



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.
Dr. Megan Donahue, Director
Hawaii'i Institute of Marine Biology
And
Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawaii'i at Mānoa

GM 701 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE KANEOHE BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, FREDERICK REPPUN, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2027.

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii'i Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) **supports the confirmation of Fred Reppun**, a faculty member currently serving as HIMB's representative on the Kāne'ohe Bay Regional Council (KBRC). HIMB values its representation on the KBRC as required by HRS 200D-2 and is grateful that Mr. Reppun holds this position.

For the past four years, Mr. Reppun has worked at the interface of science, community, and policy, supporting the needs of both the KBRC and HIMB. Most recently, he successfully acquired funding from the Hawaii'i Community Foundation to support reconvening working groups to renew the Kāne'ohe Bay Master Plan. KBRC passed a resolution to contract a planner with these funds, and the Council is in the process of forming a temporary committee.

Mr. Reppun also communicates with HIMB researchers the needs and requests for science to inform management issues that come before the KBRC and shares research findings from HIMB that are relevant to the wise use of Kāne'ohe Bay by the public, researchers, and commercial operators. Ongoing research at HIMB relevant to the planning and management of Kāne'ohe Bay includes performance and movement of herbivorous fish in response to water quality, movement and connectivity of papio in and out of Kāne'ohe Bay, coral recovery from thermal stress, impacts of kalo lo'i management on Kāne'ohe Bay water quality, effects of wastewater contaminants on coral health, and relationships between the health of coastal ecosystems and the human communities that depend on them.

For these reasons, HIMB supports the confirmation of Fred Reppun.