
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 effects 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.

12 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
13 land and natural resources to provide a comprehensive report on
14 the status of the state's marine ecosystems.

15 SECTION 2. The department of land and natural resources
16 shall compile a report that contains information and data on the
17 following:



- 1 (1) The current character of the state's aquatic
2 ecosystem;
- 3 (2) Effects on the aquatic ecosystems and fishery
4 resources of the state from:
- 5 (A) Development, including shore-based activities and
6 non-fishing activities;
- 7 (B) Alien species;
- 8 (C) Runoff and sedimentation;
- 9 (D) Harvesting of marine organisms;
- 10 (E) Pollution;
- 11 (F) Fresh water inputs; and
- 12 (G) Other relevant sources and activities;
- 13 (3) Proposed actions to mitigate effects on aquatic
14 ecosystems, including anticipated results, a scheduled
15 evaluation process, and strategies to assess
16 effectiveness; and
- 17 (4) Relevant material from resources, including the
18 national "State of the Coral Reef Ecosystems for the
19 United States and Pacific Freely Associated States,"
20 the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric
21 Administration Coral Program, Hawaii grants and
22 relevant funded projects (Hawaii Local Action



1 Strategies - Plans and Projects), the Hawaii
2 Conservation Alliance proceedings, the health
3 condition of Hawaii's resources annual report, and the
4 Hawaii Ocean Resources Management Plan priority areas
5 progress reports.

6 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for a
9 comprehensive report on the status of the state's aquatic
10 resources; provided that the appropriation may be used to
11 contract for relevant expertise to perform the study.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
13 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 4. The department of land and natural resources
15 shall submit an interim report to the legislature no later than
16 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
17 2009, and shall submit a final report on its findings and
18 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
19 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
20 the regular session of 2012. The final report shall include:

21 (1) An analysis of the effects and benefits of the
22 recommendations;



- 1 (2) A record of stakeholders' assistance and input; and
- 2 (3) The supporting rationale and data for the proposed
- 3 recommendations.

4 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;

5 provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2008.



Report Title:

Aquatic Resources

Description:

Requires the department of land and natural resources to assess and report the status of Hawaii's marine ecosystems. (HB3391 HD1)

