

HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING SUPPORT FOR THE GOAL OF EFFECTIVELY MANAGING THIRTY PERCENT OF NEARSHORE WATERS BY 2030.

WHEREAS, Presidential Proclamation 9478, issued on August 26, 2016, emphasized the need to provide critical protections in the nearshore areas around the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument for more than 7,000 marine species, including whales and sea turtles listed under the Endangered Species Act and the longest-living marine species in the world, black coral, which live longer than 4,500 years; and

WHEREAS, as ocean acidification, warming, and other impacts of climate change threaten marine ecosystems, expanding the Monument will improve ocean resilience, help the region's distinct physical and biological resources adapt, and create a natural laboratory that will allow scientists to monitor and explore the impacts of climate change on these fragile ecosystems; and

 WHEREAS, the expanded Monument area, including the archipelago and its adjacent waters, is considered a sacred place for the Native Hawaiian community, plays a significant role in Native Hawaiian creation and settlement stories, and is used to practice important activities like traditional long-distance voyaging and wayfinding; and

WHEREAS, to improve the resilience of corals and ensure their continued benefit to the State, local stressors that are within our control need to be effectively managed, including sediment and nutrient runoff from land, invasive species, and illegal and unsustainable fishing; and

WHEREAS, the State's commitment to effectively manage 30 per cent of Hawaii's nearshore waters by 2030 should be

echoed throughout all state and county agencies that manage coastal zones; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources should exercise its stewardship responsibility for managing, administering, and exercising control over lands, waters, and natural resources within the State's jurisdiction; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, that this body urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources to support the goal of effectively managing 30 per cent of nearshore waters by 2030; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and Natural Resources collaborate with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in the perpetuation of Hawaiian cultural resources within the nearshore waters area, including the customary and traditional rights and practices of Native Hawaiians exercised for subsistence, cultural, and religious purposes under Section 7 of Article XII of the State Constitution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and Natural Resources report its findings and recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20 days before the convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

OFFERED BY: Misko E.

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