
Date: Friday, December 1, 2023 10:57:45 PM

It is appalling!

As progressive and eco-friendly as Hawai'i strives to be, we still allow commercial fishing of our beautiful native fish. As the oceans rise and fish have to relocate to different areas to survive the pressures and stress of global warming, WE then add human danger as a challenge to their survival. All for selfish wealthy peoples exotic saltwater fish tanks. This really is appalling! I appeal to you to prevent this atrocity from continuing, and be a leader in stopping commercial fishing of our beautiful ocean fish.

This must stop so that we can continue to call this home and create an economy for local people to thrive.

This is in hopes that we can make a statement that hopefully will help others follow.

Jennifer Cartwright

Jenny Cartwright MFT M.A.
Offices in Kailua and Aiea
Office #[808-400-9292](#)
fax #[808-468-4564](#)

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From: [Ryan Christopher](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, December 1, 2023 2:15:53 PM

The ocean does not belong to any one person or group, therefore no one should be given permission to take from the ocean to sell for profit items and life that does not belong to them. Our oceans are already under serious threat due to coral decline and warming oceans. Allowing anyone to take thousands of fish a year would only compound the problem, all for the gain of a very few individuals. There is no widespread gain for the people of this island. Tourism is our main economic driver for better or worse. When we overfish and sell the very reason millions of people come here for many people will suffer. Allowing any permits for collection for sale is a terrible idea. If these people want to sell these fish they should breed them and sell them. Numerous saltwater fish can now be captive bred, those fish are healthier for the end buyer and don't put a strain on our environment. I would support a very limited permit that allows for collecting for breeding purposes so these people seeking these permits can build breeding pairs but nothing else.

Thanks

Ryan Christopher
Honokaa HI

From: [Karen Chun](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Aquarium fishing
Date: Friday, December 1, 2023 1:00:09 PM

Please ban collecting of aquarium fish. It is basically a killing field. If they don't kill them waiting for a buyer, they die being transported and the rest of them are finished off by the hobbyists.

The decline in fish is catastrophic for those of us who have been here for a while or since childhood. The fish are just gone.

Thank you,
Karen Chun
87 Lae St
Paia, HI 96779
Maui

From: [Eric Cohen](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose F3
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 8:40:28 PM

Manage the resource, do not ban!

Thank you!
Eric Cohen
Blue Life USA
The Future of Aquarium Products
401-307-3474 Voice
401-526-3474 Text
818-456-4554 Fax
General Inquiries: inquiry@bluelifeusa.com

Visit Us on the Web and "Like us" on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/bluelifeusa?fref=ts>

From: [Michael Crespo](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose F3
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 8:37:54 AM

Attn Chair Chang and BLNR
Do not ban fishing, manage it!

From: [Joe Culbertson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023 5:43:28 AM

Esteemed Board and all persons with influence toward Hawaii's future,

My name is Joe Culbertson. I live on the mainland (California) but frequent the islands of Hawaii often. I have family living in Hawaii. I love visiting the islands and care deeply about the culture, the flora, the fauna and the fishes.

I am personally very opposed to the Aquarium Trade in Hawaii for the following reasons:

- The AQ Trade has overfished the waters and plans to continue robbing our oceans of their inhabitants.
- The AQ Trade has deceived officials and the public repeatedly and continues their lies and propaganda for their own profit.
- There is no benefit to the Hawaiians, the government or the people they are elected and appointed to represent.
- The damage incurred by these "legal" and illegal poachers is reprehensible and unforgiving.
- If the current practices are continued, the waters off of the Hawaiian Islands will lose the attraction of a majority of tourists (as well as residents) leading to a decline in the tourist incentive (and State income).

I whole-heartedly plead that you grant the petition presented and cease all commercial aquarium collecting.

Thank you,

Joe Culbertson

1831 Westfield Rd.

Paso Robles, CA 93446



Virus-free www.avast.com

From: [Judith Culler](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 11:32:09 AM

We can not allow commercial harvesting of the Hawaiian reef fish for the aquarium trade. As an avid snorkeler I have witnessed the decline of the fish population over the years.

Please deny the aquarium trade access to our reef fish and wildlife and put an end commercial aquarium collecting.

Judith Culler, Kihei, Maui

From: [Cynthia DeLillo](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose F3
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 6:38:05 AM

Attn Chair Chang and BLNR,
Do not ban fishing, manage it! I believe in the science behind this!

Sincerely,
Cynthia DeLillo

From: [Duane DeSoto](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, December 1, 2023 8:15:35 PM

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources

Humble I submit this request to approve this petition and direct DAR to permanently ban the collection and sale of aquarium fish. This has been an industry of persistent abuse and is very difficult to regulate. The constant abuse by aquarium fish industry needs to end. Please protect our smaller fish species and out right ban the collection and sale of aquarium fish. Thank you all for your time and dedication to protecting our natural resources.

Aloha no Duane DeSoto
Nā Kama Kai 501(c)(3)
duane@nakamakai.org
[+1 \(808\) 864-9164](tel:+18088649164)

The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones WHO DO! ~Steve Jobs

From: [Bob Douglas](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F-3 Testimony of Support for Rulemaking to Prohibit Commercial Aquarium Collection in Hawai'i
Date: Friday, December 1, 2023 1:02:41 PM

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

My name is Bob Douglas, my wife and sons are lineal descendants from Miloli'i.

We are in CRISIS – many herbivore species are in huge decline and, without them, our coral reefs are projected to begin dying within the next decade. I am answering the call for action and need your help.

The kūpuna tell of stories when the waves appeared golden due to the abundance of yellow tang. A scene no longer witnessed these days.

Herbivore species perform a critical function on our coral reefs 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 to climate change impacts. The very survival of the ecosystem is dependent upon this.

Coral reefs are protective barriers to our nearshore and a crucial host in an ecosystem that generates photosynthesis, producing up to 70% of all oxygen. That is every other breath we take, no matter where we live. Culturally, we know how significant ko'a (coral) are – its foundation in the order of life of our marine ecosystems.

I am asking you to continue to uphold the Department of Land and Natural Resources policy code, Hierarchy of Uses Principle – preserving and protecting the cultural and natural resources as your highest priority. I urge the Board to approve the petition and direct the Division of Aquatic Resources to begin rulemaking to ban aquarium collection PERMANENTLY in Hawai'i.

Aquarium collection is not a cultural practice. What started over 5 decades ago has decimated populations of herbivores, and weakened our critically important coral reefs.

Do not allow this exploitation and degradation of our cultural and natural resources to continue further. On December 8th, 2023, collectively you will be able to answer to the call for action – to preserve and protect our marine ecosystem and cultural landscape, making Hawai'i a global example of what culturally grounded and regenerative leadership looks like. Approve the petition before you to prohibit aquarium collection.

Mahalo
Bob Danhieux Douglas
Douglas/Naipo Pana'ewa, Island of Hawai'i.

From: [Mat Dyer](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please do not pass DAR Item F3.
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 9:56:25 PM

Aloha My name is Matt Dyer

I am opposed to F3 petition to ban the aquarium fishery. The fishery has done everything right. That is why it is considered a “model fishery”. It has worked with the state to create act 306, FRA system, worked for decades with WHFC (West Hawaii Fishery council) to create management laws, worked with DAR researchers to do more rules making 2015 management laws, all to ensure sustainability and low environmental impacts.

Not only has the fishery been deemed sustainable but also, takes only small fish leaving breeders, leaves all large eating fish for Hawaiians, has bag limits, gear restrictions, 33% FRA West Hawaii Closures, does not affect corals, has not impacted herbivore populations, and has been scientifically proven to be sustainable with 20 years of fish counts. Fish populations overall were increasing for all major targeted species.

Please do not pass DAR item F3

Thanks Matt Dyer

From: [Randy Fernley](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote NO on F-3 at BLNR hearing 12/8/23
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 7:06:37 PM

Aloha Land Board Members,

My name is Randy Fernley and I am president of Oahu's Tropical Fish Association. I'm currently semi-retired with hopes of helping to jump start our small sustainable fishery.

I fully agree with the department's belief that rule making to prohibit commercial aquarium harvest is unnecessary.

DAR is in the process of developing a detailed aquarium management framework. This is nearly complete for both the Big Island and Oahu. Hundreds of man hours and hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent to make this document acceptable to the state of Hawaii.

Plse vote **no** on this rule.

Mahalo and Aloha,

John R, Fernley

From: [scott folsom](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposed to DAR Item F 3. (Petition Prohibit Aquarium Fishing)
Date: Sunday, December 3, 2023 7:26:17 PM

I am a former marine biologist with the University of Hawaii and the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology.

F3 should not be passed based on the statute requirements of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §13-1-26 Petitions for adoption, amendment, or repeal of rules.

The statute requirements based on previous exhaustive review and previous passage of the West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery 1585 page HEPA and passage of the complete exhaustive 6-year Cultural assessment (CIA) by the fishery are more than enough to counter the petitioners unscientific, no journal links, and non-reviewed biased-based cultural claims submitted by non-Hawaiian lawyers.

The Petitioner also ignores science, distorts science, discounts a 6 year CIA complete cultural assessment and uses old 2009 DAR reports quoted in their petition. The 2020 Report to the Legislature showed increased fish counts well over 1 million fish for the most collected aquarium fish species, Yellow tangs and Kole tangs, which are both herbivores, countering their herbivore depletion petition argument.

As per HRS statute §13-1-26 all “facts, views, arguments, and data” deemed relevant by petitioner are insufficient to counter past decision by BLNR, the Hawaii Supreme Court, the Hawaii State Legislature, and the Governor of Hawaii. All of which after many exhaustive hearings, spanning over 20 years, refused to ban the fishery, because it was a “model fishery”, sustainable, low impact and valuable. The user group conflicts are from activist tourist businesses who get paid to see pretty reef fishes. It is not a cultural or ecological issue, it has never been one, but they are trying to make it one for their business profit.

Now that the fishery has done its exhaustive HEPA review and passed a previous BLNR hearing, the petitioners are asking you to repeal decisions spanning over 20 years. The petitioners’ lawsuits against the state, costing hundreds of thousands of dollars in state legal fees, hundreds of thousands more in fishers’ HEPA fees, and complete review of the fishery that ensued after the Supreme court one sided, no-science presented decision; the petition is now asking that all those legal rulings be ignored. In addition, they also want an unconstitutional ban on a proven sustainable, HEPA-approved, valuable fishery for insufficient reasons.

The petition does not provide enough scientific basis, no quoted journals, peer reviewed science and no cultural assessment, to counter the 6-year exhaustive West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery HEPA passage. It also fails to provide enough “facts, views, arguments, and data” to counter the support of BLNR past HEPA passage, past Legislative decision, as well as decisions by the Governor and Supreme court.

Also, they want you to ignore testimony in support of the fishery by 21 leading marine biologists who supported peer reviewed scientific facts stating the fishery was “sustainable” and all the science from Dar with over 1700 fish counts spanning 20 years and exhaustive reports to the legislature every 5 years. The Hawaii Aquarium Fishery is the most studied fishery in the world.

DAR also opposes this petition.

I would strongly Caution you to not believe Anti Aquarium fish proponents. For example: the petitioner says in their petition herbivore fish are declining due to the aquarium fishery. They even try to hide the truth using old reports and science.

Here is what those facts really are from the 2020 DLNR West Hawaii Report To the Legislature:

Page 28 “Overall Yellow Tang abundance in the 30’-60’ depth range over the entire West Hawai’i coast is estimated to have increased by over 3.4 million fish from 1999/2000 to 2017/2018 (150% increase) to a current population of about 5.7 million fish within this depth range alone.”

Page 37 “Overall Kole abundance in the 30’-60’ depth range over the entire West Hawai’i coast is estimated to have increased 118% (>5.1 million fish) during this time period with a current estimated population of almost 9.6 million fish. As with Yellow Tang, summer 2014 recruitment for Kole in many areas was very strong. Recruitment at the Manuka survey site for example was 254% higher than on any other previous survey at the site over the last 20 years.”
(<https://files.hawaii.gov/dlnr/reports-to-the-legislature/2020/AR20-WHREMA-Rpt-FY19.pdf>).

The petition has not met legal merits and therefore, “no request for the issuance, amendment, or repeal of a rule which does not conform to the requirements set forth above shall be considered by the board”. As per HRS statue §13-1-26.

There is clearly not enough legal merit, subject matter, cultural proof, scientific proof or reasoning for seeking the adoption of F3.

If passed, legal lawsuits against the state will surely be filed.

Please do not pass item F3; it is unscientific, unconstitutional and illegal.

Scott Folsom
Honolulu

From: [Sophie Friedheim](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F-3 Testimony of Support for Rulemaking to Prohibit Commercial Aquarium Collection in Hawai'i
Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023 3:32:58 PM

Hello Chair Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources

My name is Sophie Friedheim, I am an alumni of UH Manoa for a BS in Marine Biology and the Marine Option Program there as well. I understand the importance of the ocean to every aspect of our world, and more specifically to hawaii and our culture. To continue to allow people to profit off of destructive practices with zero regulation, fines or punishment from DLNR (we know you're spread thin with everything from watching dolphin chasers, managing boat/plane crashes on the reefs to wild fires and ROD) this simple action could help our oceans immensely. I know people who have profited from these actions and my shaming them isn't enough. Action must be taken.

We are in CRISIS – many herbivore species are in huge decline and, without them, our coral reefs are projected to begin dying within the next decade. I am answering the call for action and need your help.

I have watched graduate students while I was in my BS Marine Bio degree get so sick from polluted ocean waters while collecting data that they no longer could finish their degree for health reasons. I have watched as the Spanish dancers disappeared over the past 30 years from Kailua bay. Not to mention the immense amount of metals released into Kailua bay every quarter by the Kapaa Quarry (also without being fine) I've see dog walkers watch their pets get eaten alive by bacteria found in Kailua sand and water. I now refuse to swim in any day out of sheer fear of getting staph infection from Ala Wai, to Haleiwa Harbor, Moanalua Bay and Kailua. Not to mention the insane amount of damage done in Kaneohe by the military industrial complex.

This is one minor action that can be done that could have incredible impacts FOR THE GOOD OF THE HAWAII OCEAN, REEFS, CULTURE, KAMAINA AND KANAKA. Good to ALL parts of hawaii. No one will miss aquariums if our reefs are flourishing.

Herbivore species perform a critical function on our coral reefs 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 to climate change impacts. The very survival of the ecosystem is dependent upon this.

Coral reefs are protective barriers to our nearshore and a crucial host in an ecosystem that generates photosynthesis, producing up to 70% of all oxygen. That is every other breath we take, no matter where we live. Culturally, we know how significant ko'a (coral) are – its foundation in the order of life of our marine ecosystems.

I am asking you to continue to uphold the Department of Land and Natural Resources policy code, Hierarchy of Uses Principle – preserving and protecting the cultural and natural resources as your highest priority. I urge the Board to approve the petition and direct the Division of Aquatic Resources to begin rulemaking to ban aquarium collection PERMANENTLY in Hawai'i.

Aquarium collection is not a cultural practice. What started over 5 decades ago has decimated populations of herbivores, and weakened our critically important coral reefs.

Do not allow this exploitation and degradation of our cultural and natural resources to continue further. On December 8th, 2023, collectively you will be able to answer to the call for action – to preserve and protect our marine ecosystem and cultural landscape, making Hawai'i a global example of what culturally grounded and regenerative leadership looks like. Approve the petition before you to prohibit aquarium collection.

Mahalo,
Sophie Babette Friedheim
Kalihi, Oahu, Hawai'i

From: [Benjy GARFINKLE](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F.3 testimony I support a complete Ban
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 8:36:21 AM

I have lived in Hawaii over 35 years
I am an avid ocean family
Surf
Dive
Paddle
Fisherman
This practice of aquarium taking is ridiculous and must be stopped
This
Thanks,

Benjy Garfinkle
[808.651.2764](tel:808.651.2764)

From: [michael gilbert](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, December 1, 2023 4:52:18 PM

Aloha

I'm a Maui resident and avid water sports person

I have seen our reefs stripped bare. Actually watched them harvest hundreds of yellow tangs

Please this is really a terrible thing if you Love Hawaii

Stop it Forever

Aloha

Michael Gilbert MPA.Cr.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Laura Gleason](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F3
Date: Sunday, December 3, 2023 9:13:35 AM

Please rescind and deny any permits allowing the collection of reef fish for commercial purposes in aquariums. It is really outrageous for the State of Hawaii to allow this to happen, even more so knowing the state of our reefs and fish supplies due to all kinds of adverse ecological reasons. Hawaii's reef fish, instead, deserve our full protection. To allow the collection of Hawaii's reef fish for commercial purposes shows an incredible lack of respect for Hawaii's precious resources. Such permits, instead, only add to the degradation of our already degraded oceans. As well, taking the reef fish out of their natural environment results in many of them not surviving after being removed. No amount of money is worth undermining Hawaii's precious resources.

From: [Janice Glennie](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F-3 Testimony of Support for Rulemaking to Prohibit Commercial Aquarium Collection in Hawai'i
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 1:12:53 PM
Importance: High

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

I've written and testified many times on this issue — in fact, for probably 25 years or more — to ask that the State end aquarium fishing once and for all. What's the story? It's like a manini sector of our population is addicted to theft and can't find another way to earn a living and while the state is addicted to every tiny bit of revenue even if it comes from theft. Enough already.

Our reefs are dying, our fish are disappearing including those humans need for food. The balance of our oceans is in deep crisis. Though we have to take broad, united steps to stop climate change, there are steps like this manini one that can help reverse some of the damage that mankind is creating TODAY.

Do the right thing: Stop aquarium fish collection *now*.

Mahalo and sincerely,
Janice palma-glennie
Kailua-kona

From: [Alex Godsey](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023 2:34:47 PM

Alex Godsey
Honolulu
Oahu

Hawaii is built totally around the Pacific Ocean, from the beauty it provides (tourist attraction) to essential bases built to protect the United States, and the cruciality of Hawaii as a trading hub. The significance of our reliance on the aquatic environment can be traced throughout the islands, and it is our duty as beneficiaries, to sustain and preserve the source of Hawaii's brilliance.

Since I was 5 years old, a love I have had is to walk out on the pier next to the Honolulu Aquarium and gaze at thousands of fish, moving gracefully, dancing throughout the water. As I am sure that hundreds of tourists and locals enjoy the same sight of such aquatic brilliance everyday, as it is a trademark reason for Hawaii's tourist enticement. Never in my life would I have imagined it would take a petition to maintain that special ecosystem without the threat of poachers, collectors, and profiteers attempting to steal the beauty of our islands. It is in the best interest of Hawaii's government, citizens, tourists, and future to put the natural and cultural resources of the state ahead of short-term, short-sighted commercial profit.

--

Alex Godsey '28
English: (Mauna)
Science: (N)
Math: (Square)
Social Studies: ()

From: [nancy goodale](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F-3 Testimony of Support for Rulemaking to Prohibit Commercial Aquarium Collection in Hawai'i
Date: Sunday, December 3, 2023 5:56:54 PM

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

<< Nancy Goodale Pemberton British Columbia Canada.
Costal waters of British Columbia are a source of food for our family. >

We are in CRISIS – many herbivore species are in huge decline and, without them, our coral reefs are projected to begin dying within the next decade. I am answering the call for action and need your help.

<< The bleaching of coral reefs in Hawaii are a testament of the urgency of change needed to protect what is left. >

Herbivore species perform a critical function on our coral reefs 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 to climate change impacts. The very survival of the ecosystem is dependent upon this.

Coral reefs are protective barriers to our nearshore and a crucial host in an ecosystem that generates photosynthesis, producing up to 70% of all oxygen. That is every other breath we take, no matter where we live. Culturally, we know how significant ko'a (coral) are – its foundation in the order of life of our marine ecosystems.

I am asking you to continue to uphold the Department of Land and Natural Resources policy code, Hierarchy of Uses Principle – preserving and protecting the cultural and natural resources as your highest priority. I urge the Board to approve the petition and direct the Division of Aquatic Resources to begin rulemaking to ban aquarium collection PERMANENTLY in Hawai'i.

Aquarium collection is not a cultural practice. What started over 5 decades ago has decimated populations of herbivores, and weakened our critically important coral reefs.

Do not allow this exploitation and degradation of our cultural and natural resources to continue further. On December 8th, 2023, collectively you will be able to answer to the call for action – to preserve and protect our marine ecosystem and cultural landscape, making Hawai'i a global example of what culturally grounded and regenerative leadership looks like. Approve the petition before you to prohibit aquarium collection.

Mahalo

<< Nancy Goodale>

<< Pemberton British Columbia Canada

>>

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Wayne Gowell](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 3:32:51 PM

Hello I visit Hawaii often! I love the beautiful reefs and clean warm ocean! The pet industry is barbaric in kidnaping fish, the majority of which die before they get to the living room fish bowl or aquarium. They do not reproduce in captivity. What a waste of life and a big loss to reef ecosystem. If aquarium owners knew the truth, they may reconsider pet trafficking (sp) as their leisure pursuit. More importantly, we know the sequence of events in the fish trafficking industry and we say NO. Please say no to pet industry permits and the ensuing reef fish depletion.

Thank You for your consideration!!!

I Love HawaiiPLEASE SAVER THE REEFS

Wayne Gowell
69 Flaggler Road
Leominster, MA 01453

wgowell@comcast.net

From: [Matthew Gurewitsch](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023 6:17:33 PM

Aloha, Honored Members of the Board!

Matthew Gurewitsch here, 12-year full-time resident in Kihei, Maui.

We implore you to prohibit collection of reef wildlife for the aquarium pet trade. Such collection is selfish, it's damaging to our aina, and it's bad for our economy. Please put the interests of the wildlife and the community over greed!

My wife and I are avid snorkelers. Weather permitting, we're in the ocean seven days a week, 52 weeks a year. We're there to watch the fish! And they're disappearing. It's heart-breaking to see the stocks collapsing. On Maui's South Shore, virtually *no species* is truly common anymore.

Yellow Tang, Achilles Tang, Goldrim Tang—all down to individuals or "schools" of two or three. Even Moorish Idols, 10 years ago as common as sparrows on land, are rare sightings.

The aquarium trade is a blight on our ecology—and also on our economy! Visitors come in hopes of finding fish-rich waters. We hear them on the beach. They're deeply disappointed, and they're spreading the word.

We implore you to do the right thing! Prohibit collection of reef wildlife for the aquarium pet trade.

M.

Matthew Gurewitsch
3415 Kuaua Pl.
Kihei (Maui) HI 96753

t/+1 (808) 874-8925
m/+1 (646) 512-1973

www.beyondcriticism.com

From: [Maui Hawkins](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for the fish
Date: Sunday, December 3, 2023 8:01:55 AM

I'm an ocean swimmer and have swum the south shores of Maui on a weekly bases for the past 30 years. Over this timespan I have witnessed to rapid decline of large beautiful schools of tropical fish to barely a sighting of 1 or 2 lone fish swimming our shores. It's like swimming over a huge graveyard of dead coral reef with a few fish trying to survive on what little is left.

Our paradise is being destroyed under our watch. Allowing the aquarium trade is destroying one of the prime draws of tourism, to see the magic of our tropical environments with beautiful fish in their natural habitat. If they continue to harvest our fish there will be no more for all of us, including the aquarium trade. Everyone loses. Please outlaw this practice and most importantly enforce this restriction.

Mahalo, Patti Hawkins, 808-870-8707
266 Alaume Street, Kihei

From: [JEANNETTE HEIDRICH](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimon
Date: Sunday, December 3, 2023 7:58:42 PM

I support the END of commercial aquarium collection by passing a rule/law.

My name is Jeannette Heidrich and I live in Kailua Kona, on the big Island of Hawaii.

The herbivore reef fish need to stay on the reef for the health of the coral, and also to support tourism in the State.

The ocean needs balance , and if we stop collecting reef fish for use in home aquariums, the ocean will be allowed to once again move toward balance

Thank you and I hope to hear that aquarium collection for commercial purposes ENDS.

Sincerely,
Jeannette Heidrich

From: [Grant Heidrich](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Enact a rule to prohibit collection of reef wildlife for the aquarium pet trade
Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023 9:23:07 AM

I am a homeowner along the coast in West Hawaii on the Big Island. I have been an active scuba diver, swimmer, and snorkeler my entire life. Over the years there has been a cons[icuous degrading of the marine environment caused in large part by the extraction of ornamental fish off our precious reefs.

I am writing to urge the board to adopt a recently filed formal petition with the Board to **enact a rule to prohibit collection of reef wildlife for the aquarium pet trade**. If granted, the Department of Land and Natural Resources - Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) **will need to begin rulemaking and hold public hearings on the proposal**.

The reasons are compelling and include:

- 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**

I hope good reason, and an adherence to our best cultural practices will prevail and preserve our heritage for future generations.

Thank for considering my testimony.

Grant Heidrich

From: [John Hoover](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 8:51:13 AM

Hello - I am a former aquarist and I even wrote a book about keeping Hawaii's marine fish in aquariums (Hawaii's Fishes, a guide for snorkelers, divers, and aquarists, Mutual Publishing, Honolulu, 1993). I am still 'aquarium friendly' and believe that saltwater aquariums are a wonderful hobby and educational tool. However, I also support the permanent ending of commercial collecting of wild aquarium fish in the State of Hawaii. I know from experience that marine fish do not live long in the average aquarium, so there needs to be a continual supply. I also know that many Hawaiian reef fish can now be bred in captivity. Unfortunately, artificial breeding of marine aquarium fish is expensive and not viable commercially if there's an endless supply of wild-caught fish. So let's give our reefs a break and at the same time give a boost to commercial breeding of aquarium fish here in Hawaii. Eventually, this could be a small local industry that would create many more jobs than those lost if a ban were to be enacted. Thanks for your consideration. -- John Hoover, Volcano, Hawaii.

From: [sandy hryciuk](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Email Subject: Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 1:15:09 PM

Email Subject: Agenda Item F.3 Testimony

PLEASE do not allow the continued removal of our reef fish. As a resident of Maui for over 30 years, we have watched the continual decline of fish on the reefs. This is not a industry that needs to continue its profits by destroying our reef fish population. They are a essential part of the health of our oceans. We are in the water several days a week and feel heartbroken to see the loss of so many fish and they are not coming back.

Thank you
Sandy In Kihei

From: [Scott Jepson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F3 testimony
Date: Sunday, December 3, 2023 3:03:38 PM

Aloha

I support a complete ban of fish collecting for the Aquarium pet trade since our coral reefs are so stressed as it is. Thank you for your attention and consideration before it's too late.

Ernest Jepson

From: [Marielis Jepson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F3 testimony
Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023 2:16:44 PM

My name is Marielis Jepson, I live in Kihei on the South Shore of Maui, I'm 73 years old and have been swimming in Hawaiian waters for 39 years. When I first came to Maui in 1984 the water everywhere was clear with healthy reefs and countless tropical fish and other sea life. I swim a mile in the ocean at the Ahi Kinau Marine reserve 3 days a week. Over the last 6 years there has sadly been a shockingly significant decline in the health of the coral reefs and the diversity and abundance of reef fish, sharks, turtles, eels and rays.

Several significant bleaching events, silt filled runoff from heavy rain on our drought impacted southern slopes of Haleakala, and ocean water that is too warm have all contributed to the decline of the reefs. One thing we can still control is stopping the aquarium collection trade.

I support a complete ban of fish collecting for the Aquarium pet trade since our coral reefs are so stressed as it is. Thank you for your attention and consideration before it's too late.

From: [Jason Jenkins](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPPOSE agenda item F3
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 4:31:56 PM

Attn: Chair Chang, and BLNR

Do not ban aquarium fishing, manage it. It's been verified as sustainable and the science and people of Hawaii support it.

Thank you,
Jason Jenkins

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Jones, Kevin](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DAR item F3
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 5:14:03 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Opposed to DAR Item F 3. (Petition Prohibit Aquarium Fishing)

Please do not pass DAR Item F3. (Send short simple testimony as many individuals that can by Tuesday 12-5-23 PM to)

blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Aloha My name is Kevin Jones

I am opposed to F3 petition to ban the aquarium fishery. The fishery has done everything right. That is why it is considered a “model fishery”. It has worked with the state to create act 306, FRA system, worked for decades with WHFC (West Hawaii Fishery council) to create management laws, worked with DAR researchers to do more rules making 2015 management laws, all to ensure sustainability and low environmental impacts.

Not only has the fishery been deemed sustainable but also, takes only small fish leaving breeders, leaves all large eating fish for Hawaiians, has bag limits, gear restrictions, 33% FRA West Hawaii Closures, does not affect corals, has not impacted herbivore populations, and has been scientifically proven to be sustainable with 20 years of fish counts. Fish populations overall were increasing for all major targeted species.

Please do not pass DAR item F3

Thanks,

Kevin Jones

Sales Representative

6180 Big Bend Road | Gibsonton, FL 33534

☎ 800-237-9317 ext. 1259 SEGRESTINC.COM



From: [Mary L Keller](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda F.3Testimony: Let the Fish Be:
Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023 7:14:13 AM

There is absolutely no reason to continue allowing fish to be removed from Hawaii's waters for sale for aquariums. Why should profit for private enterprises be more important than guarding our threatened ocean and its ecology? Every year the waters have fewer species, the coral dies more, fisherman take creatures heedlessly, and the quality of the water continues to deteriorate

Please do the right thing and protect Hawaii's fish and their habitat. Let the fish be. Do not allow capitalism to rule over the natural order!

Aloha from Mary Keller
41 Meha Place
Paia, HI 96779
508 280 4099

From: [Diane Kim](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: [Diane Kim](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023 11:05:56 PM

I am writing in response to the decision to end tropical fish aquarium collection once and for all. All the reasons have been stated over and over. Collecting poor little tropical fish from our ocean serves no purpose. Many of the collected fish do not even survive the journey. Leave the fish where they are meant to be at home in their ocean. We all understand what devastating events in the ecosystem take place when the natural balance of nature is upset by unnecessary human greed. The ocean, reefs and other natural parts of the underwater environment need to be protected for the larger good. If people want to see the beautiful tropical fish they can come to Hawaii and snorkel or dive to visit them.

My hope is that we put an end to aquarium collection. Let's do the right thing for once.

Sincerely, a VERY concerned Hawaii resident,

Diane W Kim
Kailua-Kona, Big Island

From: [Knight, Lisa](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F3
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 10:27:32 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Chari Chang and The Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I oppose agenda item F3

Thank you,

Lisa Knight

Staff Accountant
P.O. Box 758 | Gibsonton, FL 33534
☎ 800-237-9317 ext. 1232 SEGRESTINC.COM



From: [Ann Kobsa](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023 9:23:01 AM

Aloha Board Members,

Mahalo for taking the time to contemplate and receive input on this important issue.

I am strongly opposed to any harvesting of marine life for entertainment purposes, ie, the aquarium trade. In my opinion it is simply wrong to take wild animals from nature and put them in tanks for human amusement. Those animals belong in our nearshore ecosystems and are missed when they are taken. The animals also suffer in captivity, living sad, impoverished lives.

In these times of existential crisis, we must only allow essential resource taking. The aquarium trade is in no way essential and I feel we would be much better off without it.

I am strongly in favor of an immediate and permanent ban of harvesting of marine life in Hawai'i for the aquarium trade.

Sincerely,
Ann Kobsa, PhD, Biologist
Koa'e, Puna, Hawai'i Island

From: [Janice Kopff](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Banning aquarium fishing industry
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 2:59:48 PM

ATTN: Chair Chang and the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Re: the proposal before B L N R to ban aquarium fish collecting in HI.

TDAR and the A G oppose this measure. Environmental Impact studies have been completed by professionals numerous times and all conclude the industry is sustainable .

Now the opposition is saying those studies do not matter! What? They most absurdely are valuable to measure any possible detriment to the ocean! They not been able to secure a ban at the correct venue, the Hawaii Legislature and not to continue by going to the BLNR.

I am a part time resident of Kona, HI and absolutely oppose F3 and support the aquarium industry in Hawaii.

Janice Kopff

From: [Charlene Kretz](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPPOSED TO DAR ITEM F3!!!!
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 12:28:59 PM

Aloha!! My name is Charlene Kretz...

I am opposed to F3 petition to ban the aquarium fishery. The fishery has done everything right. That is why it is considered a “model fishery”. It has worked with the state to create act 306, FRA system, worked for decades with WHFC (West Hawaii Fishery council) to create management laws, worked with DAR researchers to do more rules making 2015 management laws, all to ensure sustainability and low environmental impacts.

Not only has the fishery been deemed sustainable but also, takes only small fish leaving breeders, leaves all large eating fish for Hawaiians, has bag limits, gear restrictions, 33% FRA West Hawaii Closures, does not affect corals, has not impacted herbivore populations, and has been scientifically proven to be sustainable with 20 years of fish counts. Fish populations overall were increasing for all major targeted species.

Please do not pass DAR item F3

Thank you,
Charlene Kretz

From: [Bredesin Kretz](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please do not pass DAR item F3
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 1:50:38 PM

Aloha My name is Bredesin Kretz

I am opposed to F3 petition to ban the aquarium fishery. The fishery has done everything right. That is why it is considered a “model fishery”. It has worked with the state to create act 306, FRA system, worked for decades with WHFC (West Hawaii Fishery council) to create management laws, worked with DAR researchers to do more rules making 2015 management laws, all to ensure sustainability and low environmental impacts.

Not only has the fishery been deemed sustainable but also, takes only small fish leaving breeders, leaves all large eating fish for Hawaiians, has bag limits, gear restrictions, 33% FRA West Hawaii Closures, does not affect corals, has not impacted herbivore populations, and has been scientifically proven to be sustainable with 20 years of fish counts. Fish populations overall were increasing for all major targeted species.

Please do not pass DAR item F3

Thanks Bredesin Kretz

From: [Landin Kretz](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposed to DAR F3
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 4:59:31 PM

Opposed to DAR Item F 3. (Petition Prohibit Aquarium Fishing)

Please do not pass DAR Item F3.

blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Aloha My name is Landin

I am opposed to F3 petition to ban the aquarium fishery. The fishery has done everything right. That is why it is considered a “model fishery”. It has worked with the state to create act 306, FRA system, worked for decades with WHFC (West Hawaii Fishery council) to create management laws, worked with DAR researchers to do more rules making 2015 management laws, all to ensure sustainability and low environmental impacts.

Not only has the fishery been deemed sustainable but also, takes only small fish leaving breeders, leaves all large eating fish for Hawaiians, has bag limits, gear restrictions, 33% FRA West Hawaii Closures, does not affect corals, has not impacted herbivore populations, and has been scientifically proven to be sustainable with 20 years of fish counts. Fish populations overall were increasing for all major targeted species.

Please do not pass DAR item F3

Thanks for your consideration

Respectfully,

Landin Kretz

From: [Stacy Kretz](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposed to DAR Item F 3
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 6:53:05 PM

Aloha,

Opposed to DAR Item F 3. (Petition Prohibit Aquarium Fishing)

Please do not pass DAR Item F3.

Please allow the people who have been making a living this way continue to do so.

Thank you,
Stacy Kretz

From: [Keynin Kretz](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposed to DAR f3
Date: Sunday, December 3, 2023 7:45:16 AM

Keynin Kretz B.S. UHM

The loss of my sustainable aquarium fishing job due to misinformation is a tough pill to take. It has created a big hardship for me and my family. Please do not pass DAR F3.

According to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §13-1-26 Petitions for adoption, amendment, or repeal of rules.

There is clearly not enough legal merit, subject matter, cultural proof, scientific proof and reasoning for seeking the adoption of F3.

The statute requirements based on previous exhaustive review and previous passage of the [West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery full 1585 page HEPA](#) and passage of the complete exhaustive 6-year Cultural assessment (CIA) by the fishery are more than enough to counter the petitioners unscientific, no journal links, and non-peer reviewed biased based cultural claims submitted by the petitioner.

The Petitioner also ignores science, distorts science, discounts an extensive CIA, complete cultural assessment and uses old 2009 DAR reports quoted in their petition. The more recent [2020 Report to the Legislature](#) showed significant increased fish counts not shown in the 2009 report. Yellow tangs and Kole tangs huge population increases during aquarium fishing periods totally counters their herbivore depletion petition argument.

As per HRS statute §13-1-26 all “facts, views, arguments, and

data” deemed relevant by petitioner are insufficient to counter past decision by BLNR, the Hawaii Supreme Court, the Hawaii State Legislature, and the Governor of Hawaii. All of which after many exhaustive hearings, spanning over 20 years, refused to ban the fishery; why, because it was a “model fishery”, sustainable, low impact and valuable. The user group conflicts are from activist tourist businesses who get paid to see pretty reef fishes. It is not a cultural or ecological issue, it has never been one, but they are trying to make it one for business profit.

Now that the fishery has done its exhaustive West Hawaii HEPA review and passed in a previous BLNR hearing, the petitioners are asking you to repeal decisions spanning over 20 years. The petitioners’ lawsuits against the state, costing hundreds of thousands of dollars in state legal fees, hundreds of thousands more in fishers HEPA fees, and complete review of the fishery that ensued after the Supreme court one sided, no science presented, decision; the petition is now asking you to ignore all those legal rulings. They also want you to unconstitutionally ban a proven sustainable, HEPA approved, valuable fishery for insufficient reasons.

The petition does not provide enough scientific basis, no quoted journals, peer reviewed science and no cultural assessment, to counter the 6-year exhaustive West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery HEPA passage.

The petition to close the fishery fails to provide enough “**facts, views, arguments, and data**” to counter the support of BLNR past HEPA passage, past Legislative decision, Governor decisions and Supreme court decisions.

Also, they want you to ignore testimony, and the huge amount of science in support of the fishery by 21 leading marine biologists who supported peer reviewed scientific facts stating the fishery was

“sustainable” and all the science from DAR with thousands of fish counts spanning decades and the exhaustive DLNR reports to the legislature every 5 years. The Hawaii Aquarium Fishery is the most studied fishery in the world.

DAR also opposes this petition.

The petition has not met legal merits and therefore, the ruling should be **“no request for the issuance, amendment, or repeal of a rule which does not conform to the requirements set forth above shall be considered by the board”**. As per HRS statute §13-1-26

I would strongly Caution you to not believe Anti Aquarium fish proponents. Here is a good example. The petitioner says in their petition herbivore fish are declining due to the aquarium fishery. They even try to hide the truth using old reports and science.

Here is what those facts really are from the [2020 DLNR West Hawaii Report To the Legislature](#):

Page 28 “Overall **Yellow Tang** abundance in the 30’-60’ depth range over the entire West Hawai’i coast is

estimated to have increased by over 3.4 million fish from 1999/2000 to 2017/2018 **(150% increase)**

to a current population of about 5.7 million fish within this depth range alone.”

Page 37 “Overall **Kole** abundance in the 30’-60’ depth range over the

entire West Hawai'i coast is estimated

to have **increased 118%** (>5.1 million fish) during this time period with a current estimated

population of almost 9.6 million fish. As with Yellow Tang, summer 2014 recruitment for Kole

in many areas was very strong. Recruitment at the Manuka survey site for example was 254%

higher than on any other previous survey at the site over the last 20 years.”

<https://files.hawaii.gov/dlnr/reports-to-the-legislature/2020/AR20-WHRFMA-Rpt-FY19.pdf>

Please do not pass item F3 it is not pono (the sustainable fishery does not affect eating fish populations or detrimentally effect the environment), unconstitutional and illegal.

Thanks,

Keynin Kretz

From: [Fred Kuch](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: [Jonnetta Peters](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023 1:51:49 AM

Please take the steps to stop this poaching. There are many things beyond our control, but the taking of aquarium fish for profit is something those in authority can do something about.

How much of life do we have to destroy before we realize what we are doing to ourselves?

Sincerely,
Fred Kuch, Ph.D.
Las Vegas, NV
Yearly visitor to the Islands

From: [Ginger Kwan](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for agenda item F-3
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 7:07:12 AM

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.

As a Kanaka Maoli myself, I stand with my Indigenous People 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,
Ginger Kwan

From: [Doug Leung](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Input for aquarium fisheries hearing
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 11:18:49 AM

I have been an aquarium and business owner for over 50 years on the mainland. After retiring to Hawaii, before the restrictions were in place to ban collection, it had seemed too overbearing and devoid of scientific scrutiny.

It is so bad now, that there are many fellow hobbyist who have skirted the rules (coral keeping especially), which only helps to pad the pockets of mainland suppliers and shippers vs Hawaiian ones. It also makes things much more expensive for all .

So this ban had only hurt the individual hobbyist, and the workers in the Aquarium industry, without alleviating any impact on the natural wild population.

It's time to open it up to limited collection permits, to see if what you have proposed was right or was just a bunch of tree huggers speaking out loud.

Sincerely,
D. Leung
Honolulu 96815
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Eddie Lopez](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose agenda item F3
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 6:35:55 AM

OPPOSE agenda item F3

Attn: Chair Chang, and BLNR

Do not ban aquarium fishing, manage it. It's been verified as sustainable and the science and people of Hawaii support it.

Write your name
Eddie Lopez

From: [Luken, Alan](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BLNR Item F3
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 10:21:08 AM

Chair chang and the board of land and natural resources,

I am opposed to agenda item F3. This is merely an attempt to subvert existing legal processes that have ruled on aquarium fishing in Hawaii. I'd urge the chair and board to reject this item.

Regards,
Alan Luken

From: [Roberto Macias](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose F3
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 7:03:21 AM

Attn Chair Chang and BLNR

Please do not ban fishing and manage it and I very much believe in the science behind it.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Roberto Macias

From: [S.A. Marek](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#); [CAPITOL2023-seninouye](#); [CAPITOL2023-senrichards](#); [CAPITOL2023-reptarnas](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Protect wildlife, reef fish in Hawaii are not pets
Date: Sunday, December 3, 2023 6:06:28 PM

Aloha,

It's time for a permanent ban on commercial collection of Hawaii's reef fish. They're wildlife, not pets.

Once that ban is in place (yay) I can stop writing in every week to you folks, and perhaps have time to contemplate the very unreal threat of intergalactic Space Wombats.

Happy swimming,

Sherry A. Marek
Big Island resident

“Our priority should be to understand the fragile wonders of life on Earth and do our best to ensure that we do not damage the ecosystem even further.”

-Matthew Cobb, zoologist, from the essay “Alone in the Universe: The Improbability of Alien Civilisations”

From: [Nancy Maupin](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, December 1, 2023 2:44:34 PM

My name is Nancy Maupin and I live on the west side of the Big Island in Waikoloa. After living here for 20 years, I have recently seen a dramatic change in the coral and fish populations. Several bleaching events have devastated the reef and both coral and fish need protection in order to thrive. A healthy reef is not only important for our food supply but is an important part of the economy through the tourism trade. The aquarium fish trade is destructive to the reef ecosystem and needs to be stopped in order to let the reef recover.

Mahalo,
Nancy Maupin

From: [Jim](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] End Taking of Hawaii's Fish
Date: Friday, December 1, 2023 8:24:07 PM

My name is Jim McDonnell, I live in Waimea on the Big Island. I swim and snorkel in our magnificent ocean on a regular basis. Please help with your kokua, to end taking fish for aquarium use . Too many fish have been taken in the past and it must be stopped.

Thank you, Jim McDonnell

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Mary Metcalf](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023 8:28:01 AM

To the Honorable Board of Land & Natural Resources,

I am opposed to any collection of Hawaii's reef wildlife by the aquarium pet collection trade.

Hawaii's reef fish are facing existential threats from unabated climate change caused by humans, including major threats to their coral reef habitat. These threats do not need to be compounded by a purely greed driven human practice that is akin to slave trade with high mortality rates of the captured reef fish.

By stopping this inane practice, these otherwise doomed reef fish can help moderate algae overgrowth that kills coral reefs, which is forecast to increase with climate change. They can help ensure the future generations of reef fish, for viewing and enjoyment by both residents and tourists in Hawaii.

The Try Wait rest period on Hawaii Island has successfully demonstrated that we can help return health and abundance to our coral reef communities by respecting and supporting the wildlife in our reefs.

Please say NO to the abduction of Hawaii's reef wildlife.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Metcalf
Kailua Kona, Hawaii Island

From: [G Metz](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, December 1, 2023 2:41:31 PM

My name is Glenn Metzler and I live in Keaau on Hawaii Island.

I oppose any aquarium fishing in Hawaii waters. There are many studies and reports in Hawaii and around the world of drastic loss of biodiversity and animal population numbers in habitats both marine and terrestrial, and of coral reefs dying. Collecting aquarium fish contributes to these losses. Taking fish from Hawaii's coral reefs for the aquarium trade reduces reef health and results in a loss of enjoyment for snorkelers and divers and fewer fish for Hawaiian fishermen. There have also been reports of physical degradation of reefs by aquarium fishermen.

Thank you.

From: [Cathy Miles](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023 5:55:02 AM

My name is Cathy Miles. I live in Kailua-Kona, HI. Over the past 25 years or more, I have seen the reef fish populations plummet, in large part due to collection by aquarium hunters. I have especially seen yellow tang populations diminish. This is an insult to our islands.

I advocate that we preserve our cultural and natural resources, and put a permanent ban on the aquarium trade in order to preserve/replenish the health of our beloved reefs.

Thank you for carrying my voice forward,

Cathy Miles
Kailua-Kona

From: [Cambria Moss](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023 9:53:18 PM

It should be illegal with stiff fines to capture or damage our reef inhabitants for the aquarium trade or any other reason!! And no more taco fishing, they are as intelligent as our pets at home.

Have compassion and a conscience, for future generations. WHY ARE WE STILL ALLOWING THIS?!?!

Mahalo for you service to protect our 'Aina and ocean creatures

Cambria Moss
Wailea, Maui, Hawaii
MauiSunsetMusic.com



From: [Irene Newhouse](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Sunday, December 3, 2023 4:33:27 AM

Prohibit collecting sea life for aquarium trade!! The fatality rate among caught animals is phenomenal. What a waste!

Irene Newhouse
129 Walua Place
Kihei HI 96753
808 264 6977

From: [malc.nunn](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposed to DAR Item F 3. (Petition Prohibit Aquarium Fishing
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 1:44:29 PM

Aloha My name is Malcolm Nunn

I am opposed to F3 petition to ban the aquarium fishery. The fishery has done everything right. That is why it is considered a "model fishery". It has worked with the state to create act 306, FRA system, worked for decades with WHFC (West Hawaii Fishery council) to create management laws, worked with DAR researchers to do more rules making 2015 management laws, all to ensure sustainability and low environmental impacts.

Not only has the fishery been deemed sustainable but also, takes only small fish leaving breeders, leaves all large eating fish for Hawaiians, has bag limits, gear restrictions, 33% FRA West Hawaii Closures, does not affect corals, has not impacted herbivore populations, and has been scientifically proven to be sustainable with 20 years of fish counts. Fish populations overall were increasing for all major targeted species.

Please do not pass DAR item F3

Thanks

Malcolm



Board of Land and Natural Resources
Regarding Agenda Item F. 3

Kalanihale's, KUPA Friends of Ho'okena Beach Park's, Moana 'Ohana, Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club's, and For the Fishes' Petition for Rulemaking to Prohibit the Take of Marine Life for Commercial Aquarium Purposes (With Exemptions).

November 9, 2023

9:15 a.m.

Online via ZOOM

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Administration files this testimony in **SUPPORT** of the Native Hawaiian and marine protection groups formal petition to the BLNR to enact rules to prohibit collection of reef wildlife for the aquarium pet trade. OHA **strongly recommends** the Department of Land and Natural Resources – Division of Aquatic Resources to begin rulemaking and hold public hearings on the petitioner's proposal to end the aquarium pet trade in the State of Hawai'i.

Article XII, §7 of the State of Hawai'i's Constitution affirms and protects the Native Hawaiian rights, customarily and traditionally exercised for subsistence, cultural and religious purposes, therefore Native Hawaiian rights must take precedent over and above the aquarium pet trade extractive activities for profit. OHA also notes that the aquarium trade has historically taken more herbivores than subsistence, recreational, and food fishers combined. This is excessive and not sustainable especially given the increasing climate challenges to our near shore reefs and ecosystems. The BLNR has an affirmative duty to uphold the State's Constitution.

Many Native Hawaiians regard ocean habitants as kinolau – physical embodiments as described in the Kumulipo and other cosmogonic chants. Therefore, for Native Hawaiians ocean wildlife is not only sacred and endeared but are considered our 'ohana.

OHA values meaningful engagement and consultation and supports the continued protection of our vital resources through rulemaking and public hearings. Mahalo, for the opportunity to comment on this important matter.

From: [Peggy Oki](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 9:57:53 PM

Dear honorable decision makers,

I am writing as I stand with Native Hawaiian and marine protection groups in permanently ending commercial aquarium collection in Hawai'i.

The Hawai'i aquarium trade has been catching reef fish for U.S. and global hobby tanks for decades. There have been no catch limits, no limit on the number of catchers, and no constraints on rare, endemic or vanishing species. Fish advocates report that the number of fish has decreased drastically, affecting the hierarchy of marine wildlife, and believe removing fish from their natural habitat should be forbidden.

Hawaii's tourist economy will benefit from healthy biodiversity in the reef habitat.

I strongly urge the Board to support a full ban on aquarium collection.

Sincerely,
Peggy Oki

From: [Aaron Pagan](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 3:12:51 PM

ATTN: Chair Chang and BLNR

Do not ban aquarium fishing, manage it. It's been verified as sustainable and the science and people of Hawaii support it

Aaron Pagan

From: [Benton Pang](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item F.3 - Environmental Impact of the Aquarium Trade
Date: Friday, December 1, 2023 4:56:22 PM

Subject: Testimony on Agenda Item F.3 - Environmental Impact of the Aquarium Trade - Urging Board Approval and Rulemaking

Aloha DLNR Board,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Benton Kealiikiamoku Pang, and I am writing in my personal capacity to provide testimony on Agenda Item F.3 regarding the environmental impact of the aquarium trade. I am deeply concerned about the consequences of this industry, particularly in South West O‘ahu and across the Hawaiian Islands.

Over the years, we have witnessed the collapse of yellow tang populations, the intentional breaking of coral, illegal poaching, and the depletion of marine species, all attributed to the aquarium trade. The recently published cost/benefit analysis emphasizes the disproportionate burden on residents without any tangible benefits.

It is disheartening to note the disregard for cultural values and the persistent neglect of opposing facts in Environmental Impact Statements. This raises serious questions about the credibility and ethics of the trade.

I urge the Department of Aquatic Resources to take immediate action to address these concerns, implement stringent regulations, and promote sustainable alternatives. Our marine ecosystems are at a critical juncture, and it is imperative to prioritize their preservation.

Therefore, I urge the DLNR Board to approve the petition and direct the Department of Aquatic Resources to commence rulemaking aimed at establishing comprehensive regulations for the aquarium trade. This step is crucial in ensuring our marine ecosystems' long-term health and sustainability.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the DLNR Board will consider the aquarium trade's long-term environmental and cultural implications.

Aloha 'Āina,

Benton Kealiikiamoku Pang, Ph.D.
3204 Carlos Long St.
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816
mokumanamana@gmail.com
808-349-3636

From: [Roxann Parran](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3
Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023 10:27:35 AM

Dear BLNR Members:

I support a rule ending Commercial Aquarium Collection. I live in Kailua, Oahu and also along the South Kohala Coast of Hawaii Island. I have 40 years here as a diver and a snorkeler. I have travelled all over the world just to see fish in their natural habitats. Hawaii's waters are very spartan for fish life in comparison. Once, on a paid dive trip along the Kona Coast, I was shocked to witness someone collecting fish and damaging the reef in the process, right in front of us!

We can have a rich reef life, for locals and tourists alike, to enjoy. By protecting the fish and reefs, Hawaii could be known as a travel destination for healthy fish populations. The Aquarium Collection Industry takes away from MANY to have an amazing experience on the reef for the benefit of a few. The Industry has a lot of waste, as many of the fish die in transport/capture and it is an industry that is difficult to monitor with few State resources.

Roxann Parran

From: [Matt Pedersen](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Do not pass DAR Item F3
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 5:26:10 PM

Hello, my name is Matt Pedersen. I'm an aquarist with 41 years of experience, as well as a lifelong angler and flyfisherman. I'm very aware of the techniques and methodologies leveraged by agencies like Hawaii's DLNR/DAR to manage the use of natural resources, specifically fisheries, in a sound, sustainable manner.

I am also well aware of year after year of unrelenting attempts to shutter the state's marine aquarium fishery, an effort put forth by groups who are willing to ignore facts and science when it comes to this matter. I am also aware that their prejudice towards the aquarium fishery is quite clear, as they see it as wrong to harvest a fish such as an Achilles Tang for scientific or aquaristic purposes, which can result in economic value of several hundred dollars per fish, but see nothing objectionable to killing that same fish as food, even to be sold in local markets for dollars per pound.

It is clear that this is a biased, emotional argument, and does not take into consideration the economic benefits of the aquarium trade, all else being equal. Meanwhile, it seems only logical that if a fish such as an Achilles Tang is to be harvested, that a harvest that generates hundreds of dollars of revenue, vs. slim to none, is in the better interest of the state's economic well being. I am still waiting for these same groups to file lawsuits to stop spearfishing or recreational angling on the same grounds that they require Environmental Impact Statements.....oh wait...it's only the marine aquarium fishery that is subject to this, according to them? They don't feel that killing mature reef fish, the "breeders" is a problem, but taking a few juveniles is? The hypocrisy is blatant, and damning. Their motives are clear, and indefensible. It is time we stop giving those opposed solely to the aquarium trade an undue amount of influence.

I am sure you'll see wording similar to what I'm about to include coming from many people in support of the state's decades of sustainable management of the aquarium fishery. Frankly, I feel that the state agency tasked with overseeing this fishery has done an exemplary job, and should be fully entrusted to continue the management of the fishery unfettered by endless baseless attacks that ignore the science. Therefore, I will include a portion of the pre-prepared message that is being circulated, because I do wish to add my own voice of support to it. Therefore, be it know:

I am opposed to F3 petition to ban the aquarium fishery. The fishery has done everything right. That is why it is considered a "model fishery" [called by some the "Gold Standard" of marine aquarium fisheries around the world over]. It has worked with the state to create act 306, FRA system, worked for decades with WHFC (West Hawaii Fishery council) to create management laws, worked with DAR researchers to do more rules making 2015 management laws, all to ensure sustainability and low environmental impacts.

Not only has the fishery been deemed sustainable but also, takes only small fish leaving

breeders, leaves all large eating fish for Hawaiians, has bag limits, gear restrictions, 33% FRA West Hawaii Closures, does not affect corals, has not impacted herbivore populations, and has been scientifically proven to be sustainable with 20 years of fish counts. Fish populations overall were increasing for all major targeted species.

In conclusion, I once again find myself simply imploring decision makers to ignore people who shout as loud as they can but will openly ignore the facts on the ground. As such, do not further entertain DAR Item F 3, the Petition to Prohibit Aquarium Fishing, instead dismiss it and focus instead on the actual problems facing Hawaii's costal waterways and coral reefs.

Best Regards,

Matt Pedersen

From: [Mike Pedersen](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Coco Palms redevelopment support, Agenda Item 6
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 8:09:55 AM

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

My name is Mike Pedersen and I am writing to state my support for the restoration of the Coco Palms and the disposition of lands to RP21.

These lands are designated as part of the Coco Palms Resort Historic District under the national and state historic register. These same lands have been assigned to the owners of the Coco Palms Resort since 1962 and as a result, these lands should continue their historic use.

For the last 30 years since Coco Palms was devastated by Iniki, Kauai County Councils, Kauai Mayors, County Planning Commissions, Kauai Planning Departments and even prior Boards of Land and Natural Resources have all consistently taken action or adopted policies in support of the Resort's restoration.

In less than two years since acquiring Coco Palms and its affiliated entity RP21, the new ownership group, Reef Capital has sought to turn around decades of failure by past owners and correct prior failures.

The decision before BLNR is not whether to approve the restoration of Coco Palms, that approval was already given years ago by the County. Now, BLNR has the opportunity to approve Coco Palms to utilize these lands for the benefit of the community. For these reasons, I urge the BLNR to approve the recommendations in the staff report for disposition of these parcels.

I am excited to see the restoration of Coco Palms and the benefit that it will bring to Kauai through jobs, cultural activities and the planned cultural center and museum.

Thanks,

--

Mike Pedersen

From: [FIDEL PEREZ](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please do not pass DAR Item F3.
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 1:28:46 PM

Please do not pass DAR Item F3.

Aloha My name is Fidel Perez

I am opposed to F3 petition to ban the aquarium fishery. The fishery has done everything right. That is why it is considered a "model fishery". It has worked with the state to create act 306, FRA system, worked for decades with WHFC (West Hawaii Fishery council) to create management laws, worked with DAR researchers to do more rules making 2015 management laws, all to ensure sustainability and low environmental impacts.

Not only has the fishery been deemed sustainable but also, takes only small fish leaving breeders, leaves all large eating fish for Hawaiians, has bag limits, gear restrictions, 33% FRA West Hawaii Closures, does not affect corals, has not impacted herbivore populations, and has been scientifically proven to be sustainable with 20 years of fish counts. Fish populations overall were increasing for all major targeted species.

Please do not pass DAR item F3

Thanks

Fidel Perez

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Bob](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DAR Item F3 - Opposed
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 12:37:20 PM

I oppose DAR Item F3: Petition to ban aquarium fishery, for the following reasons:

“Less than 2% of total catch in Maui was attributed to the aquarium fishery.”

Dr. DAN A. POLHEMUS,

Division of Aquatic Resources,

DLNR Hawaii,

1151 Punchbowl St. Honolulu, HI 96813

[2020 DLNR West Hawaii Report To the Legislature:](#)

Pg. 28 “Overall **Yellow Tang** abundance in the 30’-60’ depth range over the entire West Hawai’i coast is estimated to have increased by over 3.4 million fish from 1999/2000 to 2017/2018 (**150% increase**) to a current population of about 5.7 million fish within this depth range alone.”

Pg. 37 “Overall **Kole** abundance in the 30’-60’ depth range over the entire West Hawai’i coast is estimated to have **increased 118%** (>5.1 million fish) during this time period with a current estimated population of almost 9.6 million fish. As with Yellow Tang, summer 2014 recruitment for Kole in many areas was very strong. Recruitment at the Manuka survey site for example was 254% higher than on any other previous survey at the site over the last 20 years.”

<https://files.hawaii.gov/dlnr/reports-to-the-legislature/2020/AR20-WHRFMA-Rpt-FY19.pdf>

Aquarium fishery in Hawaii is a “model fishery”.

- 1) It worked with the state to create Act 306, FRA system;
- 2) It worked for decades with WHFC (West Hawaii Fishery council) to create management laws;

3) It worked with DAR researchers to do more rules making 2015 management laws, all to ensure

sustainability and low environmental impacts.

4) The fishery is deemed sustainable and

a) takes only small fish, leaving breeders, and all large eating fish for Hawaiians,

b) maintains bag limits and gear restrictions,

c) 33% FRA West Hawaii Closures,

d) does not affect corals,

e) successfully avoids impacting herbivore populations,

f) has been scientifically proven to be sustainable, with 20 years of fish counts.

g) Fish populations overall have increased for all major targeted species.

5) It harms the honest livelihood of everyone who depends on it.

Please do not pass DAR Item F3.

Thank you.

Bob.

From: [Mary Marvin Porter](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F-3 Testimony of Support for Rulemaking to Prohibit Commercial Aquarium Collection in Hawai'i
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 7:02:29 AM

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

Please ban aquarium collection in Hawai'i State and uphold the DLNR policy code, Hierarchy of Uses Principle. As a resident of Hilo side of Hawai'i Island since 1994, I have been snorkeling yearly all around the island. Unfortunately, I have seen the fish population diminish through the years. All around the world, the fish populations are decreasing. We need to do everything possible to protect our coral reefs and increase our fish population.

There are many stressors on our reefs, more buildings resulting in silt run off, more storms and hurricanes breaking up the corals, and now climate change resulting in warming and acidification of the ocean. Given the multiple human caused 'stressors,' any stressors that we can control or eliminate such as the aquarium fishery would be a big help in the recovery process!

Our herbivore species perform a critical function for our coral. We need reef species in abundance for food, to increase coral resilience, and stabilize our ocean ecosystems. There is widespread illegal poaching that the aquarium trade admits is continuing to this day. Seven aquarium collectors have been charged with poaching more than 1,000 fish.

As part of long-term planning for sustainability we need to end the catching of fish for aquariums. Now is the time to do everything possible to protect and try to expand our fish population. Please protect our ocean ecology for future generations.

Sincerely,
Mary Marvin Porter
Island Eyes Video
HCR 1, Box 5505
Kea'au, Hawai'i 96749

From: [Poznaniak, Missy](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposed to DAR Item F 3. (Petition Prohibit Aquarium Fishing)
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 5:05:55 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Aloha My name is Missy Poznaniak

I am opposed to F3 petition to ban the aquarium fishery. The fishery has done everything right. That is why it is considered a "model fishery". It has worked with the state to create act 306, FRA system, worked for decades with WHFC (West Hawaii Fishery council) to create management laws, worked with DAR researchers to do more rules making 2015 management laws, all to ensure sustainability and low environmental impacts.

Not only has the fishery been deemed sustainable but also, takes only small fish leaving breeders, leaves all large eating fish for Hawaiians, has bag limits, gear restrictions, 33% FRA West Hawaii Closures, does not affect corals, has not impacted herbivore populations, and has been scientifically proven to be sustainable with 20 years of fish counts. Fish populations overall were increasing for all major targeted species.

Please do not pass DAR item F3

Thanks



Missy Poznaniak

Segrest Farms Sales Representative

PO Box 758 Gibsonton, FL 33534

☎ 813.677.9196 ext 1236 📠 813.494.1628 text capable SEGRESTINC.COM



From: [Martha Randolph](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stop Aquarian Trade in Hawaiian waters
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 7:31:24 PM

Dear Board of Land and Natural Resources

It is almost unbelievable that with all the damage being done to coral reefs by environmental change, overheated waters, exposure to UV rays, direct poisoning of the Ocean, both natural as in run off and accidental as in toxic spills and illegal dumping, Hawaii has not yet banned all reef fish collecting in our State.

You already have the figures of decimated species, which like all natural species have a specific role to play in keeping those reefs healthy. Some of them like the Yellow Tang have been successfully raised under aqua culture conditions and do not have to be harvested in the wild.

Native Hawaiian practices will have to stop if this decimation continues. For What? The profiteering of mainland or international Aquarium Suppliers? The few local suppliers who obviously do not care how over fished the reefs are already? RICH People of any ethnicity who, because they have the money, chose to indulge themselves and bring the beautiful world of Coral reefs to their livingroom, to show off to friends and family? Why don't they come to Hawaii and visit the reefs in the wild? They don't because they do not have to. They will pay tens of thousands of dollars for a short lived fish which may even die on the trip over. Do they care? No they just buy another.

STOP listening to Aquarium suppliers from the mainland who do not care if the entire state is washed away because our reefs eventually die off. They do not live here. Listen to the protests of people who live here, act now to stop what will be a disaster before it becomes too late.

ON MAUI local legislators and business people did not even read the reports they paid for and act on them... then came the winds and the fire and the destruction of Lahaina. Do not be one of those people who a decade or so from now, remembers the wrong decision they made when the ocean wipes out the coastal areas. Or the tourists stop coming and the food fish industry suffers because all the reef fish are no longer sustainable in the wild. ACT NOW. STOP REEF FISHING FOR AQUARIUM FISH.

Martha E Randolph
Precinct 2 Rep, District 27 Council
DPH Environmental Caucus SCC Representative
Member of Legislative Priorities Committee
Democratic Party of Hawaii

808-284-0264

From: [Dulice Reden](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: [Sue Kellam](#); [Robert Culbertson](#); [Steve Monahan](#); [Susan Olson](#); [Jon Lundgren](#); [Pamela Huey](#); [Ken Obenski](#); [Cindy Obenski](#); [Diane Ware](#); [Kathleen Johnson](#); [Betsy Morgan](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda, F3 testimony, aquarium, fishing
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 2:52:28 PM

We strongly urge that commercial aquarium fishing be completely banned in the state of Hawaii. It is a cruel and environmentally disastrous practice for our beautiful islands and its waters. There is no benefit to this practice, except to fill the greedy hands of the collectors in those who purchased these fish, these beautiful gems that live in our oceans. It violates native practices, and robs the islands for generations to come, of a vital resource set is critical to maintaining our reefs. We urge a permanent ban of aquarium fishing to preserve one of our most critical and important resources. This This practice is a rape, an unnecessary exploitation, a damaging and cruel practice that should not ever continue on our islands, t there is no benefit, but only but only harm as a result, Sincerely, and respectfully,
Dulice Reden, David Dye
Kaohe Bay (pebble Beach)
87-3 197 Japonica Rd.,
Captain Cook, HI 96704
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Patricia Richardson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F.3 Testimony
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 8:18:40 AM

My name is Patricia Richardson. I live in Hilo on Hawaii Island. I am a volunteer reef fish surveyor and spend hours each week in the ocean, documenting the diversity of life on our reefs.

It is ecologically immoral and should be illegal for a few aquarium fish collectors to destroy the natural balance of our reef fish population. Not only are thousands of fish ripped from their home on the reef, but a large percentage die before they ever reach a home aquarium. We need a healthy and diverse reef fish population to maintain a healthy coral environment and a healthy ocean.

I urge the DLNR, the BLNR, and the DAR to support the total ban on the commercial aquarium fish industry.

From: [Ryan Rothwell](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPPOSE: Agenda Item F3
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 6:52:00 PM

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

I hope this message finds you in good health. I am writing to respectfully request a reconsideration of the proposed ban on aquarium fishing in Hawaii. Rather than implementing a ban, I propose exploring alternative measures that can promote sustainability while allowing for the responsible practice of aquarium fishing.

Understanding the concerns about the impact on marine ecosystems, I believe that a more effective approach would involve collaborative efforts with stakeholders, including fishermen, marine biologists, and conservationists. Together, we can work towards implementing stricter regulations, enhanced monitoring, and educational initiatives to ensure the responsible and sustainable harvesting of marine species.

By restarting a dialogue and involving all interested parties, we may find innovative solutions that address environmental concerns without resorting to a complete ban. This approach could also consider the economic impact on local businesses and individuals who rely on the aquarium fishing industry for their livelihoods.

I appreciate the Board's dedication to the preservation of Hawaii's natural resources and believe that through open communication and cooperation, we can find a balanced solution that serves both the interests of marine conservation and the well-being of our local communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ryan Rothwell

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Shannon Rudolph](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F-3 NO Commercial Aquarium Collection in Hawai'i
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 1:26:12 PM

Aloha BLNR,
Hawai'i should stop all commercial aquarium collections.
They have beautiful 'electric fish' now that can be charged via a USB cable, there are also many sized 'cyber aquariums' that you can't even tell the difference!

Why give away our fish that visitors from around the world come here to see???

Giving away our resources is just plain stupid.

I am a 40 year resident of Hawai'i who believes we should stop the aquarium trade completely; besides being foolish, it's just not necessary anymore.

Mahalo,
Shannon Rudolph - Kona

From: [adele rugg](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Aloha from Maui
Date: Friday, December 1, 2023 5:24:20 PM

Aloha ..

please STOP taking the beautiful fish from
our waters ..

leave them alone .. let them enjoy the
peace and harmony of the beautiful waters
of the Pacific Ocean ..

this is their forever home ..

leave them alone !

aloha ..

adele rugg :-O

p.s. i paddle outrigger canoe every single
day .. and have noticed how few fish we
now have in our waters .. STOP this
madness..mahalo nui loa !!

From: [Jake Sandefur](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose F3
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 6:57:25 AM

Attention Chair Chang and BLNR, do not ban fishing! Manage it!

-Jake Sandefur

From: outlook_9A70321FB69D1F10@outlook.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 12/7/23 & 12/8/23 BLNR Hearing: Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023 11:26:06 AM

Dear Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources:

I write as licensed Dive Master and videographer, with hundreds of logged dives in Hawaiian waters (Big Island, Maui, Molokai and Lanai) during the last 30 years, in strong support of the petition for rulemaking filed by Kalanihale, KUPA Friends of Ho'okena Beach Park, Moana 'Ohana, Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, and For the Fishes to Prohibit the Take of Marine Life for Commercial Aquarium Purposes. Some of my Hawaiian underwater video was purchased by National Geographic and used in its "Amazing Planet" TV special, and I have hundreds of photos (and video) of fish life density, variety, and reef conditions throughout that time period, including from the recent extensive bleaching in the last decade off Lanai.

This is both personal and public video and photographic evidence, albeit anecdotal, that documents a steep decline in viability throughout many parts of the Hawaiian reef system: Fewer fish; fewer rare species; fewer large predators; more algae growth, etc. etc. However, in the last several years I have witnessed something of a recovery in areas of West Hawaii (where I have been diving during the winter months), due one would have to concede to the present lack of commercial taking in those areas.

I urge you to follow your conscience, the science, the law and your common sense and allow rulemaking to go forward on this matter. There can be no serious debate any longer that, notwithstanding climate change (ocean warming, acidification) and the combined effects of growth and pollution, the taking thousands of fish off these reefs every year is absolutely ruinous and not sustainable by any ocean user's definition (other than the self-interested industry and, perhaps, state regulatory agencies that have long supported this trade).

Be brave. Be bold. Uphold the law. Support the Petition!

Mark Schacht
PADI Divemaster
Scuba Divers International Divemaster
Marina Bay, California 94804
510-812-5399

From: [Beppie Shapiro](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023 2:24:25 PM

I live in Honolulu but my extended family owns a house in Hau`ula, on the beach. When I've stayed there I've witnessed nighttime sneaky aquarium collectors using vacuums to suck up every moving thing hiding under the reef and transferring the baby fish to sophisticated collection containers. This has to stop if we are going to save our reefs and fish. Please adopt regulations to eliminate any legal aquarium collections, and proceed promptly to develop the rules to enforce those regulations.

Mahalo,
Beppie Shapiro
4118 Pakolu Pl.
Honolulu 96816

From: [Todd Shiraki](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose ban bill f3 on Aquarium fishing.
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 8:47:39 PM

Please Oppose the ban bill on the sustainable aquarium fishery. There is absolutely no merit in banning a sustainable fishery with tons of scientific data. Again please oppose this ban bill.

Thank you

Todd Shiraki

Hawaii Tropical Fish Company

808-936-5709



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

Testimony to
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

December 7, 2023

**In SUPPORT of the Community Petition and in OPPOSITION to the Staff
Recommendation in F-3:**

KALANIHALE'S, KUPA FRIENDS OF HO'OKENA BEACH PARK'S, MOANA
'OHANA'S, KO'OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB'S, AND FOR THE FISHES'
PETITION FOR RULEMAKING TO PROHIBIT THE TAKE OF MARINE LIFE FOR
COMMERCIAL AQUARIUM PURPOSES (WITH EXEMPTIONS).

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

The Sierra Club offers testimony in **SUPPORT** of the petition for rulemaking to ban commercial aquarium collection as an industry incompatible with local values, and the Department of Land and Natural Resources' (DLNR's) own recognition of the importance of herbivore species to our reef ecosystem – and the recreational and subsistence fishers, ocean enthusiasts, small businesses, and Hawai'i residents that rely upon it.

As a preliminary matter, the Sierra Club notes that a draft submittal proposed for last month's hearing recommended the denial of this petition because attorney general review "as to form" was not practicable within a 30 day window established by the BLNR's own regulations. We appreciate that this patently inappropriate excuse – effectively rendering provisions of the BLNR's own rules of practice and procedure unworkable – has been removed from the current submittal. **However, we believe that this tacit admission of insufficient legal support strongly counsels an examination of the capacity of Attorney General's Land Transportation Division deputies to properly serve the DLNR, and urges the BLNR to advocate for greater and more timely legal assistance from the Attorney General as would appear necessary.**

In 2021, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i adopted an Aquarium Trade Policy in support of a ban on commercial aquarium collection. As the preamble to this Policy states,

Hawai'i's coral reefs and the wildlife dependent upon them are severely threatened and being degraded by human induced global warming, increasing marine pollution, and commercial harvesting of wildlife via the "aquarium fish trade". Thus far administrative attempts to regulate, enforce, and resolve community user conflicts around this industrial style activity have failed and have not diminished the increasing societal

objections to this activity. Among these objections are the inhumane treatment by which collectors regularly inflict unnecessary and unusual harm and injury to these unique and varied forms of aquatic life (including incidental damage to the living corals from which they are hunted), in the pursuit of shipping them out of state to private aquarium collectors. This trade, rather than resembling the traditional forms of recreational and subsistence fishing, is in no way compatible with the local values and lifestyles of most of Hawai'i's residents and sport fishermen. And most importantly, with on-going research and appreciation of the ecological value and symbiotic relationships between all forms of life on the reef still in its infancy, the loss or degradation to any of these elements is having consequences few can anticipate, and certainly no longer be justified by their purely economic benefits for a few.

Accordingly, the Policy calls for a ban on commercial reef wildlife collection, with exceptions for Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights, the taking of aquatic life for bait or consumption, noncommercial aquarium collection, and collection under a special activity permit issued by the Division of Aquatic Resources. **As the petition in this agenda item narrowly targets commercial aquarium collection and does not implicate any of these exceptions, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i stands in strong support of its proposed rules.**

The Sierra Club does note that today's agenda calls for much stronger protections for certain herbivore species, due to the critical role that herbivores play in maintaining healthy coral reefs. The Sierra Club further notes that herbivorous fish such as kole and lau'ipalā are regularly targeted by commercial aquarium collectors, with their schooling behavior allowing many specimens to be captured at once. **It is therefore perplexing why the submittal appears to downplay the impact of aquarium collection on herbivorous fish – which made up 90% of the fish harvested for commercial aquarium purposes over a ten year period, and 50% of the fish harvested on O'ahu – by claiming, in bold, that “not all species targeted by commercial AQ collectors are herbivores.”**

The lopsided framing in this submittal, particularly in light of the other proposals in this agenda, is further evidenced by what it does not contain. No science is offered in the submittal to indicate whether or not acknowledged declines in herbivore fish density¹ or repeated interruptions of schooling and feeding behavior by commercial aquarium collectors has a local or generalized impact on coral reef health. No science is offered regarding the biodiversity impacts of harvesting other targeted species including rare or cryptic specimens that may command premium prices in the aquarium market. No discussion is raised regarding the potential economic and ecological benefits of preventing

¹ Patricia Tummons, *Study Links Aquarium Collection to Decline of Reef Fish on O'ahu*, ENVIRONMENT HAWAII, October 2020, available at <https://www.environment-hawaii.org/?p=12980>.

potentially thousands of aquarium specimens per day from being taken from Hawai'i waters. There is no contemplation of the potential for the currently low number of aquarium collectors in our islands to expand over time, exacerbating the industry's impacts and making future reactive regulation much more politically difficult to implement. The submittal's arbitrary analysis accordingly only suggests a substantial deference to the aquarium industry, as has been previously evidenced by the Department's promulgation of O'ahu aquarium collection rules whose express purpose was to prevent waste and overcrowding in collection tanks² – not to protect the environment.

As a final note, there is nothing to prevent the proposed rules from being amended in the rulemaking process in response to public and expert testimony and as may be appropriate and consistent with the public trust doctrine. As the BLNR is well aware, the rulemaking process is explicitly intended to account for public input and can accommodate multiple public hearings and extended notice timelines to maximize opportunities for public engagement. The DLNR's practice of doing this through informal "scoping meetings" should not be used as an excuse to deny a rulemaking petition that already has inherent public input mechanisms.

Therefore, the Sierra Club respectfully urges the BLNR to **deny** the staff recommendation and **approve** the petition for rulemaking on commercial aquarium collection.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

² Board of Land and Nat'l Resources, Submittal F-2: Request for Final Approval to Adopt Hawaii Administrative Rules, Chapter 13-77, Oahu Aquarium Life Management, to Establish New Regulations on Gear, Bag, and Size Limits for Aquarium Collecting on O'ahu, October 24, 2014, *available at* <https://files.hawaii.gov/dlnr/meeting/submittals/141024/F-2.pdf>.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I oppose the ban, agenda item F3.

Mahalo,
G. Wakefield

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I oppose a ban - agenda item F3.

Thank you,
Will Wakefield

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I oppose agenda item F3.

Lynda Young

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I am opposing the ban, agenda item F3.

Thanks very much,
Hailie Go

TO: Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources
FROM: Cord Sanchez

I oppose agenda item F3. No on a ban.
Thank you,
Cord.

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I'm testifying in opposition to a ban - F3

Eugene E.

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I oppose a ban. Agenda item F3.

Mahalo,

Kalei Hall

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I oppose a ban. - F3

Tanya Dalton

Chair Chang and Board Members:

I oppose F3. I oppose the ban proposal.

Garett Beseir

Dear Chair Chang and Board Members,

I oppose agenda item F3.

Thank you,
Gannon Landry

Aloha Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I oppose banning aquarium fishing. (Agenda item F3)

Mahalo,
Margaret Stone

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I oppose the ban, item F3.

Jared Bingham

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I oppose F3.

Mahalo,

A. Jenkins

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I'm submitting my opposition to agenda item F3, regarding a proposed aquarium fishing ban.

Mahalo,
Jeane Louis

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I oppose agenda item F3.

Lyle Colasse

Dear Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I oppose a ban of aquarium fishing. F3

Mahalo,
Ava Brennan

Aloha Chair Chang and Board of Land of Natural Resources,

I oppose a ban -F3.

Mahalo,
Nalani I.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I oppose a ban of aquarium fishing. Item F3.

Mahalo.

Kaiwi Mahoe

Dear Chair Chang and Board Members,

I oppose the ban proposal F3.

Mahalo.

S. Reynolds

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I oppose a ban. Item F3.

Thank you,
Lee Ashford

Chair Chang and Board Members,

Oppose F3.

Thank you.
Paul Monroe

Aloha Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I oppose the ban. F3

Thank you,
Phil Walker

Chair Chang and Board Members,

I oppose the proposed ban, agenda item F3.

Thank you,
Sarina Kerr

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I oppose agenda item F3.

Thank you,
Terri Walker

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I oppose F3 and don't believe a ban is necessary.

Thanks,
V. Shaylor

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Oppose agenda item F3.

W. Ramos

12/5/23

**Atten: Chair Chang, and the Board of Land & Natural
Resources**

RE: Dept. of Aquatic Resources (DAR) Item F-3, Dec. 8

**Enclosed: (245) Pro-Hawaii Aquarium Fishery
Testimonies, (240 handwritten and signed)**

In OPPOSITION TO DAR Agenda Item F3

(Prohibit Aquarium Fishing)

Please listen to the science and open back the Hawaii Hatchery.

- Nathan Chan

OPPOSED DAR F3 (49)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please bring sustainable Hawaiian fisheries back!

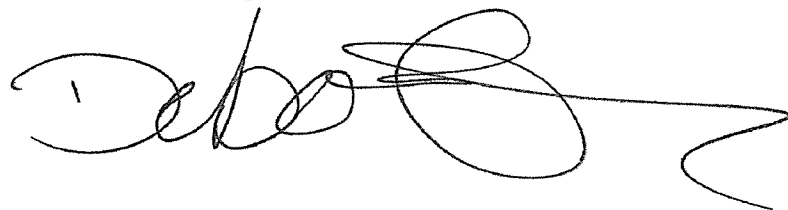
Rufe Li

OPPOSED DAR F3 (50)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the sustainable
fisheries in Hawaii!
Reopen!!

From
Debbie DeLillo

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Debbie DeLillo", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Reopen the fishery, listen to the scientist

Aud! Sarkissian



OPPOSED DAR F3 (52)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Reopen this fishery & listen to the science!

Alvin

OPPOSED DAR F3 (53)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Manage the fisheries with science

Schus Sun

OPPOSED DAR F3 (54)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Reopen fishery base on science

 Tony Lee

OPPOSED DAR F3 (53)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Manage fishery by science + indigenous knowledge
- Emily Lucas

OPPOSED DAR F3 (56)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I want the wild Yellow
Tangs back, which have been
sustainably collected from
Hawaii!

From,

Megan Eibarra

~~Megan Eibarra~~

OPPOSED DAR F3 (57)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Listen to the science and reopen the AQ
fishery.

Joe Tran

OPPOSED DAR F3 (58)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the science; I support the fisheries

- Bush

OPPOSED DAR F3 (59)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Re Open the fishery -

~~_____~~

Saltwater Aquarium Com

OPPOSED DAR F3 (60)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Jason Glowacki,

Reopen the Fishery & Listen to the
science!

OPPOSED DAR F3 (61)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Joshua Valuri - Listen to the science

OPPOSED DAR F3 (62


Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Listen to the science and reopen the fishery.

~~Matthew Cantu~~
- Matthew Cantu

OPPOSED DAR F3
163

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Safe, sustainable opening of the fishery is possible. Listen
to the studies. -  Kyle McAtee

OPPOSED DAR F3 (64)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Listen to the science
Re-open AQ Fishery!!!

- Rogelio DeDela

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Listen to the science and reopen
the fishery. - Matt Huisinga

OPPOSED DAR F3 (66)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Listen to the Science, Reopen the
fishery

- F. Dindigalla

OPPOSED DAR F3(6)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please re-open the very obviously
sustainable fishery

- Nicholas Juarez

OPPOSED DAR F3 (68)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please listen to the science and ^{re-}open the fishery.
Alex Castillo ▽

OPPOSED DAR F3(69)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Hello, please support reopening the Hawaii fisheries. Legislation should be in place to support local wildlife and businesses.

Sincerely,

Trevor Bellefueille

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

reopen the fishery

Luis Medina.

OPPOSED DAR F3 (71)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

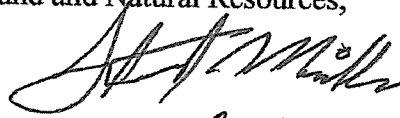
I support the fishery. - Susie King

I support the fishery - Juan Hurtado

OPPOSED DAR F3 (72)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Stuart Millan



I support the reopening of the Hawaiian aquarium fishery
for all fish.

OPPOSED DAR F3(73)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,


I support the science. Please Reopen the Fishery.

Shawn Rodriguez 

OPPOSED DAR F3 (74)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I Support the Science and Fish


Rick Sanchez
Rick Sanchez

OPPOSED DAR (75)
F3

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

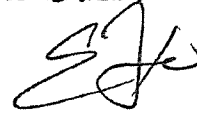
We need this vital Resources to
Be here for generations to come
Let's All support those that do.

Woody


Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

ERIC FRANCIS HAS, NOT ONLY RESIDING ON THE ISLANDS, BUT FREQUENTED THEM TO APPRECIATE THEIR NATURAL BEAUTY. MY APPRECIATION BEGAN BY ENCOUNTERING THESE ANIMALS ON THE MAINLAND. THE REOPENING OF THE HAWAII FISHERY, SUSTAINABLY AND REGULATED, WILL GIVE GENERATIONS TO COME THE ABILITY TO SEE THESE ANIMALS, IN PERSON, WITHOUT TRAVELING TO THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS. THIS EXPOSURE TO ANIMALS IS HOW WE INSURE STEWARDSHIP.

BEST REGARDS



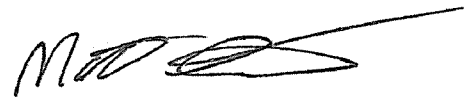
Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

 I Support Fishery Mgmt

OPPOSED DAR F3
(TR)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Reopen the Hawaii Ocean Fishery! Please!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. [unclear]', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

OPPOSED DAR F3 (79)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the marine collection industry
David D. Requin DAVID DREQUIN

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Sharon Berry @
Hawaii classic
srclassic.com

OPPOSED DAR F3 (81)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,


I SUPPORT THE SCIENCE AND FACTS

-IRVING CHAMU

OPPOSED DAR F3(82

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

PLEASE BLOWN FOR OUR AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY



David Ng

OPPOSED DAR FE
(83)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,


I Support the Save the Hawaiian Fishery

Andy Han

OPPOSED DAR F3 (8)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please open the fishery
for Seneca.



Corbett W. Wright

OPPOSED DAR F3 (E)


Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support science based Fishery management.
Wendy Bauer
Wendy Bauer

OPPOSED DAR F3 (8)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the fishery and the science behind it.



Stephen Wang

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support! Reopen it! - Alan Ruiz

OPPOSED DAR F3 (8)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the fishery and
want to see it back open.

John Bennett

John Bennett

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please support fishery!


A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ishai Thatcher

OPPOSED DAR F3
(90)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support science-based management

Jose Olivo 

OPPOSED DAR F3 (91)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the science ^{card} x Eial Sauer

OPPOSED DAR F3
792.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the aquarium fishery.

AS

Adam Sauer

OPPOSED DAF FE
(92)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the science behind reopening the
Hawaiian Fishery.

DAVID MENZER

David K. Menzer

08/06/23

OPPOSED DAR F394

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

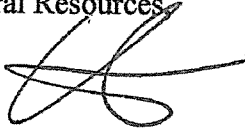
I support reopening the AQ, I believe the science supports the sustainability of responsible fishing for the queenfish trade.

David Patrone
DAVID PATRONE
dtrap5@yahoo.com

OPPOSED DAR F3
195

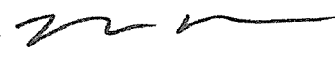
Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources

I support the fishery
Mike Alcaraz



OPPOSED DAR FB (9)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support responsible reef collecting. 

Nick DeKungh

OPPOSED DAR F3 (97)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

ISOPAR + the science
group

Shane Phillips

OPPOSED DAR F3/98

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the Science. (West Hawaii Aquarium
Fishery).
Stacy

OPPOSED DAR F3 (97)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the AQ Industry *Jake*
Javier Cambio

OPPOSED DAR F3/100

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the science based fisheries allowed to collect live animals & fish in Hawaii. Protected areas or non fishing are important while it should be allowed sanctioned collection areas for fisheries. A Balance between collection & protection is reasonable and fair while science based monitoring of these areas is employed. Please allow monitored collection in Hawaii again, Thank You,

David G. Guaglianone.

OPPOSED DAR F3 (102)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

REOPEN THE FISHERY PLEASE CLARIN CONTRERAS

OPPOSED DAR F3/103

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Lincoln P. ...

Listen to the science

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Nathan Remington Save the fish

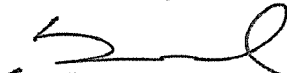
OPPOSED DAR F3 (10E)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

In order to know more about our
seen and what we live around we
must have science to learn it

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Chang', written over a horizontal line.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Support the Science - 
STEVEN CONRAD

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the reopening of the fishery

- *Ray Garcia*

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the science and the studies.

Please reopen the fisheries.

Nick Kameao

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Randall Van Natta



randallvanatta@yahoo.com
I support the fishery &

APPOSED DAR FISH

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

To whom this may concern,

It would be greatly appreciated
if the fishery would be open again
From all the fact being stated
and backed with evidence it looks
to me like the fish population
are back and thriving.

Daniel Cervantes

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Daniel Cervantes', with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

8/6/23

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the Hawaii aquaculture Fishing. Please
Reopen Importing/Exporting.

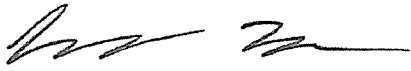
A. O'Connell
A. O'Connell

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Support the Science! Sticks Corals - Cheryl Taylor
Cheryl Taylor

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I Support opening the aquaculture fishery

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, connected strokes.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,


I support Aquarium Fishery

Quin Hoops

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the Hawaii Aquaculture fishery - Jerry Clements

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Re Open the West Hawaii Aquaculture Fisheries Act. 

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support reopening the Aquaculture Fishery

Andrew Schoeman

A stylized handwritten signature consisting of a large, sweeping 'A' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the Hawaiian Aquaculture

Fishing: 

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

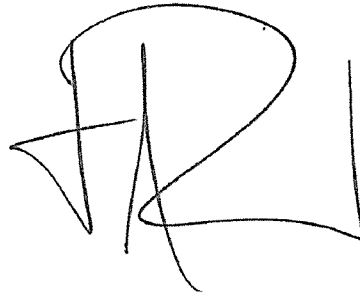
I support reopening the Hawaii: Aquarium Fishery

Chun-Jen

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I believe we should be focusing on science as a
basis for making environmental decisions

Jose Rubio

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, rounded 'R' with a vertical line through it and a horizontal line at the bottom.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I ~~support~~ support the fishery

Marissa Preiding

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Reopen the fisheries - I support
West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery.
Keep the Fisheries OPEN!!!

Jynn Hegast

APPROSED DAR F3 (123)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the Hawaii fisheries opening


Al Enriouez

APPROSED DAR F3 (124)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

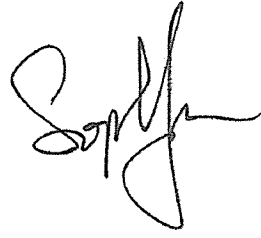
I support Horn Fish reopening

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'O. M.', written in a cursive style.

APPOSED DAR FEB 12 2012

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the hawai aquarim fishery

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sophie', written in a cursive style.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support reopening the
aquarium fishery!

-~~Wally~~ Peukia

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

1 Support Hawaiian Fishery

Saul Sanche

APPROVED DAVE

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support re-opening the quantum fishery.

Don Loveless *Donal*

OPPOSED DAR F3/129.

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support the hawaiian fishery!

- David Augustine!

OPPOSED DAR F3
(12)

Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support Re opening Hawaii
Raymond Gullb Reef Creation's

APPROSED DAR F3(131)

From: aquatictec@aol.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F3 petition to ban the aquarium fishery
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 10:48:57 AM

Aloha

I am opposed to F3 petition to ban the aquarium fishery. The fishery has done everything right. That is why it is considered a “model fishery”. It has worked with the state to create act 306, FRA system, worked for decades with WHFC (West Hawaii Fishery council) to create management laws, worked with DAR researchers to do more rules making 2015 management laws, all to ensure sustainability and low environmental impacts.

Not only has the fishery been deemed sustainable but also, takes only small fish leaving breeders, leaves all large eating fish for Hawaiians, has bag limits, gear restrictions, 33% FRA West Hawaii Closures, does not affect corals, has not impacted herbivore populations, and has been scientifically proven to be sustainable with 20 years of fish counts. Fish populations overall were increasing for all major targeted species.

Please do not pass DAR item F3

Thanks

Greg Smith

From: adamsndgrss@gmail.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose agenda item f3
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 3:31:47 PM

Attn: Chair Chang, and BLNR

Do not ban aquarium fishing, manage it. It's been verified as sustainable and the science and people of Hawaii support it.

Adam k snodgrass

From: [Bob Sousa](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] SB505
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 6:36:03 AM

Aloha, It's time we do the right thing and ban the aquarium trade in Hawaii. Our reefs are dying for a number of reasons and we need to do everything we can in our power to preserve the reefs for our children.

Mahalo,

Robert Sousa
45 Laukahi st,
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [karen spachner](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] End the Tropical Fish Collection
Date: Friday, December 1, 2023 3:10:58 PM

Dear Powers that Be,

We have lived and worked on the island of Hawaii for decades. We pay state and local taxes. I have always been an avid swimmer in these waters. Over time I have seen a sharp reduction in reef fish in Kailua-Kona. We implore you to stop collecting reef fish. The ban these past couple of years has been helpful, but to dip again into our surviving colonies would be harmful. These fish can live into their 30's, but sent to the mainland their days are numbered, if they indeed survive the trip to the mainland.

Please pass legislation to stop this barbaric practice. Aloha, Karen and Craig Goard

From: [TAL SWEET](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposed to DAR Item F3
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 6:22:47 PM

Aloha My name is Tal Sweet

Enough with the Misinformation about the Aquarium Fishery- The Lies Exposed Scientist Speak

Dr. DAN A. POLHEMUS: Less than 2% of the total catch in Maui was attributed to the aquarium fishery. “ This serves to point out that undue focus and hyperbole about aquarium collecting and its impact on the reefs is dangerously shortsighted and counterproductive. We need to think and act holistically.” Dr. DAN A. POLHEMUS Division of Aquatic Resources State of Hawaii DLNR 1151 Punchbowl St. Honolulu, HI 96813 Real important ecological issues have been left by the wayside anti-aquarium fish propaganda has hurt the environment!

ROBERT E. HUETER, Ph.D.: “I see that TIRN is now taking credit for legislation to stop the Hawaiian aquarium trade. This is not something I would’ve necessarily supported and, given the chance, would have discussed the sustainability of this trade with you. Please see the attached editorial on this issue by my respected friend and aquarium expert, Dr. Bruce Carlson. **If TIRN is going to continue to operate like this, taking semi-scientific positions without consulting its own Science Advisors, then I wish for you to remove me from your list of advisors.**” ROBERT E. HUETER, Ph.D. Senior Scientist & Director, Center for Shark Research Perry W. Gilbert Chair in Shark Research Manager, Sharks & Rays Conservation Research Program Mote Marine Laboratory 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway Sarasota, FL 34236 USA

Dr. Bruce Carlson, Ph.D.: “You can now see how the misuse of science and scientists (**ROBERT E. HUETER**) has resulted in the present situation in Hawaii, where one of **the best studied inshore (and most highly regulated) fisheries has been trashed by passionate and very misguided individuals.** They are led here by a **few master manipulators of disinformation spewing forth wild accusations based on anecdotal evidence.** Brian Tissot and Leon Hallacher (2002 Cons. Biol. 17(6): 1759-1768) went out in the field and did the hard work to collect data and found no significant differences (algal cover, coral damage) in areas where fish are collected compared to protected areas nearby (DLNR has similar data). They DID report a “significant” difference in the populations of aquarium fishes in the two areas (no one disputes that there should be fewer fishes in areas where they are being collected). But to show you how scientific terms are corrupted by opponents, they equate “significant” with “damaging” (it’s reminiscent of the issue we have with the public misunderstanding the concept of “theory” used in a scientific context). For 17 years, DLNR biologists have conducted extensive underwater surveys, nearly 7000, to monitor the populations of aquarium fish species on the Kona coast, where the major aquarium fishery is located. The result is the fishery is stable and sustainable. **There is no evidence of ecological harm to the reefs. In fact, the populations of yellow tang and Kole on the Kona coast, even in areas that are fished, are significantly higher than marine protected areas on Maui and even Papahānaumokuākea.**” Dr. Bruce Carlson Ph.D., former director, Waikiki Aquarium,

Atlanta Aquarium

Tina Owens executive director of the LOST FISH Coalition: *“A great deal of the “sky is falling” news you’ve heard about the reef recently is just **plain not true. Clearly, if the goal is to get rid of the industry and management prevents that goal from being reached, then discrediting the benefits and successes of management would seem the only way left to go.** And so they have taken that path. They have held community meetings and displayed a lot of false or twisted data, quoting from papers outdated by more than 15 years, and “re-interpreting” data from scientific papers. They have been telling people that “there are no fish left,” which is patently untrue. I once had a woman tell me with great passion and assurance that there are no fish left anywhere in West Hawaii. I asked her why she thought that, and she replied that everyone knew it. I asked if she swam in the ocean. No. Did she dive? No. Did she know anything about the management strategies in place? No. She had, however, just come from an “information session” in which she heard these things from Wintner’s frontman Rene Umberger and Inga Gibson.”*

William Walsh Ph.D., Ivor Williams Ph.D., Brian Tissot Ph.D.; Leon Hallacher Ph.D.; Bruce Carlson Ph.D.; Charles Birkeland Ph.D.; Jeremy Claisse Ph.D.; Mark Christie Ph.D.; Richard Pyle Ph.D.; Leighton Taylor Ph.D.; Randy Kosaki Ph.D.; Cynthia Hunter Ph.D.; Brian Bowen Ph.D.; Brian Zgliczynski Ph.D.; Jeff Ebel Ph.D.; Alan Friedlander Ph.D.; Kosta Stamoulis Ph.D.; Delisse Ortiz Ph.D.; Jan Dierking Ph.D.; Rob Toonen Ph.D.; and Jim Beets Ph.D. letter:

“What is particularly distressing and demoralizing about the BLNR decision was that it was not based on the best available science and relevant monitoring data.

“Relating to the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area.” The 2015 and 2020 Report found that the “The Hawaii marine aquarium fishery is currently the most economically valuable commercial inshore fishery** in the State with FY 2014 reported landings greater than \$2.3 million.” 15. This understates the overall economic impact of the aquarium trade, as it includes only the sales of the fish themselves. It does not account for the sales of boats, equipment, fuel, packaging, or related services such as repairs cargo handling, inspectors, or shipping associated with aquarium fish collection. Misinformation about the Environmental Impact of Aquarium Fish Collection 16. There is a **great deal of public misinformation about the effects of the aquarium fishery in Hawai’i.** In support of and as part of the public record of the Governor’s veto this summer of SB 1240, twelve Ph.D. fisheries scientists signed the letter attached as Exhibit 1 to my declaration. Rather than rely on anecdotal reports of citizens who feel like fish populations have declined, they cited peer-reviewed scientific reports demonstrating:**

- Data collected from 1999 to date from over 6,700 underwater surveys show that populations of the most heavily collected aquarium fish species (yellow tang and DECLARATION OF MICHAEL F. BOBER IN SUPPORT OF INTERVENTION- 5 Kole) are increasing, not declining.

This clearly indicates that the fishery is sustainable.”

- “Adult populations of these species are no different in fished areas than they are in reserve areas (adult fish are not collected). Adult female yellow tang produces up to 20,000 eggs in each of multiple spawning events during the year, **ensuring a sustainable fishery.** Yearly one pair produces 1.14 million fry. “

Even larger adult breeding yellow tang populations were no different in open versus closed fishing areas.

- ” The data and scientific reports show no **significant differences in the health of the coral systems in collection areas as opposed to the system of protected Fish Replenishment Areas where no collection is allowed.** 17. The signatories **to this letter are some of the most respected fisheries scientists in Hawai'i and on the mainland.** “

Thank you and aloha,
Tal Sweet

From: [Ane Takaha](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Save the fish
Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023 9:46:08 AM

Aloha

I encourage any legislation that will stop the killing of the reef fish. We swim almost daily in south maui waters and and there are so few fish left. Please include enforceable protocol in your work.

Thank you
Ane Takaha
Maui Meadows

From: [Shane Takasane](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kalanihale's, KUPA Friends of Ho'okena Beach Park's, Moana 'Ohana's, Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club's, and For the Fishes' Petition for Rulemaking to Prohibit the Take of Marine Life for Commercial Aquarium Purposes (With Exemptions)
Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023 3:22:42 PM

Aloha,

My name is Shane TAKASANE. I am a freshwater tropical fish importer/ exporter (freshwater), long time fisherman, hawaii tropical independent tropical fish study of Hawaiian island chain. The ban has been brought to my attention in recent event of false accusations of the commercial collection ban. The petition is trying to protect our native herbivore from being collected. I would like to OPPOSE the petition in my personal experience and documented scientific studies.

As we all know 90% of our earth oxygen comes from the ocean. That's from seaweed, algae and phytoplankton. Which of all three the native kole, yellow, and other tangs being collected eat. To protect these fishes is fast and vast depletion of the earth oxygen resource. If the petitioner has not stated this in their research for protection of these fishes. There is missing information I am giving to you. By not having some kind of population control these fishes will deplete the oxygen resource it's good to have a balance of wild and captive bred fishes on or commercial market. By not allowing the commercial collector to collect, you allow

1. Tourist to take our resource for personal gain
2. Allow massive depletion of our oxygen resource
3. Suppress local and native people from an income
4. Allow more big box companies to invade our communities
5. Put more small local businesses out of business.

There are many scientific and moral reason why this ban should not pass and/ or stay in place. Hawaii has forgone to long with allowing more big box companies and tourism to encase our land. There should be regulation but no complete ban, allow more local permit vs big box commercial permit to be passed out. Biota in the past 5 years has set the all time high on our native yellow tangs and labeling "Hawaiian yellow tangs" again another foreigner exploiting our "Hawaiian" name.

I ask the board to deny this ban and as a community come together to allow both parties petitioner and our commercial collectors come together with a solution instead of more ways to "ban" collection. We have lost over 12 local businesses and have had many LFS shut down there saltwater section due to this ban. People come to hawaii to live and enjoy our island. Many are aquarist. We are already banned from any and all importation of corals, soft corals, anemone, invertebrates, and other ocean creatures now
They want to take away a source of income which does not buy any of us LFS a million dollar house or a bmw. Most of us LFS do it for the love of fish. We allow the killing and eating of kole tang and other tangs but we as an aquarium community is and protecting life and bringing joy to peoples lives. As a LFS I have done a lot for my community keeping people out of jail, helping drug addiction with peaceful alternatives, also reach the future generations with fish.

I ask to oppose this ban.

Mahalo nui loa
Shane “shorty”

Keeping the hobby alive one fish at a time.

From: [Robert Culbertson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Item F-3 testimony - in favor of ending the "trade"
Date: Sunday, December 3, 2023 5:37:26 PM

Aloha Board members!

The "Trade" (commercial aquarium fish collecting) has been a bad trade, and a bad look for Hawaii, since inception. It's high time (and long overdue) to end it!

In fact, you have a **duty** to *re-invert* the otherwise current *inverted* "hierarchy of priorities" doctrine promulgated by DLNR years ago. Right now, commercial aquarium dealers are calling upon you to favor their interests over and above what is good for the 'resource' itself and the people who rely on reef fish for sustenance as well as recreation. That is distinctly '*kapa kahi*' from the Hawaiian traditions and the legal guidance established through laws.

Please make the change back while we still have something to save!

Please honor the petition to end the 'trade'!

Mark Tang,
Waimea

From: [p.tearson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, December 1, 2023 1:23:00 PM

We have a delicate ecological balance here in Hawaii that's being decimated by the decline in our coral reef population. We must protect it at all cost.

The following also needs to be dealt with:

- 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

From: [Orson Thomas](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposed to DAR Item F 3. (Petition Prohibit Aquarium Fishing)
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 11:46:48 AM

Aloha, My name is Orson Thomas.

I am opposed to the F3 petition to ban the aquarium fishery. The fishery has done everything right. That is why it is considered a “model fishery.” It has worked with the state to create Act 306, the FRA system, worked for decades with WHFC (West Hawaii Fishery Council) to create management laws, and worked with DAR researchers to make more rules-making 2015 management laws, all to ensure sustainability and low environmental impacts.

Not only has the fishery been deemed sustainable, but it also takes only tiny fish, leaving breeders, leaves all large eating fish for Hawaiians, has bag limits, gear restrictions, 33% FRA West Hawaii Closures, does not affect corals, has not impacted herbivore populations, and has been scientifically proven to be sustainable with 20 years of fish counts. Fish populations overall were increasing for all major targeted species.

Please do not pass DAR item F3.

Thanks,

Orson Thomas

From: [Claire Trester](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for F.3
Date: Sunday, December 3, 2023 7:48:39 PM

I'm Claire Trester , I live in Hawi, North Kohala.

Mother Ocean called me here 40 years ago. I've been swimming the Kohala Coast from Kawaihae to Keokea Park ever since.

My swim partner and I swim 3 to 4 times a week. We'll typically swim 3 to 5 miles each time we get in

The North Kohala Coast is truly Magical!

We've swam with Humpback Whales, Spinner Dolphins , Hawaiian Monk seals, Manta Ray's ,Eagle Ray's, and Turtles.

Healthy reefs are integral to the Ocean's health , resilience and wellness.

Hawaii's Ocean Herbivores (reef fish) keep our reefs in robust Wellness. It's a delicate balancing act for each species to exist, and have the ability to flourish.

Over the 4 decades of swimming the Kohala Coast Ocean, I have clearly noticed the depletion of our Reef Fish.

They are no longer in the abundance as they were decades ago.

The Reef fish ARE our State Treasures , stewards of the Reef, keeping many of the reef elements in balance and wellness.

With our reefs under intense assault from Ocean level rise, climate change, Ocean acidification, rampant and destructive Commercial Aquariam Reef Fish collection is simply a criminal act at this time.

It's time for this rape and destruction of OUR reefs to stop.

I don't understand how this mad for profit industry still exists at this dire environmental moment.

Do the Pono thing..... Consider what we will be handing down to our Grandchildren.

END THE MADNESS OF COMMERCIAL AQUARIAM COLLECTION.

SUPPORT AGENDA ITEM F.3

Thank you

Claire Trester

From: [Mary Tubbs](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony OPPOSED to DAR Item F 3- Petition to Prohibit Aquarium Fishing
Date: Sunday, December 3, 2023 6:15:29 PM

DATE/Time: DEC. 8th, 2023 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: DLNR Boardroom, Kalanimoku Bldg. 1151 Punchbowl Street, 1st Floor / & Online via Zoom

Meeting ID: 883 8062 9451

ZOOM LINK: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88380629451> blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Testimony OPPOSED to DAR Item F 3- Petition to Prohibit Aquarium Fishing

Dear BLNR Members,

I am a kama'aina born and raised in Hawaii who has worked to preserve aquatic life, and is a retired State of Hawaii teacher and data specialist who taught sustainability to gifted students. I oppose this petition to prohibit aquarium fishing. It not only defies a previous legal decision of the Hawaii Supreme Court, mandating an EIS, it is founded on Opinion Data primarily, not scientific fact. It is **unjust** to pass this petition which violates the rights of AQ divers after they have given up (3) to (6) years of their livelihoods, and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to complete court-ordered Environmental Impact studies of the aquarium fishery, particularly when thus far, that fishery has been proven sustainable.

Aquaculture and Hawaii's Aquarium Pet businesses, are dependent on aquarium divers. Funds appropriated by the Hawaii Legislature to grow aquaculture in the form of Special Activity Permits go unfilled, wasting opportunities for aquaculture business to begin, all because of misinformed bias against the aquarium fishery. The AQ fishery helps to sustain Hawaii, and decreases our economic dependence on tourism, while preserving our precious tropical fish in a well-managed fishery. Passing this petition amounts to "shooting Hawaii economically in the foot."

Aquariums in my classroom, at schoolwide STEM nights for families, or field trips to Sea Life Park or the Waikiki Aquarium, provided engaging, transforming experiences to cultivate Hawaiian values such as the aloha, respect, and value

of biodiversity in our oceans, and how to malama, or be good stewards of our ocean life. Aquariums were also used to teach many valuable lessons about ecosystems, ocean acidification, and carbon sequestering related to global warming.

PLEASE VOTE NO on this petition. It is unjust, and based largely on lies and opinion data only. Its proponents aim to sway public opinion negatively under the guise of “cultural” differences, against a scientifically sustainable Hawaiian Aquarium fishery that has already passed an Environmental Review (Kona). Passing this petition takes away AQ divers rights, and aquariums-a valuable ecological teaching tool for classroom and the public. It increases Hawaii’s dependence on tourism, eliminates the source of aquaculture propagation provided for by the Hawaii legislature, destroys the livelihood of several responsible Hawaiian fishermen, and defies previous legal decisions.

Sincerely,

Mary Tubbs, M.Ed.

From: rtubbs@hawaii.rr.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: [Neilson, Brian J](#); [Sakoda, David](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Opposed to DAR F3
Date: Sunday, December 3, 2023 12:09:57 AM

Please send link to testify at hearing via zoom!

Testimony

Opposed to DAR Item F 3. (Petition Prohibit Aquarium Fishing)

Please do not pass DAR Item F3.

blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

F3 should not be passed based on the statute requirements.

According to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §13-1-26 Petitions for adoption, amendment, or repeal of rules.

There is clearly not enough legal merit, subject matter, cultural proof, scientific proof and reasoning for seeking the adoption of F3.

The statute requirements based on previous exhaustive review and previous passage of the [West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery full 1585 page HEPA](#) and passage of the complete exhaustive 6-year Cultural assessment (CIA) by the fishery are more than enough to counter the petitioners unscientific, no journals links, and non-peer reviewed biased based cultural claims submitted by the petitioner.

The Petitioner also ignores science, distorts science, discounts a 6 year CIA complete cultural assessment and uses old 2009 DAR reports quoted in their petition. The [2020 Report to the Legislature](#) showed significant increased fish counts. Yellow tangs and Kole tangs huge population increases during aquarium fishing periods totally counters their herbivore depletion petition argument also.

As per HRS statute §13-1-26 all “facts, views, arguments, and data” deemed relevant by petitioner are insufficient to counter past decision by BLNR, the Hawaii Supreme Court, the Hawaii State Legislature, and the Governor of Hawaii. All of which after many exhaustive hearings, spanning over 20 years, refused to ban the fishery; why, because it was

a “model fishery”, sustainable, low impact and valuable. The user group conflicts are from activist tourist businesses who get paid to see pretty reef fishes. It is not a cultural or ecological issue, it has never been one, but they are trying to make it one for business profit.

Now that the fishery has done its exhaustive HEPA review and passed a previous BLNR hearing, the petitioners are asking you to repeal decisions spanning over 20 years. The petitioners’ lawsuits against the state, costing hundreds of thousands of dollars in state legal fees, hundreds of thousands more in fishers HEPA fees, and complete review of the fishery that ensued after the Supreme court one sided, no science presented, decision; the petition is now asking you to ignore all those legal rulings. They also want you to unconstitutionally ban a proven sustainable, HEPA approved, valuable fishery for insufficient reasons.

The petition does not provide enough scientific basis, no quoted journals, peer reviewed science and no cultural assessment, to counter the 6-year exhaustive West Hawaii Aquarium Fishery HEPA passage. It also fails to provide enough **“facts, views, arguments, and data”** to counter the support of BLNR past HEPA passage, past Legislative decision, Governor decisions and Supreme court decisions.

Also, they want you to ignore testimony in support of the fishery by 21 leading marine biologists who supported peer reviewed scientific facts stating the fishery was “sustainable” and all the science from DAR with thousands of fish counts spanning decades and the exhaustive DLNR reports to the legislature every 5 years. The Hawaii Aquarium Fishery is the most studied fishery in the world.

DAR also opposes this petition.

The petition has not met legal merits and therefore, the ruling should be **“no request for the issuance, amendment, or repeal of a rule which does not conform to the requirements set forth above shall be considered by the board”**. As per HRS statute §13-1-26

I would strongly Caution you to not believe Anti Aquarium fish proponents. Here is a good example. The petitioner says

in their petition herbivore fish are declining due to the aquarium fishery. They even try to hide the truth using old reports and science.

Here is what those facts really are from the [2020 DLNR West Hawaii Report To the Legislature](#):

Page 28 “Overall **Yellow Tang** abundance in the 30’-60’ depth range over the entire West Hawai’i coast is estimated to have increased by over 3.4 million fish from 1999/2000 to 2017/2018 (**150% increase**) to a current population of about 5.7 million fish within this depth range alone.”

Page 37 “Overall **Kole** abundance in the 30’-60’ depth range over the entire West Hawai’i coast is estimated to have **increased 118%** (>5.1 million fish) during this time period with a current estimated population of almost 9.6 million fish. As with Yellow Tang, summer 2014 recruitment for Kole in many areas was very strong. Recruitment at the Manuka survey site for example was 254% higher than on any other previous survey at the site over the last 20 years.”

<https://files.hawaii.gov/dlnr/reports-to-the-legislature/2020/AR20-WHRFMA-Rpt-FY19.pdf>

Please do not pass item F3 it is unconstitutional and illegal.

Thanks,

Ron Tubbs B.S.N.D. UHM

From: [christy vail](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F3 Testimony
Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023 8:06:30 AM

Aloha,

It is long over due for this state to end aquarium collection of Hawaii's precious reef fish.

I have been SCUBA diving for 40 years here in Hawaii, and the ongoing depletion of our fish has been horrifying to see, especially since so many of these fish die on the way to pet stores. You would not allow the capture and sale of our precious native birds so why do you allow this?

Our reefs are nearly dead and our state is largely to blame. Time for a CHANGE!

Thank you,
Christy Vail
1865 Olinda Rd.
Makawao, HI 96768
808-276-1180

From: [Bettie Van Overbeke](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Aquarium fishing
Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023 9:25:49 AM

I have lived and snorkled at Kehena Beach for 35 years. We are seeing a drastic decrease in herbaceous reef fish. Same at many dive sites in Kona. These fish are vital for our island. To allow 7 people to rape our ecosystems for personal profit taking thousands of fish for vanity aquariums is untenable, unfair, unethical, and unsustainable. STOP AQUARIUM FISHING SAVE OUR ISLAND REEFS.

sincerely,

Bettie Van Overbeke

12424 Ole Ole St

Pahoa, HI 96778

8087856186

bettievanoverbeke@gmail.com

From: [Lon Wallace](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, December 1, 2023 12:59:56 PM

Aloha~

I am writing today to offer full support of and sincere urging for rule change regarding the aquarium gathering business here in our islands. I am a long-time resident of West Hawaii island, and avid waterman. Through the decades I have personally seen and experienced the grossly imbalanced impact this industry has had on our reef fish, from witnessing the large haul outs at Kawaihae Harbor with their collateral damage to more importantly the intense diminishing of the various populations out on our reefs. It was and is clearly an unsustainable practice that has negatively impacted the health of the waters and reef and clearly disturbed the ecological balance. Since the temporary ban went into effect around 2016, I and many others who use the waters for recreational, health and spiritual benefit have seen a slow but notable come back, even with the poachers still out there. It is far from back to a fully healthy, balanced state, but the improvement is obvious and a welcome change. We desperately need to keep Hawaii's fish in our waters for the continued health of the reef, and for all those locals and tourists who enjoy and derive benefit on many levels from their presence and corresponding healthy reef; not be taken for the relatively very few who want to capitalize on their removal for monetary gains with no regard for the negative impact they generate and short-sighted damage they leave behind.

Mahalo nui loa,
Lon Wallace, PhD.
Kamuela, Hawaii

From: [Diane Ware](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Agenda Item F.3 Testimony in strong support of petition
Date: Sunday, December 3, 2023 10:19:06 PM
Attachments: [image0.png](#)

December 3, 2023

>

> Aloha Chair Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

>

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

> I 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 while the Trade wants to take over 200,000 herbivores annually, mostly iconic tangs, to increase their profits at the expense of Hawai'i (s) precious reef ecosystem and future generations benefit.

>

> 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 for our children and their children.

>

> One example of the symbiotic relationship of herbivores on Hawai'i reefs:



>

>

> 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. YOU, the board, have a duty and honor to protect our ocean ecology and make Hawai'i State a global example of what culturally grounded and regenerative leadership looks like.

>

> Mahalo nui loa,

>

>

> Diane Ware

> 808-967-8642

> P. O. Box 698

> 99-7815 Kapoha

> Volcano HI 96785

From: [Joey Dakine](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] end aquarium fish collecting in Hawaii
Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023 8:45:56 PM

Aloha!

I would like to add my name to the list of people in this state who want to end the collection of fish for aquariums. This trade has been devastating to our reef ecosystems. Please do the right thing for the people and our natural environment now.

Mahalo,
Joseph Watts
Hilo

From: [Bill Watts](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023 2:05:19 AM

Dear Chair Chang and BLNR members,

I am a Hawaii resident and opposed to continuation of the commercial aquarium trade in Hawaii waters. The claim of sustainability is irrelevant. Sustainability should only be considered for food sources. The priority should be abundance. Abundance that will contribute to the health of our reefs and the natural beauty of our State, and the revenue of our State.

The byproduct of this business is cruelty to wildlife in acquisition, transportation and life as an ornament, and not preservation of natural resources.

The old plundering practices have gone on too long. Do the right thing for Hawaii. Stop it!

Bill Watts
Kihei, Hawaii



Virus-free www.avast.com

From: [Madolin Wells](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 Testimony
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 2:52:52 PM

Aloha Land & Natural Resources:

The precious kai and 'aina are being systematically destroyed by those who put profits above protecting what they benefit from, at the risk of losing it all. As it is, coral bleaching is occurring from the rise in ocean temperatures around the world without hastening its demise through blatant theft of tropical fish. Snorkeling at Molokini reef has revealed alarming loss of life in just the past 1-2 years.

It seems the community is required, time and again, to beg local boards and decision-makers to enact protections. But each time some form of limiting aquarium trade is enacted, it's only temporary, and then back to the drawing board all over again. This is wrong, and it will always be wrong. Please stop the aquarium trade once and for all.

Mahalo,

Madolin Wells, Kihei

From: [Jordan Westerholm](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F.3 testimony
Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023 9:52:37 AM

Aloha,

My name is Jordan Westerholm, and I live in Volcano Village on the Big Island. I support a permanent end to aquarium fish collection in Hawaiian waters, because we in Hawaii are privileged with a unique array of marine ecosystems that are already being stressed and polluted by climate change and other stressors on the local environment. Aquarium fish capture is damaging to coral reefs, goes directly against Hawaiian cultural values and practices, and offers no benefit to local communities whatsoever. I have been a kama'aina resident of Hawaii for the past six years, and the extent of degradation of Hawaiian native ecosystems that I've witnessed due to invasive species intrusion and extractive economic practices is disgusting. I come from a community of people who cares deeply about living in harmony with the land and waters that give us life and keeping it all clean and healthy for the generations that come after us. Please, to those policy makers who are concerned with this testimony, do your part to ensure the continued health and resilience of our unique cultural and natural heritage. I hope that me doing my part, in the form of sending this testimony, will be made worthwhile by you doing your part

Godspeed,

Jordan

From: [Art Westwood](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Tropical fish
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 6:43:33 PM

Chair Chan and the board of Land and Natural Resources,

I support science backed, sustainable fisheries in Hawaii.

Arthur Westwood
Part time Kona resident
Sent from my iPhone

From: [linda willaby](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F.3 testimony
Date: Sunday, December 3, 2023 10:49:11 AM

My name is Linda Willaby. I have lived on the Big Island for the past 15 years. I snorkel and swim daily in the waters off Kehena Beach in Kalapana. In the time I have been here, I have seen a huge decline in the number and variety of fish. Our tropical fish are a valuable resource and must be protected for all to enjoy and left in the ocean for the health of the coral reef system. Please don't allow them to be taken and transported off the island. Most captured tropical fish for the aquarium trade die in transit. Keeping our beautiful tropical fish here will also aid in promoting sustainable and educational tourism.

Yours truly,

Linda Willaby
Pahoa, Hawaii

From: [Anita Wintner](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ban aquarium fish collecting for good
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 5:00:04 AM

Att: BLNR

This is the perfect time to permanently ban aquarium fish collecting. There has been a tremendous decline in reef fish over the past 25 years, so areas that have been totally depleted of yellow tangs, and other important reef fish. I know there are still poachers collecting and selling, but the majority of collectors have found other livelihoods so don't allow the trade to get started again. Do the pono thing for our islands. The reefs face many challenges these days but if aquarium fish collecting is not stopped, they don't stand a chance. Any what is the purpose of keeping the aquarium fish trade going???? Please stop it now!! Anita Wintner, 38 year resident, Maui

Sent from my iPad

From: [Richard Xie](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Friday Dec. 9th Opposed to DAR Item F 3. (Petition Prohibit Aquarium Fishing)
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 5:40:21 AM

Aloha My name is Richard Xie.

I am opposed to F3 petition to ban the aquarium fishery. The Hawaii State fishery management has done everything right. It is considered the most advanced and effective system in the world. DAR has done a great job to have many rules since 2015 to ensure sustainability and low environmental impacts.

The current market price of yellow tang is around \$200 dollars in mainland. If F3 petition to ban the aquarium fishery is passed, the retail price shall go up to \$500 or more per fish. There are over thousands of miles of shoreline in Hawaii seven islands. Anyone can jump into water and catch 20 fish to make \$10,000 dollars for less than half hour. It is much higher profit than drug. How can the state to have enough man power to control the situation since aquarium trading is legal in mainland US?

Having bag limits, gear restrictions, 33% FRA West Hawaii closures, and having limited licenses are the right way to control the industry, protect the environment with the least government input and resources. The licensed traders will become the volunteer guards to report the illegal catch, and they also can help the state to protect the ocean better since that is their livelihood. If we can't stop the drug transaction in our state, how can we so sure that we can stop the illegal catch? Eventually those illegal catch might kill more fish than the environmentalists think that they save.

Please do not pass DAR item F3

Thanks!

Richard Xie