
HOUSE 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
30 measurement-and-analysis techniques that culminated in the 2008
31 publication of, "The Coral Reef of South Moloka`i, Hawai`i:
32 Portrait of a Sediment-Threatened Fringing Reef"; and



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WHEREAS, the President of the Global Coral Reef Alliance said the United States Geological Survey report on the South Moloka'i Reef provides "a level of documentation and insight that has never been available for any reef before"; and

WHEREAS, the United States Geological Survey report states that the South Moloka'i Reef has "major significance in terms of its intrinsic beauty, biodiversity, cultural importance, and as a local food resource," that it is "longer, more continuous, and has denser coral cover than reefs at any of the other (main Hawaiian) islands," and that "this alone makes it a state and national treasure worthy of study and protection"; and

WHEREAS, the report also stated that sediment run-off from the mauka lands "inhibits or prevents coral growth (on the reef)" and is a "first order cause of reef degradation"; and

WHEREAS, the report concluded that "there is encouraging evidence that, with enough will and local support, the condition of the reef can improve"; and

WHEREAS, multiple community planning documents produced by the people of Moloka'i, including, most recently, "Molokai: Future of a Hawaiian Island," have consistently declared that protection of the South Moloka'i Reef and mitigation of land-based sedimentation are important priorities of the island community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, that this body expresses support for the United States Geological Survey report, "The Coral Reef of South Moloka'i, Hawai'i: Portrait of a Sediment-Threatened Fringing Reef", and its conclusion that the overall condition of the South Moloka'i Reef can be improved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state and federal agencies are encouraged to recognize and support the conclusions of the United States Geological Survey report, "The Coral Reef of South Moloka'i, Hawai'i: Portrait of a Sediment-Threatened Fringing Reef"; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body recognizes and
 2 supports community-based efforts to steward the South Moloka'i
 3 Reef fishery for continued sustainable use, beginning with a
 4 systematic restoration and reforestation of mauka lands; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body expresses support for
 7 the use of the scientific findings in the United States
 8 Geological Survey report, "The Coral Reef of South Moloka'i,
 9 Hawai'i: Portrait of a Sediment-Threatened Fringing Reef", and
 10 traditional Hawaiian conservation practices to preserve the
 11 health of the South Moloka'i Reef; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body expresses its
 14 appreciation for the efforts of the United States Geological
 15 Survey scientists, researchers, and others for their innovative
 16 study of the South Moloka'i Reef for over a decade; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 19 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Mayor of Maui
 20 County, and the Director of the United States Geological Survey.
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OFFERED BY: Wale Carrall

Meliki
Cindy Evans

MAR 17 2009

