
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY
ON THE PROCESS THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL
RESOURCES USES TO REMOVE VESSELS STRANDED IN NEARSHORE
WATERS.

1 WHEREAS, the process of removing vessels found stranded in
2 nearshore waters is in need of evaluation; and

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4 WHEREAS, one example of a vessel stranded in nearshore
5 waters is a commercial fishing vessel called the Pacific
6 Paradise that ran aground on the beaches of Waikiki on October
7 10, 2017; and

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9 WHEREAS, salvage crews working on the Pacific Paradise took
10 nearly two months to remove the vessel through various means and
11 eventually brought the vessel further out to sea to be sunk, and
12 during the time that the salvage efforts were being made, the
13 vessel leaked oil and fuel, which caused a fire and damaged
14 shallow reefs; and

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16 WHEREAS, the Pacific Paradise was successfully removed on
17 December 7, 2017, after two months of various efforts to remove
18 the vessel, including preparing and patching its hull, removing
19 excess weight by pumping water, removing heavy spare parts
20 including sheet metal and the rudder, and adding additional
21 buoyancy while working in a challenging environment and weather;
22 and

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24 WHEREAS, the delayed removal of the stranded vessel exposed
25 the serious potential impact that stranded vessels can have on
26 Hawaii's nearshore waters; and



1 WHEREAS, delays in addressing future vessel strandings may
2 have similar or even greater detrimental impacts on the
3 environment; now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
6 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
7 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative Reference
8 Bureau is requested to conduct a study on the process that the
9 Department of Land and Natural Resources uses to remove stranded
10 vessels in nearshore waters; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the
13 Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to:
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- 15 (1) Review the department's process for the removal of
16 vessels stranded in nearshore waters;
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- 18 (2) Identify the environmental impacts on the State's
19 nearshore resources that are caused by stranded
20 vessels;
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- 22 (3) Consider ways to minimize environmental impacts
23 through the removal of stranded vessels;
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- 25 (4) Examine the events that transpired during the Pacific
26 Paradise vessel stranding;
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- 28 (5) Make recommendations on measures to prevent similar
29 vessel strandings in the future; and
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- 31 (6) Provide an assessment of the extent of environmental
32 and economic damages caused by the Pacific Paradise
33 stranding; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
36 Bureau is requested to include in its study a response plan for
37 future stranding events that includes possible ways to mitigate
38 the adverse effects of vessel strandings; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
41 Bureau is requested to submit its study, including proposed



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1 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
2 to the Regular Session of 2019; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
6 Board of Land and Natural Resources and the Director of the
7 Legislative Reference Bureau.

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OFFERED BY: 

MAR - 9 2018

