

JAN 23 2008

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

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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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32           WHEREAS, large volumes of ornamental reef fish, which are  
33 all critical to the health of Hawaii's reefs, are being  
34 collected for aquariums, including herbivores such as yellow



1 tang and other surgeon fish, Hawaiian cleaner wrasse, and  
2 butterfly fish; and

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4 WHEREAS, the collection of reef fish for aquariums are not  
5 effectively regulated and enforced as it is difficult to  
6 quantify the exact number of ornamental reef fish taken from the  
7 State's reefs; and

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9 WHEREAS, the development and implementation of rules  
10 regarding the regulation of taking ornamental reef fish for  
11 aquarium use will assist in the protection and conservation of  
12 Hawaii's reef fish and the health of their delicate ecosystems;  
13 now, therefore,

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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,  
17 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is urged to  
18 develop and adopt administrative rules regarding the collection  
19 of ornamental reef fish for aquarium use from Hawaii's reefs;  
20 and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
23 Natural Resources develop and adopt administrative rules, which  
24 will place appropriate and reasonable limits on the collection  
25 of ornamental reef fish, including bag limits to aid in the  
26 restoration and preservation of reef fish in Hawaii's waters;  
27 and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
30 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; the Chairperson of  
31 the Board of Land and Natural Resources; the Director of  
32 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; the Administrator  
33 of the Division of Aquatic Resources; the Administrator of the  
34 Division of Conservation and Enforcement; the Administrator of  
35 the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; the Mayor, City and County of  
36 Honolulu; the Mayor, County of Hawaii; the Mayor, Maui County;  
37 the Mayor, Kauai County; the City Council Chairperson of the  
38 Honolulu City Council; the County Council Chairperson of the  
39 Hawaii County Council; the County Council Chairperson of the  
40 Maui County Council; the County Council Chairperson of the Kauai



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1 County Council; and the President and Chief Executive Officer of  
2 the Hawaii Tourism Authority.  
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OFFERED BY:

Rosalyn H Baker  
Clarence K. Mikihera  
Franne Chun Oalland  
John L. C.  
Will Eyo  
A. O. E. E. E.  
S. S. T. I.

