
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
REPORT, "THE CORAL REEF OF SOUTH MOLOKAI, HAWAII: PORTRAIT
OF A SEDIMENT THREATENED FRINGING REEF", AND ENCOURAGING
FEDERAL, STATE, AND COMMUNITY COOPERATION TO STEWARD THE
SOUTH MOLOKAI REEF FISHERY.

1 WHEREAS, in ancient times the island of Moloka'i was known
2 for producing abundant quantities of food and was known as
3 "'Aina Momona", meaning "abundant land"; and
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5 WHEREAS, the people of Moloka'i maintained a sustainable
6 and self-sufficient food supply for over one thousand years; and
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8 WHEREAS, the island of Moloka'i's unique east-west
9 configuration and its south shore's protection from prevailing
10 ocean swells have led to the establishment and continued growth
11 of Hawai'i's largest fringing coral reef, known as the South
12 Moloka'i Reef; and
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14 WHEREAS, the South Moloka'i Reef has been a key food
15 producing resource that includes more than fifty traditional
16 Hawaiian fishponds that sustain the enduring fishing traditions
17 of the people of Moloka'i; and
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19 WHEREAS, modernization and abandonment of traditional
20 resource management have led to a severe decline of Moloka'i's
21 fisheries; and
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23 WHEREAS, a century of cattle grazing, goat foraging, and
24 other land-use practices have caused severe sedimentation that
25 has negatively impacted the South Moloka'i Reef; and
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27 WHEREAS, in 1999, the United States Geological Survey began
28 an in-depth study of the sedimentation crisis on the South
29 Moloka'i Reef, including deployment of innovative quantitative



1 measurement-and-analysis techniques that culminated in the 2008
2 publication of, "The Coral Reef of South Moloka'i, Hawai'i:
3 Portrait of a Sediment-Threatened Fringing Reef"; and
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5 WHEREAS, the President of the Global Coral Reef Alliance
6 said the United States Geological Survey report on the South
7 Moloka'i Reef provides "a level of documentation and insight
8 that has never been available for any reef before"; and
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10 WHEREAS, the United States Geological Survey report states
11 that the South Moloka'i Reef has "major significance in terms of
12 its intrinsic beauty, biodiversity, cultural importance, and as
13 a local food resource," that it is "longer, more continuous, and
14 has denser coral cover than reefs at any of the other (main
15 Hawaiian) islands," and that "this alone makes it a state and
16 national treasure worthy of study and protection"; and
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18 WHEREAS, the report also stated that sediment run-off from
19 the mauka lands "inhibits or prevents coral growth (on the
20 reef)" and is a "first order cause of reef degradation"; and
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22 WHEREAS, the report concluded that "there is encouraging
23 evidence that, with enough will and local support, the condition
24 of the reef can improve"; and
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26 WHEREAS, multiple community planning documents produced by
27 the people of Moloka'i, including, most recently, "Molokai:
28 Future of a Hawaiian Island," have consistently declared that
29 protection of the South Moloka'i Reef and mitigation of land-
30 based sedimentation are important priorities of the island
31 community; now, therefore,
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
34 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
35 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature expresses
36 support for the United States Geological Survey report, "The
37 Coral Reef of South Moloka'i, Hawai'i: Portrait of a Sediment-
38 Threatened Fringing Reef", and its conclusion that the overall
39 condition of the South Moloka'i Reef can be improved; and
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state and federal agencies are
42 encouraged to recognize and support the conclusions of the
43 United States Geological Survey report, "The Coral Reef of South



1 Moloka'i, Hawai'i: Portrait of a Sediment-Threatened Fringing
2 Reef"; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature recognizes and
5 supports community-based efforts to steward the South Moloka'i
6 Reef fishery for continued sustainable use, beginning with a
7 systematic restoration and reforestation of mauka lands; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature expresses
10 support for the use of the scientific findings in the United
11 States Geological Survey report, "The Coral Reef of South
12 Moloka'i, Hawai'i: Portrait of a Sediment-Threatened Fringing
13 Reef", and traditional Hawaiian conservation practices to
14 preserve the health of the South Moloka'i Reef; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature expresses its
17 appreciation for the efforts of the United States Geological
18 Survey scientists, researchers, and others for their innovative
19 study of the South Moloka'i Reef for over a decade; and

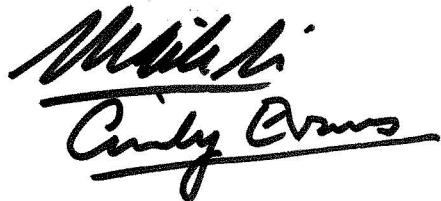
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Mayor
23 of Maui County, and the Director of the United States Geological
24 Survey.

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OFFERED BY:





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