

From: [Paul Balazs](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Management plan for Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area Testimony
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2025 1:05:49 PM

Aloha!

I'm writing in support of the Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area. Born and raised here in Maunalua, and a very active member of the community, as a steward, resident and teacher, I've seen enough to know that the bay needs a management plan. The bay's history as well as the history of the land, estuary, and fishponds (now marina) is extensive and complicated. Organizations, such as Mālama Maunalua, work tirelessly to educate residents and visitors, collect critical scientific information, advocate for the species that are at threat and that have already been decimated and include in their work cultural knowledge and wisdom that is paramount to these decisions. That said, there are still an abundance of threats to the bay's health, ecology, and future, which need to be addressed. This Maunalua Bay FMA is a key piece of the puzzle and a bold step in the direction of preserving our bay for future generations. As a lifelong resident and steward, the FMA is a clear answer to what continues to muddy the waters of stewardship and sustainability.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Paul B.

From: [Nathan Dube](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Regarding "Request for Final Approval to Adopt a New Chapter Under Title 13 of the Hawaii Administrative Rules as Chapter 48.5, "Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area, O'ahu"
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2025 2:33:40 PM

Aloha Chair Chang & Members of the Board-

I am writing in strong support of designating Maunalua Bay as a Fisheries Management Area (FMA). The proposed rules would allow for species that have seen declining populations over the last several decades to rebound to healthier numbers, thereby improving the health of this important marine ecosystem. The proposed rules provide exceptions for traditional native Hawaiian practices like torching and would reasonably limit other practices that lead to overfishing and overharvesting of our crucial marine resources.

I appreciate your time and consideration regarding this matter.

Thank you for all of your hard work in protecting our islands, communities, and resources.

--

Nathan M. Dube
Policy Advocate / Environmental Activist
IUCN Hawai'i Hui - Legislative Group
Society for Conservation Biology Hawai'i Chapter



January 23, 2025

ATTN: Ms. Dawn Chang, Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)
Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)
Submitted via Email at blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of Agenda Item F-2, Request for Final Approval to Adopt Hawai'i Administrative Rules, Chp. 13-48.5, "Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area, O'ahu;" BLNR Meeting, 1/24/2025, 9:00 a.m., Boardroom

Aloha mai e Chairperson Chang,

Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA) **strongly supports** approval of the new rules regarding the Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area (FMA).

[Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo](#) (KUA) means "grassroots growing through shared responsibility," and we serve as a facilitator, consultant, trainer, liaison, and tool-builder for grassroots community stewardship efforts. We work to increase our communities' resiliency, adaptation, and transformation through community-based biocultural resource management, currently supporting three major networks of: (1) almost 40 mālama 'āina (caring for our 'āina or "that which feeds") community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together); (2) over 60 loko i'a (fishpond aquaculture systems unique to Hawai'i) and wai 'ōpae (anchialine pool systems) sites in varying stages of restoration and development, with numerous caretakers, stakeholders, and volunteers known as the Hui Mālama Loko I'a ("caretakers of fishponds"); and (3) the Limu Hui made up of over 50 loea (traditional experts) and practitioners in all things "limu" or locally-grown "seaweed." **Our shared nu'ukia (vision) is to once again experience what our kūpuna (ancestors) referred to as 'āina momona – abundant and healthy ecological systems that sustain our communities' resilience and well-being.**

As your Division of Aquatic Resources' (DAR's) [briefing submittal](#) for this proposed FMA (May 10, 2024 BLNR meeting) makes clear, Maunalua Bay and surrounding areas were once 'āina momona – thriving ecosystems full of abundant life – filling the bellies of all that cared for and enjoyed the riches, with the necessary structure, enforcement, and harmony provided through the Konohiki system of resource management and protection. Understandably with all the political changes and developments on nearby lands, and the destruction of the loko i'a, it is no wonder why "the quality and quantity of the living marine resources of Maunalua Bay has declined significantly over the past 100 years." Indeed, surveys from over ten years ago found that the total fish biomass is significantly lower than other comparable sites on O'ahu, concluding that "**Maunalua Bay reef assemblage is in poor condition and is among the most adversely impacted in the entire state.**"

Mālama Maunalua is a cherished member of the E Alu Pū network, for which KUA was founded to organize and facilitate. They annually participate in network gatherings and events, and provide leadership on issues dealing with cleaning and managing our shorelines, and the



interdependence with mauka activities. Mālama Maunalua is also a member of E Alu Pū's Lawai'a Pono Hui, a smaller community-fishery focused working group that discusses and shares successes, challenges, ideas, and policies on how to better manage our fisheries by working with different communities and our government.

The historical-cultural significance of Maunalua Bay (aka West Waimānalo) and its surrounding communities is well-known. We applaud DAR staff and the diverse community drivers that worked for years to push this FMA forward. Indeed, some KUA team members attended meetings and supported these efforts in the early 2000s at the inception of some of the discussions that bring us to this precipice today. KUA works closely with some of the mālama 'āina practitioners in this area. This includes Mālama Maunalua and the Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center, and those connected with [Kalauha'īha'i Loko I'a](#), which we are elated to hear has recently finalized its state lease!

With this information in mind, **we strongly support the purpose of these rules to increase the 'āina momona of Maunalua Bay's nearshore fisheries over time to allow for sustainable fishing practices and protection of important marine life for generations to love and enjoy.** We like the use of the Four Pillars (place-based planning, pono practices, monitoring, and protection & restoration) to analyze and plan for the FMA next steps. We hope this illustrates that the Holomua Guide really can be utilized to better integrate community driven collaboration, management, and informed decision-making within DLNR/DAR going forward. We also greatly appreciate the inclusion of KUA as a nominating entity for the Advisory Panel's Cultural Practitioner. **We recognize the forward-thinking approach of this draft FMA, and think it is a great start toward further community engagement and the development of more adaptive management practices and protections for Maunalua Bay.** This effort could serve as a beautiful example and inspiration for other communities statewide.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share our support.

"E kuahui like i ka hana."

Let everybody pitch in and work together.

'O ke aloha 'āina nō no nā kau ā kau, mau ā mau,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Chang".

Kevin K.J. Chang
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Olan Fisher".

Olan Leimomi Fisher
Kua'āina Advocate

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Connelly".

Alex Connelly
E Alu Pū Coordinator

From: [Kyle Franks](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony against overfishing
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2025 2:34:04 PM

I support the request for final approval to adopt a new chapter under title 13 of the Hawaii Administrative Rules as Chapter 48.5, "Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area, O'ahu".
Sent from my iPhone

Saraswati, Henny

From: Stacia Garlach <StaciaGarlach@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2025 9:27 AM
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Item F-2 on 1/24/25

Dear BLNR members,

I am writing in support of the Request for Final Approval to Adopt a New Chapter Under Title 13 of the Hawaii Administrative Rules as Chapter 48.5, "Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area, O'ahu" to close the ocean between Diamond Head and Koko Head to night spearfishing. I am a surfer and regular visitor to this beach, and I hope you will please help keep our fish populations there healthy.

Aloha,
Stacia Garlach



*For the bay
For the future
For life*

1/22/2025

Aloha Chairperson, and the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Board of Directors

*Brooke Berrington
Mitch D'Olier
Tim Johns
Malia Kamisugi
Amy Monk
Sandy Pfund
Steve Schatz
Jennifer Taylor
Jean Tsukamoto*

I am writing on behalf of Mālama Maunalua to express the organization's support for item F.2. on the January 24, 2025 agenda regarding the designation of Maunalua Bay as a Fisheries Management Area. Having been involved in the process since close to its inception, it has been incredibly inclusive and complementary, and the resulting proposal meets a variety of stakeholder views and positions. Unlike a lot of regulatory efforts, this involved conservationists, fishers, researchers, various other stakeholders, and DAR sitting together to find common ground. It is a great example of finding compromise for a communal benefit.

Fishing is a core recreational, cultural, and economic practice in Hawaii, and having healthy marine ecosystems is critical for the future of Hawaii. Fish provide food, support valuable industries and jobs, and are vital for a healthy marine environment that does everything from mitigate hazards, to provide aesthetic beauty. Unfortunately, studies, including those done by DAR, show Maunalua Bay to have seriously depleted fish biomass. Fisher surveys back up those findings, so to have a resource that future generations can enjoy for personal use and the services it provides, something has to be done.

Directors Emeritus

Carol Wilcox

The proposal being reviewed by the BLNR is a key step. The language balances the needs of the community, the resource, and sets a valuable precedent. Seeing the FMA established and then succeed would be a significant win for the resource and the community. Mālama Maunalua hopes the BLNR sees it the same way, and votes to approve establishment.

Each part of the proposal was selected to address a key need. The ban on nighttime spearfishing is needed as nighttime spearfishing is identified as an especially destructive practice. When the fish are sleeping, fishers can easily harvest and take large numbers of individuals with minimal effort. Not surprisingly, DOCARE data shows most violations in Maunalua Bay are happening at night when spearfishers can take large numbers.

The ban was chosen as the group was contemplating various protections for individual fish species, and researchers said perhaps the single best action that could be taken was to ban nighttime spearfishing as many of the species being considered were hit hardest by that practice. The group chose that option in part because a guiding principle was to keep the FMA rules simple. In short, it was the best option to protect the most species, while protecting fishing practices broadly, and doing so with minimal new rules.

The 'nighttime' hours were chosen in part to make it easy to follow for fishers, and the ban on crustaceans was chosen because it is determined that the species are depleted, and action is needed to be taken now.

Associated with the rules is a Management Plan that is not part of the BLNR's decision, but it

is worth highlighting a few key points. A portion of the Plan involves increasing data collection. This is critical as better decisions happen when better data are available. Creating a platform where DAR, fishers, researchers, and non-profits can work together can provide a blueprint for the state, and a more comprehensive understanding of changes in the Bay.

The other major component is an Advisory Panel. This will ensure oversight of the FMA and provide a platform for various stakeholder groups to share their views. Paper regulations serve little value, so having a Panel reviewing rule efficacy, compliance, enforcement, emerging issues, and outreach creates a more effective FMA, and helps set a precedent for better management.

Regarding some of the critiques of the process, two warrant response. One is the petition signed by the “Friends of Maunalua Bay Hui”. The bulk of it is used to critique Mālama Maunalua, then transitions to saying the signees prefer the status quo. The problem is: it is not known if the petitioners were against the FMA, or simply supporting the misinformation printed about MM. In fact, at no point anywhere in the petition is ‘Fisheries Management Area’ used. Instead, a couple of components of the FMA are mentioned, then distorted, and nearly every sentence is false. To address a sample quickly here:

- “Why is Malama Maunalua running a DAR meeting?”
 - DAR ran the meeting, not MM. There was a pre-meeting of which MM took part, but it was unofficial and meant to answer questions before the DAR scoping meeting started.
- “Malama Maunalua did not inform the local community of the meeting or the purpose of the meeting, so they would not be bombarded with opposition.”
 - The publication of the meeting by DLNR followed all the necessary requirements and laws. In fact, to help ensure people heard of the meeting, the author of the petition was personally informed of the meeting by me.
- “Malama Maunalua has falsified fish biomass studies...”
 - The cited studies include DAR studies that meet scientific and DAR standards.
- “This one-sided advisory panel is all special interest groups, and no stakeholders.”
 - The Advisory Panel does not identify any groups or individuals for seats.

In short, I don’t believe the Board should give any weight to the petition because it is not clear if the petitioners knew they were signing a petition opposing the FMA, and the little that is written is incorrect meaning petitioners may have signed due to misinformation.

Regarding the Hawaii Kai Marina Community Association Board’s (HKMCA) position, the crux of the argument appears to come down to a belief the process was not transparent nor inclusive, the main argument being there was a large gap between when a request was made to initiate the scoping process in 2019, and the scoping meeting in 2024. While there were communications in 2020 that included HKMCA members, and multiple on-line meetings with the public in late 2020 detailing the FMA specifics, the point is well taken. There are, however, a number of factors that justify the gap in community meetings and communications from 2021-2024.

The first is that COVID shut down and slowed FMA-focused efforts. And the second is there was a long process of making sure the administrative specifics met DLNR approval, such as Attorney General-approved HAR language, proper Management Plan formatting, etc. There were no substantive changes being made, and in fact the same components that were agreed to by stakeholders in 2019/2020 – the result of years of inclusive and transparent meetings involving various stakeholders, including members of the Board of the Hawaii Kai Marina - were the same that are currently before the BLNR. A gap in communications to work through administrative logistics should not negate years of collaborative effort.

The other main argument is there is a lack of representation on the FMA Advisory Panel for the HKMCA. Ignoring for a second that the Advisory Panel and the Management Plan are not before the Board, the desire of the Marina to be involved is appreciated. As mentioned, HKMCA members were active and regular participants in the meetings that created the FMA proposal, and their participation and energy were greatly appreciated. But when discussing who should be involved, the community participants determined that since this is a fisheries-specific issue, the Panel should be limited to fishing specific stakeholders. Nothing in the FMA proposal directly impacts the HKMCA, and their ability to inform BLNR decisions and fishing rules is the same today as it will be post-designation.

Further, while the Marina does house many businesses and residents, the decision was made to limit the size of the Panel to ensure effective operation. Too many representatives could prove unwieldy, so only stakeholders with clear and direct connections to FMA issues are included, with a seat to represent the broader community. Opening seats up to every interest group creates a slippery slope of where to draw the line. Does every interest group and neighborhood organization get representation on the Panel? If a connection to fishing is not a requirement for having a seat, what is? What was settled on is fair to the stakeholders, community groups, and public, and provides the best opportunity to be successful. Further, there is no language in the Management Plan dictating who specifically sits in the seats, which means they could be filled by community members.

Finally, both the petition and HKMCA submissions identify enforcement as being key. While DOCARE is making strides to improve its operation through increased capacity, a core component of improved enforcement will be community involvement. This will likely be one of the first issues taken up by the Advisory Panel: how do we improve rule compliance and enforcement. If individuals want to see improvements in rule enforcement, having a Panel that works with DLNR and focuses on fishing related issues in Maunalua Bay would be a huge first step. Something active needs to be done, and highlighting enforcement as an issue is not sufficient.

In sum, the FMA process has been long, but inclusive, participatory, transparent and ultimately fruitful and establishing the FMA will lead to better management, and better community engagement in everything from data collection, to rule enforcement. Fish populations are depressed in Maunalua Bay, and something needs to be done to ensure that future generations can enjoy the many services fish provide in our day-to-day lives. The FMA is a great first step.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at dharp@malamamaunalua.org.

Mahalo,



Doug Harper
Executive Director



*For the bay
For the future
For life*

1/22/2025

Aloha Chairperson, and the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Board of Directors

*Brooke Berrington
Mitch D'Olier
Tim Johns
Malia Kamisugi
Amy Monk
Sandy Pfund
Steve Schatz
Jennifer Taylor
Jean Tsukamoto*

Directors Emeritus

Carol Wilcox

I am writing on behalf of Mālama Maunalua to express the organization's support for item F.2. on the January 24, 2025 agenda regarding the designation of Maunalua Bay as a Fisheries Management Area. Having been involved in the process since close to its inception, it has been incredibly inclusive and complementary, and the resulting proposal meets a variety of stakeholder views and positions. Unlike a lot of regulatory efforts, this involved conservationists, fishers, researchers, and various other stakeholders sitting together to find common ground. It is a great example of finding compromise for a communal benefit.

Fishing is a core recreational, cultural, and economic practice in Hawaii, and having healthy marine ecosystems are critical for the future of Hawaii. Fish provide food, support valuable industries and jobs, and are vital for a healthy marine environment that does everything from mitigate hazards, to provide aesthetic beauty. Unfortunately, studies, including those done by DAR, show Maunalua Bay to have seriously depleted fish biomass. Fisher surveys back up those findings, so to have a resource that future generations can enjoy for personal use and the services it provides, something has to be done.

The proposal being reviewed by the BLNR is a key step. The language balances the needs of the community, the resource, and sets a valuable precedent. Seeing the FMA pass and then succeed would be a significant win for the resource, and the community. Mālama Maunalua hopes the BLNR sees it the same way, and votes to approve it.

Each part of the proposal was selected to address a key need. The ban on nighttime spearfishing is needed as nighttime spearfishing is identified as an especially destructive practice. When the fish are sleeping, fishers can easily harvest and take large numbers of individuals with minimal effort. Not surprisingly, DOCARE data shows most violations in Maunalua Bay are happening at night when spearfishers can take large numbers.

The ban was chosen as the group was contemplating various protections for individual fish species, and researchers said perhaps the single best action that could be taken was to ban nighttime spearfishing as many of the species being considered were hit hardest by that practice. The group chose that option in part because a guiding principle was to keep the FMA simple. In short, it was the best option to protect the most species, while protecting fishing practices broadly, and doing so with minimal new rules.

The 'nighttime' hours were chosen in part to make it easy to follow for fishers, and the ban on crustaceans was chosen because it was determined that the species were so depleted, action needed to be taken now.

Associated with the rules is a Management Plan that is not part of the BLNR's decision, but it

is worth highlighting a few key points. A portion of the Plan involves increasing data collection. This is critical as better decisions happen when better data are available. Creating a platform where fishers, researchers, and non-profits can work together will provide a blueprint for the state, and a more comprehensive understanding of changes in the Bay.

The other major component is an Advisory Panel. This will ensure oversight of the FMA and provide a platform for various stakeholder groups to share their views. Paper regulations serve little value, so having a Panel reviewing rule efficacy, compliance, enforcement, emerging issues, and outreach creates a more effective FMA, and helps set a precedent for better management.

Regarding some of the critiques of the process, two warrant response. One is the petition signed by the “Friends of Maunalua Bay Hui”. The bulk of it is used to critique Mālama Maunalua, then transitions to saying the signees prefer the status quo. The problem is: we don’t know if the petitioners were against the FMA, or simply supporting the misinformation printed about MM. In fact, at no point anywhere in the petition is ‘Fisheries Management Area’ used. Instead, a couple of components of the FMA are mentioned, then distorted, and nearly every sentence is false. To address a sample quickly here:

- DAR ran the meeting, not MM, and publication of the meeting met legal requirements. In fact, the author of the petition was personally informed of the meeting by me.
- MM did not try to bring NOAA to Maunalua Bay – that was a federal decision – and the “falsified fish biomass studies” includes DAR studies that meet scientific and DAR standards.
- The Advisory Panel does not identify MM nor Conservation International as having seats, merely helping with identifying representatives for specific stakeholder seats.

In short, I don’t believe the Board should give any weight to the petition because it is not clear if the petitioners knew they were signing a petition opposing the FMA, and the little that is written is incorrect meaning petitioners may have signed due to misinformation.

Regarding the Hawaii Kai Marina Board’s position, the crux of the argument appears to come down to a belief the process was not transparent nor inclusive, the main argument being there was a large gap between when a request was made to initiate the scoping process in 2019, and the scoping meeting in 2024. While there were communications in 2020 that included Board members of the Hawaii Kai Marina, and multiple on-line meetings with the public in late 2020 detailing the FMA specifics, the point is well taken. There are, however, a number of factors that justify the gap in community meetings and communications from 2021-2024.

The first is that COVID shut down and slowed the DLNR, hampering FMA-focused efforts, redirecting DLNR resources, and slowing momentum. And the second is there was a long process of making sure the administrative specifics met DLNR approval, such as Attorney General-approved HAR language, proper Management Plan formatting, etc. There were no substantive changes being made, and in fact the same components that were agreed to by stakeholders in 2019/2020 – the result of years of inclusive and transparent meetings involving various stakeholders, including members of the Board of the Hawaii Kai Marina - were the same that are currently before the BLNR. A gap in communications to work through administrative logistics should not negate years of collaborative effort.

The other main argument is there is a lack of representation on the FMA Advisory Panel for the Hawaii Kai Marina. Ignoring for a second that the Advisory Panel and the Management Plan are not before the Board, we appreciate the desire of the Marina to be involved. As mentioned, Marina members were active and regular participants in the meetings that created the FMA proposal, and their participation and energy were greatly appreciated. But when discussing who should be involved, the community participants determined that since this is a fisheries-specific issue, the Panel should be limited to fishing specific

stakeholders. Nothing in the FMA proposal directly impacts the Marina, and their ability to inform BLNR decisions and fishing rules is the same today as it will be post-designation.

Further, while the Marina does house many businesses and residents, the decision was made to limit the size of the Panel to ensure effective operation. Too many representatives could prove unwieldy, so only stakeholders with clear and direct connections to FMA issues were included, with a seat to represent the broader community. Opening seats up to every interest group creates a slippery slope of where to draw the line. Does every interest group and neighborhood organization get representation on the Panel? If a connection to fishing is not a requirement for having a seat, what is? What was settled on is fair to the stakeholders, community groups, and public, and provides the best opportunity to be successful. Further, there is no language in the Management Plan dictating who specifically sits in the seats, which means they could be filled by Marina members.

Finally, both the petition and Marina Board submissions identify enforcement as being key, and we completely agree. While DOCARE is making strides to improve its operation through increased capacity, a core component of improved enforcement will be community involvement. This will likely be one of the first issues taken up by the Advisory Panel: how do we improve rule compliance and enforcement. If individuals want to see improvements in rule enforcement, having a Panel that works with DLNR and focuses on fishing related issues in Maunalua Bay would be a huge first step. Something active needs to be done, and highlighting enforcement as an issue is not sufficient.

In sum, the FMA process has been long, but inclusive, participatory, transparent and ultimately fruitful. I believe the proposal will lead to better management, and better community engagement in everything from data collection, to rule enforcement. Fish populations are depressed in Maunalua Bay, and something needs to be done to ensure that future generations can enjoy the many services fish provide in our day-to-day lives. This is a great first step.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at धारपर@malamamaunalua.org.

Mahalo,



Doug Harper
Executive Director

From: [Malia Pietsch](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F2. "Request for Final Approval to Adopt a New Chapter Under Title 13 of the Hawaii Administrative Rules as Chapter 48.5, "Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area, O'ahu"
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2025 1:11:27 PM

Aloha,

In regards to F.2. "Request for Final Approval to Adopt a New Chapter Under Title 13 of the Hawaii Administrative Rules as Chapter 48.5, "Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area, O'ahu"

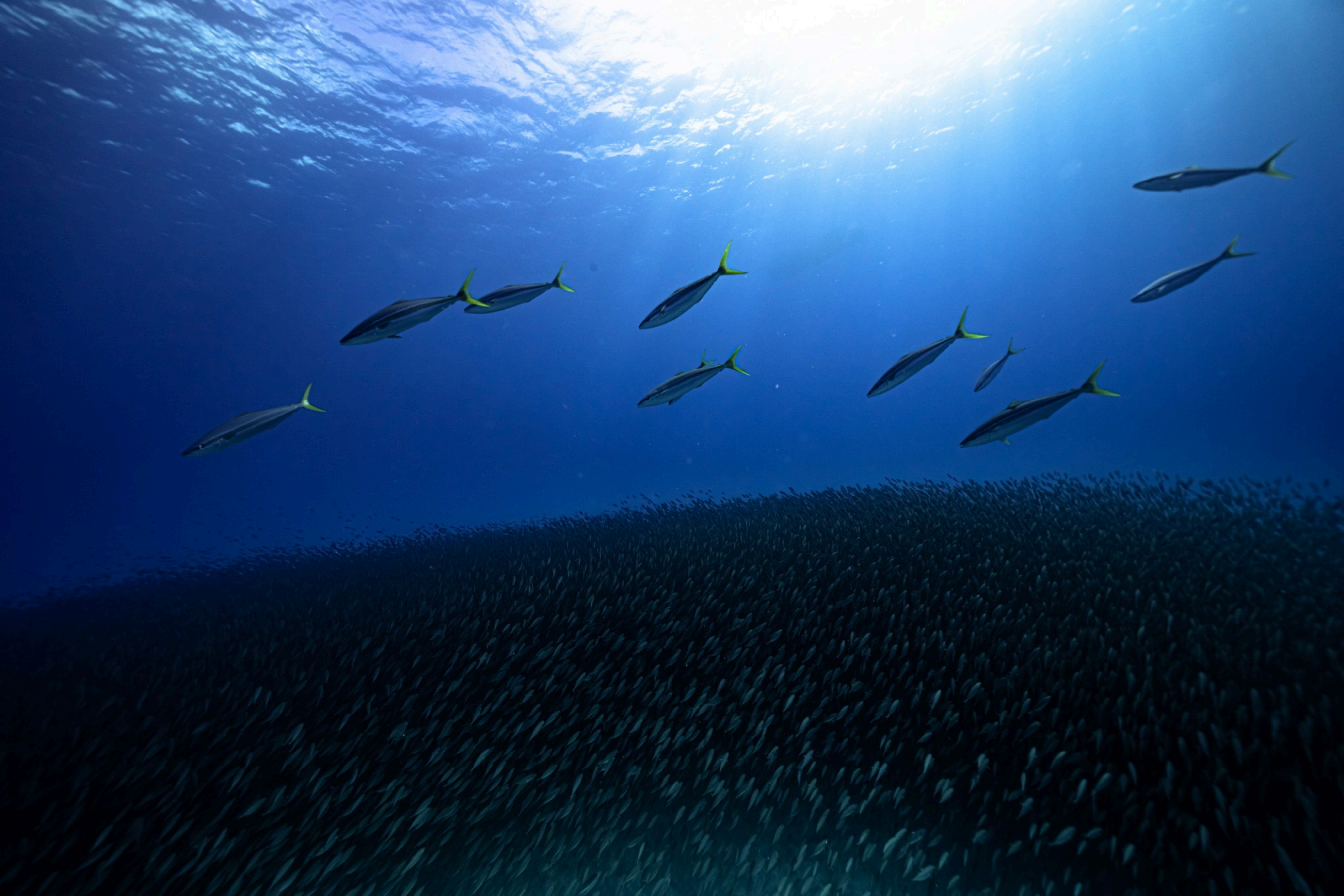
I hope that you will vote in favor of the new FMA for Maunalua Bay. I have lived in the area my whole life and an avid ocean woman. My parents are likewise long time sailors and fishermen. Using the ocean in a conscientious manner is a way to insure that it is possible for future generations to utilize it at all.

I have seen first hand the devastation one boat can cause from overfishing (see photo attached, and an entire food chain from small schools to sharks). In the span of less than 30 minutes not one fish was left in this area.

Just last night, I witnessed 6 night divers raking the reef outside my home.

As much as I hate to be "managed", without management, individuals will continue to degrade the ocean and resources to the point of no return for the future generations. Please vote to protect our precious resources.

Aloha, Malia Kamisugi



From: [kimeona.kane](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Agenda Item F-2, 01.24.2025 Meeting
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2025 1:08:42 PM

Aloha kākou,

Kimeona Kane, Chair Waimānalo Neighborhood Board #32, providing testimony on behalf of the Hawaiian Affairs and Natural Resources Committee, who have had discussions surround this item, "Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area, O'ahu"

The Committee recognizes the importance of managing resources. It acknowledges the uniqueness of each community and its needs, and honors the integrity of data collected that informs decisions. With that being said, the Committee has authored the following position:

Resolution on to Cease and Desist Planning for New Fishery Boundaries Pending Consultation with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)

WHEREAS, the State Department of Land and Natural Resources and associated agencies have initiated planning efforts to create new fishery boundaries within the state of Hawai'i;

WHEREAS, the establishment of fishery boundaries directly impacts natural resources, including marine life and traditional fishing practices, which are of significant cultural, subsistence, and environmental importance to Native Hawaiians;

WHEREAS, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 10-13.5 mandates that all state agencies "shall consult with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)" on any issues or actions that may impact the welfare and rights of Native Hawaiians;

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the undersigned that the planning for these new fishery boundaries has not been subjected to proper consultation with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and is in direct violation of the statutory requirements set forth by HRS 10-13.5;

WHEREAS, failure to properly consult with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs deprives the Native Hawaiian community of its lawful right to be heard on matters that critically affect their cultural practices, economic livelihood, and ancestral ties to the land and sea;

WHEREAS, the actions taken without such consultation may cause irreparable harm to the Native Hawaiian community and their relationship with the marine ecosystems, which are integral to their traditional practices and cultural identity;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State Department of Land and Natural Resources and all involved agencies immediately cease and desist all current and future planning related to the creation of new fishery boundaries until a full, transparent, and documented consultation with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs has been conducted in accordance with HRS 10-13.5;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Department and any involved agencies provide proof of due diligence in reporting their planning and intentions to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, including but not limited to:

1. A detailed report outlining all steps taken in the planning process to date;
2. A clear statement of how these new fishery boundaries will impact Native Hawaiian rights, cultural practices, and subsistence fishing;
3. Evidence of all efforts to communicate with Office of Hawaiian Affairs and address any concerns raised by the Native Hawaiian community;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that no further actions, including planning, decision-making, or implementation of new fishery boundaries, be undertaken by the State Department or its affiliated agencies until the Office of Hawaiian Affairs has formally acknowledged that its consultation process has been adequately completed, and that all concerns from the Native Hawaiian community have been meaningfully addressed.

-END-

It is imperative to protect and preserve our resources, and the integrity of the process by which it is done, is of critical and significant importance.

Mahalo nui for your service and considerations in the very difficult work before you. I am available for any comment or questions.

--

‘O wau nō me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Kimeona Kane
Chair- Waimānalo Neighborhood Board
808 398 8989
kimeonakane@gmail.com

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From: [kimeona.kane](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Opposition for item F2
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2025 1:16:30 PM

Aloha nui kākou,
Kimeona Kane of Waimānalo in my personal capacity as a community member, in opposition of this item. As I have come to learn and understand more about this project, I am concerned that more community discussions are necessary. I was disappointed that there was no effort by DAR or the organizers of this effort to come to Waimānalo, to share about this project and field feedback about its potential harm to our Waimānalo Fisheries. This piece meal approach, has not been something that I can stand behind, as it alienates surrounding communities who will then have to bear the increased behaviors. I do believe that this action will just move the behavior into our ice box. The Department needs to look at broader actions that will support the specifics articulated in the proposal. This could be harmful for others and it should be addressed accordingly. While I applaud the effort, and truly want to stand behind it, I know, that my community and its resources will be even further threatened. It is with these concerns, that I must offer my opposition to this current proposal.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share my testimony.

--

‘O wau nō me ka ha‘aha‘a,
Kimeona Kane
808 398 8989
kimeonakane@gmail.com

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From: [Malia Nolan](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Item F-2 on 1/24/25
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2025 2:37:41 PM

Aloha! My OHANA and I ALL support the "Request for Final Approval to Adopt a New Chapter Under Title 13 of the Hawaiian Administrative Rules" as Chapter 48.5, "Maunalaua Bay Fisheries Management Area, O'ahu".

We are SO saddened to see the entire bay collapse due to overfishing of Uhu and other herbivore fish, and believe BLNR should be doing its job! Enforce! Be the konakhiki since our Kanaka konahiki have all been removed. It is now YOUR job to PROTECT species to ensure harvests can continue sustainably for generations to come.

Mahalo!
Malia Nolan Ohana

From: [Roxanne Rivero](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support har chapter 48.5
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2025 3:14:29 PM

support the Request for Final Approval to Adopt a New Chapter Under Title 13 of the Hawaii Administrative Rules as Chapter 48.5, "Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area, O'ahu"
Sent from my iPhone

23 January 2025

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

This is to provide unwavering support for the establishment of the proposed Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area (FMA), listed as Agenda Item F.2., January 24, 2025, BLNR meeting.

The initiative is the result of a seven plus year long, collaborative effort involving conservationists, fishermen, community leaders, and other stake holders.

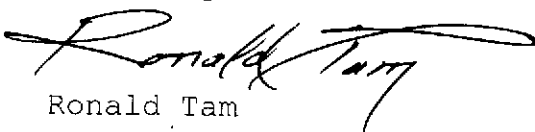
Note that the management plan developed in support of the FMA is focused on "fish is food" and the achievement of sustainable fishing within the Bay. Concerns expressed that fishing rules could / will impact negatively on ocean related commercial operations are hypothetical and therefore considered a non-issue at this time. Furthermore, a need to maintain a "balance" between fishing and ocean related commercial activities is recognized and beyond the scope and intent of establishing the FMA.

Establishment of the FMA will result in multi-pronged, planned, and organized efforts intended to:

- Result in the infusion of NGO (Non-Government Office) support to improve fisheries management within the Bay.
- Contribute to improved data collection and analyses, thereby reinforcing data-based decision making.
- Contribute to enforcement efforts and, concomitantly, fishers' education and involvement via Makai Watch like and outreach initiatives; and
- Result in lessons learned and continued improvements to achieve the goal of sustainable fishing with **BLNR approval along the way.**

The "journey" will take more than 10 years. However, success is not guaranteed. Therefore, the need for a "sunset clause."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald Tam", written in a cursive style.

Ronald Tam

From: [Jennifer Taylor](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Approval of Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area, O'ahu
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2025 11:33:05 AM

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please accept this testimony in full support of the proposal for Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area. This proposal represents an essential step towards a healthier marine environment.

I have lived in Hawaii and near Maunalua Bay at two periods in my life, first in the seventies in the newly developing Hawaii Kai, and again, for the past 20 years in a very developed Hawaii Kai neighborhood. Over this fifty year period, I have witnessed a sad and dramatic decline in the Bay. The once robust fisheries have been completely depleted by a combination of overfishing and unhealthy changes in the marine environment. Maunalua Bay is a microcosm of the threats to our oceans. Hawaii, more than any state in our nation, depends on healthy waters, for recreation, for quality of life, for education and for sustainability. We should be doing everything possible to restore and preserve the health of our waters and this proposal is a very good step.

The proposal balances the interests of multiple groups and represents thousands of hours of good work and community input. It does not overreach. I'm sure conservationists would have wished for much more. As a resident, as an elder person who hopes dearly to have my grandchildren still have healthy waters populated with marine life, not a dead Bay populated only by commercial thrill craft, I ask you to please approve this proposal.

Mahalo,
Jennifer Taylor
274 Poipu Drive
Honolulu, HI 96825

Sent from my iPad

To: Board of Land and Natural Resources

From: Pam Weiant, 5872 Haleola Street, Honolulu, HI 96821

Date: January 23, 2025

RE: Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area, O'ahu

I am writing to support the Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area, O'ahu. I live in Niu Valley with my husband, two children, and a dog. We have lived here for over 20 years.

We love Maunalua Bay and use it for surfing, snorkeling, wading, and swimming. However, we would like to have a healthier bay with more fish, thriving coral, and less invasive species.

We feel that creating Maunalua Bay as a Fisheries Management Area would help improve the health of the bay. Even if this FMA is to pass, we know that any improvement in fish biomass and abundance will take years. For this reason, it is critical to act now. We want to protect the Bay to ensure that our children and their children will be able to enjoy Maunalua Bay and the livelihood resources it provides.

I have followed the development of the FMA over the past years and applaud the group for its effort to communicate with the community and to provide the opportunity for anyone to get involved.

The creation of an FMA is the correct path forward.

Thank you.

Pam Weiant

From: [Paul White](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area, Oahu
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2025 11:37:39 AM

Aloha Board Members: I have lived on Maunalua Bay for two decades now, and have watched the Bay deteriorate as the fishing and commercial uses have multiplied. I know that Maunalua Bay now has the lowest level of marine life in the State, and yet the state has not yet taken any actions to protect it. The proposal from DAR is the result of many hours

of consultation and community input. Those who oppose any change in use will still try to disguise their interest in the guise of needing still more consultation, all while the Bay continues to suffer.

I ask you to please approve this proposal now so the Bay can begin to heal

Mahalo

Paul White

274 Poipu Drive

Honolulu, Hi 96825

phwhite@pacbell.net