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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS.

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

**PART I**

1  
2 SECTION 1. Chapter 171, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
3 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
4 and to read as follows:

5 "§171- Lease preferences; Hawaiian fishponds. (a)  
6 Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the board shall  
7 provide preference for the reconstruction, restoration, repair,  
8 or use of Hawaiian fishponds under chapter 183B when issuing  
9 leases for public land suitable for Hawaiian fishponds.

10 (b) The board shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to  
11 effectuate this section, including rules to streamline the  
12 application approval process for Hawaiian fishpond lease  
13 applicants.

14 (c) For the purposes of this section, "Hawaiian fishponds"  
15 has the same meaning as in section 183B-1."

**PART II**

16  
17 SECTION 2. Section 188-36, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

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1           "§188-36 Hawaii marine laboratory refuge. (a) It is  
2 unlawful for any person within the Hawaii marine laboratory  
3 refuge to take any aquatic life. Nothing in this section shall  
4 apply to any officer, faculty member, employee, or student of  
5 the University of Hawaii or licensee of the board of regents of  
6 the University of Hawaii, while employed in catching or taking  
7 aquatic life for scientific purposes.

8           (b) The Hawaii marine laboratory refuge consists of the  
9 reefs and bay waters surrounding the island of Moku-o-loe  
10 (Coconut island) located in Kaneohe Bay, island of Oahu, from  
11 the high water mark on the island extending outward to  
12 [<sup>u</sup>]twenty-five feet beyond the outer edges of the reefs.[<sup>u</sup>]

13           All laws enacted for the protection of aquatic life or  
14 wildlife shall likewise apply to the Hawaii marine laboratory  
15 refuge, except that no person or persons, other than those  
16 designated by [~~this section,~~] subsection (a), shall be  
17 authorized to catch or take aquatic life in the refuge.

18           (c) The Hawaii marine laboratory refuge shall continue  
19 only as long as the regents of the University of Hawaii maintain  
20 the Hawaii marine laboratory on the island of Moku-o-loe, island  
21 of Oahu.



1 (d) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the Hawaii  
2 marine laboratory refuge shall be exempt from obtaining state  
3 and county permits, including all permits required under chapter  
4 205A, for the repair and maintenance of its facilities located  
5 on the island of Moku-o-loe (Coconut island), island of Oahu."

6 **PART III**

7 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
8 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2030.



**Report Title:**

Public Lands; Hawaiian Fishponds; Coconut Island

**Description:**

Part I provides state lease preferences for the reconstruction, restoration, repair, or use of Hawaiian fishponds. Part II authorizes exemptions from state and county permits for the Hawaii marine laboratory refuge for the repair and maintenance of its facilities on the island of Moku-o-loe (Coconut island). Effective July 1, 2030. (SD2)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

