

JAN 22 2016

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SEA URCHINS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the marine ecosystem  
2 of Hawaii is a crucial part of the state's ecological and  
3 cultural heritage and that, without the protection of the State,  
4 that ecosystem can be placed in jeopardy. In June 2015, mass  
5 harvesting of sea cucumbers caused the department of land and  
6 natural resources to enact an emergency rule banning any further  
7 harvesting of sea cucumbers. In December 2015, the department  
8 of land and natural resources enacted a permanent ban on large  
9 scale commercial harvesting of sea cucumbers, and the department  
10 continues to monitor populations of sea cucumbers to determine  
11 whether the new rules will keep sea cucumber populations at  
12 sustainable levels.

13           The legislature further finds that sea urchins are also an  
14 important component of the marine ecosystem of Hawaii. Sea  
15 urchins are considered a delicacy in many areas of the world,  
16 and large scale commercial harvesting could have a similar



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1 devastating effect on populations of sea urchins as it has had  
2 on populations of sea cucumbers.

3 The purpose of this Act is to limit the number of sea  
4 urchins that may be harvested without a permit, and to empower  
5 the department of land and natural resources to regulate future  
6 harvesting of sea urchins.

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

10 "§188- Sea urchins; restrictions. (a) It shall be  
11 unlawful for any person to take, collect, or harvest three or  
12 more sea urchins within a seven-day period without a permit  
13 issued by the department of land and natural resources.

14 (b) The department of land and natural resources may issue  
15 permits to take, collect, or harvest three or more sea urchins  
16 within a seven-day period. The permits may be issued by the  
17 department upon terms and conditions the department may deem  
18 necessary to preserve the sustainable population of sea urchins  
19 within state waters. The permit may be summarily revoked for a  
20 violation of any term or condition of the permit, and any or all  
21 permits may be revoked summarily whenever, in the judgment of



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1 the department, the action is necessary to preserve the  
 2 sustainable population of sea urchins within state waters.

3 (c) The department of land and natural resources may adopt  
 4 rules pursuant to chapter 91 for the purposes of this section."

5 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
 6 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
 7 begun before its effective date.

8 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: Will Ezero

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# S.B. NO. 2174

**Report Title:**

Sea Urchins; Department of Land and Natural Resources;  
Harvesting Restrictions

**Description:**

Restricts any person from taking, collecting, or harvesting three or more sea urchins within a seven-day period without a permit, and allows the department of land and natural resources to enact rules related to sea urchin harvesting.

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

