
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the nearshore marine
2 resources of the State have declined over several generations,
3 affecting Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices,
4 all residents' lifestyles, and the visitor industry. Land-based
5 sources of pollution, invasive species, overuse, and poor
6 management have all played a part in our nearshore ocean's
7 decline. At the same time, present and future users should be
8 able to partake of the ocean as past generations once did. This
9 situation necessitates the implementation of innovative and
10 effective approaches, policies, and regulations that are
11 influenced by the values of the people of Hawaii.

12 The legislature further finds that Hawaii's people have a
13 long tradition of resource stewardship and strong stewardship
14 values that are essential to reversing resource declines.
15 Community-based co-management of nearshore marine areas, that
16 is, communities working with government, is recognized as an
17 effective tool to increase opportunities for stakeholder



1 involvement, reinvigorate Hawaii's history and culture of mālama
2 'āina, increase voluntary compliance with regulations, and
3 ultimately improve resource conditions and availability for
4 future generations. In more than two dozen coastal areas across
5 the State, local communities want to engage in marine co-
6 management to sustain resources and preserve traditional
7 practices. All of these processes include families, fishermen,
8 kūpuna, youth, government, and many others with deep and caring
9 ties to their coastal areas.

10 The legislature further finds that efforts need to be
11 devised to bring users and other interests together rather than
12 further dividing them. These efforts would promote tradition
13 and culture not as artifacts to be preserved in books and
14 museums but as solutions to be practiced as keys to a
15 sustainable future.

16 Research and experience in Hawaii and around the world
17 demonstrate that community-based co-management of marine
18 resources in partnership with government can be a successful
19 policy and management strategy because:



- 1 (1) It recognizes and honors the unique resources,
2 habitat, condition, people, and tradition of each
3 place;
- 4 (2) Community members have a high level of identification
5 with and commitment to their place;
- 6 (3) Community members are respected as local leaders and
7 are directly involved in decisions and management with
8 shared norms, trust, communication, and connection
9 between networks and groups of stakeholders;
- 10 (4) Co-management fosters a sense of kuleana through
11 genuine sharing of responsibility and authority with
12 government in policy development, decision-making, and
13 setting standards of conduct; and
- 14 (5) An engaged community has a shared commitment to
15 compliance in preservation, achievement of successful
16 resource enhancement, and promotion of sustainable
17 use.

18 The department of land and natural resources has the
19 statutory mandate to implement policies and management
20 strategies, which include community-based co-management, to
21 preserve and protect Hawaii's marine resources and traditional



1 practices. In order to successfully implement appropriate
2 programs and to develop and maintain the active participation
3 and trust of communities, the department needs qualified
4 technical and staff capacity to engage with communities and
5 other stakeholders and to deliver government services
6 effectively.

7 The legislature further finds that the increase in ocean
8 use and accompanying threats necessitate the development of
9 innovative partnerships, policies, regulations, and strategies
10 in the department of land and natural resources to ensure the
11 department meets its mandate to properly manage and administer
12 the aquatic resources of the State. In the area of community-
13 based co-management of marine resources, this includes having
14 qualified staff who can engage with interested communities and
15 help them to coordinate traditional stewardship practices with
16 the departmental systems and processes, to develop community-
17 driven rules and standards of conduct that meet the State's
18 regulatory requirements, and to implement a collaborative and
19 effective approach to compliance with community-based standards
20 and rules.



1 The purpose of this Act is to establish a community-based
2 marine resources grant program and make key positions permanent
3 within the department of land and natural resources.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 187A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
6 and to read as follows:

7 "§187A- Community-based marine resources grant program.

8 (a) There is established a community-based marine resources
9 grant program for communities engaged in nearshore marine
10 resource co-management programs with the department. The grant
11 program shall be developed and administered by the department.
12 Grant moneys shall be applied to support planning, stakeholder
13 outreach, and related activities.

14 (b) Individual grant awards under this program shall:

- 15 (1) Not exceed \$10,000 per community each year;
16 (2) Be subject to prior approval by the board; and
17 (3) Be managed by the department.

18 (c) The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter
19 91 to develop and administer the community-based marine
20 resources grant program."



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the
4 development and administration of the community-based marine
5 resources grant program for communities engaged in nearshore
6 marine resource co-management programs with the department of
7 land and natural resources.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
9 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for
13 program operating costs and to establish three permanent full-
14 time equivalent (3.00 FTE) positions in the division of aquatic
15 resources of the department of land and natural resources to
16 include a community-based fishing area planner, a marine
17 regulation and policy specialist, and an aquatic invasive
18 species program specialist to support community-based co-
19 management of nearshore marine resources and implement effective
20 rule-making.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for
6 program operating costs and to establish two permanent full-time
7 equivalent (2.00 FTE) positions in the division of conservation
8 and resources enforcement of the department of land and natural
9 resources to include a makai watch coordinator and a marine
10 regulation and policy specialist to work with communities and
11 state enforcement officers to help ensure compliance with
12 resource use and protection standards and regulations.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
14 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for
18 conversion of twelve temporary positions in the division of
19 conservation and resources enforcement of the department of land
20 and natural resources to permanent positions and for personal
21 services, training, equipment, motor vehicles, vessels, and



1 other current expenses for community fisheries enforcement units
2 to support enforcement and community engagement, outreach, and
3 awareness of marine regulations.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
5 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 7. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.



Report Title:

Department of Land and Natural Resources; Community-Based Marine Resources Grant Program; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Community-based Marine Resources Grant Program. Appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for positions and programs in support of community based co-management of nearshore marine resources. (HB2039 HD1)

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