

From: [Ryan Rothwell](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 1:21:28 PM

To the members of the DLNR Board,

I am emailing today in support of reopening the aquarium industry. The industry has fulfilled all requirements put in place and is proven to be a sustainable resource in the state. I celebrate the hard work and dedication of the applicants and believe that they have met all of the requests of the DLNR.

Please support DAR and the fisherman and allow the state to continue to be run a well managed fishery as an example to the rest of the world.

Mahalo,

Ryan Rothwell
The Pet Depot Hawaii
Tropical Fish Emporium



August 19, 2024

Department of Land and Natural Resources
Board of Directors
PO Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96809
Attn: Chair Chang and Members

RE: Item FI for August 23, 2024 Board Meeting

Aloha Chair Chang and Members,

I'm sending in testimony against the proposal by the Chair of the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to be elected the sole authority for the permitting of commercial aquarium collection (AQ) in West Hawai'i waters. This is against the voice of the people and ahead of the petitioned rule-making that would prohibit commercial AQ in all state waters, which was approved in December 2023 by the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR). If the Chair of DAR is appointed sole authority, it takes away the public ability to voice opinion on a public trust issue and gives a single person authority to issue AQ permits.

Conservation Council for Hawai'i strongly advocates that the AQ permits be determined by the BLNR, and not the Chair of DAR. As a science-based organization, we stand behind the science that calls for keeping the reef fish intact to generate healthy reef eco-systems. This practice also helps to combat the ever-increasing threats from climate change. On a cultural level, over harvesting of our reef fish takes away a food source for the community, lessens the chance for the fish to re-populate, and affects other species ability to thrive. AQ collecting takes away thousands of reef fish for a select and privileged few, sacrificing the health of our reefs and minimizing the ability for the people of Hawai'i to utilize the reef as a food source. We say NO to the permitting of AQ collecting in all Hawai'i waters.

Mahalo Nui,

Jonnetta Peters
Executive Director

**Telephone/Fax: 224.338-6511 | email: info@conservehi.org
web: www.conservehawaii.org | P.O. Box 2923, Honolulu, HI 96802**

President: Colleen Heyer | **Vice President:** Sunshine Woodford | **Secretary:** Makaala Kaaumoana
Treasurer: Mashuri Waite Ph,D | **Directors:** Puanani Anderson-Fung, Bret Nainoa Mossman

Executive Director: Jonnetta "Jonee" Peters

Operations and Events Manager: Leah Kocher

National Wildlife Federation Region 12 Director: Rachel Sprague

National Wildlife Federation Pacific Region Associate Director: Emily Martin

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu – Hawai'i's voice for wildlife | State Affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation

From: [Mike Vitousek](#)
To: [DLNR, BLNR, Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 4:23:36 PM



Mike Vitousek <mvitouse@gmail.com>

Sun, Aug 18, 3:04 PM (1 day ago)



to binr.testimony



Aloha Chair Chang and BLNR members,

I support opening the aquarium fishery and closely managing the resource according to the science provided by DLNR Division of aquatic resources.

I believe in allowing local people to make a living from land and sea, provided the impacts are appropriately managed. On land, some farmers grow crops to feed people, others grow flowers that add beauty to people's lives. Both agricultural practices have value.

On the ocean some fisherman catch fish to feed people and others catch to provide the same beauty. A regulated and sustainable aquarium fishery would be a benefit for Hawaii.

Mahalo
Mike Vitousek

From: [Ryan Rothwell](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 1:21:28 PM

To the members of the DLNR Board,

I am emailing today in support of reopening the aquarium industry. The industry has fulfilled all requirements put in place and is proven to be a sustainable resource in the state. I celebrate the hard work and dedication of the applicants and believe that they have met all of the requests of the DLNR.

Please support DAR and the fisherman and allow the state to continue to be run a well managed fishery as an example to the rest of the world.

Mahalo,

Ryan Rothwell
The Pet Depot Hawaii
Tropical Fish Emporium

From: [Marjane Aalam](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Item F-1 Oppose Issuing of Aquarium Permits
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 12:12:42 AM

Distinguished Board Members,

I am shocked to hear that in view of the ongoing fourth and worst global mass coral bleaching event that started in April 2024, and may affect Hawaiian reefs on a mass scale at any moment, you may vote to issue permits for the take of reef fish.

I vehemently oppose issuing permits, and oppose delegating Authority to issue the take permits to the department chair.

I have worked as a nature guide and volunteer docent for Reef Check International (RCI) in various countries, such as the Maldives, the Seychelles, Indonesia, the US Virgin Islands, Marshall Islands, Egypt, and Costa Rica.

I am a Big Island resident since 2011, and snorkel and dive on a regular basis. I document coral bleaching and mass fish die offs, such as the mass fish die off events that affected the Kapoho Tide Pools, prior to the 2018 Kilauea lava flow that covered the whole area.

It is clear as day, that every single reef fish is needed to prevent algae and sea weed from growing over bleached, damaged or dead corals to allow corals polyps to attach and grow.

It would be a disastrous decision for Hawaii's fragile coral reefs to allow the take of reef fish for the lucrative aquarium trade. Hawaii's reefs are already under tremendous stress from water pollution, overfishing and climate change.

May wisdom prevail over greed and ignorance,
Marjane Aalam
(808) 597-71 74
Sent from my iPad

From: [Francine Aarona](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition of AQ trade
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 11:47:33 AM

Aloha Chair and Board Members,

You sit on this board to make important decisions for your people. That involves “Listening.”

My name is Francine Aarona and I live on the shoreline of Pā‘ia, Maui. I strongly oppose the reopening of our reefs to the destructive AQ trade. You sit on the board to protect our Kuleana of caring for our reefs. It is very important for the reproduction of our sea life, not to sit in an aquarium to make money for outsiders.

The AQ trade conflicts with our local culture boards social values of our home in Hawaii.

Mahalo for allowing me to share my frustration of your decision making. Do what is right for your people.

Ke Akua pu,
Aunty Mopsy (Protect Pā‘ia)

From: [adam Addesi](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 6:44:54 AM

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR. Sourcing from well-managed, sustainable fisheries in Hawaii helps to reduce the environmental pressures on other, more vulnerable marine ecosystems. Hawaii has established strict regulations and science-based practices to ensure that fish and coral are harvested in ways that minimize harm to the environment. By supporting these sustainable fisheries, the saltwater aquarium industry can help balance the global demand for marine life, taking pressure off regions where over-collection or poor management practices could lead to habitat degradation, biodiversity loss, or even species extinction. This approach promotes a more responsible global trade in marine species, encouraging other regions to adopt similar conservation-driven policies. For hobbyists, this ensures a consistent supply of ethically sourced, healthier marine specimens, fostering a more sustainable and conservation-conscious aquarium community.

From: [Alice Hughes](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Aquarium trade
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 12:49:32 PM

Our reefs are vulnerable. With the Onslaught of pollution, disturbance and runoff it is constantly putting them under pressure to survive. we need to. have a balanced ecosystem. We need the creatures that inhabit and have evolved on our reefs for millions of years. The aquarium trade harvests our colorful, tropical fish and upsets the balance of our ecosystem. Please consider implementing the banning aquarium fish harvesting here in West Hawaii. This is an easy place to steal from our future. The future of our children, the future of our visitors and the future of the islands themselves, please please Take it upon yourself to ban this trade. There is constant pressure because the product is free, but it's not free. It cost all of us. Please do the right thing and don't cave in business interest. do the right thing for our children and our children's children , and the island the Aina itself .
Mahalo And may you be blessed from the good decisions you make.

Aloha, Alice Hughes
68 1956 LINAPOEPO E St.,
Waikoloa, HI 96738.
I am a resident of Hawaii
808-989-1905

From: [Mia Akau-LaClair](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in opposition of AQ permits for West Hawai'i
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 3:13:35 PM

Aloha,

My name is Mia Akau-LaClair. I was born and raised in Waimea and Kawaihae on Hawai'i Island. I am a life-long resident of West Hawai'i and have generational ties to this region.

Oversight of permitting for aquatic resources should remain with the BLNR with the input from the public and not be given to the Chair of DAR. Furthermore, our native reef fishes and aquatic resources should be protected as a critical part of our native reef ecosystems. My family and I have relied on our native fish as a food source for generations and I strongly believe they should not be collected as a token on someone's shelf. I firmly believe that no AQ permits should be issued for West Hawai'i or waters statewide.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Mia Akau-LaClair

From: [Bridgette Alfonso](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F1 Support
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 1:10:02 PM

Our Family Aquarium and Maintenance Company Captive Seas Support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

We in Florida want to provide our customers with healthy quarantined specimens from Hawaii again and making sure the fish go to good home and business aquariums for family's to enjoy for years to come.

In hopes of keeping our small family business open for our customers and employees and their families for years to come with fish from the aquarium fishery and managing resources provided by DAR.

Thank you,
Sincerely Captive Seas Family

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

From: [mohd Ali](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:35:27 AM

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR. Hawaii has the most beautiful fish and as long as the population is under control, there will not be overfishing.

Ali
Singapore

From: [Anne A](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: [Mary Groode](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] August 23; Agenda Item F.1
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 10:38:31 AM

I am opposed to Brian Neilson, the chair of DAR making decisions unilaterally. Save the reef fish. Stop the aquarium trade.

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.

In just the seven years that have been a resident and snorkeling most days I have seen a decline in the health of the reefs and in quantity and variety of fish!!!! The aquarium rape business costs the taxpayers money while the Hawaii boat industry brings in \$200 million in revenues and employs 2000 people.

Brian, how are you justifying your actions when you should be protecting Hawaii's resources?????

Anne Allison, resident of Kihei, Maui

From: [Zettelyss Amora](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Critical Fish Issue---AQ Trade Permits
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 7:32:22 PM

NOW is the ONLY time we can truly protect and preserve our wild ocean habitat for present and future generations. I have been swimming in the oceans along North and South Kohala Coast nearly every day for 20 years and have only seen a steady decline in fish and all sea life!!! We must take further action to preserve our natural habitat in our oceans. PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW ANY AQ PERMITS TO BE ISSUED!!! Mahalo, Zettelyss Amora

*"AGENDA ITEM : F1.

I OPPOSE THE BOARD ISSUING AQ PERMITS.

I OPPOSE DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR. "*"

TALKING POINTS :

Deny any and all AQ Trade Permits.

Retain the diverse Islands communities specialized knowledge to weigh in and make informed decisions together, for the resource.

Mortality(death) rates; chain of custody:

Collector to wholesaler 3%

Hawaii wholesaler to LA wholesaler. 4%

3 days at LA wholesaler. 5%

LA wholesaler to retailer. 3%

3 days at retailer. 5%

2 weeks at retailer. 11%

Within one year in hobby tank. 100%

Huge Coral Bleaching events in 2014 and 2015 took place in West Hawaii, with some locations reporting a 40% to 60% Coral die off.

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"Matter is Energy, Energy is Light, we are all Light beings"
---Albert Einstein---

"If you want to find the secrets of the Universe think in terms of energy, frequency, and vibration." Nikola Tesla---

From: info@aquariatech.eu
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 12:40:32 AM

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

Kind regards
Aquariatech Europe AB

From: [john bagnall](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 9:07:08 AM

Dear Sirs, Agenda Item F1 Support - I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR! I run my own Marine facility in the UK and understand that you Now meet the necessary requirements.

s Yours sincerely,
John Bagnall
Dreamreef UK

Sent from my iPhone

From: [thierry bardin](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 11:27:38 PM

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

it is important for our industry for the Hawaiian Fishery to be re-opened where collection data has been scientifically proven to be sustainable..

Thierry Denis Bardin

Ho Chi Min city
Viet Nam

From: [Jared bartholomew](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 8:51:17 AM

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR. On a less generic note. The hawaiian fisheries for the ornamental fish trade was once of the best ran most sustainable examples in the world. Before the ban on collection it was a shining example.

From: [Kim Routh](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 2:51:37 PM

I'm a North Kohala resident and I oppose the board issuing AQ permits. The biological diversity of Hawaii Island is suffering, coral is dying off, fish numbers are declining. Please do not add to that. We need to protect our environment for future generations (and tourism if dollars are important to your constituents). When your children, and their children, swim the waters off our coastline, what will they experience?
You're either part of the solution or part of the problem.
What will your legacy be about?
Thank you for your consideration,
Kimberly Bateman
North Kohala

From: [Mario Batista](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:15:17 PM

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

-Mario Batista

From: [Cody Beck](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] agenda item F1 SUPPORT
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 4:48:34 AM

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

- Cody William Beck
12826 Saulston Pl, Hudson FL 34669

From: [Benjamin R W](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:29:36 AM

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

Regards
Ben

From: [Chandra Bertsch](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] August 23; Agenda Item F.1 - Commercial Aquarium Collection
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 3:49:38 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Aloha,

I am in strong OPPOSITION to reopening our reefs to the destructive AQ trade.

Please ensure our ecosystems are not controlled by one person, the BLNR should be the ultimate decision maker about issuing aquarium collection permits. I trust the board to have enough insight to know that allowing commercial trade of natural resources is damaging to our environment, marine life, and cultural values.

Keep what makes Hawai'i unique, here in Hawai'i. Although this issue currently is directed at Hawai'i Island, I understand the significant impacts this has on our ecosystems and we are all connected.

Mahalo,

Chandra

Chandra Bertsch

Co-Owner & General Manager
[Holo Holo Charters](#)



Office: [808.335.0815](tel:808.335.0815)

Cell: [808.634.0811](tel:808.634.0811)

Email: chandra@holoholocharters.com

Physical: 4353 Waialo Rd. Ste 5A, 'Ele'ele, HI 96705

Mailing: PO Box 50940, 'Ele'ele, HI 96705

From: [M B](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NO AQ trade!!!!
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 3:41:57 PM

Please, our beautiful islands, including the oceans that surround us, have suffered enough abuse and environmental disaster esp at the greed of businesses who don't even reside here. When will we put Hawai'i first? We know AQ trade practices only harm our ocean environments and deplete our waters of their natural balance. What kind of legacy do you wish to pass in to our grandchildren? People can live without pet fish from Hawai'i, this is not an essential practice.

We will not be silenced, we are a community that cares.

I am a retired teacher, grandmother, and author/artist who really appreciates the fact that, ultimately, you will do the right thing in this matter.

Mahalo,

Marianne Bickett

O'ahu

[https://urldefense.com/v3/___http://www.MarianneBickett.com___:!!LIYSdFfckKA!zKyz28JZKSWGIU5GF5MzYUaF2Af3PZPnH9kEHodz-i0p1GRDm6XRpNiNR5ULS3b7vDK-BR59tRRzWSdV35LbqbC-HdB7\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/___http://www.MarianneBickett.com___:!!LIYSdFfckKA!zKyz28JZKSWGIU5GF5MzYUaF2Af3PZPnH9kEHodz-i0p1GRDm6XRpNiNR5ULS3b7vDK-BR59tRRzWSdV35LbqbC-HdB7$)

Sent from my iPhone

From: [JOHN BILDERBACK](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 10:11:05 AM

Aloha

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

Aquariums are a valuable tool for understanding and teaching responsibility to the ecosystem for anyone concerned with preserving our marine environment. This is especially true for our Keiki who will move into the future facing increasing challenges in protecting our life giving seas.

Thank you

John Bilderback
P h o t o g r a p h e r

Sunset Beach 96712
E: jb@surfphotos.com
W: surfphotos.com
I: [@john_bilderback](#)
P: (808)389-7873

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ryan Blausen](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item f1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 7:12:28 AM

I support opening the aquarium fisheries and managing resources by science provided by dar

From: [Kelly Hoyle](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 6:46:27 PM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Jerry Blevins of Kamuela. I have lived here on the Big Island since 2001 and have raised two daughters here. I am disgusted that you are seriously considering allowing people to steal reef fish for commercial purposes. I have learned that a majority of fish collected die before making it to their final aquarium. This is disgraceful.

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 have seen the reef and the fish on the west coast diminish and degrade and I am very concerned about the health of our reef. Allowing aquarium fish collectors to gather this precious natural habitat where 80% of the fish die before making into an aquarium is disgraceful.

Jerry Blevins
Kamuela

From: [Leslie Blok](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] August 23; Agenda Item F.1
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 6:37:48 PM

To: Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources

I OPPOSE issuing commercial permits in West Hawaii and I OPPOSE delegating authority to the Department Chair.

I am a daily swimmer/snorkeler in West Hawaii. I have seen the volume of fish and other aquatic life on our reefs diminish dramatically over the last 50 years.

Please do not play a part in the further destruction of our ocean environment.

Mahalo

Leslie Blok
Kailua - Kona, Hawaii

From: [Becky Bond](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item: F1
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 9:33:02 AM

To the BLNR Board,

Aloha, I am a resident of Kapa'au and snorkel regularly at Mahukona. I am opposed to the resumption of harvesting wild fish from the reefs for the aquarium trade, or for any other reason. I do not see any benefit other than to a few individuals who would strip the reef of the few fish we have remaining. Currently there are fish for snorkelers and divers to enjoy. If they are removed, there will not be enough to reproduce, and help to keep the reef system healthy. These fish are an important part of the ecosystem, which is currently undergoing world wide changes and challenges. It is also my understanding that the harvesting of fish is extremely wasteful, with most dying before they can even be transported. What's the point? Keep them in our waters for all to enjoy!

Mahalo,

Becky Bond
Kapa'au, 96755

Sent from my iPad

From: [Anne Borman](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: [Anne Borman](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] August 23; Agenda item F.1
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 11:34:57 AM

Hello,

My name is Anne Borman and I live in Kamuela/Puako on the Big Island since 2007.. I have been coming to the Big Island every year since 1980 to enjoy the beautiful waters offshore for swimming and snorkeling. I swim every day and have personally witnessed the decline in fish populations along the west coast of Hawaii.

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

I vehemently OPPOSE the reopening of our reefs to the destructive AQ trade. The benefits of leaving our fish on the reefs FAR OUTWEIGH the monetary gains of a handful of people who rake them off the reef for sale to the AQ pet trade outside Hawaii.

I am outraged that my voice and the voice of many others regarding the permitting process is being silenced by the DAR. This is a betrayal of the public trust! The BLNR should be the ultimate decision-makers on whether or not to issue AQ permits. I oppose delegating authority to the Chair of the DAR staff.

NO AQ permits should be issued.

The aquarium trade fundamentally conflicts with local, cultural, and broad social values of our Hawaii home.

Mahalo for your attention on this huge issue.

Sincerely,

Anne Borman

From: [Dan Boserio](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 12:49:05 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR. In addition, I'd like to stress how important a Hawaiian supply chain of Marine Ornamental fish is to the world wide industry. With sustainable fishing the industry can thrive on the back of this ban being overturned.

Your Sincerely

Daniel Boserio
Fish Specialist/Aquarist

Monsoon Aquatics.

From: [Surinder Brar](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] West Hawaii Aquarium Fish Permit
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 11:14:21 AM

Dear sir/madam;

I understand that you will be discussing Aquarium Fish Permits at your meeting on Aug. 23rd, 2024

a. **I oppose any issuance of Commercial Aquarium Permits in West Hawaii.** I have been living in Waimea since 2011 and have noticed a significant decline in the fish population over the years when I snorkel along the coast. We should not allow them to be taken which will further decline their population. In addition, all fish should be allowed to live in their natural ocean habitat and available for anyone to see, instead of being trapped in a glass cage for just a few to see.

b. **I oppose delegating authority to issue such permits to the Department Chair.** Such decisions should be made by the larger community instead of any single individual as they affect all of us instead of just the Department Chair. Furthermore, it is easier for the industry to bring undue pressure on a single individual versus a larger community.

Respectfully submitted,
Surinder Brar
Kamuela, HI 96743

From: [Guy Breeze](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F1 support
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 10:17:50 PM

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,
Guy Breeze

Sent from my iPhone

From: [james.brinkley](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Open fisheries
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 4:36:11 AM

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

Sincerely

James Brinkley CEO
Aquaholic Aquarium's LLC
18631 N 19th Ave. #137
Phoenix AZ 85027
Cell-602-332-4524
Store - 623-869-6063

From: [Bill Bugbee](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Item F-1 OPPOSE
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 3:18:51 PM

Sunday, August 18, 2024

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

Clearly, there is evidence of the environmental and economic consequences of unchecked fish extraction, and of various targeted tropical fish species on Hawaii's coral ecosystems.

Hawaii's tropical fish and near shore reef system are interdependent on each other, and live in a delicate ecological balance on Hawaii Island's leeward and near shore marine ecosystem.

A State policy enabling the unabated extraction of tropical fish through a loosely defined permit process, presently ignores the science and economics as to cause-and-effect consequences typified within the present AQ permit process. The AQ permit process is little more than a state resource giveaway enabling an unsustainable coral fish extraction trade. It is without consideration as to the damage of re-enabling via present permit system.

Hawaii Island's reef system, as a whole, is already on the brink of collapse, fueled by macro climate tipping points now adding up to extinction within the world's reef systems, and Hawaii is no longer exempt from these macro influences.

The reduction and elimination of tropical fish serving a vital reef care-taking role, essentially, maintaining the health of Hawaii's marine ecosystem, are now facing measurable tipping points. The resumption of the tropical fish trade's extraction activities in Hawaii's waters will no doubt accelerate the present extinction threat within our state's marine ecosystem.

Comment Addendum: The aforementioned comment and findings are based on

prevailing science, and the direct near shore marine reef observations of more than 10 years (2013-24) of Hawaii Island's North Kona and South Kohala near shore reef system.

Bill Bugbee
72-1147 Hoopai Road
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

From: [Lisa Bunge](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1 I OPPOSE Issuing AQ Permits & I OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 3:57:00 PM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Lisa Bunge of Keauhou. Introduce yourself and all of your roles in West Hawai'i, especially ho'a'aina (tenant, caretaker) of your ahupua'a/district.

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. You don't need to know too much about our how important our reefs are to our island to know how valuable each and every reef fish is to the health of our reefs. Again we are coming into the most vulnerable months of the year for stress bleaching. Do your part to ensure the reef gets every chance possible to maintain its health.

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,
Lisa Bunge

From: [Andrew B](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 11:15:40 AM

To Whom it may concern:

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

I support sustainable practices in the aquarium industry and together we can once again have Hawaii open for aquarium fish collection!

Thank you

Andrew Bunya



Andrew Bunya

The Aquarium Connection
1663 E Los Angeles Ave
Simi Valley, CA 93065
(805) 497-3444

www.theaquariumconnection.com

[Facebook | The Aquarium Connection](#)

[Instagram | @aquariumconnect](#)

From: [Nick Buoy](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 3:30:40 PM

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,

Nick Buoy
Reef SEIS64 Saltwater Aquarium Maintenance
(435) 351-SALT

From: [Nick Buoy](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 3:29:24 PM

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,

Nicholas Buoy

From: [Dolores Burke](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] aquariums are deadly
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:46:33 PM

Sent from my iPhone To the government that is about to let aquarium hunters strip the reef incubators of their large as well as small fish, 98% of the fish will die in transit, the other 2% will die quickly in their aquarium. As long as there is a demand for aquarium fish There will be a demise in the refresh of Hawaii. This is another example of exploiting Hawaii's natural resources for the benefit of greedy consumers.

From: [Kevan](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 10:08:29 AM

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR
It can be sustainable to collect fish and manage this in a productive and ecological way and
can be used as a beneficial way to monitor and control the waters around Hawaii.
Thank you Kevan Bygate

From: [Healani Cahill](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1: OPPOSE Terms & Conditions to Issue Permit; OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 7:47:25 PM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am [] of []. [INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND ALL OF YOUR ROLES IN WEST HAWAI'I, ESPECIALLY HOA'ĀINA (tenant, caretaker) OF YOUR AHUPUA'A/DISTRICT.]

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, PERSPECTIVES...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,
[FULL NAME]
[TOWN], [ZIP CODE]
[ISLAND]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Meredith, Cary](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 9:29:24 AM

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

From: [Daniel Cassar](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] IAgenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 6:46:41 AM

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

Daniel Cassar

From: [Chia Hao Chang](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 5:36:24 AM

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

Thanks and Best regards,

Sent by my Mobile Phone.
Please excuse any typo and brevity of message.

James Chang 張家豪

From: [Max Cheslow](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 12:03:16 PM

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

Best,
Max Cheslow

From: [Tonya Childers](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Issuing AQ Permits
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 9:15:34 PM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Tonya Childers and I am a homeowner in the Napo'opo'o village.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the issuance of commercial aquarium permits in West Hawaii. The delicate marine ecosystems in our region are already facing significant threats from overfishing, pollution, and destruction of the reef. Allowing the commercial collection of marine organisms for the aquarium trade would only further jeopardize the health and sustainability of our oceans.

I am particularly concerned about the impact that commercial aquarium collection could have on the local fish populations, many of which are already facing population declines. Removing marine species from their natural habitat for the aquarium trade can disrupt entire ecosystems and lead to long-term negative consequences.

Furthermore, I am also opposed to delegating authority to the department chair to oversee and regulate the issuing of these permits. There must be robust oversight and accountability in place to ensure that any permitting process is conducted transparently and in the best interest of the environment.

I urge you to reconsider the decision to issue commercial aquarium permits in West Hawaii and to ensure that any future decisions regarding marine resources are made with the utmost caution and consideration for the long-term health of our oceans.

Mahalo for listening!
Tonya Childers

From: [Tien Loon Chua](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 1:33:29 AM

Dear sir/mdm

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

cheers

tL

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [Gianni](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 1:10:29 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.

Don't get me wrong I understand that no everyone who purchases a fish collected will give it the best care in the world but that does not just apply to wild caught fish. Most people who purchase an animal have the best interests at heart.

With global temperatures on the rise, don't you want to give these fish have a fighting chance. As ocean temperatures rise coral reefs are disappearing, with the disappearance of reefs, the disappearance of fish will follow. Captive breeding will sooner or later be the only way we have many marine species.

From my research, I have seen that Hawaii is the best managed aquarium fishery and from what I have seen from the stop wild fish campaign, they are not relying on science; it is all emotion based. If they pay a consultancy company to produce scientific reports that say the aquarium industry is decimating populations, fair enough, don't resume collection to the levels once before, but if it is found the aquarium industry is not having a notable impact on the wild populations then why not resume the collection to the levels before.

As well as my research on the aquarium industry I have seen news reports and articles saying locals are catching native Hawaiian fish for food and selling them on. There has been reports of locals earning significantly less than through the aquarium trade and having the catch significantly more fish to earn a similar wage. Wouldn't you want to see the fish have a chance in an aquarium and not death via spear gun or freezing in a cooler? Back to the scientific reports if there is evidence the aquarium industry is having an affect on populations then why are locals allowed to catch the same fish in larger quantities? It does not make sense to me.

If you decide to not allow wild collection to resume at the levels once before, please let a sensible number of fish to be collected to continue captive breeding, this will allow appropriate genetic diversity and will not result in inbred deformed fish, due to the lack of wild stock.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email, please make a science based decision.

Kind regards,
Gianni Ciuffetelli

From: [Eric Collar](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item f1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 7:13:59 AM

I support opening the aquarium fisheries

From: [Tropical Treasures LLC](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F1
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 9:12:14 AM

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

Signature: Nathaniel Paul Collins

Owner of Tropical Treasures LLC in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [Iis Forigloo](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 11:38:03 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.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Sue Colman



August 23, 2024

To: Members of the Hawai'i BLNR

Submitted Electronically

RE: STRONG OPPOSITION TO ITEM F.1

Dear BOARD MEMBERS:

As the co-founder of Legacy Reef Foundation, a coral preservation and restoration non-profit based in Kona, Hawaii, and working in Costa Rica and the Caribbean. We believe item F.1 needs to be squashed and DAR prevented from going around established protocol set up by the DLNR to approve or disapprove AQ permits.

Our contemporaries on other island nations were appalled to see what is happening in West Hawaii, and they have stated that there is no tropical area in the world that has suffered as much as West Hawaii at the hands of the AQ trade. Our coral reefs in Hawaii continues to suffer from the threat of bleaching from temperature spikes, runoff and the loss of our important Herbivores from overfishing and lack of enforcement.

As a 5th generation Hawaiian and waterman, I have watched our local reef fish and the coral they support continue to diminish to the point that our reefs may begin to die off completely in our lifetime. I founded Legacy Reef Foundation to preserve and protector reefs for my children and grandchildren. It is my life's mission to look after our coral reefs.



As it stands today, even if all the AQ fishing stopped completely today, it may take generations for our coral reefs and the reef marine life to return to historical numbers.

Please don't sell out our children's futures by allowing a few mainland companies to profit off our precious marine life.

Squashing item F.1 is in the best interest of our struggling coral reefs and our local marine life in the State of Hawaii.

I submit my testimony in strong opposition of item F.1

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this most important issue,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Coney".

Bill Coney

"Voice of the Coral"

Legacy Reef Foundation
Co-Founder
808.960.1223
bill@legacyreeffoundation.org
www.legacyreeffoundation.org

From: [Mike](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: [puredumbluck](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 SUPPORT
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 11:48:49 AM

To whom it may concern,

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

I have been in this hobby for over three decades and believe under the science provided by DAR, we can all enjoy God's creation.

I sincerely appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

All the best,
Mike Conroy

From: [Judith Cucco's gmail](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1 I OPPOSE Issuing AQ Permits & I OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 8:15:45 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 have been doing fish species and abundance surveys for Reef Environmental Education Foundation for 14 years. In that time I have seen a marked decline in the number of species and fish in our ocean.

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,
Judith Cucco

From: [Krista](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] August 23; Agenda Item F.1
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 2:54:59 PM

To those concerned: Opposing AQ pet trade permits

My name is Krista Cutter. I am a 24 year registered resident of the big island of Hawaii. I live in Kapaau, Hawaii. I have swam and snorkeled in the ocean here all these years. I have seen the sharp decline over these years of all varieties of reef fish from the local dock of Mahukona, where many from this area swim. I have also seen a sharp decline of local fishermen catching fish in the area as well. With climate change, warming waters, and runoff pollution, the reefs and their populations are already struggling. We can not permit further depletion by AQ pet trade.

Please help reefs recover to sustainability, and perhaps flourish, by opposing the board issuing AQ permits. And please oppose delegating authority to the department chair.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. For the ocean, our home, and all the precious life therein.

Aloha,
Krista Cutter

From: [Wayne Cutts](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 8:19:51 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)

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

Wayne Cutts | Livestock Logistics Manager

📞 +44 1923 284151

🌐 tropicalmarinecentre.com

📍 Solesbridge Lane, Chorleywood, Hertfordshire, WD3 5SX



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The company accepts no liability for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this e-mail.

From: [Mendy Dant](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#); [LANIHAU-rsmith](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Item F-1 OPPOSE Issuing AQ Permits & OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 6:09:12 PM

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

I am President of Fair Wind Cruises, the oldest family-owned snorkel business in the state of Hawaii, started in 1971 by my father-in-law. I have lived in Kona since 1976, as a respectful resident, enjoying Kona's natural resources personally, with my family and as a business owner that relies on the health of our coral reefs I ask you to oppose issuing AQ permits and oppose delegating authority to the Department Chair.

The current ban is not just a regulation but a crucial management tool that significantly contributes to the conservation of West Hawaii's marine ecosystems. It amplifies the ecosystem services that nature provides people, including oxygen release, leisure opportunities, cultural inspiration, and the well-being of millions. This ban provides protections that are highly valued by different groups of residents and visitors. However, repealing this ban would unleash severe negative socio-economic effects, such as social conflicts and inequitable distribution of benefits, which we all have a responsibility to prevent.

Fish keep coral healthy, and healthy reefs protect shorelines from storm destruction, keeping our air healthy. The only reason to stop this ban is to succumb to the pet store trade industry and a few individuals who are not producing anything positive but only taking and destroying our natural resources. 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.

Since the ban, we have seen more Yellow tangs, Achilles tangs, Convict tangs, and all butterflyfish, especially Long Nose and Raccoon Butterflyfish and Gold Ring Surgeons, along our coastline. Of course, not in the numbers we had back in the 1970s through 1990's when we had very healthy coral reefs. This is a circular ecosystem; the coral reef is in danger, and as we know, we need the reef's keepers, tropical fish, to be living and playing their crucial role. Scientists say we must **increase** fish abundance if our reefs are to have a fighting chance against climate change impacts.

I am utterly perplexed that DAR just started receiving funds from the ocean tourism industry, yet they favor re-establishing fish collectors. Why would they now try to deplete our obvious and necessary asset, the reef fish? This decision seems to contradict the very mission of our DLNR-DAR, whose purpose is to protect natural resources. I have to ask where this pressure is coming from and why our DLNR-DAR, whose mission is to protect natural resources, wants to allow an industry to extract these natural resources.

Chair Chang and Honorary Board Members, Please vote in support of continuing this critically important ban and oppose issuing death warrants to our fish and coral reefs.

- **Terms & Conditions** to Issue West Hawai'i AQ permits
- Recommendation: 'Reject DAR's AQ **terms and conditions** and deny any and all permits'...

- **Delegating Authority** to Issue AQ Permits to the Department Chair
- Recommendation: Do not **delegate authority** to the Department Chair.' Retain the discretionary authority of the Board, which will continue to utilize their diverse island communities, specialized knowledge, and expertise to weigh in and make informed decisions together fully and transparently.

Mahalo for allowing my testimony,

Sincerely,
Mendy Dant

><(((°> ><(((°> ><(((°> ><(((°> ><(((°> ><(((°>

Mendy Dant

President

Fair Wind Cruises

Kona Sunrise Charters

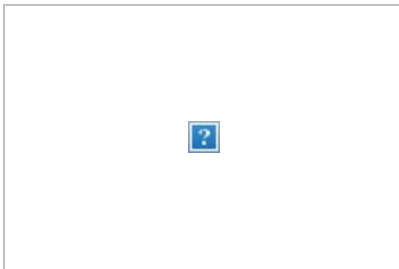
Charisma Hawaii

78-6775 Box A Makenawai St

Kailua Kona, Hi 96740

C.808-345-6211

www.fair-wind.com



"Taking Sustainability to New Heights Through Better Practices and Plant-Based Meals."

From: [Susie Davis](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item: F1
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 5:27:50 AM

To the BLNR Board,

As an ardent supporter of Hawaii having healthy oceans, coral, and fisheries, I strongly oppose the BLNR board issuing aquarium trade permits and encourage the BLNR to permanently end the aquarium trade in Hawaii. As protectors of Hawaii's unique and limited natural resources, DLNR needs to stop the extraction of Hawaii's reef fish by the exploitive pet trade industry. I also oppose delegating authority to the department chair on this issue.

Our oceans and fisheries are already in peril due to warming, acidification, overfishing and pollution. All these dangers pose a grave threat to our coral reefs and the biodiversity in our marine ecosystem. Some places in Hawai'i have lost up to 60% of their coral cover. As climate change induces coral bleaching in Hawai'i and around the world, resurgent reef fish populations could provide a life raft for ailing coral by eating algae and promoting coral recovery. By removing these fish, coral reefs get out of balance and become more susceptible to stress from warming oceans. Keeping fish on the reef is essential for healthy and resilient coral reef ecosystems.

I am a resident of Kohala, Big Island, where subsistence fishing is an integral part of Native Hawaiian culture. The Aquarium industry serves markets outside of Hawai'i where huge profits are being made from Hawai'i's precious natural resources with no reciprocation to the many residents, in particular Native Hawaiians. Extracting reef fish for the pet trade industry is not consistent with Native Hawaiian subsistence, cultural, or religious practices, nor is it consistent with being protectors of our precious marine environment.

At this pivotal turning point in the history of coral reefs we must all learn to live sustainably and support strategic management to secure our future and protect our resources. I strongly object to any further compromise or negotiation that enables a trade that is a direct threat to our marine environment and our indigenous culture.

Sincerely,

Susie Davis
Kapaau, HI 96755

From: [Lei DeMello](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1 I OPPOSE Issuing AQ Permits & I OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:34:45 PM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is M. Leilani DeMello, and I am a concerned community member from the moku of Puna. My family and I actively advocate for the preservation, maintenance, and overall well being of our important cultural and natural resources. We have formed deep relationships with our communities and environments, and continue to 'auamo our kuleana to our kūpuna, 'āina, wai, and kai. Though we are not residents of West Hawai'i, we understand through mo'olelo and mo'okū'auhau the pilina that our moku has with Kona. What affects our 'ohana in Kona, affects us as well, we are one.

I HŌ'OLE PIHA / OPPOSE issuing commercial aquarium permits in West Hawai'i and **I HŌ'OLE PIHA / 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. The po'e i'a that live in the waters of our pae'āina ARE NOT FOR SALE. Aquarium enthusiasts need to seek other, more pono ways, to enjoy the beauty of the ocean in a sustainable manner. As evidenced in our creation chant, the Kumulipo, each and every being from the smallest coral polyp to the largest whale in the ocean, and everything in between, has an important role in the environmental life cycle.

When even one of those pieces are depleted or interrupted, the larger function of the cycle is negatively impacted. We are taught by our family members growing up that when taking from our environment, we should only take what is necessary to sustain ourselves and then we must actively play a role in ensuring that those resources are there for the future generations. Taking fish for their appearance to be held in a tank for curious people to stare at, has no valid function other than to please people with expendable income.

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.

Me ka ikaika a me ke aloha,

na M. Leilani DeMello
'Ōla'a, Puna, Moku o Keawe

From: [Steve Dennis](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1 We OPPOSE Issuing AQ Permits & I OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 1:12:22 PM

We are 20-year owners at the Mauna Lani Resort in South Kohala and have been avid divers and snorkelers there for 40 years. In addition, we teach ocean conservation at the Monterey Bay Aquarium where we encourage visitors who are looking for an in-home aquarium to ONLY buy tank raised fish.

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

Regarding Terms & Conditions to Issue West Hawai'i AQ permits, we request you reject DAR's AQ Terms and Conditions and deny any and all permits. We have come to understand the territorial preference of many reef fish. It is easily conceivable that an entire species of some of the reef fish could be collected from an area and never re-populate. You would never approve of taking wild native birds from the lands, so why approve collecting native reef fish?

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,

Steve & Sona Dennis
Mauna Lani Terrace

Steven J. Dennis
SJD Consulting
Email: oceansteward@hotmail.com
Mobile: 831 915-8332

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: [GLORIA DIAZ](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 6:52:26 AM

Hello,

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

Best,
Gloria Diaz

From: [Alex DiStefano](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Aquarium fishery reopening
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 8:48:57 AM

I am writing in OPPOSITION to the reopening of west Hawaii waters to aquarium fishing as lack of oversight to regulations will lead to further depletion of fish populations among the coastal reefs. I believe that the ban in prior years has helped to stimulate population growth for edible and non edible fish sought after by the aquarium trade and that a further implementation of the rather than reopening would benefit the reefs by increasing the fish needed to maintain a healthy ecosystem therefore stimulating the regeneration of coral which is mostly dead up and down the coast. Please consider this message and any further discussion is encouraged, aloha.

From: [Jason Downs](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] "Agenda Item FI Support"
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 7:22:29 AM

I Support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.
Thank you

Jason Downs

Senior QC/QA Technician | Helm Civil
815-238-2980 **cell**
815-297-8575 **office direct**
jdowns@helmgroupp.com



From: dbltrouble@acegroup.cc
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 9:35:25 AM

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

From: [Dukes, December](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 8:22:31 AM

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

Regards

December Dukes

December.dukes@segrestfarms.com

From: [Brian Dunleavy](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 12:48:35 AM

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

BRIAN DUNLEAVY
REEFCO AQUARIUMS

ReefcoAquariums.com
908.642.1966 x 2

From: [jayson.ellis](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:49:33 PM

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,

Jayson Ellis

From: [Epic Corals](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 12:13:04 PM

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.

Best Regards
Ethan Pinch
Marty Summers
Co-Owners

EPIC CORALS LLC
639 Washington St North Suite B
P.O. Box 301, Twin Falls ID 83303
Store: (208) 733-3775

EPIC CORALS LLC
345 Yellowstone Ave Suite D-1
Pocatello , ID 83201
Pocatello Store: (208) 233-0978

Direct Ethan: (208) 971-8622
Direct Marty: (208) 308-5509

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- <https://www.instagram.com/epicorals/>



From: espinoza.jae@gmail.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 3:10:38 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good Afternoon,

I support the opening of the aquarium fishery, provided it is guided by scientific data and resource management strategies from the Department of Aquatic Resources (DAR). Sustainable practices and evidence-based guidelines are key to balancing the needs of the industry with long-term ecosystem health. Prioritizing science-driven management ensures that resources are harvested responsibly while protecting marine biodiversity for future generations.

Best Regards,



JAE ESPINOZA
MOBILE: 619.993.2638
EMAIL: ESPINOZA.JAE@GMAIL.COM
LINKEDIN: [@ESPINOZAJAE](#)
IG: [@_JAE.ANTHONY_](#)
TWITTER: [@JAE BAYBAY](#)

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From: [Fernando B. Faria](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 6:23:05 AM

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

From: [Corais de Vidro](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 9:46:00 AM

Dear Sirs,

Agenda Item F1 Support - I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR!

Yours sincerely,
José Ferreira

From: [andrew foley](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 12:55:56 PM

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

From: [Puakō For Reefs](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I OPPOSE Issuing AQ Permits & I OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 4:01:08 PM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I thought this was a settled issue. I firmly oppose the issuing commercial aquarium permits in West Hawai'i and I OPPOSE delegating authority to the Department Chair.

We in Puakō are struggling to install a full sewer system to protect our reef and water. The reef has suffered enough damage and lost enough fish just due to cesspools, runoff, and climate change. It doesn't need to lose fish to for profit operations that give nothing back to protect our reefs and waters.

Really? Delegate authority to the Department Chair. The Board needs to retain the discretionary authority so they will continue to work with our diverse island communities, with their specialized knowledge, and expertise, So they can weigh in and make informed decisions together.

Mahalo for this chance to be heard,
George B Fry III
Puakō or Reefs



**Board of Land and Natural Resources
August 23, 2024, 9:00 am, Room 132**

RE: STRONG OPPOSITION – Item F.1 Transferring aquarium permit issuance authority from the Board to the Chair/DAR; issuance of commercial aquarium collection permits for West Hawai'i; and, aquarium collection permit Terms and Conditions, as proposed.

Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Board,

For the Fishes, a local non-profit organization, has been dedicated to protecting Hawai'i's marine life from the destructive aquarium (AQ) pet trade since 2008. Our work, together with dozens of other local organizations and key community partners, led to the closure of commercial AQ in Maui County in 2010, and, via litigation, to prohibitions on commercial AQ in West Hawai'i in late 2017, and the remainder of the state in early 2021, pending adequate environmental review as required by the Hawai'i Environmental Policy Act (HEPA).

For a multitude of reasons, notably, the continued lack of an adequate environmental impact statement (EIS) for the AQ trade in West Hawai'i, which remains under review by the Hawai'i Supreme Court, **we urge the Board to:**

- (1) Maintain its current authority to review, issue, and deny AQ permits;
- (2) Deny all AQ permits and licenses for Hawai'i Island;
- (3) Reject the AQ permit Terms and Conditions, as proposed by DAR

Alternative: While we vehemently oppose the issuance of any commercial aquarium permits in West Hawai'i, should the Board decide to relegate discretionary permit issuance to the Chair, or otherwise decide to allow commercial AQ to resume in West Hawai'i, we urge the Board to amend the permit Terms and Conditions by adding the below limits to ensure the critical protections necessary for our reefs and marine life:

- a. Amend the 'White List' so that it **excludes all native species** and includes only the three non-native species currently inhabiting Hawai'i's reefs (i.e. roi, taape, toau), and allow unlimited take of these non-native species; and
- b. Require both a CML and an AQ permit for **all** commercial aquarium collection across Hawai'i Island and disallow commercial aquarium collection from proceeding outside West Hawai'i except with an AQ permit;
- c. Expressly prohibit inhumane AQ practices, such as extended starvation, barotrauma from rapid surfacing, organ piercing, fin/spine cutting, that violate Hawai'i's animal cruelty statute which is applicable to all non-human animals; and,
- d. While we strongly oppose the collection of any native species, should the Board insist on allowing such, any take of native species must be evenly distributed in open areas and

across DAR's AQ sub-zones (in alignment with AQ reporting requirements) in order to protect against extreme over-collection in any one area.

Some of the facts driving our strong opposition to reopening AQ in West Hawai'i are summarized below, and discussed in more detail in the following pages. They include the:

- December 2023 unanimous Board support for our formal petition for rulemaking to prohibit commercial AQ statewide;
- Multiple DAR Board submittals affirming that the Board, not the Chair, will determine whether to issue any AQ permits;
- Overwhelming benefits of leaving Hawai'i's marine life on Hawai'i's reefs, which far outweigh the monetary gains of a handful of individuals who sell our marine life to the AQ pet trade outside Hawai'i;
- Extremely high mortality rates of captive marine life and the inhumane treatment inflicted upon them in capture, holding, and transport that is unethical, illegal in many cases, and incompatible with local and cultural values; and
- Deeply flawed EIS, which the AQ permit and Terms and Conditions are based upon—the validity of which has yet to be decided by the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

Some of the facts supporting our above-noted recommendations as to a potential alternative, should the Board decide to proceed with issuing any AQ permits for West Hawai'i, include:

- AQ collection of only non-native species: Most of the proposed White List species are herbivores. Best available science from the Hawai'i-island based Asner lab and others shows that far more herbivores are needed on West Hawai'i reefs in order to increase our coral reefs resilience to deadly and potentially catastrophic coral bleaching from climate change in the near future.¹ Non-native, introduced species, are predators, two of which (roi and toau) are known to consume important herbivorous fishes.
 - Many of those consulted in the West Hawai'i EIS Cultural Impact Assessment noted that a reduction in the population of non-native, introduced, species is potentially beneficial for improving the overall health of the reef and food fishery because these non-native species can out compete native species.²
- Need to Close the CML-only loophole: Prior to the court-ordered prohibition on the use of fine mesh nets (net eye less than 2 inches) for AQ, few, if any, fish were collected under a stand-alone CML (rather than a CML and an AQ permit) because the small fish targeted by the trade easily escape from larger mesh nets and because capture by other means is more difficult, time consuming, and injures the fishes in visible ways, making them less marketable.

¹ Foo, S.A., Asner, G.P. Depth-dependent indicators of algal turf herbivory throughout the Main Hawaiian Islands. *Coral Reefs* **40**, 1397–1408 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00338-021-02162-2>; and, Gove, J.M., Williams, G.J., Lecky, J. *et al.* Coral reefs benefit from reduced land–sea impacts under ocean warming. *Nature* **621**, 536–542 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-023-06394-w>

² WH FEIS pdf pg. 361

- However, after fine mesh nets were prohibited and before the commercial AQ “CML-only” option loophole was closed by court order, CML-only collection in East Hawai‘i, between Kalapana and Ka Lae, **increased by more than double then that which had been reported when fine mesh nets were legal**. DAR and DOCARE were repeatedly asked if they had verified that collectors were in fact using non-fine mesh nets. DAR stated it lacked the resources to do so, therefore, there was no investigation into how tens of thousands of fishes were reported as captured and sold not using fine mesh nets.
- This lack of even the most basic oversight of the trade by DAR and DOCARE exemplifies the crucial need to close this loophole and prevent commercial AQ in East Hawai‘i unless and until formal environmental review as required by HEPA, has been completed.
- Prohibition of inhumane practices: The AQ trade engages in practices that result in serious injuries to fishes and contribute to their high premature mortality rates in captivity. These practices are conducted solely to save collectors time, money, or both. In recognition of these facts, Maui County enacted Ordinance 3809 in 2011 which prohibits the inhumane treatment of marine life captured for AQ purposes. This ordinance led former Maui aquarium collectors to move their operations to Hawai‘i Island, where such practices are not prohibited.
 - We urge the Board to protect Hawai‘i’s marine life from unnecessary harm by prohibiting the practices detailed below beginning on page 5.
- Evenly distribute catch quotas for native species between AQ collection report sub-zones: The fact that commercial AQ exerts extreme pressure on some reefs and less so on others, is undisputed. It is a fact that requires mitigation to guard against localized depletion, or worse, such as the collapse of targeted species from AQ over-harvesting that occurred on leeward Oahu reefs 40 years ago, and which have yet to recover. This was also observed with paku‘iku‘i in West Hawai‘i which were severely depleted by the trade, as admitted by DAR’s own biologists more than a decade ago, but not afforded any protection from collecting until the court order closed the trade.
 - DAR is aware of this significant potential for harm given they require those collecting under Special Activity Permits (SAPs), such as public for-profit and non-profit aquariums and aquaculture facilities, to ensure they are collecting no more than 20% of a target species on any given reef. DAR also requires SAP holders to video-document their collection of certain species, such as the Potter’s Angelfish, given that these fish hide within coral reefs that are often damaged by collectors when taking these species.
 - The potential for harm from collection under commercial AQ permits is exponentially greater than for collection under SAPs given SAP holders are typically permitted to take only a dozen or so individuals of a single species per year, whereas commercial AQ would take thousands to hundreds of thousands.

- If commercial AQ of native species is to resume, which we again strongly oppose, it is imperative that the Board require limits that are place-based, at the local reef level, and at the very least, at the AQ collection report sub-zone, which is how AQ catch is reported to DLNR.

Discussion of Supporting Facts and Reasons for Continuing the Commercial AQ Prohibition:

A. Unanimous Board support for a new rule aimed at ending commercial AQ

Last December hundreds of voices from communities across the entire State went on the record in staunch opposition to the AQ trade which seeks to profit from an activity that degrades the abundance, biodiversity, and health of coral reefs and marine life – all important public trust resources – with zero benefits going to those who depend upon that same ecosystem in myriad ways.

The Board is on the record in support of those communities seeking a permanent end to the degradation of the resource, AQ's major conflicts with social and cultural values, and its related costs, all of which are borne by the public, yet without any public consent.

As you know, the Board's duty is to first prioritize the resource itself (our coral reefs and marine life) then to ensure the environmental, cultural, and social benefits that flow from coral reefs to the public. There is no disputing that the absence of AQ, are reefs and marine life are healthier, more abundant and biodiverse.

B. DAR Board submittals affirming that the Board, not the Chair, will determine whether to issue any AQ permits

Community members have long been alarmed at the potential for DAR to issue aquarium permits and for the destructive trade to reopen. In what we thought was a genuine reassurance that the public's voices would always be heard, three earlier DAR submittals to the Board recommending approval of AQ EISs in 2020 and 2021 included the statement, **“the Board will make a separate determination at a later date regarding whether to issue any [AQ fish] permits and what permit terms and conditions may be necessary to mitigate environmental impacts.”**

Alarming, now, at the very moment when the Board's discretion is required, DAR proposes to remove Board oversight and the ability for the public to have a voice, and place that authority solely in the hands of the Chair who could sign off without the public even being notified, let alone given an opportunity to provide any input. There is no justification for this recommendation by DAR.

It appears that the approach under this new recommendation aims to further silence community voices that have long opposed this activity; and, shield potential AQ permittees from further public scrutiny. The latter is an especially grave public disservice given that a prior list of potential AQ permittees included a collector that had been exposed on the front page of West Hawai'i Today for extensive coral reef damage during his collection operation and another who had been convicted of terroristic threatening for assaulting a SCUBA diver who was filming the collection activity that he and his partner were engaged in. Several years later that same partner and another diver he was working with were convicted of illegally taking hundreds of fish for their AQ business in a single day. They had been at it for months, yet DOCARE apparently lacked the resources to fully investigate.

Therefore, we urge the Board to maintain its oversight of AQ permit issuance and denial and not turn this critical oversight and responsibility to the Chair/DAR.

C. Benefits of leaving Hawai'i's marine life on Hawai'i's reefs

A peer-reviewed cost-benefit analysis shows that the aquarium trade provides no benefits to any person in Hawai'i except those who are directly profiting from it.³ DARs April 2024 presentation to the Board included the economic value of aquarium collecting, but not the economic value of non-collection (leaving fish in the ocean). This is another failure of the EIS given the applicant failed to perform its required analysis and discussions of the benefits of a non-action (no take) alternative.

DARs 2020 report to the legislature documents that in the year following the court-ordered prohibition, yellow tang abundance increased by a *significant 29%* in the formerly collected (open) areas. **This increase is solely due to the closure of the AQ trade**, a fact that is proven by the absence of *any* increase during that same year in the areas long closed to AQ.

In addition to increased fish abundance and biodiversity, the benefits of continuing the prohibition on AQ include:

- Enhanced coral reef resiliency to ocean heat waves caused by climate change, and increased ability to survive;
- Reduced taxpayer costs attributed to administer/manage up to 20 AQ permits (in the event there is ever a completed EIS for O'ahu AQ permits) which, by DAR's own estimates, costs **\$300,000 - \$500,000 annually**, NOT including any enforcement costs. The revenue for 20 AQ permits, at \$100 each, yields a paltry \$2000, and for the 7 West Hawai'i permits at issue today, only \$700, leaving DLNR and taxpayers to subsidize the trade at the rate of hundreds of thousands of dollars every year;
- Reduced DOCARE enforcement expense: poaching is currently occurring but would significantly increase under any AQ permitting scheme as any legal activity simply provides cover for illegal activity;
- Sparing tens or hundreds of thousands of fishes from the inhumane treatment inflicted by the trade in capture, holding, and transport, including barotrauma, organ piercing, fin/spine cutting, starving, and shipping in small plastic water-filled bags;
- Prevention of the premature deaths suffered by nearly 100% of those fishes within one year of capture;
- Increased ability to aquaculture Hawai'i species for AQ; demand for aquacultured species will increase when there is no wild caught alternative.

D. Unethical, inhumane treatment and high mortality rate of Hawai'i's marine life

A shockingly high marine life mortality rate was recently exposed at the Maui Ocean Center, a foreign-owned, for-profit aquarium attraction, that confirmed the difficulty of keeping Hawai'i's marine life alive in captivity. The information was revealed during a review of a report required in the Terms and Conditions of a state-issued Special Activity Permit (SAP) required for capturing marine life for the aquarium's display tanks.

³ Schaar and Cox (2021). AQ Cost Benefit Analysis: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2021.104429>

The fishes and other marine animals taken under Maui Ocean Center's SAP were captured locally and transported a short distance to the facility. They were cared for by expert aquarists with decades of experience in a well-established facility that's been operating for 26 years. **However, despite that expert care, the Maui Ocean Center reported that half of the marine life they captured in 2023 died within a year.**

Keeping wild marine animals alive in captivity is so challenging that even the experts struggle to do so. This reveals the travesty of shipping out tens to hundreds of thousands of these marine animals to novice aquarium hobbyists around the globe.

On the reefs, the natural lifespans of many species taken by the AQ trade are measured in decades (a wild Yellow Tang can live for over 40 years), but captured for personal hobby aquariums around the world, lifespans of captive fish are measured in days, weeks, or months.

Consider Hawai'i's endemic Potter's Angelfish and Chevron Tang, both of which are among the proposed White List species and both of which are known to be especially fragile and challenging to keep alive in captivity. For example:

- Potter's Angelfish is known to develop a stress-induced parasite infection known as gill flukes with poor survival outcomes. A Hawai'i aquaculture facility recently reported the loss of 30% of its recently captured Potter's Angelfish broodstock due to gill flukes within 10 days of arrival at the facility.
 - DAR is proposing to allow collectors to take **1,086** endemic Potter's Angelfish.
- Chevron Tang have very delicate mouths that are easily damaged in capture. According to one trade expert, "hobbyists have not had much luck historically in keeping these tang species alive. The principal reasons for this are damage in capture and handling, and starvation once the hobbyists get them."⁴
 - DAR is proposing to allow collectors to take **3,152** endemic Chevron Tang.

Both Potter's Angelfish and Chevron Tang were sold through online outlets to hobbyists and shipped without live arrival guarantees (See Appendix 1 for difficulty ratings and no live arrival guarantees). Hobbyists who care little about Hawai'i's marine animals were willing to take the chance, as were the business entities that profit from the sale of marine life in the aquarium trade—the collectors, Hawai'i wholesalers, mainland wholesalers, and the retailers—because all that any of these entities require in order to make their individual profit is for the fish to survive just long enough to be transported and sold to the next buyer.

The 2011 Maui County law requiring the humane treatment of marine life taken for aquarium purposes prohibited intentionally or knowingly:

- Causing injury to marine life including piercing a fish's swim bladder, a practice AQ collectors use to save time and money, and to allow for rapid surfacing without adequate decompression. Those fish whose eyes are forced from their sockets or with other signs of barotrauma injuries are simply "tossed," as one collector seeking a permit openly states;
- Cutting or trimming the fin or spine of any fish, a money saving practice used in lieu of using heavier plastic inserts to prevent the shipping bag from being punctured; and to prevent injury to other fishes while kept in cramped tanks awaiting shipment; and

⁴ Bob Fenner, Wet Web Media: <http://wetwebmedia.com/tangshi.htm>

- Withholding food for more than twenty-four hours for transport purposes, a practice used to reduce the amount of water needed in a shipping bag, and thus reduce weight costs, despite the fact that most of the animals shipped are herbivores who must constantly graze to receive adequate nutrition.

See Appendix 1 for pictures.

A study confirmed that AQ trade practices contribute to 80% of the fish deaths in home hobby aquariums.⁵ Although humane alternatives exist for all of the above unethical and inhumane practices, they are rejected by the trade as either unnecessary or economically unfeasible.

The same study also found that the AQ trade actually profits from the high mortalities via sales of replacement fish so in fact has a *disincentive to reform* its harmful practices, and shows the urgent need for the Board to put protections in place before ever reopening Hawai'i's reefs to AQ trade profits.⁶

E. Deeply flawed EIS upon which the permits and Terms and Conditions are based, and the validity of which has yet to be decided by the Hawai'i Supreme Court

DAR's recommendation is based, in part, upon the trade's "preferred alternative" contained within the pet industry's revised Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for West Hawai'i, the validity of which has yet to be decided by the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

A primary flaw in the legally challenged EIS is its failure to address a significant number of the Reasons for Non-Acceptance submitted by the Board when it rejected the original West Hawai'i EIS. The reasons for non-acceptance contained information identified by the Board as being necessary for informed decision-making.

There is no legal rationale or reasoning, nor any deadline that DLNR must meet, yet DAR is pressing forward with permitting and other proposals apparently, solely on behalf of the trade.

Conclusion:

Given all of the above, we respectfully urge the Board to reject DAR and the aquarium trade's proposal to annually take tens to hundreds of thousands of reef fishes to ship to the continent for a deadly pet trade Hawai'i's marine life is too socio-economically important and ecologically essential to waste in such a way.

If the Board decides that marine life in Hawai'i is to be sacrificed for the aquarium pet trade, we again implore the Board to only: allow commercial AQ take of non-native species; close the CML-only loophole for East Hawai'i; prohibit inhumane practices; and, require local, place-based catch quotas for the take of any native species.

Sincerely,

⁵ Cartwright et al. 2012. Saving Nemo: Mariculture and Market-based Solutions to Reform the Marine Ornamental Trade, Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, UCSB (pdf pg. 25, 26, 34)
Available at: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/lzlfhrkqsyih33s/Cartwright%202012.pdf?dl=0>

⁶ Ibid.

Rene Umberger

Rene Umberger
For the Fishes
Appendix 1.

No Alive Arrival Guarantee:

Fresh Marine
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Live Stats: 681 Live Stock and 6268 Dry Goods

Fast FREE Premium Shipping on order over \$500

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Home > Popular Category > Salt Water Fish A-G > Angelfish, Dwarf > **Potter's Angelfish - Centropyge potteri - Potter's Angel Fish**

Potter's Angelfish - Centropyge potteri - Potter's Angel Fish

Aquarium suitability:

Care level: **Expert Only!!!**
Not Cover Under Arrive Guaranteed

Behavior: Semi-aggressive

Minimum tank size: 20 Gallon

Maximum size: 5.1 inches

Reef compatibility: Yes, with Caution

Diet: Omnivore, Greens, Pellet, Flake

Origin: Hawaiian Islands, Johnston Atoll

Family: Pomacanthidae

Manufacturer Name: FreshMarine

Regular Price: \$129.98

Purchase size: Dwarf Angel Size From 2" - 4"

Our Price: **\$109.98**

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Live Stats: 681 Live Stock and 6268 Dry Goods

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Home > Popular Category > Salt Water Fish H-Z > Tangs > **Chevron Tang - Ctenochaetus hawaiiensis - Hawaiian Bristletooth - Hawaiian Surgeon fish - Black Surgeonfish**

Chevron Tang - Ctenochaetus hawaiiensis - Hawaiian Bristletooth - Hawaiian Surgeon fish - Black Surgeonfish

Aquarium suitability:

Care level: **Expert Only!!!**
Not Cover Under Arrive Guaranteed

Behavior: Peaceful

Minimum tank size: 100 Gallon

Maximum size: 11 inches

Reef compatibility: Yes

Diet: Herbivore, Greens, Pellet, Flake

Origin: Central Pacific

Family: Acanthuridae

Manufacturer Name: FreshMarine

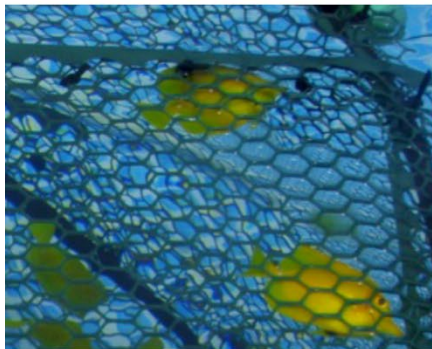
Regular Price: \$199.99

Purchase size: Small 1" - 2"
Medium 2" - 3"
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Our Price: **\$185.98**

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BAROTRAUMA INJURIES:



Bloated belly/positive buoyancy



Bulging eye



Distended intestines

Hawaii was the world's third largest supplier of reef fish for mainland personal aquariums. The trade depleted wild populations. Many fish are captured as replacements for those that died because of harmful treatment:
80% of fish deaths in home aquariums are due to supply chain practices.



Rapid surfacing at capture causes barotrauma. Piercing expanded swim bladders comes next. Fins & spines are cut to avoid extra packing materials. Stressed & injured fish are then starved and bagged for shipping: stress + starvation causes the highest mortality rates.



Fish are starved for several days in preparation for shipment in minimal water, saving on freight costs.

Fish are cramped in these bags and boxes for up to 48 hours during transport. Thousands will arrive dead. Thousands more will die within the week.

Wasting wildlife is not *pono*.

Respect. Restore. Protect.



ForTheFishes.org

From: [Lucas Fuensalida](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:43:44 AM

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

From: [Spectrum](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ID 881 4714 7141 item agenda F-1
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 9:31:18 AM

ID 881 4714 7141 item agenda F-1

As an AQ fisher for 40 years, we are a fishery people love to hate while unclear terms and a HEPA technicality destroys our livelihoods. With 70 years of AQ fishing impacts, but more is necessary? In addition, we are licensed, permitted and under prerequisites provisions by management that allow us to fish. We are not an independent business seeking impact clearances to operate, but solely dependent on DAR, a division of DLNR, who is the independent State Agency responsible for all impacts of what they manage. Many storms including Hurricanes Iwa and Iniki devastated our reefs but only prove how insignificant AQ fishing in comparison on these reefs. Many Hawaiians say the ocean is there to use, so use it or lose it and allow this fishery to continue. The real compounded issues involved support all fishing but to limit it with "better safe than sorry" policies damage these fisheries and an too easy solution. I'm support of item agenda F-1! Glenn T Fukuda xlic # 01738

Sent from my iPad

From: [Roger Gampel](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 5:34:51 AM

To whom it may concern,

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

Thank You,

Roger Gampel

From: [anibal.garcia.langa](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 7:13:26 AM

**Apoyo la reapertura de la pesquería de acuarios y la gestión de los recursos
basada en la ciencia proporcionada por DAR**

**Anibal Garcia
Spain**

From: [Michael Gaulke](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1 I OPPOSE Issuing AQ Permits & I OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 8:22:31 AM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Michael Gaulke. My wife Judith and I own a home in Kailua Kona on the Big Island.

We OPPOSE issuing commercial aquarium permits in West Hawai'i and we 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. One of the great gifts of living in Hawai'i is being able to spend time in the ocean swimming and snorkeling with its wonderful aquatic life. In fact, we start nearly every day with a paddle in our two-man outrigger canoe. Over the past three years, we have noticed a marked increase of fish life on the coast of West Hawai'i as a result of the ban on commercial aquarium collections. The thought that commercial aquarium permits may again be granted is very disturbing! We implore the Board to protect this Hawaiian treasure.

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,

Michael and Judith Gaulke
Kailua Kona, Hawai'i

From: [Jeremy Gay](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 12:49:12 AM

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

--



Jeremy Gay
Senior Editor
jeremy@reefbuilders.com

Reef Builders

<https://reefbuilders.com>



From: jgearheard@charter.net
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reef Fish Collection
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 1:36:12 PM

We strongly believe that the DAR should NOT issue permits for the commercial collection of reef fish. They are a valuable asset in combating climate change and in maintaining healthy ecosystems.

Sincerely,
Jim and Julie Gearheard

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Juan Luis Gonzalez](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 12:24:08 AM

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

From: [Luis G](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 4:09:29 AM

Dear Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my strong support for Agenda Item F1, which pertains to the reopening of the aquarium fishery in Hawaii. It is imperative that the management of our marine resources be guided by the best available science, as provided by the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR).

The extensive environmental impact assessments conducted have shown that key fish populations, such as Yellow Tangs and Kole Tangs, have not only remained stable but have significantly increased during the period of active collection. These findings clearly demonstrate that responsible, regulated collection practices can coexist with the health and sustainability of our marine ecosystems.

Furthermore, public opinion polls reveal that the majority of Hawaiians support the sustainable use of our natural resources and believe that decisions should be based on scientific data rather than the opinions of special interest groups. This is a clear mandate from the people of Hawaii to continue managing our resources in a way that balances economic benefits with environmental stewardship.

I urge the Board to take these facts into consideration and vote in favor of reopening the aquarium fishery. By doing so, we can ensure that Hawaii continues to lead the way in sustainable resource management, benefiting both our economy and our environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Luis Gouffray
Alexandria, VA

From: [Runi Goyal](#)
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 6:37:30 PM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Swati "Runi" Goyal of North Kona, HI. I am an avid scuba diver and have enjoyed the underwater world for 30+ years. My engineering background allows me to better understand the threat of climate change. I am also a student of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i under Kumu Ka'ea Lyons where I have learned that our kuleana to the 'āina doesn't stop short at our coastline.

We are fighting an uphill battle reclaiming language and customs. We are fighting for the right to live sustainably without depending on others. Why would we allow corporate entities to take away our natural resources, especially when those natural resources are vital to the health of our oceans?

Throughout my years as a diver, I have witnessed the depletion of several species and the bleaching of corals due to pollution and over-fishing. The destruction of the ocean is imminent, unless we protect it. Taking fish from their natural habitat disrupts biodiversity and has dire consequences to the ecosystem. I know this. You know this.

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,
Swati "Runi" Goyal
Holualoa, North Kona, Moku o Keawe

From: [Lauren Grace](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 5:01:31 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.

Sincerely,
Lauren Grace

From: [Bill Graham](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Aug 23 meeting, item F1
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 10:41:31 AM

I oppose all 3 requests contained within the DAR submittal relating to aquarium fishing. Commercial aquarium fishing should not be permitted in the state of Hawaii. Here are three specific aspects of the issue which I would like the Board to consider. Then I will finish with an overall perspective.

1. Transparency: I closely followed the EIS process for permitting West Hawaii aquarium permits to be issued. The applicant was an advocacy organization which did not want the permits for itself. It did not even identify for whom it wished the permits to be granted. Yet the DAR never explained why this unusual approach was acceptable nor why it was used nor the DAR's role in how this approach was chosen. I specifically asked for this information during the EIS process. For future transparency any permit authorization authority must be maintained with the full Board so that the public stays engaged.

2. Partisan: For some reason the DAR has shown itself doggedly in support of commercial aquarium fishing without representing the larger community by whom the DAR is employed and whose interests it should hold paramount. This is puzzling. Over my 50 years in Hawaii I see a consistent pattern where our government is strongly inclined to permit activities that bring in revenue from outside the state, even at some cost to our natural resources. But the commercial aquarium fishing brings in a very small revenue while endangering a much larger revenue inflow from the tourists who engage in ocean recreation.

3. Narrow scope: The DAR support for the aquarium fishery seems to be based on whether it is sustainable and nothing more. The many dive shops and charter operations in West Hawaii should be approached and their comments taken seriously. This has not occurred. The strong public opposition to commercial aquarium fishing should weigh heavily. The history of infractions by the aquarium fishers over past years also argues against this fishery.

Perspective: I've been steadily diving in West Hawaii since the 1970s. I carry great aloha for our reefs and its inhabitants. In recent years I have made many submittals to the "Eyes of the Reef" program regarding the health of the coral community. There is no upside to be gained by permitting aquarium fishing. Yet the potential for adverse effects is great. The apparent lack of convincing evidence of the nature and extent of the adverse effects should not be adequate reason for supporting this fishery.

-Bill Graham, resident of Hawi

From: [Robert Greenwood](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 8:32:53 AM

To Whom it may Concern:

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

Thank you,

Bob Greenwood

From: dygross@icloud.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Subject: F-1 I OPPOSE Issuing AQ Permits & I OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 10:30:46 AM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My wife and I live in South Kohala. While we live in a location where commercial take is not permitted, we oppose commercial aquarium permits in West Hawai'i and we oppose delegating authority to the Department Chair.

We request you reject DAR's AQ Terms and Conditions and deny any and all permits. The Kohala coast used to be known as the Gold Coast due to all the yellow tang - sadly their population diminished for quite some time while aquarium permits allowed the taking of fish along the coast. Is this a business that the DLNR needs to promote? Consider the impact on the environment and the minuscule benefit for a few commercial businesses. How is the long coastline of the Kohala Coast going to be policed with enforcement of the law? Does the very minor commercial need outweigh the overall benefit of a healthy fish population along our beautiful coastlines? We believe that we should preserve and protect in this instance.

Regarding Delegating Authority to Issue AQ Permits to the Department Chair, please 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 listening,

Linda and David Gross
Kohala Coast, Hawaii Island

From: [Cory](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Item F-1: NO issuing AQ Permits & NO Delegating Authority to Chair
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 10:20:11 PM

Aloha board members,

Please vote NO on DAR's terms and conditions.

Please also vote NO on delegating authority to the Department Chair to issue aquarium permits. The board, drawing on their knowledge about their communities, and acting with public input, is best suited to make these decisions. Remember that DAR has said more than once that the board will decide whether to issue permits.

Aquarium fishing benefits a few collectors and off-island sellers of aquarium equipment at the expense of Hawai'i's reefs.

mahalo,

Cory Harden, Hilo

From: [nolan harrington](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 12:32:12 PM

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

From: [SAMUEL HATCH](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 11:26:09 AM

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR. Hawaii has been and can again be a great example of using scientific guidance to inform a responsible aquarium fishery.

Thanks

From: [Sam Hawkins](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 11:03:48 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)

Subject: Support for Reopening the Hawaiian Aquarium Fishery

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by (DAR). The scientific assessments conducted by the Division of Aquatic Resources offer a comprehensive and sustainable framework for managing the fishery, ensuring that the delicate marine ecosystems of Hawaii are protected while also allowing responsible access to its resources.

Reopening the fishery under these guidelines will not only help preserve Hawaii's aquatic biodiversity but also support the local economy and communities that rely on this industry. I trust that the permitting process will continue to follow the best available scientific evidence, balancing conservation efforts with the needs of those who depend on the fishery.

I urge the authorities to move forward with the issuance of permits and restore this vital sector under the stewardship of DAR's science-based management.

Kind regards

Sam Hawkins | UK sales & Business Development Manager

📞 +44 1923 284151

🌐 tropicalmarinecentre.com

📍 Solesbridge Lane, Chorleywood, Hertfordshire, WD3 5SX



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From: [Nicole Helgason](#)
To: [DANG.BLAB.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 6:11:41 AM

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

Nicole Helgason | Marketing Director
World Wide Corals, Inc. | 5402 Central Florida Pkwy, Orlando, FL 32821
worldwidecorals.com | Nicole@worldwidecorals.com | 407.856.2066

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From: [Trevor Hiller](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 9:40:02 PM

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

Thank you for your time,

Trevor Hiller
8 Wisteria Lane
Williamsport, PA 17701
tjhiller@gmail.com
(570) 505-2882

From: [Jennifer Ho](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Item F-1 OPPOSE Issuing AQ Permits & OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 11:11:55 AM

Aloha, I am Jennifer Ho, a resident of Hawaii since 1981, 40+ years in East Hawaii (Hilo, Honomu, Pepeekeo) as well as migrating through Kailua Kona and Waimea on the way. I have swam, kayaked, paddled competitively, and enjoyed our shoreline all of these years- still regularly swimming at the age of 70.

We all have seen the decrease in aquatic health and diversity of fish and corals over these years. We must do our best to help recovery of our reefs and oceans. Because others have said it so well- I quote- "

- 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

We need to restore the historic fishponds as well as increasing signage in areas of visitor impact to protect fish and sealife habitat. If people want to see tropical fish, what better place to see them than the tropics? Good for the visitor industry to experience fish living their own preferred lifestyle rather than living a short and stunted life in a cramped aquarium. Let nature heal and stop exploiting our resources for the profit of a few.

Mahalo,
Jennifer Ho 55 Ala Muku St. Hilo, 96720 and daughter, Hi'iaka Kahalewai, of Hilo (Panaewa, Hawaiian Homes) 1310 Auwae Road, Hilo, 96720

From: [Joni Hoadley](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] UNREAL!
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 4:41:15 AM

To whom it may concern,

I have been a resident of BI of Hawaii for 35 years. I am a dive master and capt. who has been sharing my love of the ocean with locals and visitors alike for all that time. I have seen how few unethical fish collectors have destroyed the reef in the past. It is devastating for an already threatened and fragile ecosystem. Our reefs in Hawaiinei are some of the most precious resources we have left in Hawaii. Please NOT not allow fish collection to begin again!! EVER!

Survival rate of our fish to sale is only about 20-30% This is abuse of our oceans in the worst way possible.

Mahalo for your time & kokua,

Joni Peterson Hoadley
P.o. Box 384015
Waikoloa, HI. 96738

From: office@vogelfarm.at
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 5:46:51 AM

Dear Sirs,

Agenda Item F1 Support - I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR!

Yours sincerely,
Mit freundlichen Grüßen aus Tobelbad

Martin Höller
V O G E L F A R M Tobelbad
E. Höller G.m.b.H.
Vogelfarmweg 7
A-8144 Tobelbad
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From: [John Hoover](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F-1 testimony
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:30:41 PM

Hello - Regarding the issuance of collecting permits for aquarium fish: Decision-making power to issue permits or not issue permits should remain with BLNR. I am opposed giving this power to the Division of Aquatic Resources because their agenda is not in sync with the desires of the majority of concerned citizens, who have expressed an end to commercial aquarium collecting in Hawaii..

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

Thanks for your consideration. -- John Hoover, Volcano, Hawaii.

From: [Kelly Hoyle](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I OPPOSE issuing AQ permits and I oppose delegating authority to department chair
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 6:44:33 PM

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

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Kelly Hoyle of Kamuela. I have lived here on the Big Island since 2001 and an avid swimmer, snorkler and diver. I cannot believe that we are still considering allowing people to collect reef fish after such destruction of our reefs by global warming.

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 have seen the reef and the fish on the west coast diminish and degrade and I am very concerned about the health of our reef. Allowing aquarium fish collectors to gather this precious natural habitat where 80% of the fish die before making into an aquarium is disgraceful.

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
Kelly Hoyle
Kamuela, HI

From: [Hughes, Steve](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 8:43:46 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

To whom it may concern,
I am emailing to show support for opening the aquarium fishery and I support managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Thank you,
Steve

Steve Hughes

National Sales Manager

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From: [Ian Taylor](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 3:54:29 AM

Dear Sirs

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

My business has taken a massive negative impact ever since the closure of the Hawaiian Aquarium Fishery. Please re open the fishery.

Kind Regards

Ian Taylor

UK-Aquatics Ltd

From: mikki@captiveseasaquariums.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 1:38:55 PM

Dear Esteemed Gentlemen and Women,

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

I am originally from Hawaii, grew up on Oahu and was a tropical fish collector in the 70s. I am now a retailer and service provider for marine organisms from all parts of the world on the Mainland, and I can say first-hand the loss of Hawaiian fish and other organisms to the trade was very impactful in a negative way. It not only hurt the industry at large, but more importantly, it affected the many Hawaiian locals, who depended on the industry to support themselves and their families.

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

Best Regards,
Lance Ichinotsubo
Captive Seas Aquariums

From: [Eli Inskeep](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support Opening Aquarium Fishery & Managing Resources by DAR Science/Data
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 8:24:30 AM

I adamantly support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR. These choices need to be based on valid data & science, and the scientific data is (and has been) absolutely clear.

From: asad.ishak12@gmail.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 3:16:29 AM

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

This industry is overwhelmingly a net positive regarding conservation and scientific efforts.

Kind regards,
Asad Ishak.

From: [Nathan Jeffers](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:01:37 AM

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

Sincerely,
Nathan Jeffers

From: [sean.jenkins](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F1 support
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 12:46:29 AM

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

Thanks Sean

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From: [Judith Graham](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] August 23; Agenda item F.1
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 3:35:01 PM

I am Judith Graham and live on Hawai'i Island, in Kamuela. I am a state resident for over 50 years.

Most fortunately, in 1971 within a week of my arrival to live here, I was taken snorkeling in Waimea Bay, Haleiwa side. It was an experience I have never forgotten: An altogether unexpected new world of graceful fish, colors and peace.

I am opposed to aquarium collection per se, and when I see an aquarium in the dermatologist's office, for example, it makes me sad, not better educated.

Therefore, would the BLNR please turn aside DAR's request for instructions about permit application requirements, and COMPLY with the full Board's 2023 request to initiate rule-making to DISCONTINUE aquarium collection altogether. That should come first.

Secondly, in the past I read the complete Cultural Impact Statement appended to the EIS that the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council sponsored. It was lengthy and detailed, and is not adequately (perhaps inadvertently) covered in the DAR's current background submittal. *The erroneous focus there is on individual species.* However, the CIS provided detailed summaries of interviews conducted with numerous West Hawai'i individuals and groups, proceeding south from Kawaihae to South Point. My recollection is that at least 65% of the total number, including very many Hawaiians, were opposed to the practice of aquarium collection itself. I hope the Board will be guided by the CIS.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Judy Graham

From: [Jessielyn Ho](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] August 23; Agenda Item F.1
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 3:44:38 PM

Dear Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my opposition to the Division of Aquatic Resources' (DAR) proposal to re-open West Hawai'i to commercial aquarium collection (AQ) and their attempt to remove the Board's oversight in the issuance of AQ permits.

AQ is a destructive practice that benefits mainland businesses at the expense of Hawai'i's marine ecosystems. Even more concerning, this proposal is based on an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that is still under review by the Hawai'i Supreme Court. Additionally, it bypasses the BLNR's unanimous approval in December 2023 of the community's petitioned rulemaking to prohibit commercial AQ statewide. Ignoring these critical ongoing processes shows a blatant disregard for both the law and public trust.

Further, DAR's attempt to strip BLNR of its decision-making authority over AQ permits and hand that power solely to the Chair is a direct attack on community voices. This move would silence public input and remove transparency from the permitting process, allowing AQ permits to be issued without the public being notified or given the opportunity to weigh in.

The Board has made multiple public statements affirming that it—not just the Chair—would decide whether AQ permits would be issued. Reneging on that promise now would be the ultimate breach of public trust. Our communities have long opposed the AQ trade because of the significant harm it causes to our reefs, marine life, and cultural heritage. Allowing this practice to continue, and worse, making it easier to do so without public scrutiny, is indefensible.

The benefits of keeping our fish in the reefs far outweigh the monetary gain of a few people who profit from selling these species to the AQ pet trade outside of Hawai'i. Our reefs are already under immense pressure from climate change and pollution, and scientists are clear that we need to increase fish abundance—not deplete it—if we want our ecosystems to survive. Continuing the AQ trade only further undermines efforts to protect these vital ecosystems and contradicts the best available science.

The aquarium trade also fundamentally conflicts with the cultural and social values that Hawai'i holds dear. Our reefs and marine life are not commodities to be sold for profit; they are integral to our way of life and the health of our islands. DAR's continued push to prioritize mainland commercial interests over local values and environmental stewardship is unacceptable.

I urge you to oppose DAR's proposal to reopen West Hawai'i to AQ collection and to retain BLNR's oversight of the AQ permitting process. The decision to issue AQ permits should be in the hands of the full Board, not the sole discretion of the Chair, and the public must have a voice in these critical decisions.

Thank you for considering my testimony. Please continue to stand with the community in protecting our reefs from this harmful and unnecessary practice.

Sincerely,

--

Jessilyn ("Jessie") Ho

(They/She)

J.D. Candidate, Class of 2026

P [\(808\) 748-1028](tel:8087481028) | E jlyho@hawaii.edu

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa · William S. Richardson School of Law · 2515 Dole Street · Honolulu, HI 96822-2350

From: [Mystic Joker](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] "Agenda Item F1 Support"
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 9:45:15 AM

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

From: [LaMonte Johnson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 4:57:01 AM

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

From: [Alan Jones](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 10:14:54 AM

To Whom it May Concern:

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR. I have been a long-time hobbyist and support opening the fishery due to the science showing that resources can be handled sustainably without damage to the environment.

Sincerely,
Alan Jones

From: [Jamie Pardau](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] August 23, Agenda Item F.1
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 9:05:46 AM

My name is Jamie Pardau. I have lived in Kailua Kona on the Big Island for 20 years. I have been a diver in these waters for 30 years. Climate change has already taken a toll on the reef systems of West Hawaii, but the damage will be multiplied many fold if Aquarium Collectors are allowed to resume removing herbivores from this ecosystem. The value of a healthy reef for protection from Kings Tides and sea level rises should be taken into consideration. And tourism in Hawaii is a huge economic driver. Much of that tourism centers on the ocean, the reef, and the marine life that can be seen here. The fish that would be collected have a much higher value when left in the ocean than they have being shipped off by collectors.

I strongly believe that all decisions that impact reef health and tourism based on it should be made only after public input and should be made by BLNR, not the DAR chair.

Please do not allow the resumption of Aquarium Collecting in our waters.

Respectfully,
Jamie Pardau

From: [Kira Kamamalu](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1 I OPPOSE Issuing AQ Permits & I OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 8:18:06 AM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Kira Kamamalu of Hawaii Island: artist, Hawaiian arts teacher, and land owner.

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,
Kira Kamamalu
Pākini Nui, Moku o Keawe

Kira Kamamalu
Artist
Kamamalu@me.com
808-938-5054
HouseofKamamalu.com

From: [Alexis Kerver](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1 I OPPOSE Issuing AQ Permits & I OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:27:09 PM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Alexis Kerver. I am 'ōlapa (hula dancer) and hoa'āina (caretaker) of Kona and Ka'ū.

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 a steward of 'āina and dancer who embodies the environment in which I live, the health and well-being of our reefs in West Hawaii are paramount, and these permits threaten to diminish the quality of such.

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,
Alexis Kerver
Holualoa - Kona, Moku o Keawe

From: [andrew kessler](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 3:06:12 PM

I am emailing you because I think it's important to support the opening of the aquarium fishery which would benefit the fisherman of Hawaii.

We are all looking forward to environmentally maintaining the aquatic resources that Hawaii has to offer.

Sincerely

Andrew Kessler M.D.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mario Kiefer](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Unterstützung für Tagesordnungspunkt F1
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 1:05:47 AM

Guten Tag,

ich unterstütze die Eröffnung der Aquarienfischerei und die Verwaltung der Ressourcen auf der Grundlage der von DAR bereitgestellten Wissenschaft.“

MfG
Mario Kiefer

--

Gesendet mit der GMX Mail App

From: [gai kipi](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F1 support
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 4:55:17 PM

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

From: [Brayden Kliner](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 8:38:06 AM

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

From: [Janice Koehn](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F 1
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 12:28:48 PM

I support opening the aquarium fishery and I support managing resources by science provided by DAR . Thank you.
Aquatics unlimited LLC 3550 s 108 th greenfield wi 53228 since 1969. Our 55 th anniversary Janice koehn and
roger koehn

Sent from my iPad

From: [Reef Fish Co.](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: [REEF FISH CO](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 7:31:33 AM
Attachments: [pastedGraphic.png](#)
Importance: High

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

Shaun Lamas
REEF FISH CO
reeffishco@gmail.com



From: [Kimberly Lepold](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stop the Aquarium Fish Trade in West Hawaii
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 5:44:15 PM

Aloha,

Mahalo for taking the time to consider our points going forward regarding Aquarium Fish Trade.

Deny any and all AQ Trade Permits.

Retain the diverse Islands communities specialized knowledge to weigh in and make informed decisions together, for the resource.

Mortality(death) rates; chain of custody: Collector to wholesaler 3%

Hawaii wholesaler to LA wholesaler. 4%

3 days at LA wholesaler. 5%

LA wholesaler to retailer. 3%

3 days at retailer. 5%

2 weeks at retailer. 11%

Within one year in hobby tank. 100%

Huge Coral Bleaching events in 2014 and 2015 took place in West Hawaii, with some locations reporting a 40% to 60% Coral die off.

DO THE RIGHT THING!!!

Please & Thank you so much

The Reef Fish Thank You.

The Reef Thanks You.

Mother Ocean Thanks You.

Mahalo,

Kimberly Lepold

Roots Advocates For Youth 501c3

From: [Linda Pirri](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPPOSITION TO F-1 1 and Oppose delegating to Department Chair
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 10:23:51 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,

My name is Linda P. Gross full time resident and owner for over 20 years at Mauna Lani on the Kohala Coast. I am a swimmer/snorkeler along the coast.

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

I ask OPPOSE the taking of our sea-life/tropical fish for the profit of a few. I have seen the tropical fish population diminish greatly since moving here. A parrot fish can barely be found!! I have seen people come in on kayaks and take four to five in long baby parrot fish in as many as twenty with my own eyes. These people do not care about the plundering of our resources! Its going to be gardening enough for our coral and sea life to stay alive much less allow the taking of our precious tang and angel fish. I have seen men come in with spears and nets and take small octopus...I have seen ten dead on a line in an afternoon catch.

I am opposed to taking tropical fish for profit.

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.

Please serve our community...and protect our resources and wild life!!

Linda P. Gross

Resident Kohala Coast at Mauna Lani

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ayden Lincoln](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 11:37:42 AM

I strongly support the reopening of the aquarium fishery industry and responsible collection of fish by DAR! This is essential to many people's lives and you have kept it shutdown for years too long. Please let collections be open again. Thank you!

From: [Noelle Lindenmann](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1: OPPOSE Terms & Conditions to Issue Permit; OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:29:11 PM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am Noelle Lindenmann of Kailua-Kona. I am a resident of Pualani Estates and avid scuba diver in the waters off 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. This would be detrimental to the health of our local reefs and the broader ocean. As a scuba diver and spouse to a dive guide in Kona, I know that this would also impact tourism and work for people who are reliant on the wildlife and the health of corals. We must take care of the ocean to the best of our abilities, and allowing permits for commercial aquarium trade is not doing that. Encouraging folks to breed animals for the AQ trade and keep the wildlife in the water is a better way to go for the environment.

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,
Noelle Lindenmann
Kailua-Kona
Hawai`i Island

Noelle Lindenmann (she/her/hers)
e. noelle.royer@gmail.com // tallgirl@uw.edu
p: 310.729.6627

From: [Nanea Lo](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Strong Opposition to Issuing AQ Permits and Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 6:02:40 AM

Dear Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Nanea Lo, and I am a resident of Mō‘ili‘ili, O‘ahu. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the issuance of commercial aquarium permits in West Hawai‘i and to the delegation of authority to the Department Chair.

Firstly, I urge you to reject the Division of Aquatic Resources' (DAR) Terms and Conditions for issuing West Hawai‘i aquarium permits and to deny any and all permits. The environmental and cultural impacts of these activities are too significant to be ignored, and it is crucial that we prioritize the protection of our natural resources.

Secondly, I strongly oppose the delegation of authority to issue AQ permits to the Department Chair. The responsibility of issuing these permits should remain with the Board, which has the collective expertise, specialized knowledge, and diverse perspectives necessary to make informed decisions. Retaining this discretionary authority with the Board ensures that the voices of our island communities are heard and considered.

I respectfully request that you take these points into serious account during your deliberations.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

--

Nanea Lo (*she/they/‘o ia*) | Micro-influencer

Executive Director | [Native Stories](#)

Executive Commission | [Sierra Club of Hawai‘i](#)

Board Member | [Hawai‘i Worker's Center](#)

Granter | [Hawai‘i People's Fund](#)

Commissioner | [O‘ahu Historic Preservation Commission](#)

(808)444-1229

[Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

"Some people say that Hawai‘i will be a better place when Hawaiians no longer stand in the way of progress. But even these people must know that at this point, this will no longer be Hawai‘i." - Jonathan Kay Kamakawiwo‘ole Osorio. The Value of Hawai‘i

From: [Brenna Lonergan](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1: OPPOSE Terms & Conditions to Issue Permit; OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 2:31:16 PM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am BRENNALONERGAN of KONA HAWAII.

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, PERSPECTIVES...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,
BRENNALONERGAN
HOLUALOA 96725
BIG ISLAND

From: [Walter Loureiro](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 12:17:24 PM

I vote in favor of the return of the capture of Hawaiian fish, to facilitate access a companies of the species in question for captive breeding programs.

From: [daniel love](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item f1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 3:34:08 PM

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.
Currently have created a black market of buying and selling certain fish with crazy cost.
Dino love, Australia.

From: [Blaise Lowen](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:36:41 PM

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

Regards,
Blaise Lowen

From: [Luken, Alan](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 6:33:05 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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

Alan Luken

Marketing Manager, Segrest Inc

P.O. Box 758 | Gibsonton, FL 33534

O 800.237.9317 ext. 1253 **M** 513.815.1449 SEGRESTINC.COM



From: [Tom Lund](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 9:03:40 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)

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

Tom Lund | Chorleywood Stock Manager

+44 1923 284151

tropicalmarinecentre.com

Solesbridge Lane, Chorleywood, Hertfordshire, WD3 5SX



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE



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From: rtlivefish@gmail.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of F.1. passage
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 11:24:28 AM

BLNR Hearing
DATE: April 26, 2024
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: DLNR Boardroom,
blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Testimony **In Support of DAR F.1.**

Approval of State of Hawai'i Aquarium Fish Permit

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Mary Beth Tubbs. As a retired Hawaii public school teacher, school psychometrist, and educator, I support the approval of the State of Hawaii Aquarium Fishing Permits. I used tropical aquariums in my classrooms and at school events to teach many biological, ecological, and scientific concepts to keiki, including important concepts related to global warming such as the ocean's carbon sequestering capacity. Also, aquariums are also proven to reduce stress, something we could all use, and are the perfect tool to teach children how to malama our ocean environments. I would hate to see that end.

The assumption that aquarium fish collectors significantly impact ocean resources is false, given the current successful management systems of DLNR, and the fishers' own self-monitoring rules, ex. rotation of their spots. Science shows that the fishery is sustainable. The aquarium fishery complies with kanaka maoli, (indigenous Hawaiian) values of living in harmony and balance, by fishing in a sustainable way with nature. Therefore, please pass agenda item F.1, and approve the aquarium fish permits.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Tubbs, M.Ed.

NEA Retired

From: [Eliezer Machin](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F1
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 3:16:25 AM

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

Enviado desde mi teléfono

From: [Tyson Mackenzie](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AGENDA ITEM F1 SUPPORT
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 11:46:53 AM

To whom it may concern

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

Sincerely

Tyson Mackenzie

--

Thank you,

Tyson Mackenzie
Sales Representative
Sea Dwelling Creatures, Inc.



Tel: 310.676.9697 x8006
Fax: 310.676.9699
Direct line: 213.316.9664
tyson@seadwelling.com
www.seadwelling.com
5515 W. 104th St.
Los Angeles, CA 90045



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From: [Greg Mahmoud](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:33:06 AM

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

From: [Jikkermanccini](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 4:05:05 AM

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR. I believe that they have proven without a shadow of a doubt that the traditional Hawaiian aquarium fishery is sustainable and capable of being maintained responsibly with net zero impact on the surrounding ecosystem.

From: [Steven Mankoff](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1 I OPPOSE Issuing AQ Permits & I OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 11:22:38 AM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Steven Mankoff. I am a full-time resident in South Kohala. I am an avid waterman and scuba dive, snorkel and swim our magnificent coastlines multiple times per week. I regularly participate in ocean clean up dives and have personally organized and led a dozen small group clean up dives.

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. A healthy fish population is absolutely critical to the health of our reefs and marine ecosystems, which are under significant stress due to climate change. I have personally observed the dramatic difference in quality and diversity of coral reef fish life in protected area like Lapakahi and unprotected areas that have been frequented by aquarium fisherman. Our beautiful coral reefs are critical to the health of our scuba and snorkeling industries.

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,
Steven Mankoff
South Kohala

From: [Matthew Masotti](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ATTN: Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:11:37 AM

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

From: [Danny McElroy](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 6:01:24 AM

Good Morning,

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

Danny McElroy
682-500-8510

From: [Simmy](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Please do not reopen the Aquarium Trade in West Hawaii
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 1:45:53 PM

Aloha Members of Board Land and Natural Resources:

Please do not reopen to allow commercial aquarium collection in West Hawaii.

Why reopen since the Court decision of January 30, 2023, to Ban this lucrative selling of our resource, Yellow Tangs.

By keeping the ban, this will ensure you as DLNR, to "Enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawai'i unique and limited natural,

cultural, and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawai'i Nei, and its visitors,

in partnership with others from the public and private sectors" This is Beautifully Said!! So PONO!! I Love it!!

Selling our fishes for a fishing bowl via Petco is Not PONO, Not TRADITION.

This is not sustainable. We are already in a crisis of polluted Cesspool affecting our reefs.

Traditional fishing was Kapu and managed to be sustainable.

Waikiki is already ruined, but you have a Waikiki Aquarium.

I don't see plentiful fishes along the shores, way too much.

Don't take what we have and ruin KONA!

Tourist come to Kailua Kona to Swim, Snorkel, Surf, Canoe, and enjoy our Natural Cultural Resources.

You do not need to take our fishes, transport to out of State, sold for viewing in a fishbowl.

This is HEWA, so Stop once and for All.

Ali'i Drive was of the King's residence and vacation lands.

We are the last place to truly Preserve, Sad for Waikiki as I grew up there, riding horses in Kapiolani Park, danced Hula at the Band Stand, and Aloha week Hula on Kalakaua Ave.

Back in the days with only two hotels, who would have known the end results.

Now a Kupuna it is my duty,

Kuleana, to speak up with experience knowing it's not always best to over develop, destroy, and not Malama.

We need our fishes to thrive in our ocean for the public. And make sure all is Save for us Keiki of the next generation. It is our duty as Kupuna to Malama for the Future.

MALAMA AS WE ARE ALL BLESSED WITH FISHES, LETS KEEP BEING BLESSED.

'KEEP KONA COUNTRY AND WE WILL BE PROSPEROUS FOR ALL'

Mahalo Nui Loa!

Simmy McMichael

Born in the Territory of Hawaii

Lives in West Hawaii Kailua Kona

From: [Kelli Uderitz](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F.1
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 8:16:29 AM

Please do not reopen our reefs for commercial aquarium collection. We need our fish in the ocean to help our reefs! Please keep the BLNR as overseers of this activity. I also believe it is harmful to the fish to be removed from their natural habitat to be sold in stores. We need to work to protect our environment and the creatures in it and stop succumbing to greed and profit. Please protect the fish AND the reef!

Thank you
Kelli Medeiros

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [Asta M](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] August 23; Agenda Item F.1
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 4:17:15 PM

Aloha,

My name is Asta Miklius and I live on Hawai'i Island. I am deeply concerned about the DAR's plan to re-open West Hawai'i to commercial aquarium collection. Our reefs are already visibly suffering from impacts of climate change and overuse, it is completely irresponsible to put more, and potentially fatal stress on the reefs by removing important herbivores. It is also supremely short sighted to let the short-term gains of a handful of people override the long-term health and resultant benefits of having a healthy reef ecosystem.

Please do not approve re-opening of aquarium collection; at the least do not allow the chair of DAR to be the sole determinant of such issues; it needs to be the Board, with input from the public.

Thank you for your consideration,
Asta Miklius
PO Box 1003
Volcano, HI 96785
808-937-5734

From: [Ryan Miller](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:08:05 AM

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

Ryan Miller

From: [Wendy Minor](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] August 23rd; Agenda Item F.1 Permitting commercial aquarium collection
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 1:44:10 PM

The Board of Land and Natural Resources decision to prohibit permitting statewide should be upheld.

Never should permitting decisions be the SOLE decision of one person, the chair of the DAR. That is just wrong and a slap in the face to the community and the BLNR.

Thank you,
Wendy Minor
Kamuela, HI 96743

From: [Brian Monczka](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 9:14:40 AM

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

From: [Alessandro Montaldi](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 2:43:45 PM
Importance: High

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

I am a marine ornamental fish breeder born in Europe and operating in Phuket, Thailand. I export also to USA. I developed my knowledge and expertise following the wealth of information coming from the marine aquarium fishery on fish behavior and survival strategy in nature, and from the feedback from home aquarium owners that observed and reported features and behavior of marine fish in captivity.

We know that the dramatic changes of natural habitats, due to the rapidly increasing effects of climate change, will bring many species of fish and invertebrates on the brink of collapse. Existing scientific research on marine aquarium fish and invertebrates is limited and insufficient to build up solutions, including captive breeding of threatened and endangered species. Responsible marine aquarium fishery and home aquaria ownership is filling this gap with precious insights and observations.

I visited Hawaii marine ornamental fishery and breeding operations in 2016, and was surprised and intrigued by the professionalism and responsibility of the operators, which has been confirmed by the latest scientific research in Hawaii. Responsible fishery is not the enemy of conservation, but exactly the opposite.

Please re-open the responsible and sustainable marine aquarium fishery in Hawaii.

Alessandro Montaldi

Phuket, Thailand

Sent from [Outlook](#)

From: [Melody Moore](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Aquarium Fishing
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 3:59:14 PM

Please consider that the aquarium fishing business is flawed as a viable business as it affects the reef fish and the people that use the reefs. Swimmers, snorkeling and fishing. There is evidence that a large amount of the fish don't survive to market and don't survive after they are sold. Why can't these fish be raised in captivity? It would be the most humane and safe for their survival. Many people who use these waters say that the amount of fish and wildlife is depleted from what it used to be years ago.

Please stop the aquarium fishing.

Melody Moore

From: [Fragário do Norte](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 6:40:29 AM

Greetings,

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

With kind regards,
Carlos Mota

--

Com os melhores cumprimentos,

Fragário do Norte



www.fragarionorte.com

From: [MVCK](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 12:42:28 AM

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

From: [Hannah Espy](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 3:10:42 PM

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.
This would mean a lot to me and other saltwater aquarium enthusiasts.

Thank you,
Hannah Espy Nail

From: [Andrew Newton](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 3:16:19 AM

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

From: [zuma](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] August 23;Agenda F.1
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 4:18:22 PM

My name is Bruce Allen Oatway. I live in Makawao, Maui. The decision should be left to the BLNR and not AR which has vested connections to an industry proven by scientists to be wasteful, non-productive and against all environmental common sense.

The fishes are integral to the survival of our fragile reefs. Since the fire we won't know future impacts for years.

Aside from the environmental consequences are the fragile relationships our people have with Lahaina, barely a year after a horrific tragedy. Local people will not take kindly to this action and strong resistance will occur should you proceed to intercede.

Mahalo

Bruce Allen Oatway

From: [Gina OBrien](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NO permits!
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 1:24:32 PM

NO permits for reef fish collecting. NO. Gina Obrien.

From: [Alvin.Ong](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 2:59:52 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

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

[ALL BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS ARE HANDLED SUBJECT TO OUR STANDARD TRADING CONDITIONS FOR THE FREIGHT SERVICES \(AIR & MULTIMODAL\) AND THE FULFILMENT SERVICES \(TRANSPORTATION & WAREHOUSING\).](#)

Yours truly

ALVIN ONG

Director, General Manager
The Freight & Fulfilment Services
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From: [Mike Ooms](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F1
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 9:21:32 AM

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

Thanks,
Mike Ooms
Franklin Aquarium
2409 Highland Ave.
Columbia, TN 38401
931-388-2100

From: [Scr Ory](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 12:41:16 AM

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

From: [Koohan Paik-Mander](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1: OPPOSE Terms & Conditions to Issue Permit; OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 1:20:17 PM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am Koohan Paik-Mander of Honokaa.

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. We cannot continue selling off Hawaii's biodiversity, as we are now on the path to extinction. Further, this precious biodiversity is crucial to the ocean's capacity to regenerate the Earth in the face of climate change. Better than any amount of solar panels or windmills because they don't sequester carbon; but biodiverse reef ecosystems do. This is a climate issue, and we are in a climate catastrophe.

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,
Koohan Paik-Mander
Honokaa, HI 96727
Hawaii Island

From: [Bo Pardau](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] August 23 agenda item F.1
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 8:39:09 AM

To the Board,

My name is Bo Pardau, I have lived in Kailua Kona on the Big Island of Hawaii for over 20 years and spend a large amount of time underwater for work and pleasure. I see first hand how the fish life has rebounded since the aquarium collecting has been halted and, because of the excess algae growth due to the coral bleaching, it is even more imperative that we encourage the growth of the herbivore fish population.

Aquarium collecting hurts the population growth, benefits so very few, and is not in line with traditional cultural practices of Hawaiian culture. There is nothing beneficial to opening collecting and you will find that the vast majority of people that live here DO NOT want this to change. Keep our reefs secure and thriving. Keep the ban.

Mahalo,
Bo Pardau

From: [Belinda Pate](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1: OPPOSE Terms & Conditions to Issue Permit; OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 4:03:23 PM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources, I am Belinda Pate of Kailua Kona. I am a home owner, Nurse Practitioner with a private practice in Kona, and an avid surfer.

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 find it difficult to comprehend, that in 2024, with the data available at our fingertips, we are still harming our precious environment by allowing the collection of our beloved tropical fish for commercial purposes.

With regard to our delicate ecosystem, I am disappointed that my government is not using all of its authority to protect what matters most. Not only in this issue but beyond.

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.

Please don't pass the buck.

Thank you for this opportunity,

Belinda Pate, NP
75-5855 Walua road rd
Kailua Kona HI 96749
8083891414

From: [Matthew Pentith](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 8:39:53 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)

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

Matthew Pentith | Fish-House Manager

📞 +44 161 9461538

🌐 tropicalmarinecentre.com

📍 Unit 3, Beta Court, Sharston Industrial Estate, Harper Rd, Wythenshawe,, Manchester, M22 4QE



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From: [Yeremi Cabrera Perez](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 12:40:29 AM

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

From: [Jamie Peth](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Commercial Aquarium permits
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 1:50:04 PM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Jamie Peth of Kailua-Kona. I believe it is the responsibility of all who live and visit our beautiful island to be caretakers of the land as well as the Ocean.

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 am an avid scuba diver and snorkeler. Allowing commercial Aquarium permits in West Hawaii is not good for our ocean ecosystem. We are just now recovering from the effect of harmful sunscreen and past overuse.

I don't think it is in the best interest of the ocean ecosystem to delegate authority to issue AQ Permits to one person aka the Department Chair, please do not delegate authority to the Department Chair. Keep the 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,

Jamie Peth
Kailua-Kona

From: [Saul Pineda](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 5:30:48 AM

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

Angel Saul

From: Ian@MAPrenewables
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 3:31:15 AM
Attachments: [6A84A1EB62D542E4ABDE5EEAFB3CA7D5\[2914709\].png](#)

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

Ian Pollock

Project Manager



Unit 66 Old Mills Industrial Estate

Paulton

Bristol BS39 7SU

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Poznaniak, Missy](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 8:57:54 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

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



Missy Poznaniak

Segrest Farms Sales Representative

PO Box 758 Gibsonton, FL 33534

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From: [Teresa Truono](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] agenda item F1 SUPPORT
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:22:57 PM

To Who It May Concern,

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

Thank you,
Pie Truono

From: [Antti Pulkkinen](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 10:35:02 AM

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

Ystävällisin terveisin,

Antti Pulkkinen
Akvaariokeidas

From: [Chris Quinn](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fish collection in Hawaii
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:41:25 PM

Agenda Item F1 Support

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,
Chris Quinn
Owner of The Reef Haven
Salem, NH 03079

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Inês Quintino](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 10:46:17 PM

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

From: [Ryan Blausen](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item f1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 7:16:12 AM

I support opening the aquarium fisheries

From: [Riccio](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] August 23; Agenda Item F.1
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 1:41:32 PM

To the Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I have lived in Maui, Hawai'i for 26 years. West Hawai'i is one of our favorite places to vacation, mainly because of the reef snorkeling and other ocean activities. We respect the cultural significance and the beauty of this area, and believe it needs to be protected.

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

Commercial aquarium collection unfairly commercializes public trust resources and exploits Hawaiian cultural and natural resources at the expense of cultural values, Native Hawaiian inherent subsistence rights, and without benefit to residents. It further exploits and destroys our ocean. Issuing aquarium collection permit(s) privatizes the extraction of our reef fish to benefit a few aquarium collectors and a small handful of local players, providing no economic benefit to Hawai'i. Hawai'i does not benefit from this billion-dollar international pet trade industry.

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.

**Sincerely,
Ronald Riccio
Kihei, Maui**

From: [raffy 7](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 5:32:40 AM

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

I dont mean to bother you for too long but im writing to you from germany. Im Wirkung in a small aquarium shop and we all have been waiting for your decision concerning c. pottery, Z. flavescens and your native ctenochaetus species.

We are keen to receive quality fish from Hawaii again.

Best Regards

Gesendet von [Outlook für Android](#)

From: [Eric Rapson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 12:21:56 PM

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

Thank you,
Eric Rapson

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Reef Lounge](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 11:09:16 AM

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

From: [El Refugio Del Pez](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 6:29:27 AM

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

Support from Chile, ornamental aquaculture in exhibitions and zoos.



Fono: 722 395367 **Cel:** +56966242116
Av. Einstein #569, Manzanal, RANCAGUA, CHILE

From: [Carol Riccio](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1 I OPPOSE Issuing AQ Permits & I OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 1:35:18 PM

To the Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My husband Ron and I have lived in Maui, Hawai'i for 26 years. West Hawai'i is one of our favorite places to vacation, mainly because of the reef snorkeling and other ocean activities. We respect the cultural significance and the beauty of this area, and believe it needs to be protected.

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

Commercial aquarium collection unfairly commercializes public trust resources and exploits Hawaiian cultural and natural resources at the expense of cultural values, Native Hawaiian inherent subsistence rights, and without benefit to residents. It further exploits and destroys our ocean. Issuing aquarium collection permit(s) privatizes the extraction of our reef fish to benefit a few aquarium collectors and a small handful of local players, providing no economic benefit to Hawai'i. Hawai'i does not benefit from this billion-dollar international pet trade industry.

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.

**Sincerely,
Carol Riccio
Kihei, Maui**

From: [Darlene Richard](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose Agenda Item 1:F1
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 10:53:17 AM

Aloha,

I am writing to oppose agenda item F1. I oppose the board issuing AQ permits. I oppose delegating authority to the department chair.

I am a scuba diver, who also happens to have a degree in Biology with an emphasis on reef ecology. I am a regular visitor to Mahukona and diving along the West Coast of Big Island Hawaii. I can absolutely attest that our fish populations are not abundant enough to support collecting. We need to protect our reef population for decades to come to allow the numbers to increase.

Protect our reefs, please do not support collecting for the aquarium trade. Please deny any and all AQ permits.

Mahalo,

Darlene Richard
Waikoloa Village, HAWAII
386-793-8286

From: [Robert Miller](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 7:44:10 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.

It is hoped that given the data provided, the Hawaiian aquarium fishery can be reopened and serve as a model managed natural resource for years to come.

Thanking you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Miller
Managing Partner
Sea Dwelling Creatures, Inc.



Tel: 310.877.8489
Fax: 818.712.0533
robm@seadwelling.com
www.seadwelling.com
5515 W. 104th St.
Los Angeles, CA 90045



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From: [Laurie Robertson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No AQ permits should be issued
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 8:43:00 PM

As a resident of Hawaii, I strongly oppose the granting of any permits to AQ (Aquaculture) operations in our state. AQ operations have a history of causing environmental harm, including pollution of waterways, destruction of natural habitats, and the spread of diseases to wild fish populations. These operations also often rely on the use of antibiotics and pesticides, which can further harm the environment and pose a risk to human health. Furthermore, AQ operations have been known to exploit local communities and indigenous peoples, taking advantage of their resources and land without providing any significant benefits in return. This is unacceptable and goes against the values of sustainability and respect for the environment that are so important in Hawaii. Instead of supporting AQ operations, we should be investing in sustainable and responsible aquaculture practices that prioritize the health of our oceans and ecosystems. We should be supporting local fishermen and small-scale fish farmers who are working to protect our environment and provide healthy, locally sourced seafood for our communities. In conclusion, granting permits to AQ operations in Hawaii would only harm our environment, communities, and way of life. We must stand together to protect our oceans and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. Furthermore, BLNR should be the ultimate decision makers, and granted the final say in whether or not to issue permits, as I hope they will deny them all and protect our precious reef resources.

Mahalo for your time,

Laurie Robertson
Lahaina, Maui, HI

From: [Josh Rosen](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F1 Support
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 3:36:52 PM

To Whom it may concern,

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

Sincerely,
Josh Rosen

--

Josh Rosen
Sales Representative
Sea Dwelling Creatures, Inc.



Tel: 310.676.9697 x8070
Fax: 310.676.9699
Direct line: 213.417.9372
joshr@seadwelling.com
www.seadwelling.com
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From: [Daniel Rubinoff](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BLNR should decide on issuing AQ not chair of DAR staff
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 1:19:44 PM

Aloha BLNR,

Please do not give up your authority to regulate permits affecting the health of Hawaii's reefs. The health of our reef ecosystems and the shared benefit residents and tourists alike get from seeing abundant reef fish is far more important than the localized economic gain of a few aquarium dealers and collectors. In many places the aquarium trade is expected to breed their own fish rather than always taking from the reefs we all share. This is especially important now with the challenges of climate change.

Whenever I talk to visitors they say that they love seeing the fish but those who have been elsewhere, like Tahiti, always say we don't have nearly as many fish. The aquarium trade is putting pressure on our populations of reef fish and degrading a resource we all share. This is obvious if you visit protected areas and see how much more diverse and abundant the fish are at Hanauma Bay for example.

Please stop the short-sighted aquarium trade from continuing to deplete our shared natural resource, and maintain your authority to regulate and protect this resource.

Dan Rubinoff
Honolulu, Oahu

From: [Shannon Rudolph](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1: OPPOSE Terms & Conditions to Issue Permit; OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 12:38:45 PM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am a 40 year resident of West Hawai'i who is totally in favor of banning the aquarium industry in all of Hawai'i, forever.

This industry is harming our public resources & harming to our visitor industry.

I am in agreement with the opposition to agenda item F1, please vote against it.

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.

Mahalo,
Shannon Rudolph
P. O. 243 Holualoa, Hi. 96725

From: [Melvine Ruigrok](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:41:42 AM

Dear madam/sir,

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

The fisherman have shown us all that aquarium fishery in Hawaii was and will be sustainable.

Kind regards,

Melvine Ruigrok
Nijmegen, The Netherlands

From: [Sam Hawkins](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 11:08:27 AM

Subject: Support for Reopening the Hawaiian Aquarium Fishery

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR. The comprehensive environmental review and adherence to scientific guidance ensure that this fishery can operate sustainably, balancing ecological preservation with economic activity.

By reopening the fishery under these carefully considered conditions, we can continue to protect Hawaii's marine ecosystems while supporting the livelihoods of those who depend on this industry. It is crucial that we follow the science-based management strategies laid out by DAR to ensure the long-term health of our marine resources.

I strongly urge the permitting process to proceed and the fishery to be reopened in a manner that aligns with the rigorous standards set forth by the environmental review.

Kind regards

Sam Hawkins

From: [Baltasar Sanz](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 6:05:53 AM

Dear Sirs, Agenda Item F1 Support - I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR! Yours sincerely,

Enviado desde mi iPhone

From: [Eric Serechen](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 3:23:28 AM

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

From: [Shane Setlock](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 6:52:14 AM

Hello,

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

Thank you,
Shane Setlock

From: [Rosanne Shank](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] August 23, Agenda Item F.1
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 3:05:58 PM

Rosanne Shank
Kailua Kona, Hawaii Island

For so many years we (the users of the ocean)fought to limit AQ fishing. Our reefs have benefited from the management areas. I don't want our fish to be sold. We need them here in Hawaii, in our ocean. I am against AQ permits being issued.

Mahalo for your consideration. Aloha-Rosanne
Sent from my iPad

August 18, 2024

Board of Land and Natural Resources

Honolulu, Hawaii

Re: Aquarium Trade

The mission of the Division of Aquatic Resources is to work with the people of Hawai'i to manage, conserve and restore the state's unique aquatic resources and ecosystems for present and future generations.

Dear Board Chair and Members:

I remind you of the mission statement of the Division of Aquatic Resources. Under those guidelines, there should be no commercial take of Hawai'i reef fishes for the aquarium trade. Not West Hawai'i, or anywhere else under state control. It is a frivolous waste of animal life, and our natural resources, to remove marine species from our reefs that are then destined to die in aquaria on the mainland or beyond.

In the face of increasing threats to the marine environment by inevitable climate change, any and all efforts to promote resilience are important. Herbivores, which include yellow tangs and other surgeonfishes, are key to reef health. They need to stay on our reefs.

In your capacity, serving present and future generations, please do not re-open West Hawai'i to the aquarium trade.

Thank you, diane.shepherd@outlook.com

Diane E Shepherd, DVM 808-283-2024

3329 Kehala Dr., Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Peter Showalter](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 6:33:57 AM

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

From: [Brett Sizeland](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 12:45:11 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.

Sincerely,
Brett Sizeland

From: [Suzanne Mankoff](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1 I OPPOSE Issuing AQ Permits & I OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 10:08:44 AM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Suzanne Mankoff. I am a resident of Kamuela, near the town of Kawaihae, and I am a frequent swimmer, snorkeler and scuba diver on these shores.

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 have been swimming on the shores of West Hawai'i for decades and have witnessed, first hand, the changes wrought by climate change and human influences. Must we also now further degrade the marine environments by enabling people to take creatures that are so vital to this important habitat? The aquarium trade has already taken so many fish away from Hawai'i - and most of those fish perish. The economic gain of very few people would be the source of unimaginable economic, cultural and environmental loss for the whole island.

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,
Suzanne Mankoff
Ouli, Moku o Keawe

From: [Michael Smith](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 6:33:52 AM

To whom it may concern,

I support opening the fishery and using the science provided by DAR to sustainably manage it

Thanks
Mike Smith

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Ruth Solomon-Onaga](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 7:45:58 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR. The opportunities that come from opening up the fishery will help those that make a living from the ocean. Thank you for listening.

Mahalo.

From: [Julian Sprung](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:16:14 AM

Dear Board of Land and Natural Resources

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

The harvest and international distribution of live ornamental marine fishes from Hawaii by a small number of permitted fishermen will provide Hawaii's valuable natural resource to public aquariums and aquarium keepers around the world. The DAR science and regulations demonstrate this will be done with low impact on the natural populations of the target species. Opening the fishery is an achievement that should be recognized internationally because it demonstrates the success of applying science to fisheries practices and the successful implementation of science based regulations.

Sincerely,

Julian

--

Julian Sprung, President
Two Little Fishies Inc.
15801 NW 15th Avenue
Miami Gardens, FL 33169
305 623 7695 Phone
786 325 2053 Cell
www.twolittlefishies.com

From: [ValiantSquid](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 3:49:29 AM

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

From: [Jason Stamp](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 10:46:37 PM

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

Kind Regards
Jason

From: [Matthew Stenning](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 7:40:08 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)

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

It is fundamental to the industry for the Hawaiian fishery to be reopened as it is believed court requirements have been met regarding the environmental review.

Best Rgds

Matt

Matthew Stenning | Warehouse & Logistics Manager

📞 +44 1923 284151

🌐 tropicalmarinecentre.com

📍 Solesbridge Lane, Chorleywood, Hertfordshire, WD3 5SX



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From: bonniemaikai@gmail.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] stop fish collection
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 8:53:46 PM

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

I swim 4 to 5 days a week at Mahukona and the west side since 1995.

The fish populations now are very scant . this is why fish collection continues to be a serious Problem. Why? When the ocean and marine life are facing so many challenges.

Who benefits? Not the the ocean well being. This rapes Hawaii and the continual disrespect For the culture and marine life.

It is know that most fish die in shipping.

Other Pacific Islands Palau, Fiji do not allow this.

More and more fish farms are selling to aquariums. This is where they get their fish NOT the ocean. Stop IT!!!!

This demand to stop fish collection will never end.

Bonnie Stevenson

From: [Kollette Stith](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1: OPPOSE Terms & Conditions to Issue Permit; OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 6:32:32 PM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am Kollette Stith of Big Island. I am an organic macadamia nut and Kona coffee farmer in South Kona, I am a small business owner and also have a retail outlet. I care for the the land and create island made products. AHUPUA'A/DISTRICT.]

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,
Kollette Stith
Captain Cook HI 96704
Big Island

From: [Monica Stone](#)
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 8:41:39 PM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Monica Stone, I live in 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.

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,

Monica Stone
Kailua-Kona, Big Island, 96740

From: [hendra sumarta](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 9:20:00 AM

We are an exporter of live tropical marine fish from North Sumatra - Indonesia and we support opening the Hawaiian aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR.

Best Regards,
Hendra

From: [Cynthia Sweeney](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Commercial aquarium fish collecting
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:24:27 PM

Dear Board members,

It's hard to believe this is still an issue. Please uphold the Dec. 8, 2023 unanimous Board vote directing DAR to begin rulemaking to end aquarium fish collecting.

Please direct the DAR to hold the required public hearings on the rules, and disregard the DARs fatally flawed West Hawai'i plan to reopen the trade in its entirety.

Think about our ocean's future, not temporary monetary gain.

A keen observer in North Kohala has been making an assessment of the 'recovery' of certain species of fish such as the Achilles tang after witnessing years of active collecting.

Despite claims in documents (paid for by the industry and accepted by DAR) of certain rates of recovery, observable facts do not substantiate the industry's claims and projections.

Thank you,

Cynthia Sweeney
Kailua-Kona

From: [Steve Szilagyi](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 3:12:43 AM
Attachments: [image351792.png](#)
[image963377.png](#)
[image943884.png](#)
[image734152.png](#)
[image243863.png](#)
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[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)

Dear Sirs,

Agenda Item F1 Support

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

Yours sincerely,

Steve Szilagyi | Digital Sales Specialist

📞 +44 1923 284151



📍 Solesbridge Lane, Chorleywood, Hertfordshire, WD3 5SX



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From: [saigon-reef](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 11:34:30 PM
Importance: High

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

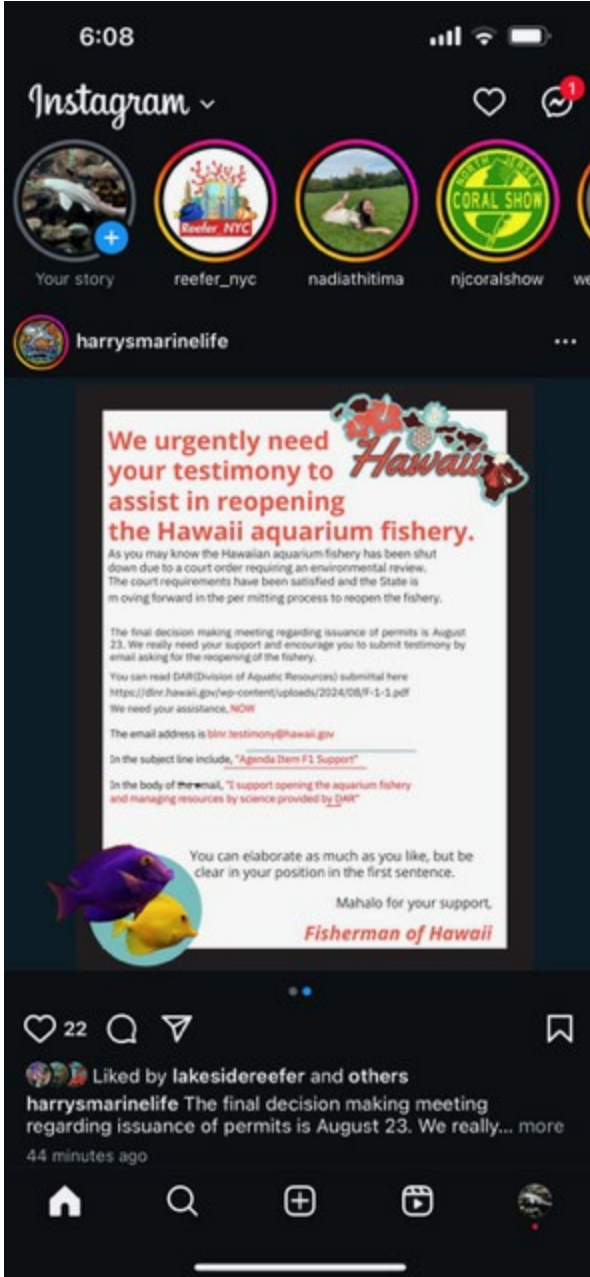
it is important for our industry for the Hawaiian Fishery to be re-opened where collection data has been scientifically proven to be sustainable..

Thierry Denis Bardin

Ho Chi Min city
Viet Nam

From: [G Pom](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] "I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 12:13:38 PM
Attachments: [image1.png](#)

"I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by Tanut p.

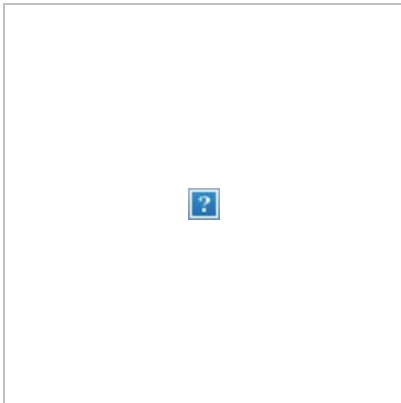


Sent from my iPhone

From: [Aquarium Reefers](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] agenda item F1 SUPPORT
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 7:30:59 PM

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

Victor Tarango



Aquariumreefers.com
support@aquariumreefers.com
(888)556-7495 (818)860-4772

Walk-Ins By Appointments Only
Mon - Fri 10 am -6 pm
7623 Fulton Ave North Hollywood, CA
For Aquarium Services visit Theaquariumservice.com

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From: [Jane W Taylor](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1: OPPOSE Terms & Conditions to Issue Permit; OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 12:20:08 PM
Attachments: [PastedGraphic-2.tiff](#)

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am Jane Taylor of Waimea on the Big Island. I have lived here since 1954 and have been an art teacher for 30+ years at Hawaii Preparatory Academy and am also an artist focusing on this district. I have known this shoreline intimately, snorkeling, painting my plein air art, and paddling, mostly between Mahukona and Kealakekua. I have seen serious changes. The water quality and ocean warming and sunscreen are enough for our fish to deal with. Nobody should be allowed any aquarium captures - this is too frivolous a reason to place them at risk. The economic benefit is minor and specific to a few individuals - again not worth the impact. Please do not delegate authority, but maintain it as a board and protect our Aina and our fish..

I OPPOSE issuing any commercial aquarium permits at all 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 for this opportunity,
Jane W. Taylor
96743
Jane W. Taylor

janewtaylor@icloud.com

<https://www.janewordtaylor.com>

<https://janewordtaylor.blogspot.com/>



From: [Robert Thomas](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F 1 We oppose issue AQ Permits and we OPPOSE delegating authority to the Department Chair
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 6:41:55 AM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

We are Ele and Robert Thomas and we currently live in Oro Valley Arizona. We have been involved with the Reef Teach program at Kahaluu Bay since 2010. We visit the west side of Hawaii Island often and lived in Kona for since 2010 several years.

We OPPOSE issuing commercial aquarium permits in West Hawai'i and We OPPOSE delegating authority to the Department Chair. Regarding Terms & Conditions to Issue West Hawai'i AQ permits, We request you reject DAR's AQ Terms and Conditions and deny any and all permits. We have witnessed the already depleting fish population in the western Hawaiian waters in the past 14 years. Changing ocean temperatures, sunscreen and other chemicals in pollution have already stressed the reefs which support the fish population. Other than not having sunscreen chemicals the temperature increase trend and pollution is expected to continue to put stress on the reefs.

FWWhy take fish from a already stressed and decreasing population?

Doesn't make sense for the reefs or the Hawaiian people.

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,

Ele and Robert Thomas

11650 N Europa Pl

Oro Valley, AZ 85737

970-618-5424

From: [Christine Thorne](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F1. Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 6:46:40 AM

To whom it may concern

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by DAR. Sourcing from well-managed, sustainable fisheries in Hawaii helps to reduce the environmental pressures on other, more vulnerable marine ecosystems. Hawaii has established strict regulations and science-based practices to ensure that fish and coral are harvested in ways that minimize harm to the environment. By supporting these sustainable fisheries, the saltwater aquarium industry can help balance the global demand for marine life, taking pressure off regions where over-collection or poor management practices could lead to habitat degradation, biodiversity loss, or even species extinction. This approach promotes a more responsible global trade in marine species, encouraging other regions to adopt similar conservation-driven policies. For hobbyists, this ensures a consistent supply of ethically sourced, healthier marine specimens, fostering a more sustainable and conservation-conscious aquarium community.

Christine Thorne

From: [Brandon Thwaites](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 12:37:32 PM

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

Sent from my iPhone

From: [E. T.](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 11:02:50 AM

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

I am a reef hobbyist. I understand the issues and concerns about re-opening the Hawaii aquarium fishery, but think if managed/maintained there can be an equal balance that is a benefit to everyone. True that over-sourcing can be a concern, but look at the many other fisheries/quotas/measurements that allow for harvesting at a controlled level which can be manageable, profitable and provide work for many.

I truly hope re-opening the fishery is considered and proper measurements put in place to keep it sustainable.

Sincerely,

Erik Tomlin

From: [Claire Trester](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 12:58:24 PM

Subject F1: I Oppose Issuing AQ Permits
And I Oppose Delegating Authority to the Department Chair.

I am Hoa'aina of Ola Mahukona.

Im a North Kohala resident for 42 years.

I'm a distant swimmer, the North Kohala Coast from Coastguard to Kai Olena
(South of Lapakahi) is my swim zone.

I've been swimming this area of the coast for years. My eyes are on the reef 3 to 4 times each week.

I have NOT seen an increase in Herbivores during the past 10 years. It's remained static at best. In areas where there's been coral die back, it's a literal waste land.

There were exponentially more fish when I moved to Big Island in the early 80s, this sadly is no longer the case.

Hawaii's reef fish are Herbivores eating algae on reefs, keeping the corals healthy. Less fish on reefs result in excessive algae growth, suffocating coral and ultimately coral die off.

The past 15 years during El Nino periods, warmer water temps have impacted and killed reefs worldwide.

Huge bleaching events took place in West Hawaii in 2014 and 2015 , Data in some locations reported 40% of reef die back.

Hawaii's reef fish are our State treasures in the Ocean working to keep reefs healthy.

Herbivores belong in our Ocean, on Our Reefs.

To allow the exploitation from Aquarium Collectors (REEF RAPTERS) for profit is an out of date approach for the management of this delicate resource.

It has always been my understanding the number one edict of DLNR/DAR is to protect our Ocean resources.

This Trade must STOP. NOW.

The reef fish are hard at work doing their jobs.... Do your jobs, protect our reefs

Thank you and Aloha

Sincerely

Claire Trester

From: [Mary True](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1: OPPOSE Terms & Conditions to Issue Permit; OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 3:53:15 PM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am Mary True and I have owned a home in Pepeekeo for 18 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.

Aquarium fish harvesting needs to be stopped immediately. This resource belongs to us, the citizens of Hawaii and the collectors are stealing from us. And what is even worse is the fate of the fish and how it affects the reef. Not only do the collectors frequently damage coral, but most of the beauties they capture die well before they reach the pet store and the ones that don't are at the mercy of their purchasers. So, most of the survivors have very short, miserable lives.

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.

Aloha and mahalo for your attention,
Mary True
Pepeekeo, 96783
Hawaii Island

From: [Teresa Truono](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: agenda item F1 SUPPORT
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:23:56 PM

To Who It May Concern,

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

Thank you,
Teresa Truono

From: [William Tyson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 7:08:30 AM

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

Thank you

From: [Jared2](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 1:32:02 PM

I support opening the aquarium fishery and managing resources by science provided by the DAR.
I am a Hawaii resident, born and raised.

- Jared Ushiroda

From: [tazravgas](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 9:36:50 PM

Aloha

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Taz Vegas, and I am writing to express my support for the aquarium fishery and the management of resources based on scientific data provided by the Department of Aquatic Resources (DAR).

I have always been fascinated by aquariums and aquatic life, both in freshwater and saltwater environments. Growing up in Waikiki, I had the privilege of frequently visiting the Waikiki Aquarium, which instilled in me a deep appreciation for the beauty and diversity of marine life. Recently, I had the opportunity to visit the Osaka Aquarium, which further solidified my passion for aquatics.

In recent years, I have become an avid hobbyist of fancy goldfish and koi. I have also obtained my fish import license and am actively involved in classes offered by the Hawaii Koi Association, while also conducting extensive personal research on the subject.

The presence of fish in my life has brought immense joy to me and my children. It has provided us with quality family time and taught us valuable lessons about caregiving and responsibility.

I kindly submit this email as a professional expression of my support for the aquarium fishery and the management of resources based on scientific data provided by the DAR.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Taz Vegas

Taz Vegas

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device

From: [AKVASERVISS Vetrov](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] agenda item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 12:56:05 AM
Attachments: [ed1bf548.png](#)

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

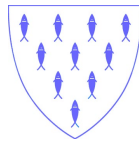
--

Cieņā, / С уважением, / Mit freundlichen Grüßen, / 祝商祺, / Best regards,

Jevgenij Vetrov

AKVASERVISS SIA

+371 29 228 606



From: [Katie Vitousek](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 4:11:33 PM

Aloha

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

Mahalo

Katie

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Duke Wakley](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 3:51:32 AM

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

From: [Lon Wallace](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Suggested re-opening of West Hawai'i to commercial aquarium collection
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:14:42 PM

Aloha~

I am writing today to declare and offer my full, adamant and unequivocal opposition to both the DAR's proposed issuing of commercial aquarium permits in West Hawai'i, and the delegation of authority to the Department Chair versus having the BLNR in place to do so. I am a long-time resident of West Hawaii island, and avid waterman. Through the decades I have personally seen and experienced the grossly imbalanced impact this industry has had on our reef fish, from witnessing the large haul outs at Kawaihae Harbor with their collateral damage to more importantly the intense diminishing of the various populations out on our reefs. It was and is clearly an unsustainable practice that has negatively impacted the health of the waters and reef and clearly disturbed the ecological balance. Since the temporary ban went into effect around 2016, I and many others who use the waters for recreational, health and spiritual benefit have seen a slow but notable come back, even with the poachers still out there, and after the impactful coral bleaching from warm ocean waters several years back. It is far from back to a fully healthy, balanced state, but the improvement is obvious and a welcome change. We desperately need to keep Hawaii's fish in our waters for the continued health of the reef, and for all those locals and tourists who enjoy and derive benefit on many levels from their presence and corresponding healthy reef; not be taken for the relatively VERY few who want to capitalize on their removal for monetary gains with no regard for the negative impact they generate and short-sighted damage they leave behind.

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

From: [Stephenie Waller](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 6:05:31 AM



On Sun, Aug 18, 2024 at 11:03 AM Stephenie Waller <stephenie@reefrepública.com> wrote:

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

Thank you,



To: Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources

From: William Walsh Ph.D., Aquatic Biologist, Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources, Retired.

Date: August 19, 2024

Subject: F. DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES 1. Request for Approval of the Application Form and Terms and Conditions for the State of Hawai'i Aquarium Fish Permit Pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 188-31; Request for Approval of Terms and Conditions for the West Hawai'i Aquarium Permit Pursuant to Hawaii Administrative Rules Section 13-60.4-7; Request to Delegate Authority to the Chair to Approve, Sign, and Issue West Hawai'i Aquarium Permits and State of Hawai'i Aquarium Fish Permits authorizing limited commercial aquarium collection in the West Hawai'i Regional Fishery Management Area (WHRFMA) to Up to Seven Applicants That Meet Certain Criteria and Requirements.

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board: I am writing to offer strong support for approval of Item F-1, specifically as it relates to the West Hawai'i Regional Fishery Management Area (WHRFMA). My support is based on over 25 years of research that I was involved with the issue of aquarium fish collecting in West Hawai'i.

In 1998, The West Hawai'i Regional Fishery Management Area (WHRFMA), which spans the entire coastline of West Hawai'i, was created by Legislative Act 306 (1998) largely in response to long-standing and widespread conflict surrounding commercial aquarium collecting.

To accomplish the mandates of Act 306, a community advisory group, the West Hawai'i Fishery Council (WHFC) was convened by the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) in 1998. The first accomplishment of the WHFC was the designation of a network of nine Fish Replenishment Areas (FRAs), in which aquarium collecting was prohibited. The FRAs, along with other existing aquarium protected areas, comprised 35% of the coastline.

In order to estimate the effectiveness of the FRAs to replenish and maintain aquarium fish stocks, a consortium of researchers established the West Hawai'i Aquarium Project (WHAP) in early 1999. WHAP established 23 study sites in early 1999 located at 9 FRA sites, 8 open sites (aquarium fish collection areas) and 6 reference (i.e. 'control sites' with no aquarium collecting) to collect baseline data both prior to and after the closure of the FRAs.

A Report on the Findings and Recommendations of Effectiveness of the West Hawai'i Regional Fishery Management Area (WHRFMA) is presented to the Hawai'i State Legislature every 5 years. The reports can be found on the DAR website: [Division of Aquatic Resources | Reports \(hawaii.gov\)](https://www.dar.hawaii.gov/reports/).

Following is a summary of aquarium related findings from the Report to the 30th Legislature, 2020 Regular Session (November 2019).

- The Hawai'i marine aquarium fishery has been the most economically valuable commercial inshore fishery in the State with Fiscal Year 2017 average reported landings greater than \$2.2 million.

- In West Hawai'i, the aquarium fishery has undergone substantial and sustained expansion over the years. Total catch and market value increased by 29% and 143% respectively since FY 2000. Approximately 26% of both the total number of aquarium fish caught in the State and value of the catch was from West Hawai'i in FY 2017.
- Concerns over continued expansion of the West Hawai'i aquarium fishery and over-harvesting in the open areas prompted DAR in 2013 to establish a 'White List' of 40 species which can be taken by aquarium fishers. All other species of fish and invertebrates have been off-limits to aquarium collectors in West Hawai'i since that time.
- Of the 40 collected aquarium species taken prior to the closure of the fishery, Yellow Tang comprise 82% and Kole 9% of the total catch (FY 2017).
- DAR has been monitoring West Hawai'i reefs and populations of reef fishes for over 20 years. Over this period, 82 survey divers have conducted over 8,700 underwater transects at more than two dozen sites along the coast.
- The FRA network has successfully driven an increase in the population of Yellow Tang. In the 20 years after the closure, the population of Yellow Tang has increased 165% in the FRAs, 74% in existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and 101% in the Open Areas.
- Overall Yellow Tang abundance in the 30'-60' depth range over the entire West Hawai'i coast has increased by over 3.4 million fish (150%) from 1999/2000 to 2017/2018 to an estimated population of 5.7 million fish.
- A 2009 study of adult Yellow Tang in their shallow water habitats (10'-20' depths) found no significant differences in the abundance of adult Yellow Tang in open vs. closed areas.
- Yellow Tang populations at two of three long-term monitoring sites in South Kohala (Puakō) and South Kona (Ke'ei) have recovered to levels found over three decades ago, prior to the expansion of commercial aquarium collecting in West Hawai'i.
- Comparative surveys utilizing DAR and NOAA data subsequent to FRA establishment, indicate Yellow Tang are substantially more abundant in West Hawai'i over most size ranges than in any of the other islands in the Main Hawaiian Islands and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.
- The FRAs have also been very successful in increasing Kole populations. In the 20 years after FRA closures, Kole populations have increased 85% in the FRAs, 120% in the MPAs and 97% in the Open Areas.

- Overall Kole abundance in the 30'-60' depth range over the entire West Hawai'i coast increased by almost 5.2 million fish (118%) since FRA establishment on 31 December 1999, with a current estimated population of about 9.6 million fish.
- As with Yellow Tang, DAR and NOAA data indicate Kole are substantially more abundant in West Hawai'i over most size ranges than in any of the other islands in the Main Hawaiian Islands or the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.
- Six of seven of the top 3-10 collected species had long-term population increases in one or more of the management areas since FRA establishment (1999/2000). The notable exception was Achilles Tang (*Acanthurus achilles*) which declined in all areas, significantly so in Open Areas and FRAs.
- Achilles Tang is the fourth most collected species in the West Hawai'i aquarium fishery although relative to Yellow Tang and Kole, the numbers collected are low, representing only 1.7% of the total FY 2017 catch.
- Commercial aquarium landings of Achilles Tang have been declining in West Hawai'i over the past two decades. This has occurred in association with a 192% increase in the ex-vessel value of the fish since 2008, suggestive of declining availability (i.e. abundance).
- DAR Shallow Water Resource Fish (SWRF) surveys indicate a significant (90%) decrease in Achilles Tang biomass in their primary adult habitat since 2008 when the surveys were first conducted. Achilles Tang were observed on 73% of transects in 2008 but only on 38% in 2018.
- Given the overall evidence for a marked decline in the population of Achilles Tang in West Hawai'i, a reduction in the aquarium bag limit or a moratorium on aquarium collecting for this species, in conjunction with a conservative bag limit for other fishers should be considered and implemented.
- For most of the species on the White List, collecting impact, in terms of the estimated percentage of the Open Area population being removed annually by aquarium collectors, is relatively low with nine species having single digit percent catch and 21 species having catch values of <1% of the total estimated population in the Open Areas (30'-60' depth range).
- Benthic monitoring at West Hawai'i sites indicates that commercial aquarium collecting is not having a measurable negative impact on percent coral cover or change in coral cover over time.

- In West Hawai'i, the aquarium fishery took 1.8X the number of total reef fishes taken by recreational and other commercial fishers combined. However, if Yellow Tang, which is primarily harvested at small sizes and not targeted by other fishers, is excluded, the recreational and commercial fisheries took 3X the total number of reef fishes caught by aquarium collectors.
- The effectiveness of the West Hawai'i FRAs for aquarium fish suggests it would be prudent to establish MPAs for other resource species throughout Hawai'i as a precautionary measure against overfishing and for restoration of marine resources. Currently, less than 1% of nearshore areas in the Main Hawaiian Islands are fully protected by MPAs.

In conclusion, I strongly support the 7 aquarium permit limit for West Hawai'i based on the substantial research done by DAR and affiliated researchers.

From: [Taylor West](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 5:39:18 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.

Sincerely,

Taylor West

--

Taylor West - Owner
Main - 1(844) 889-8989
Cell - 469 704 5713
www.dallasaquariumkings.com



From: [Jeanne I Wheeler](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1: I OPPOSE Terms & Conditions to Issue Permit & OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:25:32 PM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I live in East Hawai'i, but am still very concerned about the possible renewal of aquarium fish trade activities off-island .

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 that you please reject DAR's AQ Terms and Conditions and deny any and all permits. I don't believe renewed fishing is advisable.

Regarding Delegating Authority to Issue AQ Permits to the Department Chair, please do not delegate authority to the Department Chair. Please 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.

Mahalo for this opportunity to comment,
Jeanne Wheeler
Pahoa, 96778
[ISLAND]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Laurel Whillock](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] August 23; Agenda Item F.1
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 3:04:38 PM

Aloha,

My name is Laurel Whillock. I am a full time resident of Kailua-Kona on the Big Island.

I cannot emphasize strongly enough that BLNR should be the ultimate decision makers on whether or not to issue AQ permits, not just the Chair of DAR staff. This was promised and renigging on this promise undermines the public trust and betrays all those committed to supporting the regeneration of our reefs and coastal fish.

In that regard, I strongly oppose ANY permits for AQ. Aquarium fish collecting benefits the pockets of a few and damages the life and livelihood of many.

Please consider the future of our reefs. We must have an abundance of fish to give reefs a chance to fight against climate change impacts. Sacrificing important herbivores to an unnecessary and destructive activity contradicts best available science, common sense and native Hawaiian cultural practices.

Mahalo for your consideration in this vital matter.

Laurel Whillock

Sent from my iPad

From: [sydney wiecking](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1 I OPPOSE Issuing AQ Permits & I OPPOSE Delegating Authority to Department Chair
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 1:17:38 PM

Aloha Chair and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Sydney Wiecking.

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,
Sydney Wiecking

From: [Anita Wintner](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Strongly oppose AQ collectors getting permits
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 3:16:05 PM

BLNR,

Please do NOT let DAR remove you for oversight and give power to DAR chair. The EIS has not been approved by Hawaii Supreme Court, so such a decision goes against the way law works for the people. Scientists know herbivores need to stay on the reefs, not in someone's aquarium for future health of the reefs. Please listen to the people of Hawaii, not just a few aquarium collectors. There is a whole lot more money made in tourism than fish collecting. BLNR should be the decision makers, not the corrupt DAR chairperson, being given favors by collectors and mainland pet shops.

Do the right thing please. Anita Wintner Kihei, Maui

Sent from my iPad

From: [Wayne Cutts](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 8:19:51 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)

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

Wayne Cutts | Livestock Logistics Manager

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From: [Dallas Worley](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024 8:26:22 AM

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

From: [Zameer](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F1 Support
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 12:51:59 PM

Hello

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

Reopening Hawaii's ornamental fish collection and export industry is important for several reasons. First, studies have shown that collecting these fish doesn't harm the environment, and fish populations are stable. Second, this industry provides jobs and supports local families, including many native Hawaiians. Third, there are strict rules and limits in place to make sure the fish are collected in a sustainable way. Finally, recent court decisions have confirmed that collecting these fish is safe for the environment. Reopening the industry would help the local economy while protecting the environment.

Thank you

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