
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SPORT FISH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the northern
2 largemouth bass and butterfly peacock bass, also known as
3 tucunare, are some of the most popular gamefish in the United
4 States, with northern largemouth bass existing in the State's
5 artificial reservoirs since 1896, and butterfly peacock bass
6 existing since 1957. More than 828,000 jobs nationally are
7 directly supported in some way by bass fishing and more than
8 \$48,000,000,000 in retail sales are directly attributed to bass
9 fishing activities. Arkansas, Illinois, Mississippi, Missouri,
10 Kentucky, Michigan, New Hampshire, and Vermont all recognize
11 bass fishing as a high school sport.

12 The legislature further finds that based upon fishing
13 licenses issued by the department of land and natural resources
14 to fish for northern largemouth bass and butterfly peacock bass,
15 bass fishing in the State is far less popular than in other
16 states. One reason for the small number of anglers fishing for
17 bass is the lack a diverse population of these sport fish in



1 Hawaii's artificial reservoirs. Attempts to import largemouth
2 bass into the State to improve the fishing stock have faced
3 intense regulatory restrictions. The current permit process to
4 import northern largemouth bass into the State is the same as
5 that for a species that has never been brought into Hawaii.

6 The purpose of this Act is to streamline the process to
7 import live northern largemouth bass and butterfly peacock bass
8 for the purpose of enhancing and supporting the pre-existing
9 populations for continued recreational fishing in Hawaii.

10 SECTION 2. Section 150A-6.2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

12 "(c) Animals on the lists of conditionally approved and
13 restricted animals shall be imported only by permit. Any animal
14 that is not on the lists of conditionally approved, restricted,
15 or prohibited animals shall be prohibited until the board's
16 review and determination for placement on one of these lists;
17 provided that the department may issue a special permit on a
18 case-by-case basis for the importation and possession of an
19 animal that is not on the lists of prohibited, restricted, or
20 conditionally approved animals, for the purpose of remediating
21 medical emergencies or agricultural or ecological disasters, or



1 conducting medical or scientific research in a manner that the
2 animal will not be detrimental to agriculture, the environment,
3 or humans, if the importer of the animal can meet permit
4 requirements as determined by the board; and provided further
5 that the department may issue a short-term special permit on a
6 case-by-case basis not to exceed ninety days for the importation
7 and possession of an animal that is not on the lists of
8 prohibited, restricted, or conditionally approved animals for
9 the purpose of filming, performance, or exhibition, if the
10 importer of the animal can meet permit and bonding requirements
11 as determined by the board[-]; provided further that northern
12 largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides salmoides*) and butterfly
13 peacock bass (*Cichla ocellaris*) shall be considered on the list
14 of conditionally approved animals that require a permit for
15 import into the State maintained pursuant to subsection (a)(1).
16 The department shall issue permits for the importation and
17 possession of northern largemouth bass and butterfly peacock
18 bass to allow for breeding and releasing."

19 SECTION 3. No later than January 1, 2022, and through its
20 own resources, the division of aquatic resources of the
21 department of land and natural resources shall establish a pilot



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1 project to restock northern largemouth bass, butterfly peacock
2 bass, or both in the Wahiawa public fishing area in central
3 Oahu. The division of aquatic resources may assist another
4 public entity or partner with a private entity to accomplish the
5 pilot project.

6 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

9

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 27 2021



H.B. NO. 1274

Report Title:

HDOA; Northern Largemouth Bass; Butterfly Peacock Bass; Sport Fishing; Import

Description:

Requires the department of agriculture to allow for the permitted importation of northern largemouth bass and butterfly peacock bass into Hawaii. Requires the division of aquatic resources to establish a pilot project to restock the Wahiawa public fishing area with northern largemouth bass, butterfly peacock bass, or both.

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

