

From: [TB](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 4:57:29 PM

I oppose banning the aquarium fishery,
and I support managing resources by science as provided by DAR.

Signed:

Tony Berry

From: [Jason Brown](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F2 and F3
Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 6:13:12 PM

I oppose banning the aquarium fishery, and support managing resources by science as provided by DAR.

Jason Brown

From: [Amelia Livers](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item f2 and f3
Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 12:50:54 PM

I oppose banning the aquarium fishery and I support managing resources by science as provided by the DAR.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Monico Vincent](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] April 12; Agenda Items F.2 and F.3 Testimony
Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 4:57:23 PM

To the Board of the Department of Aquatic Resources:

My name is Vincent Sean Monico and I am in Keauhou on the Big Island of Hawaii. I am very disturbed by the proposed current plan to open up West Hawaii waters to aquarium collection. I strongly oppose any actions proposed by the state of Hawaii or the county of Hawaii island to allow for the collection of wild fish by members of the public for private use with aquariums or other such pet trade functions.

I strongly urge the board to:

- Uphold the December 8 unanimous Board vote directing DAR to begin rulemaking
- Direct DAR to hold the required public hearings on the rules now
- Disregard fatally flawed West Hawai'i plan to reopen the trade in its entirety

If you have any questions regarding my thoughts on this you can reach me via email or at the following address:

Sincerely,

Vincent Sean Monico
78-7016 Kewalo St
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

From: [Marisa Plemer](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] April 12; Agenda Items F.2 and F.3 Testimony Opposition to Reopening Reefs to Destructive Aquarium Trade
Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 1:25:49 PM

Dear Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed plan by the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to reopen our reefs to the destructive aquarium trade. I urge you to uphold the December 8 unanimous Board vote directing DAR to begin rulemaking and to hold the required public hearings on the rules promptly.

The briefing document provided by DAR regarding the West Hawai'i Aquarium Plan (Item F.2) is deeply concerning. It fails to acknowledge the negative impacts of the proposed aquarium collection, including the significant reduction in yellow tang abundance in areas where collection has occurred. Furthermore, the proposed level of take exceeds that of subsistence, recreational, and commercial fishers combined, which is alarming.

Additionally, the document fails to address major cultural concerns, enforcement challenges, or the looming threat of climate change. The trade not only conflicts with local culture and native Hawaiian values, such as pono fishing practices, but it also disregards the opposition from Hawai'i's 46 moku that make up the entire state Aha Moku.

Moreover, a published cost/benefit analysis demonstrates that Hawai'i residents receive zero benefits from the aquarium trade but suffer all the costs. Given the dire predictions by scientists that we could lose 70% of our reefs by 2030 due to climate change, it is imperative that we prioritize reef conservation efforts. Reefs require more herbivores to thrive, and DAR's current herbivore rules for food fish are not robust enough to support reef health.

Legalizing aquarium collection would only provide cover for increased illegal poaching, exacerbating the ongoing threats to our marine ecosystems.

I implore you to uphold the December 8 vote and commence the rule making process to end the aquarium trade. Our reefs are invaluable treasures that must be protected for future generations to enjoy.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Marisa Mia Plemer, Haleiwa

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ken Vander Putten](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 6:14:57 PM

I oppose banning the aquarium fishery,
and I support managing resources by science as provided by DAR.

Signed:
Ken Vander Putten

From: [Jenny Smith](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposing the ban on aquarium fishery Hawaii
Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 6:24:55 PM

Dear Land Board Members, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed ban on the aquarium fishery in Hawaii. Instead, I advocate for the responsible management of our marine resources based on scientific data provided by the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR). For far too long, decisions impacting our aquatic ecosystems have been made on emotional grounds rather than on scientific research and data. It is essential to prioritize evidence-based policies that support sustainable fishing practices and protect our marine populations. The DAR plays a crucial role in conducting dynamic studies and providing valuable scientific insights into the state of our marine resources. I firmly believe that any regulations regarding the aquarium fishery should be guided by the DAR's research and recommendations to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of our marine environments. Therefore, I urge the Land Board to reject the proposed ban and instead work towards implementing regulations that are informed by scientific findings and aimed at conserving our marine biodiversity for future generations. Thank you for considering my viewpoint on this important matter. Sincerely, Jenny Smith

From: [Keely Stevenson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 5:04:12 PM

I oppose banning the aquarium fishery, and I support managing resources by science as provided by DAR.



Keely Stevenson
Service Manager, Aquarium Care Center

800-519-9211 | www.aquariumcarecenter.com

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