

From: [Laura Bailes](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) Title 13, Chapter 48.5, "Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area, O'ahu"
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 10:09:57 AM

Aloha,

My name is Laura Bailes, and I am writing to express my strong support for the designation of Maunalua Bay as a Fisheries Management Area (FMA) (Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) Title 13, Chapter 48.5, "Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area, O'ahu"). As someone who has worked extensively in conservation of our marine ecosystems in Hawaii, particularly through partnerships with organizations like Mālama Maunalua, I have witnessed firsthand the environmental challenges facing the bay and the urgent need for sustainable management.

Maunalua Bay is a culturally, historically, and ecologically significant marine area that has suffered severe degradation due to overfishing, habitat destruction, and the spread of invasive species. The traditional fishponds and nearshore reef systems that once supported abundant marine life have been impacted by urbanization, sedimentation, and unregulated fishing practices. Without immediate action, we risk losing this invaluable resource for future generations.

Designating Maunalua Bay as an FMA would provide essential protections that could help restore fish populations, improve coral reef health, and support sustainable fishing practices.

I urge you to take decisive action to protect Maunalua Bay by establishing it as a Fisheries Management Area. This designation is critical to ensuring the long-term health of the ecosystem and the sustainability of local fisheries, benefiting not just marine life but also the communities that rely on these waters for sustenance, recreation, and cultural practices.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. I appreciate your commitment to preserving Hawai'i's natural resources.

Sincerely,

Laura Bailes (she/her)

Saraswati, Henny

From: hixonm@hawaii.edu
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 6:28 PM
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] SUPPORT item F-2 on 1/24/25

Aloha Chair Chang and the Land Board,

I reside in the region encompassed by the proposed Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area. My neighbors have reported large groups of SCUBA divers who literally pillage our reefs at night, using lights to spear fish as they sleep helplessly under reef ledges. These fishes, including parrotfishes (uhu) and surgeonfishes (kala and others), are essential for keeping our reefs healthy by controlling seaweeds that otherwise smother corals. I urge you to 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"](#).

Please confirm receipt of this testimony.

Mahalo,
Mark Hixon
(testifying as a private citizen)

Mark Hixon
Professor &
Hsiao Endowed Chair
of Marine Biology
School of Life Sciences
University of Hawai'i

"Facts do not cease to exist
because they are ignored."
--Aldous Huxley

[UH website](#)
[OSU website](#)
[REEFrame Project](#)
[Fish Pono—Save Our Reefs](#)

From: [Timothy Johns](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Item F-2, Final Proposal to Adopt Administrative Rules for the Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area, Oahu—IN SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 11:11:11 AM

Aloha, Chair and Members of the Land Board.

I am a resident of Aina Haina and a frequent user of Maunalua Bay. Mahalo to the Division of Aquatic Resources for bringing this proposal to the Board for consideration. It is the culmination of eight years of work. As a former Chair of DLNR I know first hand how hard it can be to balance all the different interests when considering a Fisheries Management Area, especially in an area that is as used and well-loved as Maunalua Bay. I commend the Division for putting in the hard work to consider all the various interests and for bringing forth a well-balanced, science-based and culturally-appropriate proposal that will help preserve Maunalua Bay's fisheries resources for generations to come. I wholeheartedly support Item F-2 and ask that you support it as well. Mahalo.

Tim Johns

Saraswati, Henny

From: Hiroko Kazama <kazama982@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 7:17 PM
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 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".

Aloha. I totally support this final approval. I am one of the citizen volunteer to watch over Hi Monk Seals around the island. Kaiwi was molting last year about two weeks on the shore of the Crownwell beach: that means she stayed there for two weeks day and night, and she often had a few other seals visiting. I always monitor that beach, and I found 30 night divers getting ready to go in just a few feet away from Kaiwi and ready to night fish. I totally support this order to promote for safety of Ocean mammals and human beings. Thank you, Hiroko Kazama (Punahou,)

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風間 宏子 Hiroko Kazama

hkazama@punahou.edu

kazama982@gmail.com

January 21, 2025

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in support of the Request for Final Approval to Adopt a New Chapter Under Title 13 of the Hawai'i Administrative Rules as Chapter 48.5, "Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area, O'ahu" at the Board Meeting on January 24, 2025.

As a nearby resident, my family and I have enjoyed visiting Maunalua Bay for recreational purposes over many years. I believe that a Fisheries Management Area (FMA) would ensure abundant stocks of priority species and high-quality fishing now and in the future. To continue to see the bay's health improve over time would highlight how restoration and appropriate protections can lead to a thriving ecosystem for all who use its resources.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Molly Mamaril

Testimony submitted by:

- *Molly Mamaril*
- mollymamaril@gmail.com
- *Agenda Item F2 - Division of Aquatic Resources: 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"*

From: [Mark McGuffie](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 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" - SUPPORT
Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 5:48:19 PM

Aloha Chair Dawn Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am a resident on the shoreline of Maunalua Bay and fully support the Board of Land and Natural Resources submission to give final approval and adopt Hawaii Administrative Rules chapter 13-48.5, "Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area, O'ahu as prescribed.

After attending numerous meetings organized by Doug Harper and his Mālama Maunalua team, it is clear to me that this initial step to protect the ocean sea life in the Maunalua Bay area is greatly needed. The 'litmus test' will be the formation of an Advisory Board in monitoring and ensuring compliance of this measure going forward, and the return to a healthy abundance of fishes, coral revival, and resilient sea life overall.

Mahalo nui for your leadership with this measure and positive decision.

‘O wau nō me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Mark

Mark McGuffie
Senior Advisor
Resorttrust Hawai‘i, owners of The Kāhala Hotel & Resort
5000 Kāhala Hotel & Resort
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96816
Email: mark.mcguffie@ulumau.com
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**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
In Support of the Final Approval to Adopt a New Chapter under HAR, Title 13, Chp. 48.5,
“Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area, O‘ahu” (Maunalua Bay FMA)”**

**Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources
January 24, 2025
Kalanimoku Building, 1151 Punchbowl St., Room 132**

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members:

The Nature Conservancy Hawai'i and Palmyra (TNC) strongly supports the final approval to adopt a new chapter under HAR Title 13, Chp. 48.5 of the Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area (FMA).

Guided by science and our mission to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends, TNC works with government and academic partners and more than 30 communities across the state to restore and protect the coastal habitats that support Hawaii's culture, fisheries, economy, and way of life. Our past efforts to support the conservation of Maunalua Bay include leading the successful federally-funded, multi-year Great Huki to remove alien algae from reef flats, working with community organization Mālama Maunalua to develop their first conservation action plan, and conducting annual coral reef and fish surveys from 2009–2012.

Those surveys concluded that the “Maunalua Bay reef assemblage is in poor condition and is among the most adversely impacted in the entire state”. Maunalua Bay and the adjacent Kuapā Fishpond have been severely affected by land conversion and development, pollution, as well as the overfishing and illegal fishing that this proposal aims to address. The community-based efforts in Maunalua Bay, including those of Mālama Maunalua, fishers, community and conservation organizations, and others, seek to promote sustainable fisheries management, undertake restoration and stewardship efforts, mitigate negative impacts of land-based sources of pollution, and support functioning ahupua'a systems.

The proposed FMA is an example and embodiment of those efforts. We support the purpose of this FMA to create long-term sustainable fishing within Maunalua Bay, develop and implement meaningful community-engaged monitoring, and advance an adaptive decision-making process for the management of the FMA.

We ask that the Board support the final approval to adopt a new chapter under HAR Title 13, Chp. 48.5 of rulemaking for Maunalua Bay FMA to increase the health and resilience of its reefs and communities. Mahalo for your support and stewardship of Hawai'i's ocean resources.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Duncan MacNaughton Jean E. Rolles Crystal K. Rose Nathan E. Smith

The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i and Palmyra
January 24, 2025
Page 2

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alohi' followed by a stylized flourish.

‘Alohi Nakachi
O‘ahu Marine Program Manager
The Nature Conservancy Hawai‘i and Palmyra
923 Nu‘uanu Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Pietsch, Mike](#)
To: [DLNR, BLNR, Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in SUPPORT of Administrative Rules as Chapter 48.5, "Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management"
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 10:20:15 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

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Aloha BLNR Board,

I'd like to voice my full support 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've been fortunate to utilize Maunalua Bay for Surfing, Fishing and Diving since I was a young boy. In the last 10+ years I have been involved in a group of fishers who have been pushing to establish these rules to protect the bay for future generations. It has been a long process and many of the stakeholders have been very patient in the process. Now is the time to create the Maunalua Bay FMA and we cannot wait any longer. We continually see commercial night divers with anywhere from 8-12 dive-lights out in Maunalua Bay at night. This group is a professional night diving operation with the goal of taking reef fish along the inner and outer-reef of Maunalua Bay. They are praying on Uhu (parrotfish) and other species that are sleeping and helpless at night. Their approach makes a large impact on the health of the bay and is detrimental to the future fish-stock in the bay. These administrative rules provide state officials the legal support they need to easily identify night divers who have spearfishing gear and prosecute these individuals. My family and I myself are in full support of Chapter 48.5 and we urgently request that this new chapter is adopted immediately.

Mahalo, Mike Pietsch



Mike B. Pietsch
President & COO

225 Queen Street, Suite 500, Honolulu, HI 96813 | www.tghawaii.com



TITLE GUARANTY HAWAII



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From: [stephen.schatz](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Maunalua Bay
Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 2:07:59 PM

Aloha, Chair and Members of the Land Board.

I live in Niu Valley and my family and I love, respect, and frequently are in the water and on the beaches of Maunalua Bay. I want to thank the Division of Aquatic Resources for bringing this proposal for a fisheries management area to the Board. I know there are many stakeholders involved, and while no process or proposal is perfect, I am confident that what's before you is a reflection of the values of many in the community. I also believe that managing this precious asset is our collective obligation as a community- not just for today, but for the generations that will come after us.

I support Item F-2 and hope that the Board does as well. Mahalo.

Stephen Schatz
Niu Valley

From: [Callie Stephenson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) Title 13, Chapter 48.5, "Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area, O'ahu"
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 11:04:09 AM

Hello,

My name is Callie Stephenson, and I am a resident of O'ahu. I come to testify as someone with a background in natural resources conservation and management to say I support designating Maunalua Bay as a Fisheries Management Area (FMA) (Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) Title 13, Chapter 48.5, "Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area, O'ahu"). Doing so would help protect fish populations and reef health within the region. I believe this proposal is in accordance with the best available science and would support the work done by the local community at Mālama Maunalua.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. I appreciate your commitment to preserving the natural resources of Hawai'i.

Best fishes,
Callie Stephenson (she/her)

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Callie Stephenson
Marine Conservationist

From: [Bert Weeks](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Maunalua Bay FMA
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 2:42:27 PM

Aloha BLNR,

My name is Bert Weeks, and I support the proposed rules for the Maunalua Bay Fishery Management Area (FMA). I grew up on O‘ahu and have dived all around the island, including in Maunalua Bay when conditions are favorable. From my experience, it is clear that the fish population in Maunalua Bay is relatively low compared to other areas, and more needs to be done to help increase these populations.

Implementing a restriction on nighttime spearfishing is a positive step toward protecting vulnerable reef fish, such as uhu, that are particularly at risk while sleeping at night. However, to ensure these regulations achieve their intended purpose, I urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enhance enforcement efforts during nighttime hours and support community regulatory initiatives such as Makai Watch. Strong enforcement is essential to uphold the effectiveness of these new rules and support the recovery of fish populations in Maunalua Bay.

Mahalo
-Bert