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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR119 on Apr 20, 2015 14:55PM  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2015 3:58:21 PM  
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**HCR119**

Submitted on: 4/16/2015

Testimony for WTL on Apr 20, 2015 14:55PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carty S. Chang	DLNR	Comments Only	Yes

Comments: DLNR offers comments.

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DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
CARTY S. CHANG  
Interim Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
WATER AND LAND**

**Monday, April 20, 2015  
2:55 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**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.

**CARTY S. CHANG**  
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**KEKOA KALUHIWA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**W. ROY HARDY**  
ACTING 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

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

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**HCR119**

Submitted on: 4/16/2015

Testimony for WTL on Apr 20, 2015 14:55PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leimana DaMate	Aha Moku Advisory Committee	Support	Yes

Comments:

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**Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Aha Moku Advisory Committee  
State of Hawaii  
Post Office Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of  
Leimana DaMate  
Executive Director

Before the House Committee on  
Finances

Tuesday, April 7, 2015  
2:15 P.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In Support of  
**House Concurrent Resolution 119**

**REQUESTING A STUDY OF LIMU AND REEF FISH DECLINE IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE  
EWA COAST OF OAHU.**

HCR 119 requests that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) study the causes of the decline of limu and reef fish for the area of the Ewa Coast of Oahu that stretches from the easternmost point of Pu'uloa to Barber's Point; and, based on its findings, develop recommendations on what actions need to be taken to stop the decline and replenish the limu and fish supply. **The Aha Moku supports this resolution.**

It has been clear to Native Hawaiian generational practitioners from the Ewa Moku and the ahupua'a of Pu'uloa and Kaleloa that this portion of the Ewa Coast has long been declining in natural coastal resources. Once known for its limu and plentiful fish stock, it is now practically barren. However, due to the consistent efforts of lawai'a practitioners – limu and fishing experts who are knowledgeable about the coastal and marine resources of that place, exertions continue to address the causes of decline. The restoration of the limu is critical to the restoration of an abundant food source, including fish.

It is also clear that in order for the DLNR to fulfill the mandates of this resolution, they will need to do a study of what was once plentiful along the Ewa coast. It is appropriate now for this study to begin as there are still experts in limu and coastal fishing along Ewa that can be consulted or can assist the Department in their study.

The Aha Moku, of which the Ewa Moku is a part, supports this resolution. We believe it is much needed and if passed, ask that the suitable funding to conduct such a study is appropriated to the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

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**HCR119**

Submitted on: 4/16/2015

Testimony for WTL on Apr 20, 2015 14:55PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	UH Biology Alumni Association	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** [mjellings@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:mjellings@hawaii.rr.com)  
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**Subject:** Please submit as corrected version of Testimony for HCR119  
**Date:** Sunday, April 19, 2015 1:26:17 PM

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---- mjellings@hawaii.rr.com wrote:

>

>

> Honorable Members of Senate Water Land Committee Chair Woman Thielen and Members

>

> I strongly support this Bill. I remain in opposition to the wording of over picking over harvesting and overfishing for this area as causal affects for depletion "How is this" With a 1 pound limit on limu manuea, "I wouldn't swim out there to get one pound of Ogo" I would drive to Tamashiro or Safeway and bye it ,Because of the murky conditions The only type of fishing that used to occur in this area was net fishing at night, paipai fishing, lay netting which all have been banned.

> 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 fishing).

>

> With all of these ban's already in existence for at least a decade and more and being heavily regulated by weather ... according to this bill things have only gotten worst. Seems Our past rules targeting fishing practices as culprits at least according to the writer of this bill has had very little or NO positive affect and Isn't improving the fishery.

>

> 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 has and continues to be degraded causing the current limu depletion .

>

> 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 Juvenile fish species dependent on this invisible layer of natural protection exists safely within these type brackish 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 L50 a law of size limits that safeguards reproduction and is set 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 then to Kaiaka Bay Wailua.

>

> This Bill includes an important section of My fishing grounds. We have experienced Good to excellent recruitment and landing's from these grounds {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 Honorable committee on Water Land that Fishing pressures within these fishing grounds The Ewa Koa 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 WHEREAS, the Ewa Coast of Oahu is also experiencing a

> markedly steep decline in reef fish; and WHEREAS, over-picking and over-fishing,

- > improper harvesting, climate change, urban development, stream flow diversion, and
- > invasive species are among the factors that cause declines in the supply of limu and reef fish,
- > Mahalo and Aloha For allowing me this opportunity to testify.
- >
- > Carl Paoo Jellings Sr > >



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## **HCR119**

Submitted on: 4/19/2015

Testimony for WTL on Apr 20, 2015 14:55PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Transmitted is testimony in support of this measure strongly urging DLNR to make this a matter of priority for study since Limu and fish are food sources for the people of Hawai'i. We should not stand idly by and allow the continued decline of these food sources.

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1288 Kapiolani Blvd, Apt 1905  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
HCR 119, Requesting a Study of Limu and Reef Fish Decline  
in Certain Areas of the 'Ewa Coast of O'ahu  
Committee on Water and Land  
Monday, April 20, 2015, 2:55 p.m., conference room 224

Senator Laura H. Thielen, Chair  
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Water and Land

Aloha!

I wish to strongly urge passage of HCR 119, Requesting a Study of Limu and Reef Fish Decline in Certain Areas of the 'Ewa Coast of O'ahu.

My testimony will primarily speak to the decline in limu. When I was a young adult, I lived with my parents in Kulana Court in 'Ewa Beach. My parents enjoyed eating limu, especially with their raw fish. Everyone in 'Ewa, for that matter everyone on O'ahu, knew how plentiful limu was and the elders would tell us young kids to be careful when picking limu since there was a certain way to pick it to assure its continued growth.

HCR 119 calls upon DLNR to study the causes of this decline and based on its findings, develop recommendations on the actions needed to be taken to stop the decline and replenish the limu and reef fish supply.

DLNR provides some guess as to the causes for the decline in limu, but advises that the Department does not have past baseline ocean nutrient information in the area, thus, they have nothing to which they can compare current conditions and that such a study would be beyond their current capacities and budget.

**I don't understand this passive attitude. Limu is a food source. When papaya was threatened years ago, did not the state and others take action to find out why and then to treat the cause? While past data is always helpful, isn't the goal to revive the once abundant growth of limu? If DLNR's guess is the lack of nutrients, then wouldn't the answer be to seek advice from the University of Hawaii and others to determine what nutrients would be helpful to the growth of limu in 'Ewa? And, couldn't DLNR consult with cultural practitioners, especially in areas where limu is still prevalent.**

In July 2014, the then Governor, Mayors and legislators proudly launched the Aloha+Challenge, a series of targets for the state to reach in various sectors of

sustainability, renewable energy and natural resource management. Two benchmarks are worth mentioning: Local food: Double local food production with a goal of 20 to 30 percent of food consumer being grown locally; and Natural resource management: Increase watershed protection, community-based marine management, invasive species prevention and control, and restoration of native species.

**This resolution walks the talk of the Aloha+Challenge and I mahalo the introducers of this resolution. Please pass this resolution with amendments, if necessary, that continues to call upon DLNR to be proactive in protecting and enhancing this food source.....important to the diet of Native Hawaiians and others who live in Hawai'i.**

**Me kealoha**

**/s/ by e-mail**

**LEIMOMI KHAN**