
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
DETERMINE ADDITIONAL AREAS OF STATE WATERS TO BE
APPROPRIATELY DESIGNATED AS MARINE-PROTECTED AREAS.

1 WHEREAS, the waters surrounding our island state contain
2 one of the richest, most diverse marine ecosystems on the
3 planet; and
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5 WHEREAS, the replenishment and preservation of these rare
6 marine resources are of vital economic, environmental, cultural,
7 and social importance to the people of Hawaii, and are critical
8 to the preservation of the state's marine heritage for
9 residents, visitors, and future generations alike; and
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11 WHEREAS, dramatic declines in the size, number,
12 distribution, and quality of a wide variety of important and
13 desirable native marine species and habitats have been observed
14 by many members of Hawaii's fishing communities and other ocean
15 users; and
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17 WHEREAS, this decline has also been documented by various
18 public and private agencies and scientists; and
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20 WHEREAS, those who depend on healthy marine ecosystems
21 share a common, long-term interest in the vigorous replenishment
22 of fish and other marine species; and
23

24 WHEREAS, Hawaii's existing marine-protected areas, which
25 include marine life conservation districts, marine-based natural
26 area reserves, fisheries management areas, and fisheries
27 replenishment areas, serve as important conservation tools; and



1 WHEREAS, the existing marine-protected areas only
 2 constitute a small portion of the waters surrounding Hawaii,
 3 including a small portion of our valuable coral reef resources;
 4 and

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 6 WHEREAS, it is necessary for Hawaii's patchwork of marine-
 7 protected areas system to undergo a thorough review of how it
 8 may be improved, and made more effective and inclusive; now,
 9 therefore,

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 11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 12 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 13 Session of 2008, that the Department of Land and Natural
 14 Resources (DLNR) is requested to:

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 16 (1) Establish a working group consisting of
 17 representatives from both government and private
 18 agencies and organizations, who are knowledgeable or
 19 experienced in marine-protected areas; and

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 21 (2) Research, investigate, and determine additional areas
 22 of state waters that may be appropriately designated
 23 as marine-protected areas;

24
 25 and

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 27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
 28 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
 29 including proposed legislation, if any, to the Legislature no
 30 later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
 31 of 2009; and

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 33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 34 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
 35 Land and Natural Resources.

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 37
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OFFERED BY: _____

Neuman Snow

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