
HOUSE 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
30 protect and restore the oceans, Great Lakes, and Pacific island
31 ecosystems; and

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1 WHEREAS, a public meeting was held in Honolulu in September
2 2009 at which over three hundred individuals voiced their
3 approval of a regional process and supported extending the
4 overarching efforts to all aquatic ecosystems and federal
5 agencies that monitor and protect them; and

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7 WHEREAS, hundreds of invasive species damage reef
8 ecosystems, costing hundreds of millions of dollars per year in
9 lost tourism and fish replenishment; and

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

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

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

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

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

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43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress is
44 requested to provide necessary funding for this effort; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States and to the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

OFFERED BY: 

MAR 10 2010

