
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ISLAND OF NI'HAU

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the island of Ni'ihau
2 occupies a vulnerable position in the Hawaiian Island chain. As
3 the last bastion of native Hawaiian fishers, Hawaiian cultural
4 practitioners, and native speakers of the Hawaiian language,
5 Ni'ihau stands to lose much if it is not properly protected.

6 The legislature further finds that the public shore access
7 and domain on Ni'ihau up to the vegetation mark exacerbates
8 Ni'ihau's vulnerability. Recreational beachgoers and fishers
9 abuse the right to access Ni'ihau's precious shores, often
10 leaving behind their debris; fishing gear; and, at times, even
11 their personal excrement. These senseless infractions have
12 caused Ni'ihau's residents to worry about their onshore and
13 offshore resources, and many residents feel unsafe because they
14 maintain an open-door policy.

15 The purpose of this Act is to designate Ni'ihau as a
16 community based subsistence fishing area.




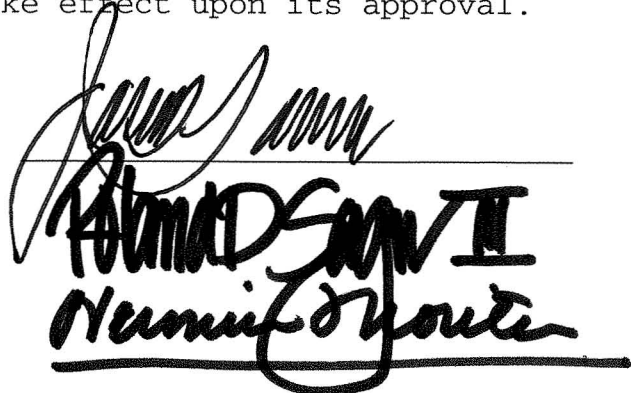
1 SECTION 2. The island of Ni'ihau fisheries management area,
 2 as defined in the administrative rules of the department of land
 3 and natural resources, shall be designated a community based
 4 subsistence fishing area, as provided in section 188-22.6,
 5 Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). The department of land and
 6 natural resources, in consultation with the 'aha moku council,
 7 shall adopt management strategies and other rules consistent
 8 with section 188-22.6, HRS, that:

- 9 (1) Ensure a long-term sustainable population of fish and
 10 other marine species;
- 11 (2) Develop management strategies for onshore and offshore
 12 recreational activities within the fisheries
 13 management area; and
- 14 (3) Provide an enforcement officer position within the
 15 division of conservation and resources enforcement,
 16 department of land and natural resources, to protect
 17 the island of Ni'ihau fisheries management area.

18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:


Report Title:

Island of Ni'ihau; Community based subsistence fishing area

Description:

Establishes the island of Ni'ihau as a community based subsistence fishing area.

