
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COMMUNITY-BASED SUBSISTENCE FISHING AREAS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that it has been more
2 than two decades since the department of land and natural
3 resources was given the statutory authority under Act 271,
4 Session Laws of Hawaii 1994, to establish community-based
5 subsistence fishing areas by rule. Since that time, the
6 department has adopted rules for only one such area, Ha'ena
7 community-based subsistence fishing area, and only after being
8 specifically required to do so pursuant to Act 241, Session Laws
9 of Hawaii 2006. The department did not adopt rules for the
10 Ha'ena community-based subsistence fishing area until ten years
11 after its establishment by the legislature.

12 The legislature finds that the statutory process for
13 designation of and rulemaking for community-based subsistence
14 fishing areas provides a unique opportunity for local
15 communities to participate in the management of natural
16 resources for the benefit of the local community, the State, and
17 the environment as a whole. This process, created under Act 241



1 and codified as section 188-22.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
 2 relies on collaboration between the department and grassroots
 3 community organizations to designate and develop resource
 4 management policies for special fisheries management areas.
 5 Both the process for area designation and the rules for resource
 6 management are designed to reaffirm and protect fishing
 7 practices customarily and traditionally exercised for purposes
 8 of native Hawaiian subsistence and culture.

9 The legislature further finds that near shore based fishing
 10 practices need to be supported to ensure that the State
 11 maintains a sustainable ecosystem that provides food and
 12 resources to the State. The purpose of this Act is to establish
 13 a goal for the department of land and natural resources to
 14 designate and adopt rules for the management of no fewer than
 15 five additional community-based subsistence fishery areas by
 16 December 31, 2025.

17 SECTION 2. Chapter 188, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 18 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
 19 and to read as follows:

20 "§188- Designation of new community-based subsistence
 21 fishing areas; time limits. (a) No later than December 31,



1 2025, the department shall designate no fewer than five
2 community-based subsistence fishing areas throughout the State
3 pursuant to section 188-22.6 and adopt rules pursuant to chapter
4 91.

5 (b) As soon as practical, but in no case later than
6 December 31, 2018, the department shall publish a request or
7 series of requests for proposals for designation and management
8 of community-based subsistence fishing areas. The department
9 shall accept for consideration all proposals that meet the
10 minimum criteria established in section 188-22.6.

11 (c) The department, as soon as practical, but no later
12 than December 31, 2019, shall institute a process of
13 consultation with the groups or organizations that submitted
14 proposals considered under subsection (b), in addition to a
15 broad base of residents, community groups, native Hawaiian
16 cultural practitioners, inhabitants of the ahupua'a potentially
17 affected by designations proposed under subsection (b), and
18 other interested parties to designate no fewer than five
19 community-based subsistence fishing areas and to adopt rules for
20 each designated area. For each area proposed for designation,
21 the department shall determine the fishing and harvesting or



1 gathering practices that are customarily and traditionally
2 exercised for purposes of native Hawaiian subsistence and
3 culture in the proposed fishing areas.

4 (d) As soon as practical, but in no case later than
5 December 31, 2025, the department shall adopt rules pursuant to
6 chapter 91 to designate no fewer than five community-based
7 subsistence fishing areas and provide for the management of each
8 designated area. Rules for each designated area shall include
9 but not be limited to:

10 (1) A management plan recognizing existing marine
11 activities permitted by the department and containing
12 a description of specific activities to be conducted
13 in the area, including evaluation and monitoring
14 processes and methods of funding and enforcement;

15 (2) Limits on the taking of aquatic life, as defined in
16 section 187A-1;

17 (3) The establishment of no harvesting, no fishing, or
18 other limited use zones within the area, if
19 appropriate; provided that limited use zones shall not
20 deprive ahupua'a inhabitants of access to traditional
21 sources of subsistence; and



1 (4) A process for the expansion of the fishing area to
2 include other ahupua'a, if appropriate.

3 (e) The department shall submit an annual report to the
4 legislature of the department's progress in complying with this
5 section as well as any recommendations and proposed legislation
6 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular
7 session, beginning with the regular session of 2018.

8 (f) For the purposes of this section.

9 "Department" means department of land and natural
10 resources."

11 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.



Report Title:

Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Areas; DLNR

Description:

Establishes a goal for the Department of Land and Natural Resources to designate and adopt rules for the management of no fewer than five community-based subsistence fishing areas by December 31, 2025. Establishes designation process and rule requirements. (HB861 HD1)

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