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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MARINE LIFE PROTECTION.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's nearshore  
2 marine areas are home to a wide variety of marine species, many  
3 of which are endemic to Hawaii. The marine species of Hawaii  
4 play an important role for the State's inhabitants, providing  
5 residents and visitors physical, cultural, environmental, and  
6 spiritual sustenance. Widespread and varied uses of marine  
7 species often leads to their removal from their natural habitats  
8 for such purposes as processing for food or sale as pets. As  
9 interest in the marine species of Hawaii increases, the number  
10 of species being removed from their native marine habitats  
11 increases as well. If current take levels increase, the marine  
12 species found in the nearshore waters of Hawaii will become more  
13 vulnerable to extinction, which could harm the local environment  
14 and people of Hawaii.

15           The legislature further finds that to protect local marine  
16 habitats and wildlife and ensure they continue to provide  
17 benefits to Hawaii's people and economy, the State has



1 recognized the need to identify specific areas that are in need  
2 of more effective management and best management practices for  
3 those areas. As part of this effort, the State has made a  
4 commitment to effectively manage thirty per cent of Hawaii's  
5 nearshore ocean waters by 2030, including by supporting  
6 community-based marine management.

7 The purpose of this Act is to convene a working group to  
8 identify high priority areas that are in need of protective  
9 management and that may be eligible for designation as marine  
10 protected areas.

11 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a working group to be  
12 placed in the department of land and natural resources for  
13 administrative purposes to identify high priority nearshore  
14 marine areas that are in need of protection for potential  
15 designation as marine protected areas to help meet the goal of  
16 effectively managing thirty per cent of the State's nearshore  
17 waters by 2030.

18 (b) In identifying nearshore marine areas in need of  
19 protection, the working group shall identify areas that are in  
20 need of:

21 (1) Critical protection, which may include no-take zones;



- 1 (2) High protection, which may include species and size  
2 restricted no-take zones;
- 3 (3) Herbivore replenishment; and
- 4 (4) Other types of assistance, as determined by the  
5 administrative rules of the department of land and  
6 natural resources.
- 7 (c) The working group shall consist of:
- 8 (1) The chairperson of the board of land and natural  
9 resources, or the chairperson's designee, who shall  
10 act as the chairperson of the working group;
- 11 (2) The director of business, economic development, and  
12 tourism, or the director's designee;
- 13 (3) The administrator of the department of land and  
14 natural resources' division of aquatic resources, or  
15 the administrator's designee;
- 16 (4) A representative from the office of Hawaiian affairs;
- 17 (5) The director of the University of Hawaii institute of  
18 marine biology, or the director's designee;
- 19 (6) Representatives of native Hawaiian cultural  
20 practitioners;
- 21 (7) Representatives of the fishing community; and



1           (8) Other persons, as deemed appropriate by the  
2                    chairperson of the working group.

3           (d) Members of the working group shall serve without  
4 compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including  
5 travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.  
6 No member shall be made subject to chapter 84, Hawaii Revised  
7 Statutes, solely because of that member's participation as a  
8 member of the working group.

9           (e) The working group shall submit a report of its  
10 findings, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature  
11 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular  
12 session of 2019.

13           (f) The working group shall be dissolved on June 30, 2019.

14           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on December 24,  
15 2088.



**Report Title:**

Marine Species; Working Group; Nearshore Marine Resources

**Description:**

Establishes a working group to identify high priority areas that are in need of marine protection management for potential designation as marine protected areas. (HB1723 HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

