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## 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 the aquatic  
2 resources of Hawaii are in danger. The replenishment and  
3 conservation of these resources are vital to the economic,  
4 cultural, environmental, health, and social well-being of the  
5 State's residents, visitors, and future generations. In  
6 addition, the State's marine ecosystems are vital to global  
7 biodiversity. The legislature further finds that negative  
8 impacts on the size, number, distribution, diversity, and  
9 quality of important marine species and habitats may be reversed  
10 by assessing and mitigating activities that affect the marine  
11 ecosystem. The legislature further finds that the department of  
12 land and natural resources has done extensive studies to assess  
13 the effects of fishing on the marine resources, but has done  
14 little to investigate and assess the impacts of development,  
15 shore-based activities, and non-fishing activities on aquatic  
16 ecosystems, despite its clear statutory mandate to do so under  
17 section 187A-2(6), Hawaii Revised Statutes.



1           The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
2 land and natural resources to provide a comprehensive report on  
3 the status of the State's marine ecosystems.

4           SECTION 2. The department of land and natural resources  
5 shall compile a report that contains information and data on the  
6 following:

- 7           (1) The current character of the State's aquatic  
8           ecosystem;
- 9           (2) Impacts on the aquatic ecosystem from development,  
10           including shore-based activities and non-fishing  
11           activities;
- 12           (3) Impacts on the State's fishery resources from  
13           development; and
- 14           (4) Proposed actions to mitigate impacts on aquatic  
15           ecosystems, including anticipated results, a scheduled  
16           evaluation process, and strategies to assess  
17           effectiveness.

18           SECTION 3. The department of land and natural resources  
19 shall submit an interim report to the legislature no later than  
20 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of  
21 2009, and shall submit a final report on its findings and  
22 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the



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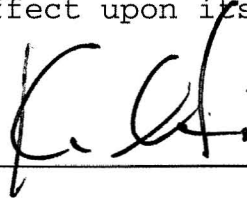
1 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
2 the regular session of 2010. The final report shall include:

- 3 (1) An analysis of the impacts and benefits of the  
4 recommendations;
- 5 (2) A record of stakeholders' assistance and input; and
- 6 (3) The supporting rationale and data for the proposed  
7 recommendations.

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



JAN 23 2008



**Report Title:**

Aquatic Resources

**Description:**

Requires the department of land and natural resources to assess and report the status of Hawaii's aquatic resources.

