
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON CERTAIN AQUATIC SURF RESOURCES
IN THE STATE INCLUDING THE COST OF FUNDING A STUDY ON THE
FEASIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTING ARTIFICIAL REEFS.

1 WHEREAS, pursuant to section 187A-2(3), Hawaii Revised
2 Statutes, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is
3 responsible for the establishment, management, and regulation of
4 artificial reefs in the waters of the State; and
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6 WHEREAS, pursuant to section 187A-2(6), Hawaii Revised
7 Statutes, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is also
8 responsible for the gathering and compiling of information and
9 statistics concerning the habitat and character of, and increase
10 and decrease in, aquatic resources in the State; and
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12 WHEREAS, surfing is the official sport of Hawaii and Hawaii
13 is known worldwide for its excellent surfing conditions; and
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15 WHEREAS, the sport of surfing has increased in popularity
16 extensively over the last century with studies suggesting that
17 over one hundred thousand surfers live on Oahu alone, and future
18 growth of the sport is expected; and
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20 WHEREAS, most surf that is formed near shore is caused by
21 waves breaking over coral reefs; and
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23 WHEREAS, surfing areas, particularly on Oahu, are becoming
24 increasingly crowded and unsafe due to the large number of
25 people in a small area of the water; and
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27 WHEREAS, technology has increased in recent years to the
28 point where creating an artificial reef for surfing may no
29 longer be cost-prohibitive; and
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31 WHEREAS, studies of benefits associated with the
32 construction of artificial reefs for surfing at various



1 locations around the world have all shown significant benefits
2 compared to the costs; and
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4 WHEREAS, artificial reefs also provide an ideal habitat for
5 marine life, such as fish and coral to propagate and
6 proliferate, thus enhancing fish populations, marine ecosystems,
7 and recreational opportunities in the surrounding ocean area;
8 and
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10 WHEREAS, artificial reefs also reduce the harmful erosive
11 effects of storm waves on the beach, thereby protecting the
12 coastline; and
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14 WHEREAS, these artificial reefs enhance the health and
15 wellness of the community by providing the local population with
16 greater access to the sport of surfing while also reducing
17 congestion at popular surf spots; and
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19 WHEREAS, artificial reefs for surfing are usually composed
20 of submarine rock structures or highly durable mega-geobags
21 filled with sand; and
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23 WHEREAS, an area that could benefit from the installation
24 of additional artificial reefs for surfing is the Waianae
25 coastline on the island of Oahu; and
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27 WHEREAS, an area that is frequented by many recreational
28 and commercial fishing boats as well as surfers, Waianae is in
29 need of establishing additional means of maintaining and
30 hopefully increasing its fish and marine life population as well
31 as increasing its surfing opportunities; now, therefore,
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
34 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
35 Session of 2007, that the Department of Land and Natural
36 Resources is requested to report to the Legislature, not later
37 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
38 of 2008, on the following:
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- 40 (1) Information and statistics concerning the character of
41 aquatic surf resources in the State; and
42



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(2) The estimated cost of a study to identify potential locations for artificial reefs designed for surfing and the cost of constructing such reefs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to designate the Waianae coast on the island of Oahu as its initial location for an artificial reef study; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

OFFERED BY:

DNL

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