
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY WITH THE ADOPTION OF RULES TO REGULATE THE ORNAMENTAL REEF FISHERY INDUSTRY IN SOUTH MAUI AND KANEOHE BAY.

1 WHEREAS, the International Coral Reef Initiative has
2 designated the year 2008 as the "International Year of the
3 Reef," and various events have been scheduled throughout the
4 year that will focus on increasing awareness about the economic,
5 social, ecological, and cultural value of Hawaii's coral reefs;
6 and

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8 WHEREAS, the International Year of the Reef designation is
9 an opportunity to:

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11 (1) Bring attention to the threats that could or are
12 currently endangering the health of Hawaii's marine
13 ecosystems; and

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15 (2) Propose and take action on international and local
16 levels to mitigate or avoid these threats;

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18 and

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20 WHEREAS, the state is home to a majority of the nation's
21 coral reefs, including the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National
22 Monument established in December 2006; and

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24 WHEREAS, Hawaii's reefs are vibrant, living organisms,
25 which support over 7,000 known species of marine plants and
26 animals; and

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28 WHEREAS, the ocean and its living creatures who occupy its
29 reefs and waters held great significance and continue to hold
30 great importance in native Hawaiian culture; and



1 WHEREAS, the health of Hawaii's reefs and the ecosystems
2 associated with these reefs are an integral part to the health
3 of Hawaii's largest economic engine--the visitor industry; and
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5 WHEREAS, large volumes of ornamental reef fish, which are
6 all critical to the health of Hawaii's reefs, are being
7 collected for aquariums, including herbivores, such as yellow
8 tang and other surgeon fish, Hawaiian cleaner wrasse, and
9 butterfly fish; and
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11 WHEREAS, the collection of reef fish for aquariums are not
12 effectively regulated and enforced because it is difficult to
13 quantify the exact number of ornamental reef fish taken from the
14 state's reefs; and
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16 WHEREAS, over the past several years, the Legislature has
17 received a barrage of requests to take action on measures
18 relating to fishing rights, and the development and
19 implementation of rules regarding the regulation of taking
20 ornamental reef fish for aquarium use will assist in the
21 protection and conservation of Hawaii's reef fish and the health
22 of their fragile ecosystems; and
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24 WHEREAS, Chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides the
25 Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) with the
26 statutory authority to adopt relevant rules, and it is not the
27 Legislature's intent to supersede the rulemaking authority of
28 DLNR; and
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30 WHEREAS, the Division of Aquatic Resources of DLNR has the
31 personnel and expertise necessary to conduct the scientific
32 studies required to justify the adoption of a rule; now,
33 therefore,
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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
36 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
37 Session of 2008, that DLNR is urged to proceed immediately with
38 the adoption of rules to regulate the ornamental reef fishery
39 industry in south Maui and Kaneohe Bay; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the process of formulating
 2 rules, DLNR is requested to confer with all geographical area
 3 stakeholders, including the Aha Moku Council, Kaneohe Bay
 4 Regional Council, licensed commercial permitted aquarium
 5 fishers, non-commercial permitted aquarium fishers, commercial
 6 fishermen, recreational fishermen, commercially-licensed tour
 7 boat operators, recreational boaters, and recreational swimmers,
 8 snorkelers, and divers; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DLNR is requested to submit a
 11 report of its progress, including any proposed legislation, to
 12 the Legislature at least 20 days prior to the convening of the
 13 Regular Session of 2009; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 16 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Chairperson of the
 17 Board of Land and Natural Resources.
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OFFERED BY:

KEL

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Mele Carrall

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