
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES TO RECOGNIZE THE RECOVERY OF HAWAIIAN
GREEN SEA TURTLES AND BEGIN ACTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THIS
IMPORTANT SPECIES.

1 WHEREAS, in 1978, the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) was
2 listed as a threatened and protected species under the
3 Endangered Species Act; and
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5 WHEREAS, because green sea turtles were classified as a
6 threatened and protected species worldwide, the Hawaiian green
7 sea turtle, known as honu, was to receive the same protections,
8 including cessation of harvesting as a traditional Hawaiian
9 source of food, despite protests by the State and people of
10 Hawaii; and
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12 WHEREAS, in the early 1970s, the State of Hawaii developed
13 a management plan to limit the hunting of honu in Hawaii by
14 requiring permits and reporting; and
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16 WHEREAS, today, scientific studies as well as reports by
17 Native Hawaiian lawaia (cultural practitioners of fishing) have
18 concluded that the honu is approaching full recovery and that the
19 environment and ecosystem are suffering from the current over-
20 protection, over-population, and lack of management of honu; and
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22 WHEREAS, on June 16, 2011, Fishers Forum: The Future of
23 Honu Management, was convened by the Western Pacific Regional
24 Fishery Management Council to inform the public about the status
25 of honu and the Endangered Species Act process for delisting
26 species and to initiate community dialogue regarding the future
27 management of the honu; and
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29 WHEREAS, the Recovery Plan for the United States Pacific
30 Populations of the Green Sea Turtle of 1998 requires that a
31 management plan be in place to maintain sustained populations of
32 green sea turtles for the species to be considered for
33 delisting; now, therefore,
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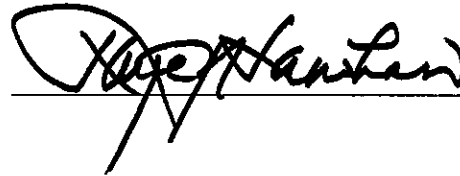
1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
3 of 2012, that the United States is urged to recognize the
4 recovery of the Hawaiian green sea turtle and begin active
5 management of this important species; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Marine Fisheries
8 Service and United States Fish and Wildlife Service are urged to
9 designate the Hawaiian green turtle as a distinct population
10 segment and delist it from the threatened list under the
11 Endangered Species Act; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
14 Resolution be transmitted to the Regional Administrator of the
15 National Marine Fisheries Service, Pacific Islands Regional
16 Office; the Chairperson of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery
17 Management Council; the Chairperson of the Board of Land and
18 Natural Resources; and the members of Hawaii's congressional
19 delegation.

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OFFERED BY:



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