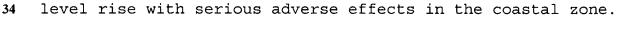
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FEB 2 2 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT A NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR THE FEASIBILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF A DIVISION OF OCEAN AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

1	WHEREAS, the entire State of Hawaiʻi falls within Hawaiʻi's
2	coastal zone boundary; and
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4	WHEREAS, due to its physical location, configuration, and
5	climate, Hawaiʻi is rich in a number of valuable coastal
6	ecosystems, such as wetlands and reef flats, embayments and
7	sheltered coves, sand beaches, and coral reefs that serve
8	important natural functions, such as providing habitat and
9	breeding grounds for wildlife and living marine resources,
10	natural buffers to the action of storm waters, and a natural
11	laboratory for scientific and biological research. In addition,
12	they provide the basis for recreational and commercial fishing
13	businesses; and
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15	WHEREAS, demand for coastal recreational opportunities for
16	beach use and water sports continues to rise because of
17	population, growth, increased affluence, greater leisure time,
18	and increased tourism; and
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20	WHEREAS, increasing and competing demands upon the lands
21	and waters of the coastal zone occasioned by population growth
22	and economic development, including requirements for industry,
23	commerce, residential development, transportation and
24	navigation, waste disposal, and harvesting of marine resources
25	have resulted in the loss of living marine resources, reduced
26	groundwater and aquifer recharge areas, increased
27	vulnerabilities to coastal development, reduced living marine
28 29	resources, wildlife, nutrient-rich areas, permanent and averse
29 30	changes to ecological systems, decreased open space for public use, increased shoreline erosion, and compromised infrastructure
30 31	due to erosion and coastal flooding; and
31 32	due co erosion and coascar ribourny; and
33	WHEREAS, climate change will result in substantial sea
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Seventy percent of beaches in Hawai'i are experiencing coastal
 erosion and many miles of beach have been severely narrowed or
 lost over the past century; and

5 WHEREAS, Hawai'i has a substantial and significant interests 6 in the protection, management, and development of ocean and 7 coastal resources; and

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9 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, 10 Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands, is responsible for the management of coastal resources including beaches, dunes, and 11 12 rocky shorelines seaward of county jurisdictions and/or within 13 the State Conservation District. The Coastal Lands Program is responsible for coordinating coastal management, maintaining the 14 15 delicate balance between conservation of coastal resources and responsible development of coastal areas, mitigating risks from 16 17 natural and human-induced hazards for coastal communities, and 18 implementing innovative shoreline management techniques; and 19

20 WHEREAS, in 1972, the Legislature authorized the Department of Planning and Economic Development to prepare a plan for the 21 22 management of the State's coastal zones to comply with the 23 requirements of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act. The 24 Federal Coastal Zone Management Act provided that the state Land 25 Use Commission has the authority to administer land and water use regulations in coastal zones, control development to ensure 26 27 compliance with the State's management program in coastal zones, and resolve conflicts among competing uses in coastal zones; and 28 29

30 WHEREAS, in 1977, the Legislature established the Coastal Zone Management Program within the Office of Planning of the 31 32 Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism. The 33 Office of Planning's purpose is to provide central direction and 34 cohesion in the allocation of resources and effectuation of 35 state activities and programs, and effectively address current 36 or emerging issues and opportunities. The purpose of the 37 Coastal Zone Management Program is to provide for the effective 38 management, beneficial use, protection, and development of the 39 coastal zone; and

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41 WHEREAS, through the Office of Planning's Coastal Zone42 Management Program and enactment of Chapter 205A, the



protect the coastal zone; and

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6 WHEREAS, Hawai'i's environment is both undermanaged and
7 overregulated and new regulatory mechanisms should not be added
8 onto, but rather combined into, the existing systems; now,
9 therefore,

Legislature established a network program, whereby the program

works with a network of state agencies and local governments to

administer and enforce all laws, regulations, and policies that

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to conduct a needs assessment for the feasibility and effectiveness of a Division of Ocean and Coastal Management; and 16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Division of Ocean and 18 Coastal Management would be the designated state coastal management agency and be responsible for the implementation and 19 administration of Hawai'i's coastal zone management program, 20 including the direct regulation of coastal resources within the 21 22 critical areas of the state including coastal waters, tidelines, beaches, and beach dune systems and the consideration of 23 24 ecological, cultural, aesthetic, recreational, scenic, open space values, public access, coastal hazards, sea level rise, 25 26 and needs for economic development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Division of Ocean and Coastal Management should effectively manage networks of healthy coral reefs while improving the health of reef ecosystems at priority sites, identify and fill in management gaps that inform existing efforts to prevent further damage to fragile nearshore ecosystems, and supplement existing efforts to address the effects of sea level rise; and

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and 37 Natural Resources is requested to submit a report of its 38 findings and recommendations, including any proposed 39 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior 40 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and 41



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

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OFFERED BY:

