
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO IDENTIFY HIGH PRIORITY AREAS FOR
POTENTIAL DESIGNATION AS MARINE MANAGED AREAS.

1 WHEREAS, marine managed areas are essential tools for
2 combatting climate change and sea level rise, preserving
3 Hawaii's nearshore resources, and protecting the State's economy
4 and coastal communities; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources
7 defines a marine managed area as any area of the marine
8 environment established by law or regulation to protect or
9 enhance part or all of the natural and cultural resources
10 therein; and
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12 WHEREAS, studies of similar areas in Hawaii and worldwide
13 have shown large increases in biomass, density, size, and
14 diversity of marine organisms in the marine managed areas; and
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16 WHEREAS, marine managed areas promote healthy diverse
17 ecosystems, which are more likely to survive disturbances caused
18 by people, weather, or climate-related changes; and
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20 WHEREAS, in a study of sixty fishing sites in the main
21 Hawaiian Islands, no-take areas, which are a type of marine
22 managed area, had over twice the biomass, higher diversity, and
23 larger fish than partially protected and open access sites; and
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25 WHEREAS, marine managed areas have also been shown to
26 result in sustainable fisheries, to promote marine education and
27 recreation, and to stimulate the economy through ecotourism and
28 education; and
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30 WHEREAS, marine managed areas, particularly those that
31 contain healthy coral ecosystems, can be critical in increasing



1 protection against natural hazards by reducing wave energy and
2 buffering shorelines against waves, storms, and floods, and
3 helping to prevent loss of life, property damage, and erosion;
4 and

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6 WHEREAS, when reefs are damaged or destroyed, the loss of
7 this natural barrier can significantly increase damage to
8 coastal communities from wave action and violent storms; and

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10 WHEREAS, Hawaii's nearshore marine areas are home to a wide
11 variety of marine species, many of which are endemic to Hawaii;
12 and

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14 WHEREAS, the marine species of Hawaii play an important
15 role for the State's inhabitants, providing residents and
16 visitors physical, cultural, environmental, and spiritual
17 sustenance; and

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19 WHEREAS, widespread and varied uses of marine species often
20 leads to their removal from their natural habitats for such
21 purposes as processing for food or sale as pets; and

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23 WHEREAS, as interest in the marine species of Hawaii
24 increases, the number of species being removed from their native
25 marine habitats increases as well and if current take levels
26 increase, the marine species found in the nearshore waters of
27 Hawaii will become more vulnerable to extinction, which could
28 harm the local environment and people of Hawaii; and

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30 WHEREAS, to protect local marine habitats and wildlife for
31 the benefit of Hawaii's people and economy, the State has
32 recognized the need to identify specific areas that are in need
33 of more effective management and the best management practices
34 for those areas and, accordingly, the State has made a
35 commitment to effectively manage thirty per cent of Hawaii's
36 nearshore ocean waters by 2030, including by supporting
37 community-based marine management; now, therefore,

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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
40 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
41 of 2018, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is



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1 requested to convene a working group to identify high priority
2 areas for potential designation as marine managed areas; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group should
5 include native fishermen, specific community members from each
6 affected geographical area, and marine scientists; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the Chairperson of
10 the Board of Land and Natural Resources.
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OFFERED BY: _____



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