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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT RULES TO PROHIBIT THE  
DUMPING OF RAW SEWAGE WITHIN THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS HUMPBACK  
WHALE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY.

1           WHEREAS, our ocean ecosystems represent a precious natural  
2 resource for our state, providing a unique and wondrous  
3 attraction for both residents and visitors; and  
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5           WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of the role the  
6 Hawaiian islands play in the preservation and long-term vitality  
7 of the endangered humpback whale, the Hawaiian Islands Humpback  
8 Whale National Marine Sanctuary (Sanctuary) was established in  
9 1992 for the protection of the ecological habitat necessary for  
10 the recovery of this protected species; and  
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12           WHEREAS, the Sanctuary is also home to other endangered and  
13 protected species such as green sea turtles, hawksbill sea  
14 turtles, and monk seals; and  
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16           WHEREAS, the condition of Hawaii's marine waters and its  
17 environment are vitally important not only as a resource for the  
18 people of Hawaii, but also for the health of the tourism  
19 industry and the state economy in general; and  
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21           WHEREAS, unfortunately, there have been increasing numbers  
22 of complaints from residents and visitors alike regarding the  
23 practice of tour boat operators dumping concentrated human  
24 sewage into the waters of the Sanctuary; and  
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26           WHEREAS, the County Council of Maui has responded to this  
27 problem by adopting Resolution No. 06-10 in February of 2006  
28 stating that "...it is imperative that dumping of raw sewage and  
29 chemical contaminants into our ocean cease immediately, and that  
30 our precious marine ecosystem, which our residents and tourist  
31 industry cherish and depend on, be protected..."; and



1 WHEREAS, mobile, dock-side "pumper" trucks are available at  
2 certain harbors; and  
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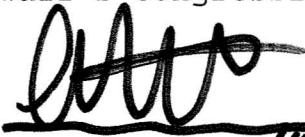
4 WHEREAS, the State has provided permanent facilities for  
5 sewage handling at other harbors in or adjacent to the Sanctuary  
6 and has prohibited dumping of most vessel sewage within state  
7 waters; and  
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9 WHEREAS, the federal government can and should prohibit the  
10 dumping of sewage in the waters of the Sanctuary by rule-making,  
11 pursuant to the enabling legislation authorizing and creating  
12 the Sanctuary (The National Marine Sanctuaries Act, 16 U.S.C.  
13 1431 et seq., as amended, and the Hawaii Islands National Marine  
14 Sanctuary and Protection Act subtitle C, title II, Pub. L. 102-  
15 587, as amended); now, therefore,  
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
18 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
19 of 2009, that the federal government is urged to prohibit  
20 dumping of vessel sewage within the boundaries of the Sanctuary  
21 by adopting rules pursuant to the enabling legislation  
22 authorizing and creating the Sanctuary; and  
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
25 Natural Resources and other state agencies and personnel,  
26 including the State Co-Manager of the Sanctuary, are requested  
27 to cooperate with, assist, and encourage efforts to prohibit  
28 dumping of vessel sewage within the boundaries of the Sanctuary;  
29 and  
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
32 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of  
33 Commerce, Director of the National Marine Sanctuary Program,  
34 State Co-Manager of the Sanctuary, Hawaiian Islands Humpback  
35 Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, Chairperson of  
36 the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and members of  
37 Hawaii's congressional delegation.  
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OFFERED BY:

