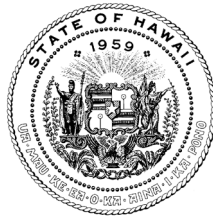


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**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 Committee on**  
**WATER AND LAND**

**Wednesday, February 17, 2021**  
**1:00 PM**

**State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of**  
**SENATE BILL 791**  
**RELATING TO VESSELS**

Senate Bill 791 proposes to amend various sections within Chapter 200, Hawaii Revised Statutes, regarding impoundment and disposal of unauthorized and abandoned vessels on state property and in waters of the State. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this measure.**

This measure would allow the Department to respond quicker and more effectively to unauthorized, abandoned, grounded, and derelict vessels under its jurisdiction. Current statutes require the Department to provide seventy-two-hour notice of intent to impound a vessel before being able to take control of the vessel. However, in some instances the condition of a vessel rapidly deteriorates within this time period, leading to increased costs on the Department for impounding and disposing of the vessel. A vessel may break into multiple pieces, requiring additional work for impounding the vessel and creating an increased risk to public safety as well as to our State's natural resources. A vessel may also drift from its initial position and end up in a situation that increases the difficulty in retrieving it.

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

**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

**SB-791**

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 12:19:38 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Testifying for Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Senator Inouye, Chair

Honorable Senator Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land.

From: HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION – HIROC (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing SB791 RELATING TO VESSELS

**Hearing Date: [Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 1:00 pm](#), by videoconference**

**Position: STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB791!**

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

The HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION – HIROC – **strongly supports SB791!**

HIROC was formed in 2017 by coral reef scientists, educators, local Hawaii environmental organizations, elected officials, and others to address the crisis facing Hawaii's coral reefs and other marine life.

Our reefs and oceans are under great stress and need funding for protection! Coral bleaching, polluted runoff, unsustainable fishing, invasive species and abandoned or grounded vessels are all degrading our reefs and oceans that are critical for protecting our aquatic life and shorelines and maintaining our tourism and recreational economy.

This bill would speed removal from State lands, including coral reefs, of abandoned and grounded vessels, which can do great harm to coral reefs. HIROC believes this bill would help maintain our reef and ocean health.

Please pass this Bill!

Mahalo!

Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)