



Ka Moku’aina ‘O Hawai’i Aha Moku O Pae’Aina

State of Hawai’i Aha Moku

P. O. Box 621

Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Testimony of the Hawaii State Aha Moku

Board of Land and Natural Resources

Friday, September 27, 2024

9:00 a.m.

DLNR Boardroom, Kalanimoku Bldg.

SUPPORT – Agenda Item J-1

Agenda Item J-1: Request approval to adopt a new chapter under Hawaii Administrative Rules as Chapter 13-232.1, “SMALL BOAT HARBOR AND BOATING FACILITY HOURS OF OPERATION”, through emergency rulemaking procedures, pursuant to section 91-3(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes, to address increased gun violence throughout the State, including at small boat harbors and boating facilities.

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR),

On behalf of the generational and lineal descendants of the Pae’Aina and the generational families that are connected to the Moku and Ahupua’a of these places, we offer our testimony.

The Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) supports agenda item J-1 as it pertains to the safety of our boat harbors. Native Hawaiian and cultural lawaia practitioners routinely use the small boat harbors to launch their canoes from these harbors.

Often, canoes are also stored on, or close to these harbors. And, these places are open during night hours. With the increased violence recently on some of these harbors during the night hours, there is concern that a bad precedence can be started if emergency rulemaking is not imminent.

Aha Moku supports the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) recommendations to approve the adoption of Hawaii Administrative Rule creating “Small Boat Harbor and Boating Facility Hours of Operation.”

Respectfully yours,

Ahu Moku Advisory Committee

Rocky Kaluhiwa, State Chair
Po’o, Kakuhihewa (O’ahu)

Charles Young, Po’o
Moku O Keawe (Hawai’i)

Kalei Lu’uwai, Po’o
Moku O Pi’ilani (Maui)

Manuel Kuloloio, Po’o
Moku O Kanaloa (Kaho’olawe)

Winnie Basques, Po’o
Nana’i Kaula (Lana’i)

Walter Rawlins, Po’o
Moloka’i Pule O’o (Moloka’i)

Billy Kaohelaui’i, Po’o
Manokalanipo (Kaua’i)

Keith Robinson, Po’o
Ka’Aina O Kawelonakala (Ni’ihau)

Leimana DaMate, Luna Alaka’i
Hawaii State Aha Moku

Pae’Aina: Moku O Keawe, Moku O Piilani, Moku O Kanaloa, Nana’i Kaula, Moloka’i Pule O’o, Moku O Kakuhihewa, Manokalanipo, Ka’Aina O Kawelonakala



September 25, 2024

Board of Land and Natural Resources

1151 Punchbowl Street; Room 131

Honolulu, HI 96813

TESTIMONY OF THE OCEAN TOURISM COALITION IN SUPPORT OF ITEM J-1

The Ocean Tourism Coalition (OTC) represents approximately 300 ocean tour operators throughout the state. On behalf of the Ocean Tourism Coalition (OTC), I submit this testimony in **strong support** of Item J-1, which proposes important safety measures for our state's harbors. The recent shooting underscores the need for more comprehensive safety protocols to protect harbor users, permit holders, and the broader community.

This emergency rule introduces critical safety improvements, including enhanced surveillance, increased law enforcement coordination, mandatory safety training for staff, and better lighting in high-traffic areas. These measures are necessary to ensure that our harbors remain safe environments for all, whether they are commercial operators, recreational boaters, or visitors. Some of the key provisions are as follows:

- Improve surveillance and monitoring systems within harbor facilities.
- Increase coordination with law enforcement and harbor patrols.
- Require proper safety training for permit holders and harbor staff to ensure they are equipped to handle emergencies.
- Provide clear protocols for conflict resolution and reporting incidents.
- Enhance lighting and visibility in high-traffic areas to deter criminal activities

OTC supports these efforts to make harbors safer. The tragic recent event has highlighted the vulnerabilities in our current system. By passing this rule, the state can take proactive steps to prevent similar incidents in the future, ensuring our harbors are secure, welcoming spaces for both locals and visitors.

We respectfully urge you to pass this rule to safeguard the public and those who rely on our harbors for their livelihoods. Mahalo for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Denver S. Coon

President

Ocean Tourism Coalition (OTC)