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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE AQUATIC LIFE AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the coronavirus  
2 disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has had a catastrophic impact  
3 on the world economy. The complexities of dealing with a  
4 worldwide health crisis have added additional layers of  
5 uncertainty that may increase the time needed for recovery. As  
6 a result of this, the State has initiated a fiscal biennium  
7 2021-2023 program review to identify ways to:

- 8           (1) Reduce expenditures;
- 9           (2) Identify programs, functions, and activities for  
10 possible elimination that, although well-intentioned,  
11 are of marginal benefit, low performing, or of lesser  
12 priority; and
- 13           (3) Identify cost-saving opportunities in core and primary  
14 programs and services through tightening program  
15 eligibility, reducing program benefits, improving  
16 efficiency, or cost shifting.



1           The legislature further finds that the department of land  
2 and natural resources (department), after thorough review and  
3 much scrutiny, has determined that the aquatic life and wildlife  
4 advisory committees have rarely convened or been needed, and as  
5 such, are outdated. While this Act would reduce the size of the  
6 animal species advisory commission by removing the chairs of the  
7 aquatic life and wildlife advisory committees from the animal  
8 species advisory commission, the department believes that there  
9 is still sufficient representation on the animal species  
10 advisory commission to carry out its duties. The department is  
11 also able to administratively convene a similar advisory  
12 committee if it deems necessary.

13           The purpose of this Act is to repeal the aquatic life and  
14 wildlife advisory committees and make conforming amendments.

15           SECTION 2. Section 197-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended by repealing the definition of "committee".

17           ~~["Committee" means the aquatic life and wildlife advisory~~  
18 ~~committee established in each of the counties of the State."]~~

19           SECTION 3. Section 197-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:



1           "(a) There is established within the department an animal  
2 species advisory commission which may serve in an advisory  
3 capacity to the board. The commission shall consist of  
4 ~~[thirteen]~~ nine members to be appointed by the governor in the  
5 manner provided in section 26-34. ~~[The chairperson of each~~  
6 ~~aquatic life and wildlife advisory committee established~~  
7 ~~pursuant to this chapter and three]~~ Three members of the  
8 department designated by the chairperson of the ~~[department,~~  
9 board, and no less than one each from the professional fields of  
10 aquatic life, wildlife, and conservation and resources  
11 enforcement, shall serve as members of the commission. Six of  
12 the members shall be scientists in the fields of botany,  
13 mammalogy, ichthyology, entomology, ornithology, and  
14 invertebrate zoology. The commission shall select its own  
15 chairperson."

16           SECTION 4. Section 197-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 repealed.

18           ~~["§197-4 Aquatic life and wildlife advisory committees.~~  
19 ~~(a) There is established in each of the counties of the State~~  
20 ~~an aquatic life and wildlife advisory committee. Each committee~~  
21 ~~shall be composed of members of the board representing the~~



1 ~~county, who shall serve ex officio and shall be nonvoting~~  
2 ~~members, and five members appointed by the governor in~~  
3 ~~accordance with section 26-34, who shall be knowledgeable in the~~  
4 ~~taking and conservation of aquatic life and wildlife. The~~  
5 ~~members shall serve for four year terms. Each committee shall~~  
6 ~~select its own chairperson from its voting members, and three~~  
7 ~~voting members shall constitute a quorum. Members of the~~  
8 ~~committees shall receive no compensation but shall be reimbursed~~  
9 ~~by the board for all necessary expenses, including stenographic~~  
10 ~~services.~~

11 ~~(b) A committee shall meet at the call of its chairperson~~  
12 ~~or of any three of its members for the consideration of any~~  
13 ~~matter affecting the taking and conservation of aquatic life and~~  
14 ~~wildlife within the county, including proposed rules and the~~  
15 ~~enforcement thereof. Each committee may hear such persons and~~  
16 ~~acquire such information as it desires and shall communicate its~~  
17 ~~findings and recommendations to the department." ]~~

18 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
19 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

20 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

Aquatic Life and Wildlife Advisory Committees; Repeal

**Description:**

Repeals the aquatic life and wildlife advisory committees and makes conforming amendments. (HD2)

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

