

From: [YCal](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stop AQ permits in west Hawaii
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 7:44:15 AM

As a 60 year resident of Hawaii I strongly object to opening up the Hawaiian reefs to the aquarium trade.

The benefits of having a thriving reef ecosystem are much more important for ALL of us over the gains of businesses that make their profits with an unnecessary and destructive activity that science has proven is detrimental to the larger ocean ecosystem.

These fish are far more valuable to the people and state of Hawaii left in their environment to be enjoyed by residents and as a draw for tourism.

On a personal note, my mother who is 96 and has been snorkeling in Hawaii for 70 years is so grateful to be able to see these beautiful reef fish (I think she can name them all) and enjoy the beautiful ocean environment that Hawaii has to offer. She has taught 4 generations of family to snorkel and passed on her love for the ocean.

Snorkeling is one of the last things she is physically able to do. It brings her and many many others the joy of being able to immerse yourself in a different magical world - one that would not be the same with few fish and the resulting degradation of the coral and reef environment. She saw the decline of the fish as illegal aquarium fishing was conducted around waimanalo.

To subject pristine reefs to legal aquarium fishing as well would be highly destructive and counterproductive to the steps that we all need to make to ensure healthy oceans for the next generations.

Also DAR's actions to switch to the chair making the determination for issuing AQ permits seems very unethical.

This needs to be STOPPED.

Thank you,
Tessa Arguijo
Kailua, Hawaii

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Gary & Lynn Chapman](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] August 23; Agenda Item F.1 Aquarium Trade
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 4:41:46 AM

I wish to testify that the Aquarium Trade should not be allowed to gather fish from Island waters:

The reefs are at a fragile breaking point and their demise would be an environmental tragedy! It's obvious that the fish help keep the reefs in balance and are essential to keeping the Islands protected against climate change impacts:

- The benefits of leaving our fish on the reefs FAR OUTWEIGH the monetary gains of a handful of people who take them off the reef for sale to the AQ pet trade outside Hawaii
- Scientists say we must increase fish abundance if our reefs are to have a fighting chance against climate change impacts. Sacrificing tens to hundreds of thousands of important herbivores to an unnecessary and destructive activity contradicts best available science and common sense
- The AQ trade fundamentally conflicts with local, cultural, and broad social values of our Hawaii home

Lynn Chapman
Waimea, Hawaii Island
(808) 895-0758, sun2c303@gmail.com

From: [Carol Davies](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please don't issue commercial fishing permits again! F-1
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 8:12:15 AM

My name is Carol Davies and I live in West Hawaii. I cannot believe that this is being considered. I have been in the ocean almost daily for a long, long time and have been so happy to see more and more of the fish and corals since we have been allowing them to prosper. Please deny all permits! It is such a step backwards. I thought we were making such progress, and now this!

---Carol

808-885-0671

From: [CANDY CORALS](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F1 Support
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 6:10:50 AM

“I support the opening of aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR”

Please open this

Thanks
Afnan M
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Aqua Dreams](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 2:52:17 PM

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

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: [Terry Donnelly](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NO AQ permits should be issued
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 7:09:25 AM

My name is Terry Donnelly. I have been a resident of Hawaii for 44 years. I live near the ocean in Hanapepe, Kauai. I am a PADI Master Scuba Instructor and have a USCG Captain's license. I have made my living on Kauai teaching and guiding scuba divers and snorkelers as well as captaining tour boats. I am very familiar and experienced with Kauai's underwater creatures. They should be protected and allowed to live in our oceans with people seeing and experiencing them in their natural habitat, not shipped away to die in an aquarium.

- BLNR should be the ultimate decision-makers on whether or not to issue AQ permits, not just the Chair of DAR staff
- NO AQ permits should be issued

I have two daughters and two grandchildren born and raised on Kauai. I want to protect our precious ocean creatures so that they may enjoy them in their natural environment.

Sincerely, Terry Donnelly

Sent from my iPad

From: [neil bharath](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AGENDA ITEM F1 SUPPORT
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 12:37:39 PM

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Kind Regards

From: [Heidi Castaneda](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 4:19:59 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Sincerely,

Heidi Castaneda

From: [David Hunt](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F1 I STRONGLY OPPOSE Issuing AQ Permits. I STRONGLY OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 4:19:10 AM

8/17/24

Aloha Chair and BLNR Members,

My name is David Hunt. I live in the Hamakua District near Honoka'a. I am a retired teacher and counselor. I have done much volunteer watershed restoration and community-based volunteer work in both the Hamakua and Kohala districts over the past 10 years since retiring.

I also do most of my recreating in the Kohala and Kona districts - paddling, snorkeling, swimming, and enjoying our coastal aquatic ecosystem, flora, and fauna. I feel, and work to fulfill, my personal kuleana to respect, protect, and restore the natural beauty of our island home and our communities.

I have written you numerous times before regarding the aquarium industry capturing and commercializing of our coastal fishes.

I OPPOSE issuing commercial aquarium permits in West Hawai'i and I OPPOSE delegating authority to the Department Chair.

Concerning "Terms & Conditions to Issue West Hawai'i AQ permits" - I request that you reject DAR's AQ Terms and Conditions and deny any and all permits. These permits are NOT in the best interest of the fish, our nearshore environment, or our island community. To me it is as the same as - and as bad as the inhumane human slave-trade.

Concerning "Delegating Authority to Issue AQ Permits to the Department Chair" - ONE person should NOT have such authority, and I ask that you do NOT delegate authority to the Department Chair. It is very important to retain the discretionary authority with the Board who can access their island communities, their training and knowledge, and their expertise to weigh in and make informed decisions together. These decisions must be transparent, open, inclusive, community-based decisions rather than the sole power handed to one person.

Mahalo for reading and considering my concerns and strong feelings.

David Hunt, Honoka'a, Hawaii

, , , &

Aloha, Peace, Love, Music & Gratitude

The shortest path to happiness is gratitude.

From: [Jason Chamberlain](#)
To: [DLNR, BLNR, Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F1 Support
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 9:38:12 AM

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.
-Jason

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From: [Conceicao Farias](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1: OPPOSE Terms & Conditions to Issue Permit; OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 1:53:14 PM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am Conceicao Farias of Kailua Kona.

I OPPOSE issuing commercial aquarium permits in West Hawai'i, and I OPPOSE delegating authority to the Department Chair.

Regarding Terms & Conditions to Issue West Hawai'i AQ permits, I request you reject DAR's AQ Terms and Conditions and deny any and all permits. Our reefs have been completely degraded and now it is time to rebuild, not to keep taking.

Regarding Delegating Authority to Issue AQ Permits to the Department Chair, do not delegate authority to the Department Chair. Retain the discretionary authority with the Board, which will continue to utilize their diverse island communities, specialized knowledge, and expertise to weigh in and make informed decisions together.

Thank you for this opportunity,
Conceicao Farias
Kailua Kona, HI

From: [Kathy Cobb](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F1 Support
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 3:01:54 PM

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR

Sent from my iPhone

From: [John \(JD\) Delgado](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F1
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 4:11:53 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to you today to express my support for opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Jd Delgado

August 17, 2024

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I OPPOSE issuing commercial aquarium permits in West Hawai'i and I OPPOSE delegating authority to the Department Chair.

Regarding Terms & Conditions to Issue West Hawai'i AQ permits, I request you reject DAR's AQ Terms and Conditions and deny any and all permits.

Reinstituting a practice that has been curtailed for its environmental harms is the idea of collecting wildlife for commercial sale is generally viewed as environmentally unacceptable. The Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) is a U.N. treaty that bans the shipment of endangered animal species or body parts (like ivory, leopard skins, etc.) Many reef species are endangered and certainly the coral reefs themselves are globally critically endangered habitat. Reef fish are integral to the overall health of the reefs themselves, which should not be subjected to further stressors.

One of the big issues in the Aquarium Fish Industry is that it is very difficult if not impossible to enforce laws that do exist for capture. For instance it is common practice to use cyanide to temporarily stun the fish making it easier for capture. Even if that practice is prohibited, it's impossible to determine how a fish was caught after it's been captured. So any regulations that Hawaii might impose will be very difficult to enforce. In addition, many wild-caught fish die in transit, especially if they have been weakened by cyanide – which means even more fish need to be captured to meet market demand. The chemicals damage the living coral and make it more difficult for new coral to grow.

Even if captured “carefully”, by people like Partiana, experts say the global demand for these fish is contributing to the degradation of delicate coral ecosystems, especially in major export countries such as Indonesia and the Philippines. Gayatri Reksodihardjo-Lilley, founder of LINI, a Bali-based nonprofit for the conservation and management of coastal marine resources has stated, “There's no enforcement, no management, no data collection”.

Further, the U.N. Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) prohibits the international transport of endangered species and/or body parts (Ivory, Skins, etc). While there are endangered tropical fish, certainly the coral reefs themselves are a globally endangered habitat type, essential for the long-term health of the oceans, and by extension, our planet. Reef fish are an integral part of that delicate ecosystem, and at a time when coral reefs are under extreme threat, it makes no sense whatsoever to proactively allow yet another stressor to the mix.

In conclusion, Hawaii's tropical fish are far more valuable to the state alive and in their home waters, where they contribute to the overall health of the reefs, as well as the recreational diving industry, which is far more valuable to the state's economy than exporting the fish to die premature deaths as home décor.

Laurin Hayes - Kailua Kona

From: [Carol Espinoza](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] support
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 5:01:55 AM

We support the opening of fishing in Hawaii
for the strengthening of the industry

From: [Haleigh Fitzgerald](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F1 SUPPORT
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 10:47:03 AM

I SUPPORT OPENING THE AQUARIUM FISHERY AND MANAGING RESOURCES BY
SCIENCE
PROVIDED BY DAR.
SIGNED,
HALEIGH FITZGERALD

From: [Christiana Hetzel](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1 I OPPOSE Issuing AQ Permits & I OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 5:08:57 PM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Christiana Hetzel of Ka'awaloa (Captain Cook), South Kona. I'm a retiree who spends most of my time in the ocean freediving and removing marine debris and discarded fishing gear from our reefs.

I OPPOSE issuing commercial aquarium permits in West Hawai'i and I OPPOSE delegating authority to the Department Chair.

Regarding Terms & Conditions to Issue West Hawai'i AQ permits, I request you reject DAR's AQ Terms and Conditions and deny any and all permits. Spending most of my time in the ocean, I know the importance of these desirable aquarium fish in their ecosystem & their role in maintaining a healthy reef, especially during conditions of climate change. I've seen first hand the disastrous results depletion of these fish can cause. Please don't deprive our keiki & future generations of seeing these wonderful creatures in the ocean, where they belong.

Regarding Delegating Authority to Issue AQ Permits to the Department Chair, do not delegate authority to the Department Chair. Retain the discretionary authority with the Board who will continue to utilize their diverse island communities, specialize knowledge, and expertise to weigh in and make informed decisions together.

Mahalo for this opportunity,
Christiana Hetzel
Captain Cook, South Kona

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Janet Goodmanson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1 I OPPOSE Issuing AQ Permits & I OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 8:47:28 AM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Janet Goodmanson of Kealahou, and I have lived in Hawai'i for 15 years.

I OPPOSE issuing commercial aquarium permits in West Hawai'i and I OPPOSE delegating authority to the Department Chair.

Regarding Terms & Conditions to Issue West Hawai'i AQ permits, I request you reject DAR's AQ Terms and Conditions and deny any and all permits.

Regarding Delegating Authority to Issue AQ Permits to the Department Chair, do not delegate authority to the Department Chair. Retain the discretionary authority with the Board who will continue to utilize their diverse island communities, specialize knowledge, and expertise to weigh in and make informed decisions together.

Mahalo for this opportunity,

Janet Goodmanson
District 6
Hawai'i County

From: [Igor Grinberg](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 12:03:41 PM

Support Hawaiian Fisherman!

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to you today to express my support for opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Sincerely,
Igor Grinberg

From: [Matthew Gurewitsch](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I OPPOSE issuing AQ permits, and I OPPOSE delegating authorizing the Department Chair to issue permits
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 5:15:37 PM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My wife and I have been full-time residents of Maui since 2011. We moved to Hawaii to snorkel every day, and we've kept to that. So we are well aware of the precarious state of our reefs. We have visited the Big Island frequently for changes of scenery and to educate ourselves on the marine ecosystem there.

I categorically oppose issuing commercial aquarium permits in West Hawai'i. The fish stocks simply cannot survive the depredations. They're lamentable as is. Sustenance fishing is one thing. Removing whole fish populations for the private gain of the aquarium trade and the selfish enjoyment of collectors is something else. It has to stop. I'm aware that there has been a ban in place, but it must be maintained.

I likewise categorically delegating to the Department Chair authority to issue licenses. There should be no licenses at all. If ever the issue comes up, it must be subject to intense discussion. No rubber stamps, please! And no one-person rule. Responsibility in this matter must lie with the Board members knowledgeable their diverse island communities and issues of marine ecology.

My wife and I have been visiting Hawaii since 1991. Over these three decades, we have witnessed the heart-breaking decline of reef fish stocks. I remember once seeing a whole school of resident Pennant Butterflyfish off the beach at the Mauna Kea resort. Where are they now? Achilles tang used to school in profusion. Now you're lucky to see one. Moorish Idols were once as common as sparrows in a mainland park. Now you see *one* and it's a big day. Why can't our stewards of the 'aina practice mālama? Seems like every time we take one baby step forward, the market forces start twisting arms to take two giant steps back. No! It's especially egregious this time, with a relevant Environmental Impact Statement still under judicial review. No horses before carts, please!

Mahalo for your attention,

M.

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

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

www.beyondcriticism.com

From: [Jennifer Ching](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1: OPPOSE Terms & Conditions to Issue Permit; OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 2:01:40 PM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am Jennifer Ching, formerly the Treasurer for the Hawaii Conservation Association. We spent many laborious hours defining boundaries and successfully shutting down the reef fish collection here on the Big Island. I am disappointed that it is back on the table as our reef fish population will suffer for the profits of a few. We can all remember the days when the pakukui were plentiful and the ocean teemed with yellow tang.....no longer!!

I OPPOSE issuing commercial aquarium permits in West Hawai'i, and I OPPOSE delegating authority to the Department Chair.

Regarding Terms & Conditions to Issue West Hawai'i AQ permits, I request you reject DAR's AQ Terms and Conditions and deny any and all permits.

Regarding Delegating Authority to Issue AQ Permits to the Department Chair, do not delegate authority to the Department Chair. Retain the discretionary authority with the Board, which will continue to utilize their diverse island communities, specialized knowledge, and expertise to weigh in and make informed decisions together.

Thank you and Mahalo for this opportunity,

Jennifer and Herb Ching
Holualoa and Kealia

From: [Nash Jagessar](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 12:42:40 PM

From: [Hannah Jagus](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 3:02:29 PM

"I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR"

From: [Jeannie Jewell](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1: OPPOSE Terms & Conditions to Issue Permit; OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 8:54:46 AM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am Jean Jewell a 50 year resident of Kona and raised on Oahu. I have witnessed the decline over the years of our reef life. An amazing difference snorkeling today from 50 years ago. We need to stop the commercial taking of our fish for aquariums.

I OPPOSE issuing commercial aquarium permits in West Hawai'i, and I OPPOSE delegating authority to the Department Chair.

Regarding Terms & Conditions to Issue West Hawai'i AQ permits, I request you reject DAR's AQ Terms and Conditions and deny any and all permits. As mentioned, these permits to collect have led to serious degradation of our reefs.

Regarding Delegating Authority to Issue AQ Permits to the Department Chair, do not delegate authority to the Department Chair. Retain the discretionary authority with the Board, which will continue to utilize their diverse island communities, specialized knowledge, and expertise to weigh in and make informed decisions together.

Thank you for this opportunity,
Jean Jewell
Holualoa 96725
Hawaii Island

From: [Andrew Jones](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 4:13:39 PM

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

—

Andrew Jones

From: [Keynin Kretz](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 11:44:20 AM

I support the reopening of tropical fish collection. I dove hundreds of hours on the big island and Oahu each year while I was in college (2016-2020) and never witnessed any fish decline or endangerment of any species. Now doing a few trips while the fishery has been closed, I have witnessed little to no increase in fish populations.

From: [Liz Lees](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Commercial Aquarium Collection- I oppose it!
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 9:05:47 AM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I OPPOSE issuing commercial aquarium permits in West Hawai'i and I OPPOSE delegating authority to the Department Chair.

Regarding Terms & Conditions to Issue West Hawai'i AQ permits, I request you reject DAR's AQ Terms and Conditions and deny any and all permits.

I snorkel and swim in West Hawaii several times a week and I am personally quite concerned for the health of our oceans and lack of enforcement for current rules. How will we know where the fish have been taken from? Is there enough staffing to have a monitor present with every collector on every outing?

Commercial aquarium collection unfairly commercializes public trust resources and exploits Hawaiian cultural and natural resources at the expense of the residents of Hawaii. The potential damage to the health of our local ecosystems and fisheries should outweigh the benefits to the very few exploiters of our oceans for the pet trade.

Regarding Delegating Authority to Issue AQ Permits to the Department Chair, do not delegate authority to the Department Chair. Retain the discretionary authority with the Board who will continue to utilize their diverse island communities, specialized knowledge, and expertise to weigh in and make informed decisions together.

Mahalo for this opportunity,

Liz Lees
Kailua Kona

Liz

From: mmmmahalo2000@aol.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for August 23; Agenda Item F.1
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 11:38:01 AM

Aloha Chair and Board Members

Mike Moran here from Kihei Town on Island of Maui. I have lost track of how many times I have testified on this matter: how many times the community believes this practice is outlawed in Hawaii and how times times it arises again. There must be a lot of money involved

Please stand firm and say NO aquarium fish collecting permits will be allowed. You speak for the people and the fishes of Hawaii. Please stop the further export of our natural resources for some one else's financial profit. Is not DAR's charge to lead our protection and management efforts to preserve Hawai'i's unique and irreplaceable aquatic resources? This proposed action by the division is just the opposite Please reject it

Aloha

Mike

From: [Aquarium Doctor, Inc.](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AGENDA ITEM F1 SUPPORT
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 3:13:39 PM

Hawaii had been known for its world renown aquarium fishery regulations and had been the guideline for Fiji and many other countries to follow. We again support Hawaii in opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR, to again show the world how the industry should be run.

Sincerely,
Craig Morton

From: [Brad Norman](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item 1 - support
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 8:06:57 AM

Dear DAR

I am writing to express my support for the reopening of Hawaii's aquarium fishery, grounded in scientific principles and sustainable practices. The aquarium fishery in Hawaii is not only an integral part of aquarium culture and economy but also has the potential to be managed responsibly, benefiting both the environment and communities.

****Scientific Basis for Reopening****

Research indicates that sustainable collection practices can manage marine resources effectively, ensuring that fish populations remain healthy while allowing for economic benefits. Studies have shown that responsible fishing methods, such as selective harvesting and limiting collection quotas, can mitigate adverse impacts on coral reefs and promote marine biodiversity.

****Economic and Social Benefits****

The aquarium fishery supplies a significant number of jobs and supports local businesses. Many families rely on this industry for their livelihood, and a responsibly reopened fishery can ensure their economic stability while maintaining ecological balance. Furthermore, Hawaii's unique marine species contribute to educational and conservation efforts, fostering awareness and appreciation for marine ecosystems.

****Conservation and Education Efforts****

An open aquarium fishery can increase funding for marine conservation initiatives. By promoting sustainable practices and research, we can enhance our understanding of marine life and support efforts for habitat restoration and species protection. Moreover, a well-regulated fishery can lead to more informed consumers and encourage responsible ownership, thereby reducing the likelihood of invasive species introduction.

****Conclusion****

In conclusion, reopening the aquarium fishery in Hawaii, with stringent regulations and a focus on sustainability, aligns with scientific recommendations and benefits both the ecosystem and the local population. I urge you to consider this scientific approach when making decisions regarding the future of the aquarium fishery.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to seeing the positive outcomes that a reopened fishery can achieve.

Sincerely,

Brad Norman
Hobbyist, Albuquerque, NM
505-319-3880
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Derek Priest](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Tropical Fish removal
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 9:59:34 AM

Please stop the removal of tropical fish from Hawaii waters. It is detrimental to the reef environment and degrades our beautiful islands.

From: [Susan Rhymes](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AQ permits
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 6:46:28 AM

Subject: F-1 I OPPOSE Issuing AQ Permits & I OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I OPPOSE issuing commercial aquarium permits in West Hawai'i and I OPPOSE delegating authority to the Department Chair.

Regarding Terms & Conditions to Issue West Hawai'i AQ permits, I request you reject DAR's AQ Terms and Conditions and deny any and all permits.

Regarding Delegating Authority to Issue AQ Permits to the Department Chair, do not delegate authority to the Department Chair. Retain the discretionary authority with the Board who will continue to utilize their diverse island communities, specialize knowledge, and expertise to weigh in and make informed decisions together.

When will we finally put this issue to bed and stop funding mainland aquarium collectors with our resources?

From: [Patricia Richardson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] August 23: Agenda Item F.1
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 10:59:37 AM

My name is Patricia Richardson. I live in Hilo. I have been monitoring the reef fish species and abundance on this island as a volunteer for over 20 years. I know how important it is to maintain a diverse and healthy reef fish population in order to maintain a healthy coral environment and a healthy ocean. All life depends on a healthy ocean.

The AQ trade does nothing to maintain this healthy balance. It benefits a very few for financial gain at the expense of the entire ocean culture: fish, coral, reefs and people. I am appalled that the DAR is considering re-opening the AQ trade and ignoring the decisions made by the BLNR.

Leave the fish alive and thriving on the reef where they belong.

Sincerely yours,
Patricia Richardson
patricia.richardson@hotmail.com

From: [Gavin Rodrigo](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 9:54:18 AM

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

From: [Sparky Rodrigues](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hawaiian near shore resource desecration
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 1:07:31 PM

STOP ALL near shore desecration of fish reef Limu of any kind. ALLOW our reefs healthy healing restoration to self sustaining ecosystems. NO MORE reef fish taking.

James Rodrigues

From: [Glen Rollinger](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] agenda item F1 SUPPORT
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 11:04:29 AM

**I SUPPORT OPENING THE AQUARIUM FISHERY AND MANAGING RESOURCES BY
SCIENCE PROVIDED BY DAR**

Without inventory my Store will not stay Open .

**Thanks,
Glen Rollinger
650 Ocean's Reef Inc**

From: [Linda Rosenstock](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1 I OPPOSE Issuing AQ Permits & I OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 3:35:23 AM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Linda Rosenstock of Mauna Lani Point. While I have established my residency fairly recently, I have been an avid snorkeler for many more and have observed changes to the fish populations up and down the coastline where the proposed collection would occur.

I OPPOSE issuing commercial aquarium permits in West Hawai'i and I OPPOSE delegating authority to the Department Chair.

Regarding Terms & Conditions to Issue West Hawai'i AQ permits, I request you reject DAR's AQ Terms and Conditions and deny any and all permits. I say this because of my personal experiences snorkeling along the West Hawai'i coast. There is an extreme difference in the fish populations in areas that are protected versus those that are not. Allowing the collection of Hawaii's precious natural resource puts a few dollars in a few hands at the risk of harm to fish populations that are already facing environmental challenges. Not only has there been a decrease in fish but in some areas the complete absence of fish species that were once present.

Regarding Delegating Authority to Issue AQ Permits to the Department Chair, do not delegate authority to the Department Chair. Retain the discretionary authority with the Board who will continue to utilize their diverse island communities, specialize knowledge, and expertise to weigh in and make informed decisions together.

Mahalo for this opportunity,

Linda Rosenstock, South Kohala,
Moku o Keawe

From: [Christiane Karuna Santoro](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Subject: F-1 I OPPOSE Issuing AQ Permits & I OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 11:21:08 AM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Christiane Santoro of Pukalani, Maui. I am a retired accountant, volunteer for Pacific Whale Foundation and Maui Humane Society and an avid snorkeler.

I OPPOSE issuing commercial aquarium permits in West Hawai'i and I OPPOSE delegating authority to the Department Chair.

Regarding Terms & Conditions to Issue West Hawai'i AQ permits, I request you reject DAR's AQ Terms and Conditions and deny any and all permits. I love snorkeling and have visited Indonesia several times because of the abundance and variety of fish and corals. I have seen what a healthy reef can look like and compared to that, our Hawaiian reefs are sad to see. I do not understand how taking beautiful fish from our already depleted fish supply can even be considered.

Regarding Delegating Authority to Issue AQ Permits to the Department Chair, do not delegate authority to the Department Chair. Retain the discretionary authority with the Board who will continue to utilize their diverse island communities, specialized knowledge, and expertise to weigh in and make informed decisions together.

Mahalo for this opportunity,

Christiane Santoro
Pukalani, Maui

From: email@markschacht.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] August 23; Agenda Item F.1; OPPOSITION TO ISSUANCE OF AQ PERMITS AND DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO DLNR CHAIR
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 9:32:25 AM

Dear Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources:

I write in strong opposition to the premature and overtly anti-democratic move by the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to re-open West Hawai'i to commercial aquarium collection (AQ) even though the validity of the AQ's EIS, upon which the DAR plan is based, is still pending before the Hawai'i Supreme Court, and also to remove the BLNR's oversight of the trade by giving sole AQ permitting authority to the DLNR Chair. This usurpation of the Board's authority means that the Chair could sign off without the public even being notified or being given an opportunity to voice our longstanding concerns.

I am a licensed Dive Master and videographer, with hundreds of logged dives in Hawaiian waters (Big Island, Maui, Molokai and Lanai) during the last 30 years. Some of my Hawaiian underwater video was purchased by National Geographic and used in its "Amazing Planet" TV special, and I have hundreds of other photos (and videos) of fish life density, variety, and reef conditions throughout that time period, including from the recent extensive bleaching incident in the last decade off Lanai. This personal and public video and photographic evidence documents a steep decline in reef health and wild reef fish viability throughout many parts of the Hawaiian reef system: Fewer fish; fewer rare and endemic species; fewer large predators; more algae growth, etc. etc.

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 wild fish off the reefs every year is absolutely ruinous and not sustainable*** by any ocean user's definition, and **I urge the Board to reject the DAR plan in its entirety.**

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

From: [Robert S](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reopen ornamental fishery: Agenda item F1 support
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 11:02:31 AM

To whom it may concern,

I support the opening of the marine ornamental fishery in Hawaii and managing the resources by science provided by DAR. The fishery has been shown to be sustainable and is a beacon for further sustainably managed marine ornamental fisheries and I believe should be opened again and managed by real data that consistently shows it's safe, sustainable and can be managed responsibly.

Thank you for your time

Robert Seatherton

From: [Beppie Shapiro](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1 OPPOSE W. Hawaii Aquarium permits & OPPOSE delegating Board authority to Chair
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 4:52:45 AM

I live on Oahu, and share a house in Hau`ula where I see first hand the sneaky, devastating methods of aquarium fish collectors in reef pools.

You probably know that most collected fish die in transport. That fact as well as the beauty of our reef fish, underlies the rapacious numbers of fish collected from Hawaii's reefs. Collecting immature reef fish such as those in reef pools where fish lay their eggs so small baby fish can grow in supposed safety, means fewer fish mature to lay their own eggs and provide the beauty and environmental richness that we residents of Hawaii enjoy. In other parts of the world videos are widely available which show these fish in their natural habitats, so everyone can enjoy the natural beauty of Hawaii.

West Hawaii as many snorkelers know is one of the richest areas for remaining populations of the most popular reef fish.

I strongly oppose the issue of permits for aquarium fishing in West Hawaii.

Regarding Delegating Authority to Issue AQ Permits to the Department Chair: Board members are selected to represent different parts of Hawaii, and for their knowledge, experience and wisdom. Please do not delegate their authority to the Board Chair, thus depriving Hawaii's aina and citizens of their knowledge and mana`o.

Mahalo,
Beppie Shapiro

From: [The Aquarium Shop](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 7:12:12 AM

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by SCIENCE provided by DAR.

From: jc@family1financial.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] agenda item F1 SUPPORT
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 12:12:08 PM

I SUPPORT OPENING THE AQUARIUM FISHERY AND MANAGING RESOURCES BY
SCIENCE PROVIDED BY DAR

Jack Tompkins

From: [Bill Trufant](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F1 support
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 5:57:05 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

To whom it may concern,

I wholeheartedly support opening the Hawaiian aquarium fishery and managing resources by science as provided by DAR, NOT by gut feel.

This nonsense has gone on way too long especially considering that the Hawaiian Fishery is the best managed fishery certainly in the United States but possibly the world! Please, please, please look at the actual science!

Respectfully,

Bill
Bill Trufant
President
B & B Pet Stop, Inc
5035 Cottage Hill Road
Mobile, AL 36609
251 661-3474



From: [Sylvia Dolena](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1: OPPOSE Terms & Conditions to Issue Permit; OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 1:16:41 PM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am Sylvia Dolena of Pahoia and Mountain View PUNA. In 2014 through 2017 I held a permit for commercial gathering of opae ula. Because I was very careful to vett the purchaser of the opae ula to ensure they would only be used a pets and for science classes, I was confident that it was okay for me to do this. I stopped this business because of all of the opposition to the trade which I did agree with.

Therefore, I OPPOSE issuing commercial aquarium permits in West Hawai'i, and I OPPOSE delegating authority to the Department Chair.

Regarding Terms & Conditions to Issue West Hawai'i AQ permits, I request you reject DAR's AQ Terms and Conditions and deny any and all permits. [Provide personal knowledge, family stories, perspective ... mana'o]

Regarding Delegating Authority to Issue AQ Permits to the Department Chair, do not delegate authority to the Department Chair. Retain the discretionary authority with the Board, which will continue to utilize their diverse island communities, specialized knowledge, and expertise to weigh in and make informed decisions together.

Thank you for this opportunity,

Sylvia Dolena

County District 5, Island of Hawaii

Pahoia, HI 96778

Mountain View, HI 96771

Owner, Pele Lani Farm LLC

Owner, Winning Edge Women's Leadership

Director, Puna Rising Entrepreneur Hub

Co-founder, Aloha Animal Advocates, HI Domestic non-profit

Director, Malama O'Puna. 501c3

President, Aloha Lokahi Association, 501c3

President, Kulia I Ka Nu'u Outreach Services

Vice President, Love Those Dog Paws, 501c3

Executive Coach, Hewlett Packard Enterprises

From: [Andrew Vieira](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 2:02:43 PM

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

From: [Justin Woodall](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 4:20:33 PM

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Respectfully,

Justin Woodall