

JAN 23 2008

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO DEVELOP
AND ADOPT ADMINISTRATIVE RULES REGARDING THE CREATION AND
ENFORCEMENT OF BAG LIMITS FOR ORNAMENTAL REEF FISH.

1 WHEREAS, the International Coral Reef Initiative has
2 designated the year 2008 as the International Year of the Reef;
3 and
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5 WHEREAS, various events are scheduled throughout the year
6 to commemorate the International Year of the Reef that will
7 focus on increasing awareness about the economic, social,
8 ecological, and cultural value of Hawaii's coral reefs; and
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10 WHEREAS, the International Year of the Reef designation is
11 an opportunity to bring attention to the threats that could or
12 are currently endangering the health of Hawaii's marine
13 ecosystems and propose and take action on international and
14 local levels to mitigate or avoid these threats; and
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16 WHEREAS, the State is home to a majority of the nation's
17 coral reefs, including the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National
18 Monument established in December 2006; and
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20 WHEREAS, Hawaii's reefs are vibrant, living organisms,
21 which support over seven thousand known species of marine plants
22 and animals; and
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24 WHEREAS, the ocean and its living creatures who occupy its
25 reefs and waters held great significance and continue to hold
26 great importance in Native Hawaiian culture; and
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28 WHEREAS, the health of Hawaii's reefs and the ecosystems
29 associated with these reefs are an integral part to the health
30 of Hawaii's largest economic engine - the visitor industry; and
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1 WHEREAS, large volumes of ornamental reef fish, which are
2 all critical to the health of Hawaii's reefs, are being
3 collected for aquariums, including herbivores such as yellow
4 tang and other surgeon fish, Hawaiian cleaner wrasse, and
5 butterfly fish; and
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7 WHEREAS, the collection of reef fish for aquariums are not
8 effectively regulated and enforced as it is difficult to
9 quantify the exact number of ornamental reef fish taken from the
10 State's reefs; and
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12 WHEREAS, the development and implementation of rules
13 regarding the regulation of taking ornamental reef fish for
14 aquarium use will assist in the protection and conservation of
15 Hawaii's reef fish and the health of their delicate ecosystems;
16 now, therefore,
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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
19 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
20 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land
21 and Natural Resources is urged to develop and adopt
22 administrative rules regarding the collection of ornamental reef
23 fish for aquarium use from Hawaii's reefs; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
26 Natural Resources develop and adopt administrative rules, which
27 will place appropriate and reasonable limits on the collection
28 of ornamental reef fish, including bag limits to aid in the
29 restoration and preservation of reef fish in Hawaii's waters;
30 and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; the
34 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; the
35 Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; the
36 Administrator of the Division of Aquatic Resources; the
37 Administrator of the Division of Conservation and Enforcement;
38 the Administrator of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; the Mayor,
39 City and County of Honolulu; the Mayor, County of Hawaii; the
40 Mayor, Maui County; the Mayor, Kauai County; the City Council
41 Chairperson of the Honolulu City Council; the County Council
42 Chairperson of the Hawaii County Council; the County Council
43 Chairperson of the Maui County Council; the County Council



S.C.R. NO. 17

1 Chairperson of the Kauai County Council; and the President and
2 Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

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OFFERED BY: Reedley H Baker
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