

ACT 145

H.B. NO. 1030

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Aquatic Life and Wildlife Advisory Committees.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic has had a catastrophic impact on the world economy. The complexities of dealing with a worldwide health crisis have added additional layers of uncertainty that may increase the time needed for recovery. As a result of this, the State has initiated a fiscal biennium 2021-2023 program review to identify ways to:

- (1) Reduce expenditures;
- (2) Identify programs, functions, and activities for possible elimination that, although well-intentioned, are of marginal benefit, low performing, or of lesser priority; and
- (3) Identify cost-saving opportunities in core and primary programs and services through tightening program eligibility, reducing program benefits, improving efficiency, or cost shifting.

The legislature further finds that the department of land and natural resources (DLNR), after thorough review and much scrutiny, has determined that the aquatic life and wildlife advisory committees have rarely convened or been needed, and as such, are outdated. While this Act would reduce the size of the animal species advisory commission by removing the chairs of the aquatic life and wildlife advisory committees from the animal species advisory commission, DLNR believes that there is still sufficient representation on the animal species advisory commission to carry out its duties. DLNR is also able to administratively convene a similar advisory committee if it deems necessary.

The purpose of this Act is to repeal the aquatic life and wildlife advisory committees and make conforming amendments.

SECTION 2. Section 197-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by repealing the definition of "committee".

[~~"Committee" means the aquatic life and wildlife advisory committee established in each of the counties of the State."~~]

SECTION 3. Section 197-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) There is established within the department an animal species advisory commission which may serve in an advisory capacity to the board. The commission shall consist of ~~[thirteen]~~ nine members to be appointed by the governor in the manner provided in section 26-34. ~~[The chairperson of each aquatic life and wildlife advisory committee established pursuant to this chapter and three]~~ Three members of the department designated by the chairperson of the ~~[department,]~~ board, and no less than one each from the professional fields of aquatic life, wildlife, and conservation and resources enforcement, shall serve as members of the commission. Six of the members shall be scientists in the fields of botany, mammalogy, ichthyology, entomology, ornithology, and invertebrate zoology. The commission shall select its own chairperson.”

SECTION 4. Section 197-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is repealed.

SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken.<sup>1</sup> New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 30, 2021.)

**Note**

1. Edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5