



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, February 1, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

By

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And

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And

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SB 92 – RELATING TO COMMUNITY-BASED SUBSISTENCE FISHING AREAS

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

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on this measure.

The Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) acknowledges the intent of Senate Bill 92 is to garner community-based subsistence fishing area (CBSFA) designations; however, we are concerned that in its current form the intent is not achievable. SB 92 threatens the research projects, activities and initiatives regarding the efficacies of CBSFAs by the researchers and professors at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa (UH Mānoa) that are considered the leaders in the field of conservation world-wide.

The research being produced at the HIMB and at the UH Mānoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources' (CTAHR) Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management, clearly demonstrated that the Hā'ena Community-based Subsistence Fishing Area is a resounding success – both from ecological and sociocultural perspectives.

In addition, this research has proven that the success of CBSFA, the reefs of Hā'ena now hold more and larger resource fishes than similar reefs outside of the CBSFA boundaries. Other research has shown that the fish from reefs of Hā'ena continue to feed not only the people of Hā'ena, but also people around the island of Kaua'i, and throughout the State of Hawaii.

We encourage this committee to defer this measure and thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 92.