
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL FOR
HAWAII AND THE SURROUNDING ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE ZONE THAT
EMPHASIZES STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

1 WHEREAS, twenty federal agencies, including the
2 Environmental Protection Agency; US Army Corps of Engineers;
3 Department of Agriculture; Natural Resources Conservation
4 Service; Department of Health and Human Services; Fish and
5 Wildlife Service; National Parks Service; and the National
6 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration currently administer one
7 hundred forty laws affecting the nation's fresh and salt water
8 resources, with little coordination among them; and
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10 WHEREAS, the myriad of numerous federal agencies having
11 jurisdiction over fresh and salt water creates confusion and
12 results in policies and actions that can harm the overall health
13 of our island ecosystems and oceans; and
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15 WHEREAS, the increasing demands on our oceans threatens the
16 fragile health of marine ecosystems; and
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18 WHEREAS, if poorly planned or managed:

19 (1) Prime fishing grounds may be irreparably harmed;

20 (2) Fishing access may be threatened; and
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22 (3) Ocean recreation, developing aquaculture, building
23 wind, wave and tidal energy facilities all have the
24 potential to come into spatial 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 ocean, 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 where over three hundred individuals voiced approval:

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4 (1) Of a regional process of protection and restoration of
5 water resource; and

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7 (2) To support extending overarching efforts to all of our
8 aquatic ecosystems and the multiple agencies that care
9 for them; and

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11 WHEREAS, hundreds of invasive species choke our reefs,
12 costing the region hundreds of millions of dollars per year in
13 tourism and fish replenishment; and

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15 WHEREAS, bottom-dwelling invasive fish out-compete native
16 sport fish for food which harms the sport-fishing industry; and

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18 WHEREAS, the degradation wetland areas and harmful algae
19 blooms harms our recreational and sport fishing economy; and

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21 WHEREAS, the regional implementation of a comprehensive
22 national ocean policy could provide a major economic benefit to
23 restore efforts to provide a short-term economic boost, while
24 revitalizing traditional, cultural and commercial activities,
25 like fishing and tourism which pay long-term dividends; now,
26 therefore,

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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the
30 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature
31 requests President Obama to establish by Executive Order a
32 national policy to protect, maintain and restore the health of
33 marine ecosystems, and provide a guaranteed, steady source of
34 funding for ocean and coastal conservation and management in
35 order to implement the new policy, ensure it is carried out by
36 the federal government and, to the extent possible, by the
37 states, through comprehensive, science-based, including
38 traditional knowledge, and precautionary management of marine
39 resources; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature supports the
42 establishment of a Regional Ocean Council for Hawaii and the
43 surrounding economic enterprise zone that emphasizes stakeholder
44 and public participation where the planning process would be



1 fully transparent and participatory, requiring frequent and
2 robust stakeholder engagement throughout all steps of the
3 process in development, adoption, implementation, adaptation,
4 and evaluation; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress is requested to
7 robustly fund this effort; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
11 United States, Hawaii's congressional delegation, and the
12 Governor.
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OFFERED BY:

