
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ISLAND OF NI'IHOU

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the island of Ni'ihou
2 occupies a vulnerable position in the Hawaiian island chain and
3 is a sanctuary where the residents are able to live and practice
4 their native Hawaiian culture and speak their native Hawaiian
5 language. Much of Ni'ihou's environment remains pristine and
6 scenic.

7 Recreational beachgoers and fishers abuse the right to
8 access Ni'ihou's precious shores, often leaving behind their
9 fishing gear, opala, and other debris. Ni'ihou is an island
10 with both cultural and natural treasures that must be protected.
11 Effective and prudent management from Ni'ihou's land-based,
12 shoreline, and marine resources must be in place while allowing
13 the residents to continue their cultural practices.

14 The purpose of this Act is to institute a conservation
15 ethic and cultural use of Ni'ihou's precious resources by
16 designating the waters surrounding the island of Ni'ihou as a
17 marine life conservation district.



1 SECTION 2. The waters surrounding the island of Ni'ihau, as
2 defined in the administrative rules of the department of land
3 and natural resources, shall be designated a marine life
4 conservation district, pursuant to chapter 190, Hawaii Revised
5 Statutes. The department of land and natural resources, in
6 consultation with the 'aha kiolo advisory committee, and when
7 established, the 'aha moku council, shall adopt rules that:

- 8 (1) Restrict all forms of thrill craft, including jet
9 skis, and tour boat activities in the marine life
10 conservation district;
- 11 (2) Permit all current forms of fishing as provided by
12 statute within the marine life conservation district;
13 and
- 14 (3) Permit, restrict, or condition other activities,
15 including allowing exceptions to the conservation
16 district and other rules and prohibitions consistent
17 with sections 190-3 and 190-4, Hawaii Revised
18 Statutes.

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



Report Title:

Island of Niihau; Marine life conservation district

Description:

Establishes the waters surrounding the island of Niihau as a marine life conservation district. Requires DLNR to adopt rules in conjunction with the Ahi Kiolo Advisory Committee and Ahu Moku Council. (HB3440 HD2)

