REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ZONING & PLANNING

Voting Members:
Esther Kiaʻāina, Chair; Tommy Waters, Vice-Chair;
Radiant Cordero, Val A. Okimoto, Andria Tupola

Committee Meeting Held
July 16, 2026

Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair, City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Zoning & Planning, which considered Resolution 26-160 entitled:

"RESOLUTION URGING THE HAWAIʻI STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT PROHIBITS THE HARVEST OF AQUATIC LIFE FROM STATE OF HAWAIʻI MARINE WATERS FOR COMMERCIAL AQUARIUM PURPOSES,"

introduced on July 8, 2026, reports as follows:

The purpose of Resolution 26-160 is to urge the Hawaiʻi State Legislature to enact legislation that prohibits the harvest of aquatic life from State of Hawaiʻi marine waters for commercial aquarium purposes.

During the 2026 State of Hawaiʻi Legislative Session, multiple organizations supported various bills that proposed to curtail or ban the commercial harvesting of aquarium fish, including the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Earthjustice, the Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club of Hawaiʻi, Hawaiʻi Reef and Ocean Coalition, and For the Fishes. No final action was taken on any of the proposed bills.

On January 23, 2026, the Hawaiʻi County Council adopted Resolution 422-25, urging the State Legislature to prohibit the harvest of aquatic life from State marine waters for commercial aquarium purposes. On March 6, 2026, the Maui County Council passed a similar measure by adoption of Resolution 26-53.

Recently, on July 8, 2026, the Kauai County Council adopted Resolution 2026-21, which calls on the State Legislature to end commercial aquarium fish collection in State waters. The City and County of Honolulu is the only county that has not yet passed such a measure.

The Hawai'i State Legislature can be proactive by ensuring that Hawai'i has a thriving marine ecosystem, for the sake of Hawai'i's youth and future generations of Hawai'i residents.

At your Committee's meeting on July 16, 2026, there was no testimony from the City Administration.

Earthjustice, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Clean the Pacific, Friends of Hanauma Bay, For the Fishes, and three individuals testified in support of the Resolution. Hawai'i Sustainable Reef Fisheries testified in opposition to the Resolution. Two individuals offered comments on the Resolution.

Your Committee received written testimony in support of the Resolution from Sierra Club of Hawai'i, Ko'olau Foundation, Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, Free Access Coalition, Clean the Pacific, Surfrider Foundation, South Kohala Reef Alliance, Big Island Reef Keepers Hui, Friends of Hanauma Bay, 'Ohana, Biota Group, For the Fishes, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Earthjustice, Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, Animal Rights Hawai'i, alohahawaiionipaa org, Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition, HULI PAC, Biota Aquariums, EarthTrust, and 64 individuals. Your Committee received written testimony in opposition to the Resolution from Hawai'i Sustainable Reef Fisheries and 10 individuals. Kaneohe Bay Regional Council and one individual submitted comments on the Resolution.

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Your Committee on Zoning & Planning is in accord with the intent and purpose of Resolution 26-160 and recommends its adoption. (Ayes: Cordero, Kia'āina, Okimoto, Waters – 4; Noes: None; Absent: Tupola – 1.)

Respectfully submitted,

Committee Chair

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
Ke Kanihela o ke Kalana o Honolulu
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ADOPTED ON AUG 12 2026

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 211(26)