
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
CONVENE A PANEL TO STUDY THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE
INTERISLAND TRANSPORTATION OF GILL NETS OR LAY NETS AND THE
SPREAD OF FOREIGN MARINE SPECIES.

1 WHEREAS, generally, the term "gill net" refers to a
2 curtain-like net suspended in the water with mesh openings large
3 enough to permit only the heads of the fish to pass through,
4 ensnaring them around the gills when they attempt to escape; and
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6 WHEREAS, in lay gill net fishing, a person uses a
7 stationary gill net in a certain location and retrieves it from
8 the same location after passage of a sufficient time period to
9 allow for the capture of aquatic life; and
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11 WHEREAS, lay net fishing generally does not include akule
12 nets, bait nets, lobster nets, and throw nets; and
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14 WHEREAS, lay nets rest at the bottom of the ocean and
15 besides fish, also catch other types of marine life including
16 coral and seaweed that become entangled in the net; and
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18 WHEREAS, it is not uncommon for lay nets to become
19 encrusted with barnacles and other forms of marine growth that
20 are not easily removed from the net; and
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22 WHEREAS, the ecological balance of the water surrounding
23 each of the Hawaiian islands is unique from any other island and
24 is the result of millions of years of evolution; and
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26 WHEREAS, each island is a balanced ecological system unto
27 itself that supports and maintains not only marine life, but
28 commercial and sports fishing, water recreation, and other
29 marine-related industries; and
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1 WHEREAS, the introduction of foreign marine life from one
2 Hawaiian island to another could have devastating effects on the
3 delicate balance of the host marine ecological system; now,
4 therefore,

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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
8 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
9 Land and Natural Resources is requested to convene a panel to
10 study the relationship between lay gill net fishing and the
11 interisland spread of foreign marine species; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to
14 consider the different methods and modes of transportation that
15 owners of lay gill nets might employ to transport their nets
16 interisland; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to
19 select a sufficient number of panel members from the government
20 and business sectors and the community with expertise or an
21 interest in marine life, ecology, and the transport of unwanted
22 marine life; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
25 Natural Resources is requested to report its findings and
26 recommendations, including any suggested legislation to the
27 Legislature, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
28 the Regular Session of 2008; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
31 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the Board
32 of Land and Natural Resources, who is requested to transmit
33 copies of the Concurrent Resolution to prospective members of
34 the panel and any other interested party.
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