HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO REQUEST AN AUDIT OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL.

WHEREAS, the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council was established in 1976 and is responsible for preventing over-fishing and promoting sustainability in the western Pacific Ocean, including the waters surrounding Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional fishery management councils under the National Marine Fisheries Service, a division of the United States Department of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, community-based sustainability education programs based upon the indigenous Aha Moku system of best practices within traditionally defined geographic areas are vital to the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's success; and

WHEREAS, the financial accountability of programs and activities funded by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council is also vital to the success of the council and the conservation of the natural resources it is charged with managing; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that Hawaii's congressional delegation is urged to request a financial audit of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the audit focus on expenditures by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council for community-based sustainability education and outreach programs, program coordinators, and activities from 2000 to 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.