
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
REVIEW THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S BOATING SPEED
LIMIT GUIDELINE IN DESIGNATED HUMPBACK WHALE AREAS.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii enjoys ocean resources,
2 including the waters of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale
3 National Marine Sanctuary, created pursuant to the Hawaiian
4 Island National Marine Sanctuary Act, Title II, Subtitle C,
5 Public Law 102-587, often referred to as the "Whale and Marine
6 Sanctuary"; and
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8 WHEREAS, the Whale and Marine Sanctuary adjoins portions of
9 all of the Hawaiian islands of Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Molokai,
10 Hawaii, and Lanai; and
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12 WHEREAS, the waters of the Whale and Marine Sanctuary are
13 protected waters and are a critical habitat of the endangered
14 North Pacific humpback whales; and
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16 WHEREAS, critically endangered humpback whales breed,
17 calve, and nurse their young in the Whale and Marine Sanctuary;
18 and
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20 WHEREAS, there have been increasing accounts of collisions
21 with whales in the waters of the State as boating in general and
22 whale watching on boats have increased, partly due to a robust
23 visitor industry; and
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25 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources
26 currently offers boaters workshops across the State and provides
27 marine wildlife legal handbooks to educate the public on how to
28 avoid collisions with whales that injure, disfigure, and
29 sometimes kill whales in Hawaiian waters; and
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1 WHEREAS, the Department also emphasizes that humpback
2 whales are very large, weighing up to forty-five tons, and can
3 cause serious injury to boaters during a collision; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Department is also installing warning signs at
6 eleven boating facilities throughout the State; and
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8 WHEREAS, furthermore, the Department has issued guidelines
9 for whale and boater safety including:
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11 (1) Watching out for the whales' blows, fins, and tails;
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13 (2) Maintaining boat speed at thirteen knots or slower;
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15 (3) Warning other vessels of whale sightings; and
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17 (4) Not assuming that whales will naturally avoid vessels;
18 and
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20 WHEREAS, the economy of Hawaii benefits from the tourism
21 industry that, in turn, relies upon the ocean's resources,
22 including the waters within the Whale and Marine Sanctuary; now,
23 therefore,
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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
26 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
27 Session of 2007, that the Department of Land and Natural
28 Resources is requested to review the effectiveness of the
29 Department's boating speed limit guideline in designated
30 humpback whale areas; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
33 Natural Resources is requested to submit its findings and
34 recommendations, including any necessary proposed legislation,
35 to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
36 convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
3 Land and Natural Resources.
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OFFERED BY:

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MAR 14 2007

