

MAR 12 2021

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HAWAII HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, BIG ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION, OAHU INTERSCHOLASTIC ASSOCIATION, INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE OF HONOLULU, MAUI INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE, AND KAUAI INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION CREATE A PLAN TO IMPLEMENT BASS FISHING AS A SANCTIONED HIGH SCHOOL SPORT.

1           WHEREAS, bass fishing is a popular sport in the United  
2 States; and

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4           WHEREAS, high school fishing is one of the fastest-growing  
5 sports in the nation; and

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7           WHEREAS, the State has an existing population of largemouth  
8 bass fish for which the Department of Land and Natural Resources  
9 issues fishing licenses; and

10  
11           WHEREAS, nationally, bass fishing supports more than  
12 828,000 jobs and generates more than \$48,000,000 annually in  
13 retail sales; and

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15           WHEREAS, bass fishing is recognized as a high school sport  
16 in Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan,  
17 Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, Texas, and Vermont; and

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19           WHEREAS, there are multiple local, national, and  
20 international organizations that promote bass fishing  
21 tournaments, including the Hawaii Freshwater Fishing  
22 Association, the Bass Federation, and Fishing League Worldwide  
23 that can provide guidance for the implementation of bass fishing  
24 as a high school sport; and

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26           WHEREAS, local bass fishing led to the launch of the *Let's*  
27 *Go Fishing* show in 1969 and has been featured on the popular  
28 Animal Planet show, *Top Hooker*, in 2017; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, Hawaii has an established history with bass fish  
3 beginning with the first observation on the island of Hawaii in  
4 1856, followed by observations on Oahu, Maui, and Kauai in 1897;  
5 and  
6

7 WHEREAS, a Kauai Economic Development Board survey compiled  
8 in 2000 reported that anglers rated Hawaii as the second most  
9 popular destination to visit for freshwater fishing; and  
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11 WHEREAS, Oahu has a pre-established bass hatchery located  
12 at Wahiawa Middle School, which is supplied by the Department of  
13 Agriculture's Division of Aquatic Resources; and  
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15 WHEREAS, the Division of Aquatic Resources receives federal  
16 funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services' Sport Fish  
17 Restoration Program fund; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, the Sport Fish Restoration Program provides grants  
20 to the states for fishery projects, boating access, and aquatic  
21 education to ensure the continuation of sport fish  
22 opportunities, including freshwater sportfish; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, high school sports instill a sense of pride and  
25 belonging in students, gives students a reason to attain  
26 academic achievement, and provides a competitive outlet for our  
27 keiki; and  
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29 WHEREAS, accredited colleges and universities offer partial  
30 and full scholarships for members of collegiate bass fishing  
31 teams; and  
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33 WHEREAS, the State and the people of Hawaii would benefit  
34 from increased awareness of this traditional sport; now,  
35 therefore,  
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37 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
38 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the  
39 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
40 Education, Hawaii High School Athletic Association, Big Island  
41 Interscholastic Federation, Oahu Interscholastic Association,  
42 Interscholastic League of Honolulu, Maui Interscholastic League,



1 and Kauai Interscholastic Federation are requested to create a  
2 plan with clear goals to establish bass fishing as a sanctioned  
3 high school sport by January 1, 2022; and  
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii High School Athletic  
6 Association is requested to provide a report of its progress,  
7 findings, and recommendations, including any proposed  
8 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior  
9 to the Regular Session of 2022; and  
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
13 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Executive  
14 Director of the Hawaii High School Athletic Association,  
15 Executive Director of the Big Island Interscholastic Federation,  
16 Executive Director of the Oahu Interscholastic Association,  
17 Executive Director of the Interscholastic League of Honolulu,  
18 Executive Director of the Maui Interscholastic League, and  
19 Executive Director of the Kauai Interscholastic Federation.  
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OFFERED BY:

