
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AQUATIC RESOURCES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that over the past ten
2 years, the department of land and natural resources has adopted
3 rules concerning the protection and propagation of introduced
4 and transplanted aquatic life, and the conservation and
5 allocation of the natural supply of aquatic life that have
6 greatly diminished the public's ability to utilize Hawaii's
7 aquatic resources. In some instances, the public has criticized
8 the department of land and natural resources for setting bottom
9 fish area closures, shoreline access boundaries, and other
10 fishing restrictions in an arbitrary manner without scientific
11 evidence to support the department of land and natural
12 resource's position.

13 The legislature further finds that the responsibility of
14 protecting our limited natural resources must be balanced with
15 the equally important responsibility of ensuring the public's
16 reasonable use of these resources.



1 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
2 land and natural resources to review its rules and to determine
3 whether the rules have achieved their intended purpose.

4 SECTION 2. (a) The department of land and natural
5 resources shall:

6 (1) Review each rule adopted after January 1, 2008,
7 pursuant to chapters 187A and 188, Hawaii Revised
8 Statutes, concerning the protection and propagation of
9 introduced and transplanted aquatic life or the
10 conservation and allocation of the natural supply of
11 aquatic life in any area, including rules that
12 establish size limits, bag limits, open and closed
13 fishing seasons, specifications and numbers of fishing
14 or taking gear that may be possessed, or that restrict
15 public access to the natural supply of aquatic life;
16 and

17 (2) Determine whether each rule has achieved its intended
18 purpose.

19 (b) The department of land and natural resources shall
20 submit a report, including an analysis of whether the rules have
21 achieved their intended purposes and the impact of the rules on
22 user groups, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior



1 to the convening of the 2009 regular session, and every three
2 years thereafter. The department of land and natural resources
3 may include the report as part of its annual report to the
4 legislature.

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval
6 and shall be repealed on December 31, 2020.

7

INTRODUCED BY: 

JAN 18 2008



Report Title:

Fishing Rights and Regulations

Description:

Requires the department of land and natural resources to: review each rule adopted after 01/1/08, concerning the protection and propagation of certain aquatic life or the conservation and allocation of the natural supply of aquatic life; determine whether the rule has achieved its intended purpose; and submit a report. Sunsets on 12/31/20.

