

MAR 14 2007

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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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

11  
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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31 WHEREAS, studies of benefits associated with the  
32 construction of artificial reefs for surfing at various



1 locations around the world have all shown significant benefits  
2 compared to the costs; and  
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4 WHEREAS, artificial reefs also provide an ideal habitat for  
5 marine life, such as fish and coral to propagate and  
6 proliferate, thus enhancing fish populations, marine ecosystems,  
7 and recreational opportunities in the surrounding ocean area;  
8 and  
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10 WHEREAS, artificial reefs also reduce the harmful erosive  
11 effects of storm waves on the beach, thereby protecting the  
12 coastline; and  
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14 WHEREAS, these artificial reefs enhance the health and  
15 wellness of the community by providing the local population with  
16 greater access to the sport of surfing while also reducing  
17 congestion at popular surf spots; and  
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19 WHEREAS, artificial reefs for surfing are usually composed  
20 of submarine rock structures or highly durable mega-geobags  
21 filled with sand; and  
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23 WHEREAS, an area that could benefit from the installation  
24 of additional artificial reefs for surfing is the Waianae  
25 coastline on the island of Oahu; and  
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27 WHEREAS, an area that is frequented by many recreational  
28 and commercial fishing boats as well as surfers, Waianae is in  
29 need of establishing additional means of maintaining and  
30 hopefully increasing its fish and marine life population as well  
31 as increasing its surfing opportunities; now, therefore,  
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,  
35 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested  
36 to report to the Legislature, not later than twenty days prior  
37 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2008, on the  
38 following:  
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- 40 (1) Information and statistics concerning the character of  
41 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 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the Chairperson of  
12 the Board of Land and Natural Resources.  
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OFFERED BY: 

