HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN OPIHI MANAGEMENT STUDY.

WHEREAS, opihi comprises four species of saltwater Hawaiian limpets that are found nowhere else on Earth; and

WHEREAS, the popularity of opihi as a delicacy has led to statewide overharvesting and the decline of natural populations; and

WHEREAS, in the past century, there was a ten-fold decline in the amount of opihi available in markets, and the average amount of opihi has further been halved in the past forty years; and

WHEREAS, the key to increasing the sustainable harvest of opihi is protecting a portion of opihi populations so that they may reproduce and create the next generation; 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 the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to conduct an opihi management study on the replenishment of natural populations of all Hawaiian opihi species; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is requested that the study:

- Encompass all islands of the State, including the (1) Northwestern Hawaiian Islands;
- (2) Recommend best management practices for each island area; and

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 (3) Recommend effective enforcement mechanisms for implementing the best management practices; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to consult with the Aha Moku Advisory Committee and any other individual or entity that has expertise that is relevant to the study; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to submit its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than December 19, 2014; 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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