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Kihei

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Abundant Life  
Natural Foods  
Hilo

Kim Coco Iwamoto  
Enlightened Energy  
Honolulu

Chamber of  
Sustainable  
Commerce  
P.O. Box 22394  
Honolulu, HI  
96823

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary

Wednesday, February 28, 2024  
10:00 AM, Room 016 or via Videoconference

RE: **SB2575** Prohibiting Seabed Mining - **Strong Support**

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard and Committee Members,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents over 100 small businesses across the State that strive for a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity; we know Hawaii can strengthen its economy without hurting workers, consumers, communities or the environment.

This is why we are in strong support of SB2575, which prohibits the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed in all state marine waters, under certain conditions, and prohibits the issuance of any permit for or in connection with the development or operation of any facility or infrastructure associated with the mining, extraction, or removal of minerals from the seabed within state marine waters.

We depend on our oceans to absorb and store carbon, and as a result, the deep ocean is critical in the fight against climate breakdown. The ocean absorbs and stores over 90% of the excess heat and approximately 38% of the carbon dioxide generated by humanity. Risking this delicate system could have irreversible impacts on the climate.

Seabed mining poses an unacceptably high risk of further damage and disruption to the marine environment of the State, as well as to the stability of our climate system. Deep sea mining is often an extremely destructive form of mining that could damage the oceans beyond repair, threatening their ability to help fight climate change.