

MAR 10 2023

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE MARINE LIFE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DESIGNATIONS.

1 WHEREAS, the coastal waters of the islands comprising the
2 State feature a number of different habitats, each with its own
3 characteristic marine life; and

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5 WHEREAS, nearshore fishes have played an important role in
6 the lifestyle for residents, either commercially as a food
7 source or recreationally through snorkeling and diving; and

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9 WHEREAS, because reef and inshore fishing had greatly
10 deteriorated in the State as a result of excessive taking of
11 fish in coastal waters, Act 192, Session Laws of Hawaii 1955,
12 was enacted to allow for the designation of marine life
13 conservation districts; and

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15 WHEREAS, marine life conservation districts are designed to
16 conserve and replenish marine resources by limiting fishing and
17 other consumptive uses or prohibiting such uses entirely; and

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19 WHEREAS, under existing law, marine life conservation
20 districts are established by the Department of Land and Natural
21 Resources; and

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23 WHEREAS, there are ten existing marine life conservation
24 districts in the State as follows: Hanauma Bay, O'ahu; Pūpūkea,
25 O'ahu; Waikīkī, O'ahu; Kealakekua Bay, Hawai'i; Lapakahi, Hawai'i;
26 Old Kona Airport, Hawai'i; Waialea Bay, Hawai'i; Honolulu -
27 Mokulē'ia, Maui; Molokini Shoal, Maui; and Mānele - Hulopo'e,
28 Lāna'i; and



S.C.R. NO. 229

1 WHEREAS, the protections for the marine life conservation
2 districts vary from district to district, and further assessment
3 should be given to determine whether further protections should
4 be conferred; now, therefore,

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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the
8 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land
9 and Natural Resources is requested to conduct a study on the
10 marine life conservation districts designations; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study is requested to:

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14 (1) Assess whether the Marine Life Conservation District
15 Program is achieving its objectives; and

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17 (2) Investigate the effectiveness of the criteria for
18 designating marine life conservation districts
19 compared to the International Union for Conservation
20 of Nature protected area categories, especially for:

21
22 (A) Areas within an existing marine life conservation
23 district that may require additional protection;
24 and

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26 (B) Areas not within an existing marine life
27 conservation district that should be given the
28 protections of such designation, including areas
29 adjacent to existing marine life conservation
30 districts that may be included by expansion; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
33 Natural Resources is requested to submit a report of its
34 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
35 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
36 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
40 Board of Land and Natural Resources and Administrator of the
41 Division of Aquatic Resources of the Department of Land and
42 Natural Resources.



S.C.R. NO. 229

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OFFERED BY:



