



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means
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by

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SB 931 SD1 – RELATING TO MARINE AQUARIUM FISHING

Chairs Rhodes and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Wakai and Keith-Agaran and members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) would like to provide comments on SB 931 SD1.

Currently, the proposed measure calls for the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i (RCUH) to 1) evaluate and prepare an environmental impact statement to evaluate DLNR's issuance of commercial aquarium permits on the island of O'ahu and in West Hawai'i, and 2) complete a comprehensive cultural impact assessment in coordination with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and other Native Hawaiian cultural organizations.

The primary purpose of RCUH is to provide UH with professional and financial services that are required by extramurally funded projects. The researchers and specialists with the required knowledge to conduct the environmental and cultural studies outlined in this measure are all housed at the University of Hawai'i.

The University of Hawai'i respectfully recommends that the measure be amended to have the designed funds appropriated to UH to conduct the requested studies, with RCUH providing the necessary personnel and fiscal support.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.