

JAN 17 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE LAPAKAHI MARINE LIFE CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the division of
2 aquatic resources (DAR) of the department of land and natural
3 resources issued a fishing moratorium in the waters surrounding
4 the Lapakahi state historical park. DAR intended for the
5 moratorium to restore overfished species, support the local
6 ecological balance, and honor the region's rich cultural and
7 historical significance. Studies conducted by DAR indicate that
8 fish populations in the Lapakahi marine life conservation
9 district have rebounded and coral health has improved since the
10 adoption of the moratorium. However, the moratorium has also
11 negatively affected local fishers and surrounding communities
12 that rely on these waters for their incomes and livelihoods.

13 The legislature further finds that the moratorium on
14 fishing in the Lapakahi marine life conservation district is no
15 longer necessary as recent assessments indicate that populations
16 of key fish species have recovered. To address the economic
17 needs of the local community and to ensure the preservation of



1 the marine resources in the conservation district, fishing
2 should be reintroduced to the area under sustainable management
3 protocols. Reintroducing sustainable fishing practices with the
4 proper rules and regulations will benefit the local economy,
5 reinvigorate local fishing activity, and establish guidelines
6 for sustainable fishing to ensure that marine resources remain
7 available and plentiful. Lifting the moratorium will also
8 provide the local community with an opportunity to provide input
9 and collaborate with the department in the management of the
10 conservation district.

11 Therefore, the purpose of this measure is to direct the
12 department of land and natural resources to adopt rules lifting
13 the moratorium on fishing in the Lapakahi marine life
14 conservation district.

15 SECTION 2. The department of land and natural resources
16 shall adopt rules lifting the moratorium on fishing in the
17 Lapakahi marine life conservation district.

18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Keith M. Renteria*

S.B. NO. 510

Report Title:

DLNR; Lapakahi Marine Life Conservation District; Fishing;
Moratorium

Description:

Directs the Department of Land and Natural Resources to adopt rules lifting the moratorium on fishing in the Lapakahi Marine Life Conservation District.

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