



SB992 SD1
RELATING TO VESSELS AGROUND
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 23, 2017

1:30 p.m.

Room 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB992 SD1, which will allow the state to more expeditiously address and mitigate environmental impacts from grounded vessels.

Vessels that run aground on our reefs and coastal areas have the potential to cause significant environmental damage to their surrounding areas. After a vessel grounding, boating fuel and oil, debris, and the vessel structure itself may continuously impact marine life, including coral, until the grounded vessel is removed. Such impacts may be particularly harmful to the interests of Native Hawaiian rural community members, who rely heavily on the health and accessibility of their nearshore resources, to meet their daily subsistence needs. Unfortunately, OHA is aware of numerous instances where the State has been unable to timely address the ongoing impacts of a grounded vessel, including by compelling responsible parties to take action to minimize damage to our reefs and waters.

By clarifying when, where, and how the State may take action to assume control of and remove a grounded vessel, this measure may help to significantly reduce avoidable impacts to our nearshore and coastal environment.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SB992 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Thursday, February 23, 2017
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 992, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO VESSELS AGROUND**

Senate Bill 992, Senate Draft 1 proposes to: (1) clarify that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) may assume immediate control of a vessel that is grounded on state submerged land, a shoreline, or a coral reef, or in imminent danger of breaking up, if the vessel cannot be removed by the owner within twenty-four hours from the time the vessel is grounded and effective salvage operations have not begun; and (2) clarify that the Department may assume immediate control of a vessel grounded on a sand beach, sand bar, or mudflat not in imminent danger of breaking up after the owner has been given seventy-two hours' notice to remove the vessel and has not done so. **The Department strongly supports this Administration measure.**

Currently, Section 200-47.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, authorizes the Department to assume control of any vessel that is grounded on a coral reef once the owner of the vessel has been given notice and an opportunity to safely remove the vessel in accordance with Department guidelines. However, the statute is silent with regard to the Department's authority to assume control of any vessel grounded on state submerged lands or a shoreline, or on a sand beach, sandbar, or mudflat that is *not* in imminent danger of breaking up. This statutory omission creates difficulties for the Department in circumstances where removal of a grounded vessel *not* in imminent danger of breaking up is necessary for public safety or environmental purposes.

The proposed amendments in this measure would clarify the Department's areas of control for vessels aground on state property and the manners in which to do so.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017
TIME: 1:30 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 211

TESTIMONY OF THE OCEAN TOURISM COALITION SPEAKING

IN SUPORT OF SB992,SD1

Chair Senator Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is James E. Coon, President of the Ocean Tourism Coalition **speaking in Support of SB 992, SD1**. The OTC represents over 300 small ocean tourism businesses state wide. Most of these are family businesses which are locally owned and operated. Many of them have been in business for several decades and are an important and valued part of their respective communities. Most of these businesses operate from State Boating Facilities.

We agree with the intent of this bill and protecting the reef from abandoned or derelict vessels. Commercial operators are highly motivated to save their vessels and do as little damage to the reef or environment as possible. This bill reflects the rights of the vessel owner to be the primary agent in the salvaging of his vessel as long as the owner is actively and effectively completing the salvage.

Sincerely,

James E. Coon, President

Ocean Tourism Coalition

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:20 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: kamakane73@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB992 on Feb 23, 2017 13:30PM*

SB992

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kama Hopkins	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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