

**From:** [Jody Bright](#)  
**To:** [BLNR, BLNR Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [LAWRENCE@state.hawaii.gov](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item 3-1. Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club Lease - June 14, 2024 BLNR Meeting - TESTIMONY  
**Date:** Thursday, June 13, 2024 10:07:59 AM  
**Attachments:** [Screen Shot 2024-06-13 at 9:46:50 AM.png](#)  
[Screen Shot 2024-06-13 at 9:47:53 AM.png](#)  
[Screen Shot 2024-06-13 at 9:57:53 AM.png](#)  
[Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club Testimony on Support of a 10-year Term Direct Lease Item 3.1.pdf](#)

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Aloha Chair and Board,

On January 26, 2024 I appeared before you folks and you kindly asked questions and allowed much discussion on the topic of awarding the HBGF Club nominal rent as allowed under State Statute for 501(c)3 organizations.

The discussions ended in a vote whereby the BLNR did, indeed grant HBGF Club nominal rent - for which we are eternally grateful. The Club is already realizing the positive effects of this decision upon our budget and our ability to expand our community service and charitable services programs.

Mahalo!

Also during those discussions, we covered the topic of moving from a Revocable Permit to a long lease. A 30 year lease was offered to the Club back in 2019 (I believe it was) but at present we are being offered a 10 year lease because we were granted nominal rent. We understand this and concur that this make sense.

At this point we ask that you take the recommendation of DOBOR staff and grant the HBGF Club the 10 year lease as staff proposes, as stated in their summary:

**At its meeting on January 26, 2024, as Item J-2, the Board approved with amendments the reconsideration of rent under Revocable Permit No. 6 to Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club, Inc., as permittee, for Fishing and Boating Activities, Public Meetings, Tournaments, Harbor Meetings and Continued Support of Youth Groups Purposes, Keahuolu, North Kona, Hawaii, Tax Map Key: (3) 7-4-008:003 (por.). The result of this approval allowed Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club, Inc.'s annual rent to be lowered to \$480.00.**

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the Board of Land and Natural Resources:**

- 2. Subject to the Applicant fulfilling all of the Applicant requirements listed above, authorize the issuance of a direct lease to Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club, Inc. covering the subject area under the terms and conditions cited above, which are by this reference incorporated herein and further subject to the following:**

We deeply appreciate of BLNR and Staff acting on these topics after a 5 year process. The HBGFC board and member look forward to having the stability that the nominal rent and a 10 year lease provide the organization as it will greatly enhance our ability to keep the facility maintained while also helping us expand the good work we have been doing - much of which is sorely needed in our community - on the Big Island and often statewide!

I am going to attach HBGFC Secretary Dave Andersen's testimony here as I would like to point out that below his testimony are many comments and testimony from many folks who have benefitted by having our facility open and accessible along with others who are beneficiaries of our programs such as those on Maui who received financial support from the Club after the devastating fires.

Should any member of the BLNR or staff have any questions at any time, please feel free to contact me!

Mahalo Nui Loa for your consideration!

C. J. "Jody" Bright Jr.  
Board Member  
Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club Inc.



## Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club Testimony in Support of a Long-Term Direct Lease BLNR Meeting 14 Jun 2024 Item J.1

Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club (HBGFC), the oldest active fishing club in the state of Hawaii and second oldest in the United States, has provided significant support to the community in the past and would love to continue to support our community through fishing and boating activities for a long time. HBGFC has developed Educational, Conservation and Charitable Programs, and provided a public meeting place for our community that supports marine science educational, charitable, and cultural events for our members and the Hawaii fishing community.

This past year the HBGFC has conducted and/or supported the following:

- Established a HBGFC Maui Fishery Community Fire Emergency Relief Fund which donated **\$42,000** to fire victims, **\$32,000** of these funds were distributed directly to Maui Fishery fire victims and **\$10,000** was donated to the Maui Strong Fund.
- Established a \$5,000 **College Scholarship** with West Hawaii Explorations Academy for students to pursue a Marine Science Education.
- Hosted twenty community **Celebrations of Life** in the past twelve months.
- Hosted over 150 Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous substance abuse meetings.
  - Hosted the following Charitable Fishing Tournaments:
    - Hospice of Hawaii Love to Fish Tournament
    - HUGS Hawaii Fishing Tournament
    - Keiki Come First Tournament
    - Miloli'i Hipu'u Virtual Academy
    - Kalanihale Charter School
    - Kona Coffee Association
    - Kamuela Police Department Keiki Fishing Tournament
  - The HBGFC also manages or supports competitions to engage anglers and promote sportsmanship across the State in tournaments, such as:
    - The Annual Neal Isaacs Rock 'n Reel Hawaiian Open Fishing Tournament
    - The Marlin Magic Lure Tournament
    - Wee Guys Tournament
    - Hawaii Marlin Tournament Series
    - Veteran Day Fishing Tournament

In addition, HBGFC is supporting Wild Oceans Marine Research, the Kona *Project* working with the University of Hawaii conducting research in billfish larvae spatial-temporal distribution, DARs Barbless Circle Hook Project, DARs False Killer Whale Project, DARs non-resident fishing license and DARs Aloha i ke Kai ocean stewardship programs.

Mahalo from the HBGFC Board

President Captain Rob McGuckin // Vice President Kai Hoover// Treasurer// Secretary David Andersen // Chad Beaudry // Captain Mike Dakil // Ernie Clayton//Jody Bright//emeritus Teresa Oswald

**Community Testimony in support of Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club direct term lease**

*Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) members,*

*The Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club provided support to me and my ohana in our time of need . They directly provided me \$500 after the Maui Wildfire disaster. These funds helped me and my family ( .... ) Please approve their long-term lease so that the HBGFC can continue to help our Hawaiian ohana in difficult times! The fishing community is very important to our Keikis feutre.*

*Mahalo, Kekoa Panis*  
Sent from my iPhone

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Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources Members,

The Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club has supported our Alcoholics Anonymous meeting and provided an excellent venue for the meeting since October of 1995. In our community this location is historical. Members from all over the country that come to Hawaii for vacation, have attended this meeting for almost 30 years as well as the local community. Please approve their long-term lease so that our fishing community can continue to thrive as well as our local Alcoholics Anonymous community.

Ray Baker, Alcoholics Anonymous Kailua-Kona

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*Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) members,*

*The Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club provided support to me and my ohana in our time of need . They directly provided me \$500 after the Maui Wildfire disaster. These funds were greatly appreciated by my household during times of financial uncertainty. Please approve their long-term lease so that the HBGFC can continue to help our Hawaiian ohana in difficult times!*

*Mahalo,*

*Ryan Gantzer*

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Aloha BLNR members,

The Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club stepped up in a big way for the fishermen of Lahaina after the disastrous fire. They provided thousands of dollars to me and my crew to keep us afloat in the immediate aftermath. They were one of very few organizations to provide real help after we lost our livelihoods. Please approve their long-term lease so that the HBGFC can continue doing wonderful things in our community.

Mahalo,  
Jonathan Keiley  
Automatic Sport Fishing

Aloha Board of Land and natural resources. I'd like to acknowledge HBGFC and their fast response in usage of their facility. We were in need of a place for my daughter's Celebration of Life. Tried parks and recreation and other facilities with no response or they were already taken. The kindness that was shown to our family in the time of need relieved much stress. We are very thankful to HBGFC and Dave. Mahalo the Ako Ohana  
Sent from my iPhone

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*Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) members,*

*My name is Tianee Takaki and I am writing on behalf of the entire Takaki Ohana in support of the renewal of HBGFC's long-term lease renewal.*

*Just recently The Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club supported my Ohana by providing us a facility for my grandfathers celebration. Due to his unexpected passing our Ohana had a very limited window to plan his celebration of life and the HBGFC went above and beyond to ensure we could secure a location to host it when everywhere else was booked a year plus in advance. In addition to our most recent celebration of life, our family has hosted and attended many, many different events and gatherings at HBGFC and have made so many beautiful memories. What stands out the most is each and every time the club has been a wonderful, safe & clean venue to be at. Venues such as the HBGFC are far and few these days in Kona, yet are desperately needed in the community.*

*Please approve their long-term lease so that we and our fishing community can continue to have a place to meet or celebrate our ohana's life!*

*Mahalo,  
The Takaki Ohana  
Sent from my iPhone*

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Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) members,

The Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club supported me and my ohana by providing us a facility for my father in law Douglas "Captain Kino Valenzuela 's Celebration of Life. Please approve their long-term lease so that we and our fishing community can continue to have a place to meet or celebrate our ohana's life!

Mahalo,  
Lehua Valenzuela

*Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) members,*

*The Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club supported me and my ohana by allowing us to host my grandfather's celebration of life at the clubhouse. I have also had the privilege of attending other charitable events at the clubhouse over the years allowing me to directly witness the positive impact HBGFC is making with this space. As a community that already lacks adequate spaces for events, gatherings and meetings we need HBGFC and it would be a great disservice to our community if their lease was not granted. Please approve their long-term lease so me and the fishing community can continue to meet and celebrate.*

*Mahalo,  
Kealoha Nitta & Ohana*

**MAHALOS AND TESTIMONIALS FROM MAUI RECIPIENTS OF AID  
FROM HBGFC "EMERGENCY GOOD SAMARITAN FUND"**

Aloha,

Mahalo for all your help and support for our Lahaina Community 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏. It's been honestly hard and tough living daily not knowing where we're going next..... I been looking for a home to housed my family so we can live comfortably. I'm a single mom caring for my children, nieces and my beautiful 69 yr old mom who is disabled and it's been very hard but I'm trying my very best!!!!.... I've been looking for a 3-4 bdrm with 2-3 bath home that would fit my ohana comfortably so we don't have to live and be bounced around hotel to hotel. Praying 🙏🙏🙏🙏 for a blessing!!!

Mahalo,

Daphne 🌺

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We are so grateful for your fundraising for the fishermen of West Side Maui. The money will help us but the care you all have shown is what is most uplifting. Thank you all so very much.

Jim & Tricia Patch

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Aloha!!! I received the check!! Thank you very much appreciate it. Every little bit helps!!

Mahalo

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Aloha,

We had friends send us this application for possible financial help related to the loss of our boat due to the Lahaina fires.

Both Dennis and I have been in or on the water our entire lives. I was born and raised in Lahaina, my dad, Ray Souza, was a black coral diver and fisherman his whole life. He relocated to Kona in the early 70s.

Dennis, my husband, is a surfer, paddler, fisherman from Molokai and eventually moved to Lahaina.

Dennis's brother, David, was a commercial fisherman for many years. He is currently the pastor of Imiola church in Waimea, Hawaii.

On 08/08/23 we lost our 30' Force, Imiola, in the fires at Lahaina Harbor. Dennis has been laid off since the fires, but has been in Lahaina since day one, delivering supplies from Big Island to the different assistance hubs on the westside.

We are humbly submitting this application for consideration of assistance. We are grateful for you considering our application.

Mahalo NUI,  
Patti Souza & Dennis Blevins

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Aloha HBGFC,

We want to give our deepest gratitude for what you're doing for the fishing community.

Mahalo Mahalo,  
Jim & Tricia Patch

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Aloha and Mahalo for all you guys are doing for the people of Lahaina.  
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Aloha,

We are attaching our application for help. Mahalo for reaching out to help our fishing community in Lahaina that we so dearly appreciate. We are hurting but strong and just hearing what other folks are doing to try to support us is heart warming.

Mahalo,

Katie and Lopaka Wilson  
West Maui Sports and Fishing Supply

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Mahalo HBGFC I can't thank you enough!

“Hey Dave just wanted to send you an update and a thanks about Chass family in Lahaina. She said that the funds was able to get them enough money to get off the beach and get the family into a house. They are so grateful that they had that because without it they would not have had enough for the house. They said in the midst of everything this was a great Christmas gift. So I wanted to say thank you for the help for the family “ Kaniela Hauanio



Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club  
(HBGFC)  
PO Box 471  
Kailua-Kona, Hi 96745

Hawai'i Community Foundation  
Maui Strong Fund  
827 Fort Street Mall  
Honolulu, HI 96813

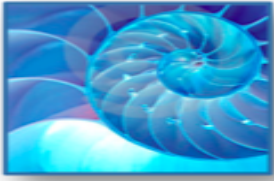
Aloha,

Please accept this \$10,000 donation to the Maui Strong Fund on behalf of the Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club (HBGFC) our member and community donations. This past year the HBGFC established a ***Maui Fishery Community Fire Emergency Relief Fund***. The fire in Lahaina was devastating to the fishing fleet, and ocean services community. Over ninety boats, as well as the harbor, were destroyed in the inferno. The goal of the emergency fund was to provide immediate cash to fire victims in the Maui Fishery Community. HBGFC established a donation page on their website and petitioned their members, members of the Honokohau Fishing Community, and the public asking for donations. The response was overwhelming, donations started pouring in and the fund collected ***\$40,465.00*** in just a couple of weeks. ***\$32,000*** of these funds were distributed directly to Maui Fishery fire victims. We have received numerous thankful emails and messages from many of the Maui applicants who have lost their homes, boats, fishing equipment, and livelihood and were so grateful for the support that we provided. HBGFC would like to donate the remaining funds, along with our own contribution to the Maui Strong Fund for a total of \$10,000.

Mahalo from the HBGFC Board

President Captain Rob McGuckin // Vice President Kai Hoover// Treasurer// Secretary David Andersen // Chad Beaudry // Captain Mike Dakil // Ernie Clayton//Jody Bright//emeritus Teresa Oswald





# West Hawai'i Explorations Academy

A Public Charter School located at the Natural Energy Laboratory Hawai'i, Keshole Point, Kona

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May 24, 2024

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) members,

I am writing this letter in support of approving the Hawaii Big Game Fishing Club long-term lease so that they are able to continue to responsibly steward and advocate for our area fishing community, and support conservation efforts of our ocean ecosystems. West Hawaii Explorations Academy has benefitted from their generosity by offering scholarships to several of our students who have pursued higher education in related marine study fields.

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or need for additional information.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Greenberg'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Joe Greenberg  
Director