HB 2263 would provide funds to DLNR to be used for additional personnel and fiscal resources to improve enforcement of the State's fishing laws and rules.

Our statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The need for strengthening of the enforcement of fisheries laws and rules has been a topic of some discussion and concern over the past several years. Increased populations and corresponding increases in the fishing and boating activities in the State have placed an additional burden on the conservation and enforcement manpower of DLNR. It is unfortunate but true that without adequate enforcement staff, laws and regulations are of minimal effectiveness in managing natural resources. HB 2263 would appear to provide this much needed support for DLNR.