

From: [Noah Caldwell](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F2 and F3
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2024 12:45:37 PM

I oppose banning the aquarium fishery, and I support managing resources by science as provided by DAR. The fish shipped out will be put in good hands, we take good care of our aquariums and wish to make the fish live happy and fat lives.

-Noah Caldwell, North Carolina

From: [L. C.](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 & F3
Date: Thursday, April 18, 2024 8:09:42 AM

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

Sincerely,
Lawrence Collins

From: [FABIAN KOH](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 6:15:34 AM

I oppose banning the aquarium fishery and I support managing resources by science as provided by DAR. It has been commonly known that too much of anything is harmful. What should be done instead would be to find a right balance as provided by DAR instead of outright banning.

Regards,
Fabian.
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Talia Fermantez](#)
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: Monday, April 15, 2024 11:58:21 AM

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.

Talia Fermantez, 'Aiea HI

From: [Ken Fields](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Items F2 & F3
Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 9:23:44 PM

I oppose banning aquarium fishery and support managing resources by science as supported by DAR

Ken Fields

Sent from my iPad, and apologies for any typos

From: [Chad](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 4:29:56 AM

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

Please allow some collections of some of these beautiful fish into the Aquarium trade once again. The Yellow Tang, Kole, Achilles , Potters Angelfish are not only some of my favorite all time fish but some of the fish that made me want to have a saltwater tank to begin with.

Signed:

Chad Filchak

From: [JM Kupihea](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] KEEP THE FISHERIES BAN
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2024 9:58:46 PM

Don't allow the beautiful living creatures of Hawaii to be stolen and sold off. It's unsustainable, inhumane, smacks of colonialism and entitlement, and is entirely exploitative and unnecessary.

Jillian M. Ford

From: [Mike Frangella](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 12:21:38 AM

I oppose banning the aquarium fishery,
and I support managing resources by science as provided by DAR.
Fisheries worldwide from cod in the northeast to Bahamian lobster in the Caribbean to bluefin
tuna, some which were at the very tip of collapse, were not completely shut down but better
monitored and managed. As a result most have even made a successful rebound.
I'm sure some sort of compromises can be achieved for all involved in Hawaii.
Aquarium hobbyist are in huge numbers and can be a very powerful ally in reef conservation.
No hobbyist wants to see the end of coral reefs that means end of their hobby..
Working together is keykey to solving all our problems as a matter of fact.

Signed:
Michael Frangella

From: [Sherrill Futrell](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] End the Aquarium Trade Immediately
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2024 10:46:57 AM

Dear Department of Land and Natural Resources,

Your terrible stewardship of your natural heritage has embarrassed the State for decades. I cannot believe that DAR once again refuses to listen to the public, scientists, or common sense in its mania to reopen Hawai'ian reefs to the destructive aquarium trade. As a frequent visitor and consistent contributor to Hawai'i's economy since 1986, I have been horrified to see the rapid decline of ALL fish species on ALL major Hawai'ian islands. I stopped going to Maui in 1998 after having given up on seeing many fish there, just as I had stopped bothering with Kauai and Oahu in 1990. I expect you to uphold the December 8 unanimous Board vote directing DAR to begin rulemaking and to hold the required public hearings on the rules. Please stop dragging your feet, in the name of the people of Hawai'i who trust you to protect their priceless reefs for themselves and future generations.

DAR's briefing document ignores the damage of aquarium "collection," including the devastating reduction in yellow tang numbers that only recently have begun to rebound. Why does DAR even set unsustainable take limits for all fishers combined- subsistence, recreational, and commercial? And I remind you that 100% of collected fish die - in transport or soon afterward in stores and homes.

As in the past, Hawai'i residents would get ZERO benefits from the aquarium trade but suffer all the costs. Yet DAR again provides a slap in the face of the local people, ignoring their culture and values, failing to learn from their sustainable fishing methods, and disregarding the opposition from all of Hawai'i's 46 moku. DAR also ignores the difficulty of enforcement and the far worse certainty of climate change: Hawaii is projected to lose 70% of its reefs by 2030 but DAR's current herbivore rules for food fish are far too weak to support reef health. We also learned, before the Court stopped the trade temporarily, that legalizing aquarium collection only increases illegal poaching.

You need to prevent further lawless rape of the reefs and protect our marine ecosystems. They belong to the people, not just you. I BEG you to uphold the December 8 vote and end the aquarium trade.

Thank you.

Sherrill Futrell
Davis, CA

From: [Ralph Gonzalez](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 5:03:46 PM

I oppose banning the aquarium fishery,
and I support managing resources by science as provided by DAR. The aquarium hobby makes up less than a single
percent of the fish collected from the wild

Signed:

Sincerely: Ralph

From: [Bob Grant](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 2:42:33 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-hlqq3qdg.png](#)

Dear Chairwoman Chang and Members of the BLNR:

I am writing to urge the Board to follow the science in managing the West Hawaii fishery.

Science is the only proper way to manage Hawaii's natural resources, and Hawaiians support it. Recent polling has found that 93% of Hawaiians support the concept of sustainable use of natural resources. Additionally, 85% of Hawaiians believe fish collection should be allowed if it is done sustainably.

For years, the fishery has been the victim of ideologically driven activists based on the mainland. These groups have a blanket opposition to any kind of fish collection. They are entitled to their views, but this is not science. It is a rigid ideology, and it doesn't represent Hawaiians or the best interests of Hawaii.

We urge the Board to stand with science and Hawaii's right to scientifically manage its own resources.

Sincerely,

Bob Grant

Bobby G's Pro Aquarium
99 Belmont Drive, Unit 5
London, Ontario N6J 4K2
PH: 226-663-2877



From: [d.g](#)
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: Saturday, April 13, 2024 7:22:20 AM

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.

Danielle Guion, Makakilo, O'ahu, Hawai'i

From: [Briana Hartwig](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2024 1:40:08 PM

Hello,

Regarding agenda item F2 and F3, I oppose banning the aquarium fishery, and i support managing resources by science as provided by DAR.

Sincerely,

--

Bri Hartwig
810-441-3659
briana.hartwig@gmail.com

From: [adam hoyt](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F2 and F3
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2024 9:11:00 AM

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

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Ben Jones](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 5:08:47 AM

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

Thank you!

~ Ben D. Jones

From: [Maxwell Kattner](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 12:13:17 PM

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

Signed:

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jessica K](#)
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: Monday, April 15, 2024 10:30:28 AM

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.

Jessica Kuzmier, Kona

From: [Tony L](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F2 & F3
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 7:33:20 AM

Dear Chairwoman Chang and Members of the BLNR:

I am writing to urge the Board to follow the science in managing the West Hawaii fishery.

Science is the only proper way to manage Hawaii's natural resources, and Hawaiians support it. Recent polling has found that 93% of Hawaiians support the concept of sustainable use of natural resources. Additionally, 85% of Hawaiians believe fish collection should be allowed if it is done sustainably.

For years, the fishery has been the victim of ideologically driven activists based on the mainland. These groups have a blanket opposition to any kind of fish collection. They are entitled to their views, but this is not science. It is a rigid ideology, and it doesn't represent Hawaiians or the best interests of Hawaii.

We urge the Board to stand with science and Hawaii's right to scientifically manage its own resources.

Sincerely,

From: [Diane](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 3:40:26 PM

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

Signed: DTMarotta

Sent from my iPad

From: [Kresan Naidoo](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 2:21:19 AM

To whom it may concern,

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

The population of Yellow Tangs has increased 150% from 1999 to 2018 (during active collection), with a recorded increase of 5.7 million fish in depths of 30' to 60' according to Environmental impact assessment findings. This likely represents a smaller number than the actual natural increase in population size since the population was only evaluated from 30 to 60 feet.

Kind regards,
Kresan Naidoo

From: [Edward Owen](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Help us with aquaculture - don't ban reef fish export
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 7:24:33 AM

Hawaii isn't the Philippines or Indonesia - we can regulate the trade which will help with aquaculturing these species for better preservation

Biota is captive breeding yellow tangs - we could do so much more but blanket bans make it nearly impossible

Sent from my iPhone

From: pattiac@nycap.rr.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] pril 12; Agenda Items F.2 and F.3 Testimony Opposition to Reopening Reefs to Destructive Aquarium Trade
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2024 4:24:55 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.

Patti Packer

From: [george.pierce](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DARs West Hawaii Aquarium Plan
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2024 6:32:44 AM

I am deeply concerned that the state of Hawaii continues to lack the foresight to protect its reefs from the aquarium trade. These special interests are having a catastrophic effect on the reefs and ecosystem under the guise of what is presented as a cultural right! As a frequent visitor to Hawaii over the past 40 years, I have seen firsthand the effects from this policy. Shameful!!

George Pierce
(206) 779-6775

From: [Muhammad Tanveer](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#); [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item f2 and f3
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 10:38:26 AM

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

Regards
Muhammad Tanveer Qureshi

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [Max Rudolph](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 3:57:14 AM

I support banning the aquarium fishery.
It is critical that we preserve the fish on the reef and not in peoples' homes.

Signed:
Max Rudolph

Max Rudolph
UT Austin | Computer Science
mrudolph@cs.utexas.edu | 516-286-7459
maxrudolph1.github.io/

From: [Brad Shapiro](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 4:03:55 PM

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

Signed:

Bradley Shapiro

From: [Rae Sikora](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] April 12; Agenda Items F.2 and F.3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, April 18, 2024 3:01:53 AM

Please DO NOT allow the continued collection of fishes in Hawaii for the aquarium trade.
They are not products, they are individuals who deserve to live in their native habitat.

There is more profit in keeping the pristine Hawaiian waters teeming with life for people like me who travel there specifically to snorkel.

Thank you for caring
Rae Sikora
Santa Fe NM

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [Steven](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F2 and F3
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2024 1:15:58 AM

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

On Sat, Apr 13, 2024, 7:13 a.m. Steven <darthddy@gmail.com> wrote:

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

From: [scottingham](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 2:50:47 AM

To whom it may concern,
I oppose banning the aquarium fishery, and I support managing resources by science as provided by DAR.

Thank you for your time,
Savannah Stevens

Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)
Board Meeting
Friday, April 12, 2024 (9:00am)
1151 Punchbowl Street, 1st Floor

RE: Testimony Regarding Hawaii Commercial Aquarium Fisher (Agenda Items F2, and F3.)

I. Introduction

Aloha Chair Dawn N.S. Chang and Board Members,

My name is Mary Trillo, and I am a Honolulu resident and second-year law student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law. I am providing written testimony for the Board of Land and Natural Resources meeting on April 12, 2024, regarding agenda items F2 and F3. Because I am a resident of Honolulu and saltwater aquarium owner, and because I have a strong interest and desire to use my legal education to protect native Hawaiian rights, I urge the board to consider the socioeconomic and cultural impacts the BLNR decision on December 2023 to ban AQ in Hawai'i, continues to have on local businesses, native Hawaiians, and marine biologist who depend on commercial aquarium collecting. I also urge the board to consider asking DAR to expand its scientific research on other contributory causes of marine life takings, rather than solely focusing on commercial aquarium fishery takings.

II. Argument

Regarding agenda item F2, I argue that DAR should not narrowly focus its findings and research on the impact purposeful takings for commercial aquarium fishery has on our ocean and coral reefs because there is available scientific data that suggests other causes contribute to this issue. DAR should also do scientific research and brief the board regarding the environmental impacts of over tourism and climate change on our coral reefs and marine life. native Hawaiians and many local people of Hawai'i, who are in the business of commercial

Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)
Board Meeting
Friday, April 12, 2024 (9:00am)
1151 Punchbowl Street, 1st Floor

RE: Testimony Regarding Hawaii Commercial Aquarium Fisher (Agenda Items F2, and F3.)

aquarium fishery, have argued this before the board numerous times. They have pleaded that this board understand how the outright ban on AQ takes away from their traditional cultural practices of fishing and diving. Native Hawaiians were blessed with these natural gifts, and these cultural practices and traditions are rights that the Hawaii State Constitution Article XII § 7 specifically aims to protect.

This is an emotional topic for many, including myself, because the board is not able to convince the public, that the board is not being discriminatory by placing the majority, if not the entire blame of marine life takings, on the local people of Hawai`i and native Hawaiians who are *responsible* and *respectful* local aquarium fishers and divers who depend on this business. The board should understand truly that it is infringing on native Hawaiians rights by placing an outright ban on native Hawaiians who engage in AQ by exercising their cultural traditions of fishing and diving, regardless of whether they make a living from it. It is precisely because the board and DAR ignores that over tourism leaves a much greater carbon footprint on our islands and coral reefs (which ultimately causes greater damage to our ocean and marine life) that this issue is of much controversy, because over tourism, continues to be unregulated.

Additionally, as a saltwater aquarium owner, I will speak for myself and on behalf of other individuals who purchase saltwater fish from AQ businesses and are responsible owners. We truly care about our fish while also caring for our environment. While most people would call having a saltwater aquarium a “hobby”, to me it is not. The truth is that I love and care for my clownfish, yellow angel fish, and chalk bass. While many people would presume that my saltwater aquarium is just for aesthetics or fun, it is not. My saltwater aquarium and fish help

Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)
Board Meeting
Friday, April 12, 2024 (9:00am)
1151 Punchbowl Street, 1st Floor

RE: Testimony Regarding Hawaii Commercial Aquarium Fisher (Agenda Items F2, and F3.)

relieve much of my severe anxiety and depression. For someone to say that my aquarium is just a “hobby” is wrong. I have invested much of my time conducting research, putting in serious effort, and money to ensure I am taking care of my aquarium fish, again because I genuinely care about my fish. I would be devastated if I did not have my saltwater aquarium.

From a business and community perspective, if individuals like me were unable to purchase saltwater fish from a local AQ businesses in Hawai`i, because of this board’s decision to ban it, it would cause our community to lose funding through taxes. This goes to my point that it is important for the board to realize that every local AQ sale benefits the State of Hawai`i and the people of Hawai`i, because saltwater aquarium fish are very expensive, it is why this is a billion-dollar industry. I wish that the board and DAR would do further research into this, a follow the money analysis on this industry to truly understand any financial community impacts. It is no surprise that this is also precisely why this issue is causing so much controversy in our community.

Lastly, I just want to mention that because the Supreme Court of Hawai`i is still deciding whether DAR’s revised EIS is adequate, and because DAR is basing its entire management plan on this EIS, I believe this “informational” meeting is premature and should not be brought before the board until the Hawai`i Supreme Court has decided whether DAR’s revised EIS passes muster. It would be wasteful time, money, and energy for this board, and the public attendees who showed up to this briefing in support of the EIS report, to have sit through the informational briefing and provide testimony if the court holds that DAR’s revised EIS is inadequate, and DAR must go back and correct its analysis, leading to a possible debrief before

Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)
Board Meeting
Friday, April 12, 2024 (9:00am)
1151 Punchbowl Street, 1st Floor

RE: Testimony Regarding Hawaii Commercial Aquarium Fisher (Agenda Items F2, and F3.)

he board again. This will ultimately delay even further the issuance of AQ permits by the board, causing more harm to the industry. While awaiting, DAR could have spent these past months seeking guidance from the board for more detail and clarity on how to balance or weigh the boards considerations when an applicant seeks applies for an AQ permit.

Still, I am hopeful and believe the science provided in DAR's informational briefing is convincing, and I hope that you do too. Many local AQ fishermen and divers who rely on this industry provide testimony before the board that concedes with the science and data DAR presents, specifically regarding the juvenile fish they are catching, and how juvenile fish are likely unable to survive on their own. In their testimony, fishermen and divers in this industry also speak of their cultural knowledge and upbringings in protecting our coral reefs and marine life, specifically knowledge of not overfishing and to rotate areas. If you think about it logically, why would someone profiting from the AQ business want to harm our coral reefs and marine fish population if they depend on it for a living. It would ruin, and ultimately end their business. These historical traditions that have been passed down for generations have kept AQ fishing *sustainable* because local divers and fishers have their own practices and rules.

III. Conclusion

With these considerations in mind, it is specifically why I, and you too, should take a modest approach in regulating and placing an outright ban on aquarium fishery. Unless it is absolutely necessary, and an adequate EIS takes into account *all* the contributory causes to marine life takings in our coral reefs, and still finds that AQ is the "greatest cause or threat" to

Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)
Board Meeting
Friday, April 12, 2024 (9:00am)
1151 Punchbowl Street, 1st Floor

RE: Testimony Regarding Hawaii Commercial Aquarium Fisher (Agenda Items F2,
and F3.)

our marine life, the State and this board should not be quick to shut down local businesses that
rely on AQ.

Mahalo,

Mary Trillo

From: [James Wood](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2024 4:05:49 PM

Dear Chairwoman Chang and Members of the BLNR:

I am a former Deputy Director of Waikiki Aquarium and stand with former Director Dr. Bruce Calrson and many other scientists in urging the Board to follow an evidence-based scientific approach for managing the West Hawaii fishery.

Science, not emotions, is the best way to manage natural resources. Hawaiians support the concept of sustainable use of natural resources. Additionally, 85% of Hawaiians believe fish collection should be allowed if it is done sustainably. Have you ever caught a yellow tang, or any sort of tang? I can tell you from first-hand knowledge that it isn't easy. The sustainable hand collection of tropical fish does not have the environmental deleterious effect that the opposition is claiming. I'm speaking as someone with a doctorate degree in marine biology who has been a featured scientist on National Geographic, Discovery Channel and BBC nature specials; I consider myself an environmentalist.

For years, the fishery has been the victim of misplaced ideologically driven activists based on the mainland. These groups have a blanket opposition to any kind of fish collection. Some are even against keeping domestic animals such as Dogs and Cats. This is a rigid ideology, and it doesn't represent Hawaiians, the best interests of Hawaii or even the mainland.

We urge the Board to stand with both local support and science and Hawaii's right to use a rational evidence-based approach when managing its natural resources.

Sincerely,

Dr. James B. Wood
President of Coral Sea Aquariums
Former Waikiki Aquarium Senior Management

--

James B. Wood Ph.D.
Marine Biologist
President of [Coral Sea Aquarium](#) at 1373 N. Military Trail, WBP, FL
Co-author: "Octopus - The Ocean's Intelligent Invertebrate"

"Play Is The Highest Form Of Research" Einstein