
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE TO
CONVENE A TASK FORCE ON FISH LABELING.

1 WHEREAS, the commercial fishing industry in the State is a
2 significant generator of revenues, and in 2011, it employed
3 about 3,691 commercial fishermen who landed about 31,455,425
4 pounds of fish; and

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6 WHEREAS, the State presently has no labeling laws in place
7 for unprocessed fish that is intended for human consumption; and

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9 WHEREAS, the lack of labeling requirements prevents
10 consumers from knowing:

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12 (1) The identity of the fish species;
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14 (2) The fish's country of origin;
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16 (3) Whether the fish is fresh or processed, including
17 having been frozen;
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19 (4) Whether the fish is genetically modified;
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21 (5) Whether the fish is wild or farm-raised; and
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23 (6) Whether the fish is line-caught or net-caught; and
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25 WHEREAS, labeling distinctions between line-caught wild
26 fish and farmed fish would likely have significant economic
27 importance to local off-shore fishermen, generating a higher
28 auction price for their catches; now, therefore,

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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
31 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
32 Session of 2013, the Senate concurring, that the Chairperson of



1 the Board of Agriculture is requested to convene a task force to
2 determine whether the State should adopt laws on fish labeling
3 in order to distinguish fish that is line-caught from fish that
4 is net-caught or raised in farms, including open-ocean farms;
5 and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
8 study:

- 9
10 (1) The use of labels such as "line caught", "wild",
11 "wild-caught", "net caught", "open waters", and
12 "Hawaiian";
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14 (2) Wholesalers, retailers, restaurants, and other
15 entities that should be subject to labeling
16 requirements;
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18 (3) The establishment of a single location for state
19 labeling activities;
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21 (4) Types of enforcement activities and penalties for
22 mislabeling; and
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24 (5) Other states' and federal laws on fish labeling; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
27 include the following:

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29 (1) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, or the
30 Chairperson's designee, who shall serve as the
31 chairperson of the task force;
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33 (2) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
34 Resources, or the Chairperson's designee;
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36 (3) The Director of Business, Economic Development, and
37 Tourism, or the Director's designee;
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39 (4) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;
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41 (5) A representative of the United States Department of
42 Agriculture, to be designated by the Secretary of
43 Agriculture;
44



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- 1 (6) A representative of the United Fish Agency, Limited;
- 2 and
- 3
- 4 (7) A member to represent the commercial fishing
- 5 community, to be designated by the Governor; and
- 6

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
 8 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
 9 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature not later than
 10 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
 11 2014; and

12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 15 Board of Agriculture, the Chairperson of the Board of Land and
 16 Natural Resources, the Director of Health, the Director of
 17 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, the Secretary of
 18 Agriculture, and the President of the United Fishing Agency,
 19 Limited.

OFFERED BY:

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