

MAR 14 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON CERTAIN AQUATIC SURF RESOURCES
IN THE STATE INCLUDING THE COST OF FUNDING A STUDY ON THE
FEASIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTING ARTIFICIAL REEFS.

1 WHEREAS, pursuant to section 187A-2(3), Hawaii Revised
2 Statutes, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is
3 responsible for the establishment, management, and regulation of
4 artificial reefs in the waters of the State; and

5
6 WHEREAS, pursuant to section 187A-2(6), Hawaii Revised
7 Statutes, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is also
8 responsible for the gathering and compiling of information and
9 statistics concerning the habitat and character of, and increase
10 and decrease in, aquatic resources in the State; and

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12 WHEREAS, surfing is the official sport of Hawaii and Hawaii
13 is known worldwide for its excellent surfing conditions; and

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15 WHEREAS, the sport of surfing has increased in popularity
16 extensively over the last century with studies suggesting that
17 over one hundred thousand surfers live on Oahu alone, and future
18 growth of the sport is expected; and

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20 WHEREAS, most surf that is formed near shore is caused by
21 waves breaking over coral reefs; and

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23 WHEREAS, surfing areas, particularly on Oahu, are becoming
24 increasingly crowded and unsafe due to the large number of
25 people in a small area of the water; and

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27 WHEREAS, technology has increased in recent years to the
28 point where creating an artificial reef for surfing may no
29 longer be cost-prohibitive; and
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1 WHEREAS, studies of benefits associated with the
2 construction of artificial reefs for surfing at various
3 locations around the world have all shown significant benefits
4 compared to the costs; and
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6 WHEREAS, artificial reefs also provide an ideal habitat for
7 marine life, such as fish and coral to propagate and
8 proliferate, thus enhancing fish populations, marine ecosystems,
9 and recreational opportunities in the surrounding ocean area;
10 and
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12 WHEREAS, artificial reefs also reduce the harmful erosive
13 effects of storm waves on the beach, thereby protecting the
14 coastline; and
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16 WHEREAS, these artificial reefs enhance the health and
17 wellness of the community by providing the local population with
18 greater access to the sport of surfing while also reducing
19 congestion at popular surf spots; and
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21 WHEREAS, artificial reefs for surfing are usually composed
22 of submarine rock structures or highly durable mega-geobags
23 filled with sand; and
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25 WHEREAS, an area that could benefit from the installation
26 of additional artificial reefs for surfing is the Waianae
27 coastline on the island of Oahu; and
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29 WHEREAS, an area that is frequented by many recreational
30 and commercial fishing boats as well as surfers, Waianae is in
31 need of establishing additional means of maintaining and
32 hopefully increasing its fish and marine life population as well
33 as increasing its surfing opportunities; now, therefore,
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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
36 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
37 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land
38 and Natural Resources is requested to report to the Legislature,
39 not later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
40 Session of 2008, on the following:
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- 42 (1) Information and statistics concerning the character of
43 aquatic surf resources in the State; and
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1 (2) The estimated cost of a study to identify potential
2 locations for artificial reefs designed for surfing and
3 the cost of constructing such reefs; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
6 Natural Resources is requested to designate the Waianae coast on
7 the island of Oahu as its initial location for an artificial
8 reef study; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the
12 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.
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OFFERED BY: 

