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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING ACTIONS TO PROHIBIT THE COLLECTION OF REEF WILDLIFE,  
TO PROTECT REEF ECOSYSTEMS, TO DEVELOP VISITOR REEF  
ETIQUETTE, TO INCORPORATE TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN CULTURAL  
PRACTICES INTO ALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DECISIONS, AND TO  
UPHOLD THE STATE MOTTO IN ALL LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.

1           WHEREAS, the *kanaka maoli*, the indigenous people of Hawaii,  
2 consider the health and well-being of Hawaii reef wildlife and  
3 reef ecosystems to be essential to the survival of the *kanaka*  
4 *maoli* culture and vital to sustaining the physical and mental  
5 health of the indigenous people of Hawaii; and

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7           WHEREAS, indigenous Hawaiians throughout the archipelago  
8 still practice subsistence that is dependent on the health of  
9 Hawaii's reef ecosystems; and

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11           WHEREAS, the *kanaka maoli* do not consider frivolous desires  
12 to possess reef wildlife as justification to disturb Hawaii's  
13 reef ecosystems; and

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15           WHEREAS, the *kanaka maoli* find it morally objectionable to  
16 take life found nowhere else on earth for selfish endeavors such  
17 as decoration, entertainment, and display in corporate offices  
18 and private homes around the world; and

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20           WHEREAS, the private aquarium industry has taken thousands  
21 of indigenous and endemic fish and invertebrates from Hawaii  
22 reefs daily for over a half century, and this has contributed  
23 directly to the decline of Hawaii's reefs; and

24  
25           WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has been negligent in  
26 developing adequate regulations and statewide management of the  
27 private aquarium industry for over a half century; and

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1           WHEREAS, the *kanaka maoli* developed a culture deeply rooted  
2 and inseparable from Hawaii's unique natural ocean environment;  
3 and  
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5           WHEREAS, the *kanaka maoli* practiced environmental  
6 management of the *aina*, the natural order within land, ocean,  
7 and air, that ensured the health and well-being of the *aina* for  
8 many future generations; and  
9

10           WHEREAS, the ocean was considered a kindred and powerful  
11 force to the *kanaka maoli*, and not only did the ocean provide  
12 sustenance for the people, but ocean life was also considered to  
13 have interdependent and familial relationships to the *kanaka*  
14 *maoli*; and  
15

16           WHEREAS, ocean life is considered sacred, and the diversity  
17 of species has an irreplaceable essence that needs to be  
18 respected for its spiritual significance and relationship with  
19 human life; and  
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21           WHEREAS, the indigenous Hawaiian culture developed a *kapu*  
22 management system that avoided taking too much from the *aina* and  
23 structured society to be conscious of maintaining a balance  
24 between man's needs for sustenance and the need for abundance  
25 and care for the health of the ocean; and  
26

27           WHEREAS, the indigenous practice of maintaining natural  
28 ecosystems has been significantly altered over the past century,  
29 and endemic and indigenous Hawaiian species are rapidly becoming  
30 extinct; and  
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32           WHEREAS, Hawaii has had more extinctions and declarations  
33 of endangered species than anywhere else in the world, and most  
34 of these species are endemic to Hawaii; and  
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36           WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii is solely responsible for  
37 caring for the near-shore waters and the endangered marine  
38 mammals such as the *ilio-holo-ika-uaua*, the critically  
39 endangered Hawaiian monk seal, and other larger predators and  
40 fish that depend on healthy reefs; and  
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42           WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has not provided the necessary  
43 care for many of the endemic species listed on the federal  
44 endangered species list; and



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2 WHEREAS, taking the last of our endemic Hawaiian wildlife  
3 is equivalent to taking the last tigers, the last pandas, the  
4 last exotic birds, the last reptiles, and the last of the  
5 wildlife on earth -- life that can never be recreated once they  
6 become extinct; and

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8 WHEREAS, if this trend of extinction of Hawaiian endemic  
9 species and fragile habitats continues, the *kanaka maoli* will  
10 lose sacred connections to the *aina* that are vital to their  
11 unique culture; and

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13 WHEREAS, the *kanaka maoli* understand that there are  
14 multiple human activities that now threaten the health of  
15 Hawaii's reefs, including the invasion of alien species, marine  
16 debris, climate change, pollution, and overfishing; and

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18 WHEREAS, it is irresponsible to continue to allow  
19 compounded threats to the reefs and ocean knowing that state  
20 managers cannot sufficiently manage existing threats to reefs;  
21 and

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23 WHEREAS, most of the State's one million three hundred  
24 thousand residents and millions of visitors enjoy Hawaii's reefs  
25 for their beauty; and

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27 WHEREAS, people who want to see Hawaii's unique reefs can  
28 visit the State, rather than taking home pieces of reef life  
29 just to possess them; and

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31 WHEREAS, aquarium collecting is contrary to the principles  
32 of the State of Hawaii motto, which is based on a *kanaka maoli*  
33 core cultural concept: *Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono*, the  
34 life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness; and

35  
36 WHEREAS, it is not *pono*, or right practice, to displace the  
37 life of Hawaii's reefs to satisfy the decadent desires of those  
38 who pay to covet the mystique and exotic beauty of Hawaii's  
39 natural resources; and

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41 WHEREAS, the taking of reef wildlife away from the  
42 ecosystems that connect the *kanaka maoli* to their past and their  
43 present culture is an abomination against the Hawaiian people  
44 and further corrupts the remnants of harmony that once existed



1 in Hawaii between the host culture and the natural world; now,  
2 therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
5 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
6 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the Governor is requested  
7 to end the sale of state permits for the collection of reef  
8 wildlife, including an immediate ban on the collection of all  
9 endemic reef fish and invertebrates to ensure that the  
10 unmitigated extinction of Hawaii's reef wildlife is immediately  
11 halted; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to  
14 provide that of all existing reef wildlife collection permits  
15 issued by the Department of Land and Natural Resources shall  
16 expire on June 30, 2011; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to  
19 take any actions necessary to end the collection of reef  
20 wildlife within a year of the date that this Concurrent  
21 Resolution is adopted; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
24 Natural Resources is requested to reallocate its resources  
25 currently used to facilitate the reef wildlife collection  
26 industry, and apply these resources towards restoring reef  
27 ecosystems and to detect and address reef wildlife collection  
28 violations; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Tourism Authority is  
31 requested to develop visitor reef etiquette and awareness  
32 programs to promote respect for indigenous Hawaiian cultural  
33 principles pertaining to ocean and ocean wildlife user  
34 responsibilities; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,  
37 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to develop an  
38 official methodology to incorporate *kanaka maoli* cultural  
39 practices into all economic development considerations, to  
40 prevent economic ventures that destroy Hawaii's natural  
41 environment and incur clean up and restoration costs that burden  
42 taxpayers; and

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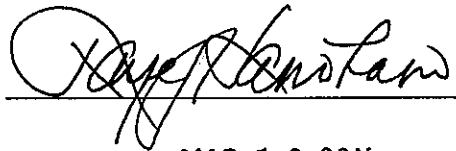
1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
 2 Natural Resources is requested to convene a working group that  
 3 includes conservation and indigenous cultural leaders, to  
 4 develop pono guidelines for upholding the principles of the  
 5 state motto in land management practices; and

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 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the *kanaka maoli* are encouraged  
 8 to contact all other indigenous people of the world to form a  
 9 collaborative effort against the global trend of exploiting  
 10 indigenous natural resources; and

11  
 12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; the  
 14 Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; the  
 15 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; the  
 16 Chairperson of the Hawaii Tourism Authority's Board of  
 17 Directors; and the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the  
 18 Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

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 21

OFFERED BY:

  
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MAR 16 2011

