

LATE

SB 152 Testimony

I am submitting this testimony to oppose the passage of SB152. I represent the Seafarers Ministry, an outreach effort supported by churches affiliated with the Hawaii-Pacific Baptist Convention which provides spiritual, emotional, and medical outreach to over 700 foreign fishermen. We are advocating for these fishermen whose voices cannot be heard at this hearing because their livelihood and their children's future are at stake. They sacrifice so much for their families through years of difficult and extremely dangerous work. They depend on their jobs which otherwise would not be taken by local citizens because of the harsh working conditions and low pay compared to Hawaii minimum standards.

This bill threatens the Hawaii fishing industry. These foreign crew members are highly trained in their jobs and many get their maritime training in post-secondary schools. Before they can report to their employers here in Hawaii, they must complete required certifications and various clearances before they can leave their respective home country. It takes months for them to report because they cannot be flown-in directly into Hawaii. They must wait for other fishing vessels to fetch them from other transit locations so as not to violate existing federal laws then try to gain permission to land temporarily pursuant to federal law. By putting this additional layer in the licensing process, it creates an undue delay and hardship for them and does not guarantee a job for them before they leave their country. There is a possibility for them to be sent back home without ever working after months of being in transit.

We urge our legislators to consider the welfare of our foreign fishermen as well as the secondary and tertiary effects of this bill.

Mahalo!

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From: [robert fram](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: I OPPOSE BILL SB 152
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 3:57:05 PM



I strongly oppose SB 152.

This bill would cause the state of Hawaii's fresh fish industry to shut down.

Our company, after 36 years of servicing the states best hotels, restaurants, retail markets, caterers, golf clubs etc. would close very swiftly.

This would put myself & all of our nearly 80 employees out on the streets, unemployed.

It would crush are supply line of local fish for exportation of Hawaiian Fresh fish to the mainland as well.

Pls work with the industry and the rules we have, to allow for the fishing fleet to survive --with your monitoring, guidance and recommendations.

Many of the pacific islanders look forward to the opportunity for viable income by working on these vessels, which help to provide a better life for their families and jobs that would not ordinarily be available to them in their home countries. These are jobs and positions which would otherwise be vacant because American workers are not attracted by them.

It's a win-win situation for all stakeholders, and if anything can be looked at as a humanitarian endeavor where jobs and sources of income are being made available to areas where they are scarce or even non existent.

Robert S. Fram

President

Garden and Valley Isle Seafood Inc.

2015 exporter of the year state of Hawaii

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 12:03 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: rtbernardo@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB152 on Feb 22, 2017 15:00PM



SB152

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for WTL/IAA on Feb 22, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roberto Bernardo	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am against this bill if the cost of a temporary permit or parole is passed on to the fishermen or crew. I am also against this bill if it threatens to eliminate the jobs of foreign fishermen. However, I am for this bill if it will lead to better monitoring of working conditions of fishermen, and if it will lead to the granting of a permission for the fishermen to land temporarily.

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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