

MAR 12 2021

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT NORTHERN LARGEMOUTH BASS BE PERMITTED TO BE IMPORTED BY THE STATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING BASS SPORTFISHING.

1 WHEREAS, freshwater fishing, particularly bass fishing is a  
2 popular sport in the United States; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, high school fishing is one of the fastest-growing  
5 sports across the nation; and  
6

7 WHEREAS, bass fishing is recognized as a high school sport  
8 in Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan,  
9 Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, Texas, and Vermont; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, the State has an existing population of largemouth  
12 bass fish for which the Department of Land and Natural Resources  
13 issues fishing licenses; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, nationally, bass fishing supports more than  
16 828,000 jobs and generates more than \$48,000,000 annually in  
17 retail sales; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, local bass fishing led to the launch of the *Let's*  
20 *Go Fishing* show in 1969 and has been featured on the popular  
21 Animal Planet show, *Top Hooker*, in 2017; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, Hawaii has an established history with bass fish  
24 beginning with the first observation on the island of Hawaii in  
25 1856, followed by observations on Oahu, Maui, and Kauai in 1897;  
26 and  
27

28 WHEREAS, a Kauai Economic Development Board survey compiled  
29 in 2000 reported that anglers rated Hawaii as the second most  
30 popular destination to visit for freshwater fishing; and  
31

32 WHEREAS, Oahu has a pre-established bass hatchery located  
33 at Wahiawa Middle School, which is supplied by the Department of  
34 Agriculture's Division of Aquatic Resources; and  
35



# S.R. NO. 197

1           WHEREAS, the Division of Aquatic Resources receives federal  
2 funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services' Sport Fish  
3 Restoration Program fund; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the Sport Fish Restoration Program provides grants  
6 to the states for fishery projects, boating access, and aquatic  
7 education to ensure the continuation of sport fish  
8 opportunities, including freshwater sportfish; and  
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10           WHEREAS, the State and the people of Hawaii would benefit  
11 from a diverse bass fish population; now, therefore,  
12

13           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,  
15 that the Department of Agriculture and its Division of Aquatic  
16 Resources are hereby requested to complete the process necessary  
17 to place the Northern Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*  
18 *salmoides*) on a list of conditionally approved animals that may  
19 be imported into the State with a permit; and  
20

21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that once the species is granted a  
22 place on the conditionally-approved list, the Division of  
23 Aquatic Resources is requested to complete the process to obtain  
24 a permit to import Northern Largemouth Bass; and  
25

26           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Division of Aquatic  
27 Resources ensure a fresh stock of Northern Largemouth Bass be  
28 imported for use in state-supported bass hatcheries; and  
29

30           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
31 and its Division of Aquatic Resources are requested to  
32 accomplish these tasks prior to the Regular Session of 2022; and  
33

34           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Division of Aquatic  
35 Resources is requested to provide a report of its progress,  
36 findings, and recommendations, including any proposed  
37 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior  
38 to the Regular Session of 2022; and  
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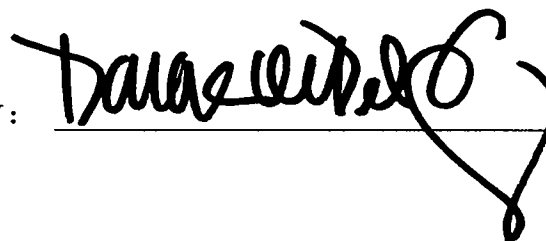
40           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
41 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of



1 Land and Natural Resources and Chairperson of the Board of  
2 Agriculture.

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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and appears to read "D. S. Srinivasan".