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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO  
CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO IDENTIFY HIGH PRIORITY AREAS FOR  
POTENTIAL DESIGNATION AS MARINE MANAGED AREAS.

1 WHEREAS, marine managed areas are essential tools for  
2 combatting climate change and sea level rise, preserving  
3 Hawaii's nearshore resources, and protecting the State's economy  
4 and coastal communities; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources  
7 defines a marine managed area as any area of the marine  
8 environment established by law or regulation to protect or  
9 enhance part or all of the natural and cultural resources  
10 therein; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, studies of similar areas in Hawaii and worldwide  
13 have shown large increases in biomass, density, size, and  
14 diversity of marine organisms in the marine managed areas; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, marine managed areas promote healthy diverse  
17 ecosystems, which are more likely to survive disturbances caused  
18 by people, weather, or climate-related changes; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, in a study of sixty fishing sites in the main  
21 Hawaiian Islands, no-take areas, which are a type of marine  
22 managed area, had over twice the biomass, higher diversity, and  
23 larger fish than partially protected and open access sites; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, marine managed areas have also been shown to  
26 result in sustainable fisheries, to promote marine education and  
27 recreation, and to stimulate the economy through ecotourism and  
28 education; and



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1 WHEREAS, marine managed areas, particularly those that  
2 contain healthy coral ecosystems, can be critical in increasing  
3 protection against natural hazards by reducing wave energy and  
4 buffering shorelines against waves, storms, and floods, and  
5 helping to prevent loss of life, property damage, and erosion;  
6 and

7  
8 WHEREAS, when reefs are damaged or destroyed, the loss of  
9 this natural barrier can significantly increase damage to  
10 coastal communities from wave action and violent storms; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, Hawaii's nearshore marine areas are home to a wide  
13 variety of marine species, many of which are endemic to Hawaii;  
14 and

15  
16 WHEREAS, the marine species of Hawaii play an important  
17 role for the State's inhabitants, providing residents and  
18 visitors physical, cultural, environmental, and spiritual  
19 sustenance; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, widespread and varied uses of marine species often  
22 leads to their removal from their natural habitats for such  
23 purposes as processing for food or sale as pets; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, as interest in the marine species of Hawaii  
26 increases, the number of species being removed from their native  
27 marine habitats increases as well and if current take levels  
28 increase, the marine species found in the nearshore waters of  
29 Hawaii will become more vulnerable to extinction, which could  
30 harm the local environment and people of Hawaii; and

31  
32 WHEREAS, to protect local marine habitats and wildlife for  
33 the benefit of Hawaii's people and economy, the State has  
34 recognized the need to identify specific areas that are in need  
35 of more effective management and the best management practices  
36 for those areas and, accordingly, the State has made a  
37 commitment to effectively manage thirty per cent of Hawaii's  
38 nearshore ocean waters by 2030, including by supporting  
39 community-based marine management; now, therefore,

40  
41 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
42 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session



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1 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Land and  
2 Natural Resources is requested to convene a working group to  
3 identify high priority areas for potential designation as marine  
4 managed areas; and

5  
6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group should  
7 include native fishermen, specific community members from each  
8 affected geographical area, and marine scientists; and

9  
10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the  
12 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.  
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14  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



MAR 07 2018

