
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING COMMERCIAL TOUR OPERATORS TO STOP RELEASING RAW SEWAGE
WITHIN THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS HUMPBACK WHALE NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARY, AND REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND
NATURAL RESOURCES TO ADOPT RULES PROHIBITING THE DUMPING OF
RAW SEWAGE WITHIN THE SANCTUARY AND ENSURE THE HARBORS ARE
EQUIPPED WITH PROPER PUMP OUT FACILITIES.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's marine waters are vitally important not
2 only as a resource for the people of Hawaii but also for the
3 health of the tourism industry and the state economy in general;
4 and

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6 WHEREAS, the welfare of both the state's unique marine
7 resources and its tourism industry is a priority for both the
8 State as well as the tour boat industry; and

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10 WHEREAS, it is common practice for commercial tour boat
11 operators to release raw sewage and other waste matter three
12 miles or more offshore, as allowed by federal maritime laws; and

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14 WHEREAS, this sewage and waste matter contains toxins such
15 as formaldehyde, ammonium chloride, and zinc sulfate, in a
16 highly concentrated form, and can cause illnesses, such as
17 hepatitis, typhoid, cholera, dysentery, gastroenteritis, and
18 staphylococcus; and

19
20 WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of the role the
21 Hawaiian islands play in the preservation and long-term vitality
22 of the endangered humpback whale, the Hawaiian Islands Humpback
23 Whale National Marine Sanctuary (Sanctuary) was established in
24 1992 for the protection of the ecological habitat necessary for
25 the recovery of this protected species; and

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27 WHEREAS, a portion of the Sanctuary is located within the
28 permitted dumping area; and

29



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1 WHEREAS, some socially and environmentally conscious tour
 2 boat operators have taken the initiative to hire the service of
 3 a private pump company to pump out their wastewater systems
 4 onshore; and
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6 WHEREAS, all tour boat operators should follow their lead
 7 and cease releasing raw sewage within or near the Sanctuary; and
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9 WHEREAS, state harbors must be properly equipped with
 10 pumping facilities that are necessary for the tour boat
 11 operators to pump out their wastewater systems; now, therefore,
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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 14 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 15 of 2009, that all commercial tour boat operators are urged to
 16 cease releasing raw sewage within the Hawaiian Islands Humpback
 17 Whale National Marine Sanctuary; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
 20 Natural Resources (DLNR) is requested to adopt rules prohibiting
 21 the dumping of raw sewage within or near the Hawaiian Islands
 22 Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, including enforcement
 23 provisions; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DLNR is also requested to
 26 ensure the construction and installation of adequate pump out
 27 facilities at all state harbors for compliance with sewage
 28 dumping prohibitions; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 31 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
 32 Land and Natural Resources.
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 34
 35

OFFERED BY:

Jim Smith

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John E. ...
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