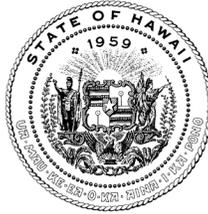


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE**

**Tuesday, March 23, 2021  
2:00 PM**

**State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 329**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 1313, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO SPORT FISH**

Senate Bill 1313, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1 proposes to require the Division of Aquatic Resources of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to establish a pilot project to restock the Wahiawā public fishing area with northern largemouth bass, butterfly peacock bass, or both. **The Department appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following comments and suggested amendments.**

Wahiawā public fishing area is an important sport fishery. The Department has supported and will continue to support responsible freshwater recreational fishing for introduced target species including the northern largemouth bass and butterfly peacock bass. Wahiawā is also an artificial reservoir, thus the Department approaches management differently at this reservoir compared to natural water bodies. Fishing opportunities have declined in recent years at Wahiawā and stakeholders, scientist, and managers have identified several factors that may have contributed to this decline. These factors include lowering of the reservoir due to safety reasons, loss of shoreline habitat, undesirable introduced species preying on target species, limited prey or food for target species, poor genetics, limited stocking, and the uncertain future status of the Wahiawā reservoir due to private ownership. The Department is committed to working with stakeholders and partners to improve and enhance sport fishing opportunities at Wahiawā reservoir.

Comments regarding establishment of a pilot project

In principle, the Department appreciates the opportunity to engage the Legislature and other stakeholders to address any of the perceived detrimental factors mentioned above, including an activity to establish a pilot project to restock the Wahiawā public fishing area with northern largemouth bass, butterfly peacock bass, or both.

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

ROBERT K. MASUDA  
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL  
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

However, the Department simply does not have the resources to do this. With COVID-19 related budget reductions and an inability to fill vacancies, administrative staff are already stretched thin. Additionally, the biologist that managed Wahiawā reservoir activities has recently retired, and the position has been frozen due to budget restrictions. **With no appropriations, we simply lack the capacity to expand operations at the reservoir.**

Even if the Department had the funding and authorization to fill the vacant biologist position, we would likely not be able to establish a pilot restocking project by January 1, 2022. The northern largemouth bass is currently not on any of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture's (HDOA's) import lists, and thus import of the species is completely prohibited. Before the Department can apply to HDOA for a permit to import northern largemouth bass, we must first petition the Board of Agriculture to place it on one of its import lists. We do not know how long this process will take, or if the petition would even be granted.

The Department suggests amending SECTION 2 (beginning on page 2, line 19) as follows:

SECTION 2. No later than January 1, ~~2022~~ 2023, the division of aquatic resources of the department of land and natural resources shall establish a pilot project to restock northern largemouth bass, butterfly peacock bass, or both, in the Wahiawa public fishing area in central Oahu. The division of aquatic resources shall apply to the department of agriculture for the permit to import the northern largemouth bass and work with another public entity or partner with a private entity to accomplish the pilot project. The requirements of this section shall be contingent upon the availability of adequate staff and resources to carry out the pilot project.

Comments regarding importation and restocking

In natural freshwater settings, the Department prioritizes management activities toward the conservation of indigenous species and habitats. Non-native species are one of the primary threats to indigenous species and the Department is committed to the prevention of non-native species introduction. Northern largemouth bass and butterfly peacock bass are considered

invasive in natural water bodies due to their predatory nature, and both species have the potential to adversely impact Hawaii's native stream species such as the 'o'opu and 'ōpae. Given that these species already occur in Wahiawā reservoir, we see little threat in importing northern largemouth bass and butterfly peacock bass solely to be stocked in Wahiawā reservoir, assuming best management practices are followed to prevent disease and parasite transmission.

Release of the northern largemouth bass and butterfly peacock bass should only occur under the supervision of the Department. State law currently prohibits the “release [of] any live non-native fish or other live non-native aquatic life being held in an aquarium or other confinement for scientific study, exhibition, display, sale, or for any other purpose, into any waters of the State.”<sup>1</sup>

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

---

<sup>1</sup> Hawaii Revised Statutes §187A-6.5

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND  
COMMERCE

MARCH 23, 2021  
2:00 PM  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 1313, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO SPORT FISH

Chairperson Johanson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1313, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1, relating to sport fish. The Bill requires the Division of Aquatic Resources of the Department of Land and Natural Resources ("DLNR") to establish a pilot project to restock the Wahiawa public fishing area with northern largemouth bass, butterfly peacock bass, or both. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture ("Department") offers the following comments.

The Department is appreciative that the bill recognizes the need to utilize the existing review framework in Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") Chapter 150A and Hawaii Administrative Rules §4-71 to determine the appropriate list placement and establishment of permit conditions for stocking the northern largemouth bass, *Micropterus salmoides salmoides*, and the butterfly peacock bass, *Cichla ocellaris*, into the Wahiawa Public Fishing Area. The existing regulatory process for importation of new species has improved significantly over the years, and barring any significant known or suspected adverse impacts, can be completed in a relatively timely manner through compliance with existing safeguards and review.



The Department would like to note that placement of the northern largemouth bass on the List of Conditionally Approved Animals (“CA List”) is not a pre-requisite for projects involving stocking of fish. The Department notes that the CA List is the least restrictive of the lists maintained by the Board and that during the review process, should the northern largemouth bass be placed on the Restricted Animal List, Part B (“RB List”), the Hawaii Board of Agriculture (“Board”) could still allow DLNR the ability to import and subsequently stock the northern largemouth bass into Wahiawa Public Fishing Area. However, placement on the RB List would prevent private individuals or pet stores from importing, possessing, or selling it as a pet in the state, which could be permitted under CA List placement, thereby minimizing the risk of spread or possible introduction to other bodies of water. Based on the existing RB List, the Florida largemouth bass, *M. salmoides floridanus* is currently placed there and after review, a similar placement for the northern largemouth bass may also be appropriate and would not be an impediment to stocking of the animal for fishing. Additionally, there is already precedent for DLNR to import and stock organisms on the RB List as rainbow trout are currently on this list.

The Department is aware that both species of bass are present in the Wahiawa Public Fishing Area. The presence or establishment of a species within the State is not a reasonable justification for placement on the CA List and further importation without proper review and assessment of potential impacts on the environment as the review process is designed to manage those potential risks. If the notion that the presence or establishment of a species in the state could potentially lessen restrictions or increase the likelihood that future importation or possession may be allowed, this could result in an increase in illegal importation, unwanted movement between areas within the state, and illegal release of prohibited animals.

In recognition of the potential economic, recreational, and aquacultural benefits sought by this measure, modifications or enhancements to the review and approval process for new species could be considered. While maintaining the rigorous standards

of review under HRS Chapter 343, the criteria for assessing impacts could be clarified to allow a track record over a significant period that demonstrates no significant impacts have occurred or is likely to occur from the presence of a previously established but currently unlisted species, and can be a basis for eligibility under a categorical exemption. Such eligibility could be further conditioned upon appropriate precautionary conditions being imposed on the proposed activity to mitigate any potential for harm, which the Board is already authorized to do. Additionally, the Board could also adopt additional controls to disincentivize the illicit importation of potentially invasive animals by allowing the application of these provisions to actions initiated and performed by governmental agencies only.

Provided DLNR has the resources and capability to manage the risks for introduction of the two species of bass, the Department will continue to collaborate and work with DLNR to implement the purpose of this measure, such as with rainbow trout for Kauai.

The Department recognizes the need for aquaculture for food and other activities such as sport fishing, and supports these efforts, however, the Department believes that the processes that are already in place can adequately achieve those important objectives without compromising the State's efforts to keep out harmful invasive species.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha Chair Representative Johanson , Vice Chair Representative Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kevin Hirokane, I am a resident of Wahiawa, avid fisherman, member of Hawaii Freshwater Fishing Association, and a registered voter. I ask that you please schedule, hear, and support SB1313, relating to sport fishing, which would help improve our pre-existing population of freshwater sport fish that have been in Hawaii and fished for over a century.

I've been fishing Lake Wilson/Wahiawa reservoir for 35 years. I started fishing as a young kid with friends walking along the banks of Lake Wilson, I fish now a few times a week for recreation with my own children, and competitively with my Bass Fishing Club (HFFA) on bass fishing boats. I have seen a drastic decline in catch rates throughout the years, especially for largemouth bass. These days it's so rare to catch a largemouth bass, even after multiple outings, we are lucky to even catch one. Many generations of inbreeding and lack of genetic diversity, I feel, has been a detriment to the species, resulting in less fish.

One of the common reservations people have is the reluctance to bring in new species of fish to our island. I too am conscious of environmental impacts which is why I support this bill. SB1313 only seeks to remove the clerical barriers of bringing in additional stock of fish that are already pre-existing in Lake Wilson. The State, through DAR, has been supporting Wahiawa largemouth bass hatchery for many years, for bass restocking. However, the existing bureaucratic process means that the State Division of Aquatic Resources cannot import new breeding stock to improve current and future population. As a result, the largemouth and peacock bass population has been on a steady decline due to limited genetic diversity.

Keeping importation within the State departments and not open to public import is very important. This bill seeks only to release bass in the artificial reservoir of the Wahiawa public fishing area.

Brought in by the DLNR, SB1313 intends to increase the quality of existing and future fish by improving the genetic pool. Thus, creating a better fishing experience for families and sport fishermen. There are many potential economic benefits that will make a positive impact for our communities. Bass fishing is a billion dollar industry in the United States. Hawaii and Florida are the only 2 states where both species exist, and can be caught in the same body of water. Tourists travel to Florida and spend hundreds of millions of dollars each year to catch these species. Oahu's Lake Wilson, is a hidden gem. Hawaii, like Florida, could attract tourists from all over the county, Japan, ect. to catch one or both of our hard fighting sport fish.

Furthermore, improving bass fishing would have great economic value for the Wahiawa community and the State. This could potentially create opportunities for fishing stores, boat sales, retail shops, food establishments, and could create additional jobs. The state would have an opportunity to generate revenue through the sale of fishing licenses, boat registration, ramp fees, tourism, etc. There are many communities in the U.S near public fisheries that are driven economically by recreational and sport bass fishing.

The State, through DAR, has been supporting a Wahiawa largemouth bass hatchery for many years. However, the existing bureaucratic process means that the State Division of Aquatic Resources cannot import new breeding stock to improve current and future population. As a result, the Largemouth bass and Peacock bass population has been steadily declining due to limited genetic diversity.

The best part is all of these improvements would be very low to zero cost for the State of Hawaii. Organizations such as the Hawaii Freshwater Fish Association (HFFA) are willing to fund the purchase of these fish. We just need your support of SB1313

In addition to the potential financial benefits and promotion of tourism this bill will benefit Hawaii Residents. Many residents of Wahiawa and across the island have been bass fishing at Lake Wilson for many generations. Now their kids and grandchildren continue this pastime and are creating lifelong memories of fishing themselves. I ask that you consider supporting SB1313 so myself, my children, and many others can share the love of bass fishing for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration, time, and effort. Mahalo and Aloha.

Respectfully,  
Kevin Hirokane

As an avid freshwater fisherman, a registered voter, and the President of the Hawaii Freshwater Fishing Association, I ask you to please schedule, hear, and support SB1313, Relating to Sport Fish, which would help improve the pre-existing population of fresh-water sport fish that have been fished in our state for over a century.

A hidden gem in Central O'ahu, the Wahiawa Reservoir (commonly known as Lake Wilson) is the only public freshwater fishing resource on O'ahu. Visitors worldwide come to catch the hard fighting Largemouth and Peacock bass that live there. Some of these visitors come to the island specifically to fish there. Consider the Japanese tourist who has three precious days to spend in Hawaii, and who will dedicate a whole day to fishing on the Lake. These visitors spend generously at our shops and restaurants and are the backbone to our economy.

I can remember days of my youth, riding my bicycle to the "river" to fish for bass. I would save every penny I earned to buy that certain "hot" lure from Sawada Store on cane Street. Or hoping to receive that "Mitchell 300" spinning reel for Christmas. I spent many days on the banks catching bass and still do to this day. For reference, the year that they stocked Peacock Bass was the year I graduated from high school.

Largemouth bass were introduced to the islands in 1896, the Peacock bass in 1975. Somehow, these fish were not listed on any list of conditionally approved, restricted, or prohibited animals. It's like they don't exist! But we know better.

With the large interest in so-called eco-tourism, I think that it would be in the best interest of the State of Hawaii to promote, foster and nurture the multi-million-dollar bass fishing industry in this state by providing stocking opportunities with the passing of this bill.

Please support SB 1313.

Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

Paul Lacerdo  
President, Hawaii Freshwater Fishing Association  
1122 Kalauipo Place  
Pearl City, HI 96782  
(808)291-3856

**SB-1313-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 5:43:59 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Albert Gomes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha everyone!

Im submitting my testimony in support of bill SB1313 once again in hopes that we can keep the momentum going forward and pass this bill. For the first time in my life, I actually feel like our voices are being heard and not just getting brushed to the side. I'm extremely grateful for the hard work and dedication of our representatives and everyone else who is involved in helping us get this bill going in the right direction. Thank you so much!!!

Mahalo!!

Albert Gomes

(808)223-8035

alenboygomes@yahoo.com

**SB-1313-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 6:00:53 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tony Waldo II	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing to request your support for SB 1313. My Ohana and I enjoy the fishing recreation, and want this fishery to grow, so that my kids can enjoy it with their Ohana.

Thanks for your support.

Tony Waldo

1373 Kupau St, Kailua

**SB-1313-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 6:40:23 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
brent young	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support and pass SB1313

Aloha, please pass SB1313 as we are in great need of a stronger gene pool of bass in lake Wilson. The stronger bass will help businesses island wide. Anglers will need tackle, they will shop at their favorite tackle shop. People will need snacks, food, drinks, apparel, and they will go visit their favorite shop for that.

Having a nice strong bass population in lake Wilson will also give our service men and women who tropo, a little bit of "home".

mahalo.

Brent Young.

**SB-1313-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 10:53:42 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
lance marugame	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of SB 1313. The cost of this project can be absorbed by the our organization [HFFA] so the cost to the state will be minimal. Largemouth bass cannot live in streams and is already established in Lake Wilson and has a facility at Wahiawa Middle school ready to take on this project. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Mahalo for your time.

Lance Marugame 808 927 3264

**SB-1313-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 11:12:20 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harvey Ahina Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As an active registered voter, and supporter. I ask you to please schedule, hear, and support SB1313, Relating to Sport Fish, which would help improve the pre-existing population of fresh-water sport fish that have been fished in our state for over a century. I truly believe that by helping the management of our freshwater fishery here on Oahu would help increase tourism which will create more jobs for our Kamaaina and help the economy for our local businesses and overall. Fishing here in Hawaii is not only for sport but also for food. Although we do most of our fishing from the ocean, there are times when it is best to teach our Keiki to fish out of our lake at Lake Wilson. I do remember as a Keiki getting seasick in the ocean, but never out of Lake Wilson. I enjoyed a catch and release fishing day with my Ohana and friends at the lake and feel that a better-stocked Lake Wilson will also bring joy to many Keiki in years to come. Back in the day, we would catch lots of Largemouth Bass, a species that has been in our lake ever since I've fished it, but now it's a rare thing to get a Largemouth Bass ever. I believe by supporting this bill we can help bring back fishing memories for our Ohana and fun days at Lake Wilson.

Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

Harvey A. Ahina Jr.  
Fishermen, Registered Voter, and Condo Manager  
94-360 Hokuwala Street #189

Mililani, HI 96789

To: House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Re: **SB 1313 SD2 HD1 relating to Freshwater Sport Fishing in Hawaii**

Aloha ! My name is Howard Araki and I am submitting written testimony in support of SB 1313 SD2 HD 1. This Bill will help to streamline the process of importing live Northern strain Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides salmoides*) and Butterfly Peacock Bass (*Cichla ocellaris*) for the purpose of enhancing and supporting the pre-existing populations of these popular gamefish for continued recreational freshwater fishing opportunities in Hawaii.

“Pre-existing populations” are the keywords here. The Northern strain largemouth bass have been in the islands for 125 years, since 1896 ! The Peacock Bass or Tucunare was introduced here for sport fishing nearly 65 years ago. Both gamefish enjoy a faithful fan base in the islands, most notably on the Wahiawa Public Fishing Area, aka Lake Wilson on Oahu, and Waita Reservoir on Kauai. The populations of these two popular gamefish have been on a decline for many years now.

The largemouth Bass on Lake Wilson have been inbreeding within the same gene pool for the last 125 years and counting. Over the years, the topic of genetics or more exactly the lack of genetic diversity within the largemouth bass population was a topic of discussion between the fishing community and the Division of Aquatic resources. DAR manages the fishery. Perhaps an infusion of “new blood” was needed to bolster the bass population. However, any discussions pro/con could not proceed any further until the Bass was added to the Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture’s conditional use permit list. SB 1313 SD2 HD1 seeks to add the Northern Strain of Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides salmoides*) to the Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture’s list of conditionally approved animals that require a permit for importation. If passed, this Bill will allow all of the stakeholders to move the discussion “down the road” so to speak.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Howard

**SB-1313-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 11:01:51 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jose Mandawe, Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a registered voter, I am submitting this testimony in support of SB1313 Relating to Sport Fish, which would help improve the pre-existing population of fresh-water sport fish that have been fished in our state for over a century.

The subject sport fish (largemouth bass and peacock bass) are already established in the ecosystem of Lake Wilson (Wahiawa Reservoir) and been there for generations already. If a building had been constructed as long ago as these fish have existed in Lake Wilson, that building would be legally considered as historic and automatically placed on the national register of historic places -- the State would be legally bound to preserve its existence no matter how worn down, decrepid, or ugly. We should be approaching the preservation of these fish populations with the same vigor and sense of historic responsibility -- they are a historic part of our community and have provided generations of families with memories that will last forever.

As an avid bass fisherman, I can personally attest to the fact that the population has significantly declined in recent years. It won't be long before they disappear completely. These fish need our help, and we have a responsibility to help not only these fish but the community and families that depend on these fish for providing recreational peacock bass fishing that can be found nowhere else in the world except the most remote parts of South America. Lake Wilson is the only bass fishery with public access in the entire state -- it would be a shame to let that slip away.

Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

Jose Mandawe, Jr.

Bass Fisherman, Registered Voter, Devoted Family Man

95-1021 Moa`ula Street

Mililani, HI 96789

mobile: 1.808.271.0074

email: [jmandawe@yahoo.com](mailto:jmandawe@yahoo.com)

**SB-1313-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 4:58:11 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ralf G. Oide	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an avid fisherman, both ocean and fresh water I would like to express my support for SB 1313 to be passed.

I have fished Lake WILSON for over 40 years and have enjoyed the facility immensely. In recent years I have noted a serious decline in the amount of large mouth bass that have inhabited the lake and know that at one time there were efforts in restocking the lake to enhance the bass population. That doesn't appear to be happening recently hence the decline in species population.

Restocking the lake would greatly enhance the popularity of the lake and encourage greater use of the facility. I'm sure that like myself there would be many in our community that have experienced many pleasant memories by having access to the bass when restocking occurs. There also a segment of our community that provides guide services at the lake. Restocking would enhance the demand for these people's services engaged in guiding tours. These services are extended to people worldwide and would definitely add to the tax base.

My children and grandchildren also have fond memories of fish caught at the lake. Restocking would encourage many people to make use of the facility.

Please seriously consider passing this bill and encourage your legislative colleagues to consider passing the bill also.

Your consideration in this matter would be greatly appreciated by me, my children, my grandkids and other fisher friends of mine.

Mahalo nui loa.  
Ralf G. Oide

To: Whom It May Concern

From: V.P HFFA (Hawaii Freshwater Fishing Association)

My name is Morris Tyson I am the V.P. of Hawaii Freshwater Fishing Association. I have been a member for about 5 or more years and became a member as a former fisherman from all over the mainland USA and from the banks of Lake Wilson in Wahiawa, Hawaii. As a U.S.M.C. when traveling from different states I would love fishing and the thrill of reeling one in no matter how large or small, but once I became a member of the H.F.F.A. it really became a sport like i.e., Basketball, Football, etc. I can remember my first fish caught in Lake Wilson with my daughter watching her surprise to the fight the fish gave her she was so excited a memory I will always cherish.

As of lately Lake Wilson has seen some drastic changes, and better days due to water level and the type of fish caught, or I should say not caught. Peacock Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Largemouth Bass use to be so plentiful. There was a couple of times where I would catch seven plus Largemouth bass in one day, now we are lucky as HFFA members with Fishing tournaments monthly to catch one in three or so months. We still love to take our children there, but it is not extremely exciting when you fish all day in the hot sun and do not catch a thing.

If it is possible to bring a strain of Largemouth Bass into the lake, I know for sure the members of HFFA will be good stewards and report violations of the Catch-And-Release policy of the lake, and as tournament fishermen we only use lures to fish with preventing any kind of invasive species as live bait.

I sure hope this bill gets passed, not so much for us veterans but for our Keiki's, grandchildren and more so the generations to come can enjoy freshwater fishing from the banks, from the boats and the thrill of the catch from a simple fishing pole sold at Walmart, Longs/CVS drug store, ACE hardware and the like. As V.P. of HFFA and a member we will continue to follow the rules of the land with fishing license, Park Permits, trailer and boat registration and get the word out that Lake Wilson is alive and thriving like the days of old. With COVID-19 ravishing our lives the outdoors is now a safe place for exercise and fun, and memories.

Thank you in advance for considering our request.

Morris Tyson  
808.292.5167  
321 Clark ST  
Wahiawa HI, 96786

USER: tyson.morris.w@gmail.com  
Pass: I81U812\_HFFA