

---

---

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FISHING.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. In recent years, the number of uhu and goatfish  
2 found on reefs surrounding the island of Maui has declined. The  
3 popularity of uhu and goatfish as food fish has led to over-  
4 harvesting on the island of Maui and has made harvesting these  
5 fish for food difficult.

6           There are eight species of uhu (family *Scaridae*) in  
7 Hawaii. Also known as parrotfish, once commonly found on reefs  
8 surrounding Maui, uhu is the most prolific contributor of sand  
9 production of all Hawaiian reef fishes.

10          The redlip uhu (*Scarus rubroviolaceus*), also known as "uhu  
11 palukaluka", the stareye uhu (*Calotomus carolinus*), also known  
12 as "ponuhunu", the spectacled uhu (*Chlorurus perspicillatus*),  
13 also known as "uhu uliuli" (male) and "uhu'ahu'ula" (female) are  
14 the preferred species for eating.

15          There are also five other types of uhu, the yellowbar uhu  
16 (*Calotomus zonarchus*), the bullethead uhu (*Chlorurus sordidus*),  
17 regal uhu (*Scarus dubius*), spinytooth uhu (*Calotomus spinidens*)



1 and the palenose uhu (*Scarus psittacus*). The spectacled,  
2 yellowbar, and regal uhus are endemic to Hawaii.

3       There are several species of goatfish (family *Mullidae*) in  
4 Hawaii. The three species most sought after as food fish are  
5 the white saddle goatfish (*Parupeneus porphyreus*), also known as  
6 kumu, the blue goatfish (*Parupeneus cyclostomus*), also known as  
7 moano ukali and the double bar goatfish (*Parupeneus bifasciatus*)  
8 also known as munu, commonly found on reefs surrounding Maui.  
9 This family of fish is highly prized as a food fish and  
10 cherished by many ethnic cultures.

11       Although uhu can be harvested year-round, the regal uhu,  
12 palenose uhu, redlip uhu, bullethead uhu and the spectacled uhu,  
13 require a minimum length of twelve inches by measure of fork  
14 length (the distance from the fish's mouth or snout to the fork  
15 of the tail) to be legally harvested in Hawaii. Although kumu  
16 can be harvested year-round, the white saddle goatfish must have  
17 a minimum length of ten inches by measure of fork length to be  
18 legally harvested in Hawaii. The moano ukali and munu are  
19 unregulated species and currently have no size restrictions.

20       The purpose of this Act is to require a bag limit for uhu  
21 and goatfish to no more than two each of uhu, kumu, moano ukali,



1 and munu per person, per day, for recreational, subsistence, or  
2 commercial purposes on the island of Maui.

3 The Act also provides for exemptions and creates minimum  
4 size limits for all species of uhu, kumu, moano ukali, and munu.

5 SECTION 2. Chapter 188, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
6 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
7 and to read as follows:

8 "§188- Uhu; goatfish; bag limit. (a) It shall be  
9 unlawful for any person to take, possess, or sell more than two  
10 of each of the following species of goatfish:

11 (1) Kumu;

12 (2) Moano ukali; and

13 (3) Munu,

14 per day on Maui; provided that a commercial marine dealer may  
15 possess and sell more than two kumu, two moano ukali, and two  
16 munu, with receipts issued for the purchase pursuant to section  
17 189-11.

18 (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to take, possess,  
19 or sell any kumu, moano ukali, or munu less than ten inches in  
20 length on Maui.

21 (c) It shall be unlawful for any person to take, possess,  
22 or sell more than two uhu per day on Maui; provided that a



1 commercial marine dealer may possess and sell more than two uhu  
2 with receipts issued for the purchase pursuant to section  
3 189-11.

4 (d) It shall be unlawful for any person to take, possess,  
5 or sell any uhu less than twelve inches in length on Maui.

6 (e) As used in this section:

7 "Goatfish" means the species of the family Mullidae that  
8 includes the kumu, munu, and moano ukali.

9 "Kumu" means any fish known as *Parupeneus porphyreus* or any  
10 recognized synonym.

11 "Length" means the straight line measurement from the tip  
12 of the snout to the middle of the trailing edge of the tail.

13 "Maui" means the entire island of Maui, including its state  
14 marine waters.

15 "Moano ukali" means any fish known as *Parupeneus*  
16 *cyclostomus* or any recognized synonym.

17 "Munu" means any fish known as *Parupeneus bifasciatus* or  
18 any recognized synonym.

19 "Sell" means, with respect to uhu and goatfish, to:

20 (1) Solicit and receive an order for;

21 (2) Have, keep, offer, or expose for sale;



1       (3) Deliver for value or in any other way than purely  
2           gratuitously;

3       (4) Peddle;

4       (5) Keep with the intent to sell; or

5       (6) Traffic in the sale of.

6       "Take" means to fish for, catch, capture, confine, or  
7 harvest, or to attempt to fish for, catch, capture, confine, or  
8 harvest aquatic life. The use of any gear, equipment, tool, or  
9 any means to fish for, catch, capture, confine, or harvest or to  
10 attempt to fish for, catch, capture, confine, or harvest  
11 aquatic life by any person who is in the water, or in a vessel  
12 on the water, or on or about the shore where aquatic life can be  
13 fished for, caught, captured, confined, or harvested, shall be  
14 construed as taking.

15       "Uhu" means any fish known as *Scarus rubroviolaceus*,  
16 *Chlorurus sordidus*, *Chlorurus perspicillatus*, *Scarus dubius*,  
17 *Scarus psittacus*, *Calotomus spinidens*, *Calotomus zonarchus*, or  
18 *Calotomus carolinus*, or any recognized synonym."

19       SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

20       SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval  
21 and shall be repealed on the effective date of comparable



1 administrative rules adopted by the department of land and  
2 natural resources.

3

INTRODUCED BY:

Mele Carroll  
Shah

JAN 26 2009



**Report Title:**

Goatfish and Uhu Bag Limit

**Description:**

Creates a bag limit and size limit for uhu and goatfish on Maui.

