
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO UHU.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that uhu, the Hawaiian
2 name for the parrotfish, sustain ocean environments by eating
3 seaweed and algae that would otherwise smother reef coral, as
4 well as by eating parts of sickened coral reef. Further, seven
5 varieties of uhu can be found in state waters and any individual
6 uhu produces approximately two-thousand pounds of sand per year
7 by passing processed coral particles and vegetation through its
8 gills. The legislature notes that Hawai'i's uhu population is on
9 the decline, with a noted reduction of seventy to eighty per
10 cent over the last thirty years, according to federal data on
11 Hawaiian ocean reefs.

12 The legislature also finds that uhu wield historical and
13 cultural significance in Hawai'i. In particular, traditional
14 Hawaiian villages often maintained fishponds, in which uhu were
15 raised as a source of nourishment.

16 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to prohibit people
17 from fishing or otherwise removing uhu from state waters, in an



1 effort to conserve the declining uhu populations and maintain
2 the health of Hawai'i's vulnerable ocean ecosystems.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 188, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
5 and to read as follows:

6 "§188- Uhu (Parrotfish), fishing or removal, prohibited.
7 It is unlawful for any person to intentionally or knowingly
8 remove uhu, or parrotfish, from state waters."

9 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

11
INTRODUCED BY: Karl Rhoad



S.B. NO. 994

Report Title:

Uhu; Parrotfish; Prohibition; Fishing Ban

Description:

Prohibits all removal of uhu, also known as parrotfish, from state waters.

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