

JAN 17 2013

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FISHING.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that abandoned or "ghost"  
2 gill nets made of monofilament or other synthetic material pose  
3 a major hazard to the marine environment by breaking off coral  
4 and entangling fish and other marine life. The legislature  
5 further finds that using gill nets made of monofilament or other  
6 synthetic material that does not readily biodegrade is not a  
7 traditional Hawaiian practice.

8           The purpose of this Act is to prohibit the sale and use of  
9 gill nets made of monofilament or other synthetic material that  
10 does not readily biodegrade.

11           SECTION 2. Chapter 188, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
13 and to read as follows:

14           "§188-    Prohibition on synthetic gill net and throw net  
15 fishing. (a) The sale of gill nets made of monofilament or  
16 other synthetic material that is not readily biodegradable is  
17 prohibited after December 31, 2013.



# S.B. NO. 27

1        (b) Fishing with gill nets made of monofilament or other  
2 synthetic material, whether single-strand or braided, that is  
3 not readily biodegradable is prohibited after December 31, 2014.

4        (c) Throw nets made of synthetic material may be used for  
5 fishing in shallow waters with sandy or muddy bottoms without  
6 coral growths if the throw nets are retrieved immediately  
7 following fishing.

8        (d) Government agencies are exempt from this section for  
9 the purposes of conducting research, clearing an area,  
10 controlling or eradicating invasive species, or other legitimate  
11 public purposes.

12        (e) Nothing in this section is intended to prohibit or  
13 interfere with traditional Hawaiian fishing practices using  
14 traditional Hawaiian nets made of traditional Hawaiian  
15 materials.

16        (f) As used in this section:

17        "Gill nets" means vertical panels, usually held upright by  
18 floats, with netting that entangle or entrap fish or other  
19 marine life.

20        "Monofilament" means a line made from a single fiber of  
21 plastic, such as nylon, usually by melting and mixing polymers



1 and then extruding the mixture through tiny holes to form  
2 strands of line.

3 "Readily biodegradable" means material having a sixty per  
4 cent or greater degradation within a twenty-eight day period or  
5 other length of time as may be prescribed by the United States  
6 Environmental Protection Agency.

7 "Synthetic material" means artificially made material  
8 invented after 1900.

9 "Throw nets" means circular nets with small weights  
10 distributed around the perimeter intended to be cast or thrown  
11 by hand in a manner that allows the nets to spread out and sink  
12 in the water.

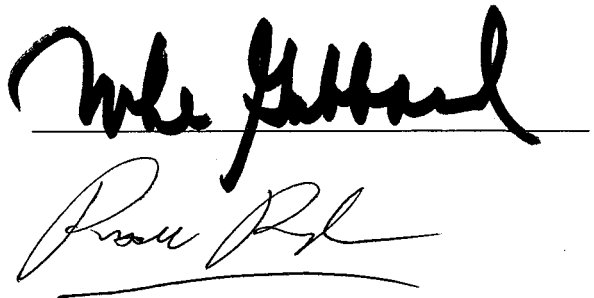
13 "Traditional Hawaiian materials" means natural fibers, such  
14 as fibers from the olona shrub, commonly used in Hawaii before  
15 1900."

16 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:



# S.B. NO. 27

**Report Title:**

Gill Net Fishing; Throw Net Fishing; Synthetic Nets

**Description:**

Prohibits the sale and use of synthetic nets for gill net fishing. Restricts the use of throw nets for fishing.

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

