
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY AND CREATE A REGIONAL OCEAN PLANNING BOARD IN HAWAII, AND REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROVIDE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY THROUGHOUT THE PACIFIC REGION.

1 WHEREAS, federal agencies, including the Environmental
2 Protection Agency, the United States Army Corps of Engineers,
3 the Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation
4 Service, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Fish
5 and Wildlife Service, the National Parks Service, and the
6 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, currently
7 administer over one hundred forty laws affecting the nation's
8 fresh and salt water resources with little coordination among
9 them; and

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11 WHEREAS, the lack of coordination between federal agencies
12 creates confusion that could result in policies and actions that
13 may harm the overall health of Hawaii's island ecosystems and
14 oceans; and

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16 WHEREAS, the increasing demands on ocean resources threaten
17 the fragile health of marine ecosystems; and

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19 WHEREAS, if ocean policies are poorly planned or managed,
20 prime fishing grounds may be irreparably harmed and fishing
21 access may be threatened; and

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23 WHEREAS, poor ocean resource planning may also cause ocean
24 recreation, developing aquaculture facilities, and emerging
25 wind, wave, and tidal energy facilities to come into spatial
26 conflict; and

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28 WHEREAS, President Barack Obama assembled an Interagency
29 Ocean Policy Task Force to recommend a comprehensive policy to



1 protect and restore the oceans, Great Lakes, and Pacific island
2 ecosystems; and

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4 WHEREAS, a public meeting was held in Honolulu in September
5 2009 at which over three hundred individuals voiced their
6 approval of a regional process and supported extending the
7 overarching efforts to all aquatic ecosystems and federal
8 agencies that monitor and protect them; and

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10 WHEREAS, hundreds of invasive species damage reef
11 ecosystems, costing hundreds of millions of dollars per year in
12 lost tourism and fish replenishment; and

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14 WHEREAS, bottom-dwelling invasive fish that out-compete
15 native sport fish for food, degradation of wetland areas, and
16 harmful algae blooms all harm the State's recreational and sport
17 fishing industry; and

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19 WHEREAS, with restoration efforts providing a short-term
20 economic boost, the revitalization of traditional, cultural, and
21 commercial activities like fishing and tourism would provide
22 long-term dividends for the future of the State; now, therefore,

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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
26 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature requests
27 President Barack Obama to establish, by executive order, a
28 national policy to protect, maintain, and restore the health of
29 marine ecosystems and to provide for a guaranteed steady source
30 of funding for ocean and coastal conservation and management in
31 order to implement the new policy and ensure it is carried out
32 by the federal agencies; and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that President Obama is requested,
35 to the extent possible, to ensure that states carry out the
36 national ocean policy through comprehensive, science-based, and
37 precautionary management of marine resources; and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that President Obama is requested to
40 establish a Regional Ocean Council for Hawaii and the
41 surrounding exclusive economic zones that emphasizes stakeholder
42 and public participation and engagement throughout all steps of
43 the process, including development, adoption, implementation,
44 adaptation, and evaluation; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress is
3 requested to provide necessary funding for this effort; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
7 United States and to the members of Hawaii's congressional
8 delegation.
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OFFERED BY: _____


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. M. W.', is written over a horizontal line that extends to the right.

MAR 10 2010

