

JAN 23 2009

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 Hawaii.
7 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 as
12 ponuhunu, the spectacled uhu (*Chlorurus perspicillatus*), also
13 known as uhu uliuli (male) and uhu'ahu'ula (female), are the
14 preferred species for eating.

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



1 and palenose uhu (*Scarus psittacus*). The spectacled, yellowbar,
2 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 a 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*
8 *bifasciatus*), also known as munu, commonly found on reefs
9 surrounding Maui. This family of fish is highly prized as a
10 food fish and 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
13 uhu, require a minimum length of twelve inches by measure of
14 fork length (the distance from the fish's mouth or snout to the
15 fork of the tail) to be legally harvested in Hawaii. Although
16 kumu can be harvested year-round, the white saddle goatfish must
17 have a minimum length of ten inches by measure of fork length to
18 be 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 kumu, moano ukali,



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

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

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

17 (c) It shall be unlawful for any person to take, possess,
18 or sell more than two uhu per day on Maui; provided that a
19 commercial marine dealer may possess and sell more than two uhu
20 with receipts issued for the purchase pursuant to section
21 189-11.



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

3 (e) The department may issue permits to engage in
4 activities otherwise prohibited by law, in accordance with
5 section 187A-6, or as may be otherwise authorized by law.

6 (f) 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 uhu or goatfish.

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,
10 aquatic life, by any person who is in the water, or in a vessel
11 on the water, or on or about the shore where aquatic life can be
12 fished for, caught, captured, confined, or harvested, shall be
13 construed as taking.

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

18 (g) The department of land and natural resources shall
19 adopt rules in accordance with chapter 91 to effectuate this
20 section."

21 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

22



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

2

INTRODUCED BY: ASITZ

John Elish

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Report Title:

Uhu; Goatfish; Bag Limit; Size Restriction

Description:

Establishes a fishing bag limit and size restrictions for Maui for uhu and goatfish.

