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STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of  
CARTY S. CHANG  
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Before the House Committee on  
OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

9:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 119  
REQUESTING A STUDY OF LIMU AND REEF FISH DECLINE IN  
CERTAIN AREAS OF THE EWA COAST OF OAHU

House Concurrent Resolution 119 requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to conduct a study of the causes of the decline in limu and reef fishes in the Ewa Beach, Oahu area, to make recommendations to stop the decline and to replenish these resources. **The Department offers the following comments.**

The Department notes that the Ewa area used to be the most productive limu grounds in the State but no longer produces limu in such amounts. We suspect that a reduction in the high productivity of the grounds may have been due to a loss of nutrients. More specifically, nutrient reductions may be due, in part, to the cessation of intensive agriculture by Oahu Sugar and the re-alignment of sewage treatment plant outfalls into deeper waters in the area. These reduced nutrient sources presumably would have reduced nutrients that used to support the limu grounds. We also note that the islands have been in a prolonged drought that has likely contributed to the reduction in surface and ground water flow to the ocean.

Given the limited data, it would be very difficult to scientifically prove why limu no longer grows in such abundance. We would have had to determine the causes for why limu was so abundant when it was abundant under past conditions, then compare those past conditions to current conditions to quantify the differences and understand the problem better. Because the Department does not have past baseline ocean nutrient information in the area, we have nothing to which we can compare current conditions.

Lastly, we note that such a study would be beyond our current capacities and budget for the department.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2015 2:11 PM  
To: omhtestimony  
Cc: mjellings@hawaii.rr.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR119 on Mar 25, 2015 09:00AM

**HCR119**

Submitted on: 3/22/2015

Testimony for OMH on Mar 25, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl M Jellings Sr	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Honorable Members of The House Explanation of opposition Wording implication Fishing practices as primary cause for depletion How Can With a 1 pound limit on limu manuea, banning net fishing at night, banning paipai fishing, banning lay netting to a limit of 125 feet which is unfeasible to do during day light hours. The limited fishing pressures because of consistent weather patterns, Military and private property no access to fishing , with it's strong trade winds that kick up silt to create murky unfishable condition's in shark infested Ewa's coastal waters that limits spear fishers. With all of these ban's and issues already in existence for at least a decade and more... according to this bill things have only gotten worst. Seems targeting fishing practices as primary culprits as this Bill does Isn't helping. It is Fact the development of the Ewa plain are causing a steep increase in fresh water usage. and with more development on the way The Health and sustainability of Our near shore Marine environment is being Threatened. > > > > There are two major types of aquatic biomes, the marine and freshwater. The freshwater biome is defined as having a low salt content versus the marine biome which is saltwater or sea water. Plants such as limu in these type brackish regions are adjusted to the low salt content and would not be able to survive in areas of high salt concentration's. > > > > As such many fish species dependent on this invisible layer of natural protection exists safely within these type habitats. > > > > Many juvenile fish such as mullet oama awaawa oio papio and many others are prime examples, They are safe from normal predation "AND" they are safe from fishing as it is well known every fish on this list of species are protected by law with size limits in place to protect them. > > > > I am a Full Time fisherman My primary fishery has been the Akule fishery in part Our Fishing Grounds extend from Puuloa Harbor ( Pearl Harbor Channel) West to Kaena Point, This Bill includes a huge region of My fishing grounds. > > We have experienced Good to excellent recruitment and landing's from this region {Report area 401} since 2010. this year is forecasted to be even better. > > If fishing pressures were the primary cause for fish depletion then why are akule doing so well. not to mention the years of consistent fishing pressures on these specific species for food consumption. > > This Bill mentions a "steep decline" in Limu and fish. I would remind this legislature Fishing pressures off Ewa have been consistent for decades centuries for that matter. > > > > WHEREAS, once abundant, there has been a steep decline of > > 17 limu along the Ewa Coast of Oahu; and > > 18 > > 19 WHEREAS, the Ewa Coast of Oahu is also experiencing a > > 20 markedly steep decline in reef fish; and > > 21 > > 22 WHEREAS, over-picking and over-fishing, improper > > 23 harvesting, climate change, urban development, stream flow > > 24 diversion, and invasive species are among the factors that cause declines in the supply of limu and reef fish, > > Mahalo For allowing me this opportunity Carl Paoo Jellings Sr > >

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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