

MAR 10 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE MARINE LIFE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DESIGNATIONS.

1 WHEREAS, the coastal waters of the islands comprising the
2 State feature a number of different habitats, each with its own
3 characteristic marine life; and

4
5 WHEREAS, nearshore fishes have played an important role in
6 the lifestyle for residents, either commercially as a food
7 source or recreationally through snorkeling and diving; and

8
9 WHEREAS, because reef and inshore fishing had greatly
10 deteriorated in the State as a result of excessive taking of
11 fish in coastal waters, Act 192, Session Laws of Hawaii 1955,
12 was enacted to allow for the designation of marine life
13 conservation districts; and

14
15 WHEREAS, marine life conservation districts are designed to
16 conserve and replenish marine resources by limiting fishing and
17 other consumptive uses or prohibiting such uses entirely; and

18
19 WHEREAS, under existing law, marine life conservation
20 districts are established by the Department of Land and Natural
21 Resources; and

22
23 WHEREAS, there are ten existing marine life conservation
24 districts in the State as follows: Hanauma Bay, O'ahu; Pūpūkea,
25 O'ahu; Waikīkī, O'ahu; Kealakekua Bay, Hawai'i; Lapakahi, Hawai'i;
26 Old Kona Airport, Hawai'i; Waialea Bay, Hawai'i; Honolulu -
27 Mokulē'ia, Maui; Molokini Shoal, Maui; and Mānele - Hulopo'e,
28 Lāna'i; and

29
30 WHEREAS, the protections for the marine life conservation
31 districts vary from district to district, and further assessment



1 should be given to determine whether further protections should
2 be conferred; now, therefore,

3
4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
6 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested
7 to conduct a study on the marine life conservation districts
8 designations; and

9
10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study is requested to:

- 11
12 (1) Assess whether the Marine Life Conservation District
13 Program is achieving its objectives; and
14
15 (2) Investigate the effectiveness of the criteria for
16 designating marine life conservation districts
17 compared to the International Union for Conservation
18 of Nature protected area categories, especially for:
19
20 (A) Areas within an existing marine life conservation
21 district that may require additional protection;
22 and
23
24 (B) Areas not within an existing marine life
25 conservation district that should be given the
26 protections of such designation, including areas
27 adjacent to existing marine life conservation
28 districts that may be included by expansion; and
29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
31 Natural Resources is requested to submit a report of its
32 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
33 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
34 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
38 Land and Natural Resources and Administrator of the Division of
39 Aquatic Resources of the Department of Land and Natural
40 Resources.
41
42



S.R. NO. 167

1

OFFERED BY:



