

MAR 12 2021

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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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

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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

29  
30           WHEREAS, Hawaii has an established history with bass fish  
31 beginning with the first observation on the island of Hawaii in



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1 1856, followed by observations on Oahu, Maui, and Kauai in 1897;  
2 and  
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4 WHEREAS, a Kauai Economic Development Board survey compiled  
5 in 2000 reported that anglers rated Hawaii as the second most  
6 popular destination to visit for freshwater fishing; and  
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8 WHEREAS, Oahu has a pre-established bass hatchery located  
9 at Wahiawa Middle School, which is supplied by the Department of  
10 Agriculture's Division of Aquatic Resources; and  
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12 WHEREAS, the Division of Aquatic Resources receives federal  
13 funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services' Sport Fish  
14 Restoration Program fund; and  
15

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

21 WHEREAS, high school sports instill a sense of pride and  
22 belonging in students, gives students a reason to attain  
23 academic achievement, and provides a competitive outlet for our  
24 keiki; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, accredited colleges and universities offer partial  
27 and full scholarships for members of collegiate bass fishing  
28 teams; and  
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30 WHEREAS, the State and the people of Hawaii would benefit  
31 from increased awareness of this traditional sport; now,  
32 therefore,  
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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,  
36 that the Department of Education, Hawaii High School Athletic  
37 Association, Big Island Interscholastic Federation, Oahu  
38 Interscholastic Association, Interscholastic League of Honolulu,  
39 Maui Interscholastic League, and Kauai Interscholastic  
40 Federation are requested to create a plan with clear goals to  
41 establish bass fishing as a sanctioned high school sport by  
42 January 1, 2022; and



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

