

TESTIMONY
HB 2741 HD1
LATE

February 16, 2010

In Support of HB 2741 HD1
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture &
Hawaiian Affairs
On Thursday, 10 March 2010 in room 229 at 1445

Chair Hee and Respected Members of the Committee;

My name is Reg White. I have worked in the commercial boating enterprises of Hawaii for the past 36 years. In all that time it has seemed very unfair to me that the passenger carrying commercial vessels had to carry all the expense incurred to provide commercial berths and their attendant required services, parking, water, cleaning, rubbish collection, etc., for the entire commercial fleet of the state. This bill begins to level the playing field for all commercial operations by increasing the fees paid by commercial fishing boats to about that paid by most of the smaller passenger operators. Commercial passenger operators pay two times the basic slip rental or 3% of their gross revenue, whichever is greater. This bill will have the commercial fishing boats pay two times the basic slip rental fee with no percentage of their gross income. This is a vast improvement over the present fee structure and will help the department to maintain and service the marinas of the state. In return the fishermen will receive a transferrable permit for their business.

I would suggest that an SD1 be made to remove the superfluous restrictions in (f) (1) (A) and (3). Who cares how much income the fishing boat takes in so long as they pay double the recreational fee for the privilege extended. Except for this needless restriction, this is now a good bill and I support it.

Please pass this bill, amended as suggested.

Aloha,

Reg White
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