
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WHALES.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 200, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 "§200-_____ Vessel operations; speed; humpback whales. (a)

5 A person operating a vessel within the waters of the State:

6 (1) Shall not operate the vessel at a speed exceeding
7 fifteen knots when the vessel is within _____ yards of
8 a humpback whale;

9 (2) Shall not operate the vessel at a speed exceeding six
10 knots when the vessel is within four hundred yards of
11 a humpback whale;

12 (3) Shall ensure that another person on the vessel is
13 acting as a lookout to prevent collisions with
14 humpback whales when the vessel is within _____ yards
15 of a humpback whale; and

16 (4) Shall operate the vessel in a manner that is
17 reasonable and prudent to avoid collision with a



1 humpback whale, considering the time of day, time of
2 year, and other relevant factors.

3 (b) This section shall not be construed to preempt any
4 rule adopted pursuant to chapter 91 that is more restrictive
5 with respect to the speed or operation of a vessel in proximity
6 to a humpback whale."

7 SECTION 2. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
8 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
9 begun before its effective date.

10 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

12

INTRODUCED BY:

Elle Cochran

JAN 23 2023



H.B. NO. 894

Report Title:

State Waters; Whales; Boats; Vessels; Speed; Restrictions

Description:

Places certain requirements and speed restrictions on the operation of water vessels in proximity to humpback whales.

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