
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM TO AMICABLY RESOLVE THE OUTSTANDING DEBTS AND
DELINQUENCIES OF THOSE INDEBTED TO THE STATE AS A RESULT OF
LOANS TO BUILD, REPAIR, PURCHASE, RENOVATE, OR MAINTAIN A
VESSEL UNDER STATE COMMERCIAL BOAT LOAN PROGRAMS.

1 WHEREAS, in the mid-1970s, the Board of Land and Natural
2 Resources and the Department of Transportation (DOT) determined
3 that our state's commercial fishing industry was ailing and in
4 need of assistance; and

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6 WHEREAS, over the next several decades as the commercial
7 fishing industry in Hawaii continued to struggle, the State of
8 Hawaii through various programs and grants attempted to assist
9 the industry and help plan its long term rebuilding through
10 loans and grants; and

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12 WHEREAS, during that period of rapid and dramatic changes
13 in the short- and long-term plans for the Honolulu waterfront,
14 the Legislature requested DOT to recognize the accrued rights
15 and interests of existing long-time lessees and permittees in
16 the planned improvement and development of Honolulu Harbor and,
17 except for cause, to take no action to displace them until such
18 time as the Legislature had the opportunity to consider possible
19 solutions to their concerns (Act 328, Session Laws of Hawaii
20 1997 (Act 328)); and

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22 WHEREAS, Act 328 also required DOT to submit a report to
23 the 1998 Legislature that included a list of these lessees and
24 permittees, their facility and space requirements, and
25 recommendations on how they might be accommodated; and

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27 WHEREAS, in 1998, however, DOT only identified one lessee,
28 failed to address the Legislature's broader concerns, and
29 submitted no further information; and



1 WHEREAS, by that time, the economy of Hawaii had stagnated
2 and the attention of the Legislature was focused on broader
3 economic recovery issues, and neither the Legislature nor DOT
4 has since reexamined the health of the local commercial fishing
5 industry; and

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7 WHEREAS, on August 7, 2005, the owners of a local
8 commercial fishing company widely recognized as industry leaders
9 paid for a full-page newspaper statement that brought attention
10 to the plight of the local commercial fishing industry and DOT's
11 inadequate response to the Legislature's inquiry under Act 328;
12 and

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14 WHEREAS, after many years of neglect by the State, the
15 majority of owners and employees of Hawaii's commercial fishing
16 industry are no longer from Hawaii or native Hawaiian, and
17 Hawaii is in danger of becoming dependent on foreign owners and
18 workers; and

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20 WHEREAS, hampered by increasing federal and state
21 regulations, local commercial fishers are losing their place in
22 the industry to foreign and out-of-state commercial fishers who
23 do not follow the same regulations and restrictions, who are
24 increasing their dominance, and who pose a threat to the economy
25 and cultural well being of our state; and

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27 WHEREAS, increased reliance on foreign and out-of-state
28 commercial fishers can lead to the depletion of fishing stock
29 and displacement of local control over the State's food supply;
30 and

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32 WHEREAS, it is in the state's public interest to help
33 secure a locally owned, commercially viable fishing industry to
34 prevent reliance on producers and suppliers who have no
35 economic, social, or cultural ties, or sense of responsibility
36 to the people of Hawaii; and

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38 WHEREAS, over the last three decades, the State has
39 attempted to level the playing field in the commercial fishing
40 industry by sponsoring grants and low-interest loans to Hawaii-
41 based commercial fishers for, among other things, commercial
42 boat construction, with the intent to assist local commercial
43 fishers in staying "on the cutting edge" in terms of economic
44 and industry developments; and



1 WHEREAS, these programs, although well-intentioned, have
2 been mismanaged and the purpose of the loans has ultimately been
3 defeated, due in part to the lack of adequate funding, the
4 untimely payment of funding, and inadequate monitoring of
5 payment; and

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7 WHEREAS, settlement negotiations to recover \$1.1 million in
8 principal and a significant but unspecified amount in interest
9 for the nine delinquent boat loans that remain outstanding are
10 currently underway, keeping those commercial fishers in debt;
11 now, therefore,

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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
14 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
15 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Business,
16 Economic Development, and Tourism is urged to amicably resolve
17 the outstanding debts and delinquencies of those indebted to the
18 State as a result of loans to build, repair, purchase, renovate,
19 or maintain a vessel under state commercial boat loan programs;
20 and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
23 Transportation is also urged to amicably resolve the outstanding
24 debts and delinquencies currently owed by local commercial
25 fishing boat operators to the State of Hawaii for delinquent
26 mooring and docking fees; and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of
30 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, and Director of
31 Transportation.
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OFFERED BY: *Jefferson*

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