

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
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TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
AND WATER AND LAND

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2021
1:20 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 229 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 1313
RELATING TO SPORT FISH

Chairpersons Gabbard and Inouye and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1313, relating to sport fish. The bill requires the Department of Agriculture ("Department") to allow for the permitted importation of northern largemouth bass and butterfly peacock bass into Hawaii and 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 Department offers the following comments.

The Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 150A and Hawaii Administrative Rules §4-71 sets forth the framework and permit conditions for allowing the importation of non-domestic animals, including the northern largemouth bass, *Micropterus salmoides salmoides*, and the butterfly peacock bass, *Cichla ocellaris*. The process includes a science-based review designed to assess and manage the risk of importing any non-domestic animal, and requires Hawaii Board of Agriculture (Board) approval. Currently, the northern largemouth bass, is not listed as a species approved for importation and is prohibited from importation into the State. Statutorily placing the



northern largemouth bass on the List of Conditionally Approved Animals (CA List), would set a dangerous precedent by dispensing with and bypassing the scientific review that is essential as a first line of defense against the introduction of harmful invasive species to Hawai`i. Placement on the list is appropriate only after a rigorous review of the potential for harm has been conducted and appropriate conditions for the proposed use have been determined and imposed. The Board can already allow importation of butterfly peacock bass and establish appropriate permit conditions since it is already on the CA List and is eligible for importation.

As currently drafted, this measure could conceivably allow any person to import and release either of these species anywhere without restrictions. According to the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International, both species are known to be invasive in other parts of the world and with unrestricted importation, breeding and release, catastrophic impacts to Hawai`i's natural waterways is a real possibility. Such unrestricted importation could also be a pathway for new pests and diseases associated with these species to establish themselves in the State.

The Department has been informed that both species of bass are present in Lake Wilson. The presence or establishment of a species within the State is not a reasonable justification for further importation without proper review and assessment of their impacts on the environment. Over time, information about species and their effects on environments changes and the review process is designed to manage that risk. Additionally, if this position is adopted, smuggling and illegal release of prohibited animals would proliferate and be encouraged to legitimize future importation and possession of invasive species.

The approvals for importation of the two bass species in the measure would ordinarily require an environmental impact assessment pursuant to HRS Chapter 343, as a species being introduced in waters under the State's jurisdiction. Mandatory approval and permitting for these species without appropriate review or exemption appears to conflict with the State's environmental review laws.

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. Additional controls to disincentivize the illicit importation of prohibited animals could be achieved by allowing the application of these provisions to actions initiated and performed by State or County agencies only.

The DLNR, pursuant to HRS §187A-2(4), is the lead agency for the importation of aquatic life, such as the northern largemouth bass or the butterfly peacock bass, into to waters under the State's jurisdiction for propagation or dissemination. 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.

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.

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 Senate Committees on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
and
WATER AND LAND**

**Friday, February 12, 2021
1:20 PM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 229

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1313
RELATING TO SPORT FISH**

Senate Bill 1313 proposes to require the Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to allow for the permitted importation of northern largemouth bass and butterfly peacock bass into Hawai'i. Additionally, Senate Bill 1313 proposes to require the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to establish a pilot project to restock the Wahiawā public fishing area with northern largemouth bass, butterfly peacock bass, or both. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.**

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.

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

Comments regarding importation

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.

The Department notes that butterfly peacock bass is already on HDOA's conditionally approved import list, which means it may be imported with an appropriate HDOA permit. Largemouth bass is currently not on the HDOA approved list for importation and thus is prohibited from import without permit. The Department is concerned that reducing import restrictions would increase the likelihood of these species being introduced into natural freshwater settings inhabited by indigenous species in Hawai'i.

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."¹ In regard to the importation of largemouth bass and peacock bass, we defer to the Department of Agriculture of which importation of aquatic species falls under their jurisdiction.

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. 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

¹ Hawaii Revised Statutes § 187A-6.5

SB-1313

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 12:28:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Sakoda	Testifying for DLNR	Comments	No

Comments:

I would like to testify on SB 1313. Please allow me Zoom access. Thank you.

SB-1313

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 7:32:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

We do not need nor want any more non-native species . Have we not already learned this?

SB-1313

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 6:28:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Clinton Dingal	Testifying for Hawaii Freshwater Fishing Association	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As a avid fisherman and a registered voter, 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.

With this bill, it can boost the economy in so many ways. It can create jobs in supporting industries/ local areas. It can create more fisherman to be motivated to fish in our lake and be beneficial to the surrounding business areas. The state could also implement a parking fee which I would not mind at all, if this bill goes through and our fishery gets stocked regularly, personally I would not mind paying a parking fee.

I have only been fishing the lake for about a year now, and hearing stories of how great the fishing was back then, makes me want to experience the joy of fishing a well stocked/maintained lake. Creating joyful and unforgettable memories with the family along with their generations to follow is priceless (not considering the parking fee stated above). Regular stocked fish will bring more people, with more people equals an economy boosted.

On the environmental standpoint, a well stocked lake will assist the natural processes of an aquatic ecosystem, which will improve water quality and control of pest species.

These species we are requesting with this bill are currently in the lake and have been for awhile now. But being able to catch one has grown to become difficult each time we're out. This is due to the lack of stocking and invasive species in our lake.

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

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

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 3:26:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Morris Tyson	Testifying for Hawaii Freshwater Fishing Association	Support	No

Comments:

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



WAHIAWA

Community Based Development Organization (WCBDO)

PO Box 861191, Wahiawa HI 96786 wahiawacbdo.org

February 9, 2021

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1313 RELATED TO SPORT FISH

Aloha Senators:

I am writing as a long time resident and a representative for the **Wahiawa Community Based Development Organization dba Wahiawa Fresh!** in strong support of SB1313, relating to sport fishing. This bill will improve the pre-existing population of freshwater sport fish (bass) that has been fished in our state for over a century. A program to restock Lake Wilson in Wahiawa has great benefits.

Wahiawa Fresh! is committed to improvements in Wahiawa that foster balanced economic development for our residents and businesses. This bill has important economic potential for Lake Wilson in Wahiawa, bringing fresh water sport fishing to the area. Increased fishing activity will have a positive, ripple effect to local businesses near the lake, including restaurants, tour groups, and supply and equipment vendors. There are also opportunities for environmental education and youth activity groups at the lake. Increased fishing activity at the lake will also improve security (i.e. more people around) at the lake, thus inviting more families to regularly use this resource.

From an environmental aspect, the importation of new bass populations into Lake Wilson will strengthen the freshwater ecosystem by improving the genetic and species diversity. That means better fishing, which we believe brings better stewardship of the lake. Fishing enthusiasts and residents who want to utilize the lake for recreation are committed to taking care of Lake Wilson and the surrounding park. Also, water levels, planting of native flora, and cleaner water for agriculture are all future important considerations that can be built upon the improvements brought by this bill.

As the group that organized Wahiawa to be a Blue Zone community, we believe this bill will also help showcase our natural environment to get people moving and enjoying outdoor activities. As a young boy, I fished Lake Wilson for the bass—the same type of sport fish discussed in SB1313. Diversifying the fish population will ensure that this recreational opportunity is available for generations to come, and it secures a great natural resource for our youth and senior citizens to get outdoors and enjoy a wholesome activity.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 1313. Please contact me if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

Darin Uesugi
Board Vice President
Wahiawa Fresh!

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

Support for S.B. 1313, Relating to Sport Fishing

Aloha Chairs Senator Gabbard, Senator Inouye, 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 am testifying in support of SB1313.

I've been fishing Lake Wilson/Wahiawa reservoir for over 35 years. I started fishing as a young kid with friends walking along the banks of Lake Wilson. Nowadays, I fish 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. Sport fish like the northern largemouth bass have been in Hawaii and fished here for over a century. Many generations of inbreeding and lack of genetic diversity, I feel, has been a detriment to the species, resulting in less fish.

I believe this bill is important for the sustainability of the present and future populations of largemouth bass and sport fishing in general. This bill will address one important component needed to improve bass population. Allowing the restocking of the Northern Strain Largemouth Bass with a different genetic pool, will have a vital role in improving and maintaining the quality of fishing in Lake Wilson/Wahiawa reservoir.

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.

As a Father of two boys, I like to share the pastime of fishing with them. Having my sons off their electronics, and just experiencing this great activity. Moreover, I am happy to have my kids spend time outdoors experiencing nature, learning the sport of fishing, and making everlasting memories. I feel this is a great thing for them, and they love it.

I ask that you please consider supporting SB1313 so myself, my children, and many others can share the love for bass fishing for generations to come. Thank you for your time and effort. Mahalo and Aloha.

Sincerely,
Kevin Hirokane
176 Rose Street
Wahiawa, Hi 97686

SB-1313

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 11:09:50 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

OPPOSE

Why would we allow the introduction of more species that are not natural to our islands? Attempt to make money of licenses? Destination tourism? Just stop.

SB-1313

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 4:46:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vivian S. Toellner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am generally not in favor of releasing non native species in Hawaii, even though these fish have already been here. Also with State revenue down, this seems like a simple cut, as this is not a necessity but an entertainment item, supplied at taxpayers expense. There are so many issues that should take priority. Aloha & Mahalo for allowing testimony.

SB-1313

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 5:46:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Albert Gomes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is my testimony in support of bill SB1313. This is something we need in Hawaii to really open up opportunities for not only local residents but also for tourism. They already know about the ocean fishing, our beaches, hiking etc.... This is something totally different that a lot of our Japanese tourists already love to do back home... Bass fishing. There is a huge community of bass fisherman and fisherwoman out there. This could lead to more jobs, more foot traffic for our eatery's in wahiawa/ mililani and other surrounding areas. This is a no brainer in my opinion. You know the saying..... If you build it, they will come! I always get asked at work about freshwater fishing by our US soldiers as most of them are bass fisherman from the states. Bass fishing is huge in the states. Way bigger than ocean fishing. They would love to bring their families down to experience catching some bass in Hawaii! Let's work together to get this bill passed everybody!!

Thanks for reading. Aloha!!!

SB-1313

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 7:08:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arthur Hamabata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because it is the only freshwater fishing sport that Hawaii has comparing to the rest of the Mainland.

If the State plans to make Lake Wilson into a park and have fishing they need to help replenish the Largemouth bass. Apparently, the fishery at the school is not enough.

Also, by bring in Largemouth bass, it may help boost the economy. Once this pandemic subsides, more tourist will come back and the avid freshwater fisherman will want to fish Lake Wilson to catch Hawaii's largemouth bass and especially the Peacock bass. The only other place has peacock bass in the U.S. is Florida. Because, when I go to other states, I try to fish in that state.

SB-1313

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:24:37 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As an active sport fisherman, I ask you guys to please support SB1313 and pass the bill, As it is relating to Sport Fishing which will help improve not only the current freshwater ecosystem but also improve freshwater sport fishing conditions. SB1313 can boost the economy, create jobs and support local businesses around Oahu. Bass fishing is a billion dollar industry in the US alone with a good freshwater lake that holds largemouth and peacock bass, it will bring more fisherman not only locally but from around the world. Peacock bass is considered a bucket list fish to fisherman, to improve our lake would help motivate anglers to come to the islands and chase there dreams. The state could also implement a parking fee at the lake, if this bill goes through and our fishery gets stocked regularly and the fishing conditions improve anglers would not mind paying a fee to park with that, opening the lake up to boaters to fish at night is also something that should be implemented. I have now been fishing the lake for a little over 5 years now and when talking to the older generation and hearing stories of how our lake was a top 10 fishery in the US is just crazy to think of how it could be and once's was. I would love to experience all the joys of fishing a well stocked and maintained home lake while creating unforgettable memories with friends and family. Thank you for your hearing me, and please consider passing bill SB1313.

Tight Lines, Kevin

SB-1313

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:09:40 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven M Smithe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hi, my name is Steven Smithe, I am 65 years old, and born and raised in Wahiawa. I have been fishing at Lake Wilson for 55 years. I have taken my sons fishing there and now have started to take my grandkids too.

Lake Wilson was a great fishing lake one of the best even by mainland standards. They even had a couple of pro bass fishing events here. The pros that came enjoyed the event here. Even visitors that I have meet thru the years liked the fishing. It is also a place were are military personal come to fish and enjoy like they do back home.

But, in the pass ten years the bass fishing has dropped off. The bass were stocked in the Lake Wilson back in the early 1900's. They had a spawning program, but using the same stock of fish from the lake have made them weak I think, they need to bring in fresh stock to make the Lake bass stock strong again.

We needed to restock the lake to have better fishing here again. I think this will be good for not only for the local fishermen and women, and military personal but, also for the tourist that I see come to the lake to fish as they do on the mainland.

Please help us with this bill, I see it as a plus for alot of people. And also for the people of Wahiawa and the businesses in Wahiawa town.

Thank you for hearing me and your time.

SB-1313

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:40:53 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary Joaquin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hi, I am Gary Joaquin and I support bill SB1313.

I have been fishing at Lake Wilson for over 45 yrs. This lake needs to be restock with a fresh stock of bass. Through the last seven years the bass fishing has been slowing down. I think it is because the bass has been getting weaker thru the old restocking of the same fishing that is caught at the lake.

This would also be a benefit for the Wahiawa area businesses as the fishermen would be back stronger to support them. This would be a great place for families to come back fishing as I use to see before. I also use to talk to the military people that I would see fishing and they would tell me how bass fishing would remind them of home. But I do not see them as much as before.

I think this would be a great thing for all the recreation fisherman and a good thing for our state.

Thank You!

SB-1313

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:47:16 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sato Family	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Dela Cruz and Senator Gabbard,

As Wahiawa residents, 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 centry.

Some of our childhood memories are around Wahiawa Freshwater Park and fishing for all different types of fish. As a kid we remember visiting the community sporting goods after school to pick up fishing tackle then heading to Wahiawa Freshwater Park to just fish at the boat ramp for hours until the sun went down. Now that we are older and have our own keiki, we find that fishing is a great way to instill values to care for the environment, get outdoors, and make more memories. Whether from shore or boat, the best fights on the fishing pole and the best stories come from the sport-fish like the large-mouth bass and the peacock bass.

Over the years, our fishing trips have changed with smaller populations. Maintaining the fish population and diversity will drive a flourished community resources for generations to enjoy.

Wahiawa is a small community where our residents spend most of their time commuting to other communities for work and recreation. Many Oahu residents and visitors to the island pass-through Wahiawa not even aware of such resources we have. Especially in a pandemic like this, leveraging our community resoruces can create healthier environments, promote family bonding, and stimulate the local economy.

Large-mouth bass fishing is known across the country, and infact, in many other states is a highly paid and followed sport. Improving the pre-exisiting population of fresh-water sport fish can become the first steps towards creating a flourished Wahiawa resource and improving the Fresh Water Park (Lake Wilson), while providing a space for community connection, sharing more opportunities for the community to learn and fish, and become an economic driver.

Thank you for your consideration!

Aloha,

The Sato Family - Joslyn, Jordan, Hunter, and Kylie Sato

A fishing family, Wahiawa Residents

75 Nonohe Place, Wahiawa, HI 96786

satofamily@hawaii.rr.com

SB-1313

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 1:14:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Timothy Ng	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a longtime resident of Wahiawa and I support the stocking of Lake Wilson with both bass species.

SB-1313

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 6:34:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Please oppose SB1313. An EIS should be conducted first to ensure there are no harmful effects on the environment.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn

SB-1313

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:35:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Tolentino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii state legislator,

I ask you to please hear & support SB1313 that would help improve the Bass fishing in lake Wilson. I've been fishing in this lake for over 20yrs and noticed a drastic change in the large mouth bass populations , size , & aggressiveness. In the last 8yrs I've only caught 3 large mouth bass . And the ones I caught was really skinny, small , with barely any fight in them . I think the bass is declining because of the inbreeding over last 50 plus years causing the bass to get smaller in size and weaker genitics. I ask that you please reintroduced new bass families to the lake to save the fishing in lake Wilson. I take & teach my family , my sons baseball team, and coworkers how to fish in lake Wilson and they absolutely love it. I feel if we can get new large mouth bass into lake wilson it can have a great economic value to the state of hawaii such as creating new jobs and bringing more tourist to the island to catch the Hawaiian Bass. I want whoever I take fishing to have everlasting memories of fishing for bass in Hawaii. Thank you so much for your time and feel free to contact me to further discuss this issue . Sincerely,

Joseph Tolentino.
39 California Ave Wahiawa
8084782799

To: **SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Re: SB 1313 relating to Freshwater Sport Fishing in Hawaii

Aloha ! My name is Howard Araki and I am submitting written testimony in support of SB 1313. The gist of this Bill is to streamline the process of importing live Northern strain Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides salmoides*Currently,) 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 were 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 gamefish have been on a decline for many years now. The downtrend in the overall population, especially medium to larger size largemouth bass is a concern to anglers. Peacock Bass or Tucunare are experiencing a similar decline but to a lesser extent.

Over the years, the topic of genetics or more exactly the lack of genetic diversity within the largemouth bass population kept coming up for discussion. The bass on Lake Wilson have been inbreeding within the same gene pool for the last 125 years and counting. Perhaps an infusion of “new blood” is needed to bolster the bass population here. Ideally what’s needed is the same bass just from a different location, such as a lake or pond on the US mainland.

SB 1313 seeks to add the Northern Strain of Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides salmoides*) and the Butterfly Peacock Bass (*Cichla ocellaris*) on the list of conditionally approved animals that require a permit for import. Currently these two fish are not on the allowed to import list. Just to reiterate these two gamefish are already here on islands and have been for a long time. Generations of anglers have enjoyed catching them and I’m one em.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Howard Araki

SB-1313

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 5:57:58 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stan Wright	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

For over 40 years we have been trying to bring in largemouth bass to improve the gene pool of the fish we have here in Hawaii. And been shot down by the "invasive species" argument every time. Largemouth bass and peacock bass were introduced years ago and are well established and not threatening endangered birds on top of Mauna Kea as some environmentalist would have you believe. LOL.

Think of it as introducing a new bull to your herd of cattle to improve the overall health of your cattle.

Thank you, Aloha, Stan

Former host of the Let's Go Fishing TV Show. Outdoor Writer, BSA Certified Angling Instructor.

Good Fishing, and Tight Lines

Wednesday, February 9, 2021

Support for S.B. 1313, Relating to Sport Fish

Aloha Chairs Senator Gabbard, Senator Inouye, and Members of the Committee. My name is Kainalu Barlow. I am a 10-year Army combat veteran who was born and raised on the Big Island. I am currently working towards my bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. I have a beautiful wife and two amazing kids. I spent a combined 8 years stationed on Oahu at Schofield Barracks. During my time there I was introduced to the freshwater fishing community that resides around Wahiawa Reservoir. I have had the opportunity to be part of the Hawaii Freshwater Fishing Association where I have met some amazing people who also love fishing. Together we have been able to compete each month in local tournaments and promote fish conservation around the state.

Currently, Hawaii holds a variety of freshwater fish species. Butterfly Peacock Bass and Large Mouth Bass are among the most popular. However, there has been a drastic decline in Large Mouth Bass. These bass have been in Hawaiian reservoirs for many years. My peers and I have worked tirelessly to support a healthy ecosystem for them to thrive. Due to local homeless communities keeping Bass for food, we rarely see these beautiful species of fish anymore. I believe it is of the utmost importance to restock our waters with the Northern Strain Largemouth Bass. I believe it is important to bring over new strains of these Northern Bass, as there are many. This will ensure strong diverse genetics that will allow the Bass population to thrive for many years.

I believe that sport fishing has a positive impact in Wahiawa. My colleges and I promote a healthy ecosystem and encourage others to as well. We pick up trash and try to keep our parks clean. We kindly encourage the homeless to keep their areas clean and remove the trash they leave behind. With a healthier amount of fish, we can expect more fisherman to share the water with. Most of these bass fishermen are comprised of local members from the community, military members and tourists that visit only to have the rare opportunity to catch a Peacock Bass. I believe this will have a positive impact on the economy. All around the United States we see thriving cities that are based around recreational bass fishing.

I ask that you please consider supporting SB1313 so that myself and others can share the love for bass fishing for generations to come. Mahalo

Sincerely,
Kainalu Barlow

SB-1313

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 6:56:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ralf G. Oide	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Senators Gabbard and Inouye:

I have been an avid fisherman, both ocean and fresh water for most of my life and would like to express my support for Senate Bill 1313 regarding the restocking of Lake Wilson with large mouth bass.

I have fished at the lake for over forty years and have enjoyed the facility immensely over the course of those years. I have shared this experience with family members and friends. My children and grandchildren have many fond memories of catching fish at the lake. Recently though, it has been kind of discouraging to fish the lake as the amount of fish has appeared to have been reduced significantly. The reduction has been very apparent most recently, especially the loss of large mouth bass

At one time a number of years ago there was a program instituted by Wahiawa Middle School that had students raising young large mouths then releasing them into the lake. This seemed to boost the number of fish available to be caught. Since then the population, for whatever reasons, has significantly dropped.

The passage of this Bill I believe would significantly add to the fish population and enhance everyone's fishing experience. There are many people in our community that would benefit from the restocking of the lake. Other avid fisherman like myself as well as a segment of our community providing guide services. There are people from all over the world who use these services and restocking Lake Wilson would enhance the demand of these services. This in turn increases the number of tourists who pay into our tax system.

I humbly ask your consideration in passage of this measure and assure you it would be greatly appreciated by myself, my children, grandchildren and other fisher friends of mine.

SB-1313

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 11:57:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 1:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

Peacock bass and largemouth bass are already established in the ecosystem of Lake Wilson (Wahiawa Reservoir) and have been there for many years. 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 the largemouth bass disappear completely. Lake Wilson is the only bass fishery with public access in the state -- it is the only Peacock Bass fishery (along with Florida) in the entire United States. It would be a shame to let that slip away.

Thank you for your support.

Jose Mandawe, Jr. / Mililani, HI / Bass Fisherman and Registered Voter

SB-1313

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 2:58:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 1:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

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 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 over all. 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 sea sick 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 Hokuala Street #189

Mililani, HI 96789