HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES, TO DETERMINE THE POPULATION OF THE AKULE SPECIES AND ESTABLISH A MANAGEMENT PRACTICE TO PRESERVE THE SPECIES.

WHEREAS, the akule, or big-eye scad, is among Hawaii residents' favorite fish to consume, for it can be eaten raw, fried, sun dried, or fermented; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing fear among commercial and recreational fishermen that the akule population is declining at an unusually fast rate and the resource will be depleted for future generations; and

WHEREAS, a "Management Plan for Hawaii's Akule Fishery" was prepared by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources, in 2001; and

WHEREAS, the management plan, while successfully establishing boundaries that restrict commercial fishermen and setting bag limits on the amount of akule that may be caught, did not include a study of the population of akule in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, a population study of akule, including its migration habits, reproduction patterns, and natural and unnatural predators, would help alleviate the fishing community's concerns about the dwindling supply of akule and ensure the survival of the species; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources, is urged to determine the population of the akule species; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that once a determination has been made as to the akule population, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources, is urged to consult and confer with commercial and recreational akule fishermen to establish a management practice to preserve the akule species for future generations; and

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

OFFERED BY:

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