S.C.R. NO. 157

MAR 0 7 2025

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE TO ADOPT THE AGREEMENT UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS
CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA ON THE CONSERVATION AND
SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF AREAS
BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION AND SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE,
ADMINISTRATIVE, AND POLICY MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT THE
AGREEMENT AT THE STATE AND COUNTY LEVELS.

1   WHEREAS, the Agreement under the United Nations Convention
2 on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of
3 Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National
4 Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) is an important initiative to
5 protect the State and the planet; and
6
7   WHEREAS, nearly two-thirds of the ocean belongs to all, but
8 no one in particular, and is a global common; and
9
10   WHEREAS, the BBNJ Agreement includes binding and voluntary
11 measures that aim to better implement the BBNJ Agreement,
12 especially to protect and conserve vast geographical areas
13 through better cooperation and coordination of various
14 stakeholders; and
15
16   WHEREAS, the BBNJ Agreement emphasizes addressing, in part,
17 biological diversity loss and degradation of ecosystems of the
18 ocean due to climate change impacts on marine ecosystems, such
19 as warming and ocean deoxygenation; ocean acidification;
20 pollution, including plastic pollution; and unsustainable use
21 with the goal to advance scientific research globally; and
22
23   WHEREAS, the BBNJ Agreement requires its parties to share
24 both monetary and non-monetary benefits arising from activities
25 with respect to marine genetic resources and digital sequence
26 information on marine genetic resources of areas beyond national
27 jurisdiction in a fair and equitable manner; and
28

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1   WHEREAS, on June 19, 2023, nearly two hundred countries
2   adopted the BBNJ Agreement by consensus. The BBNJ Agreement
3   represents over two decades of international collaboration among
4   a wide range of stakeholders, which includes countries,
5   scientists, indigenous peoples and local communities, civil
6   society, academics, research institutions, and the private
7   sector; and
8
9   WHEREAS, the key elements of the BBNJ Agreement are marine
10 genetic resources and their digital sequence information,
11 including the fair and equitable sharing of benefits; area-based
12 management tools, including marine protected areas;
13 environmental impact assessments; and capacity building and
14 transfer of marine technology; and
15
16   WHEREAS, the BBNJ Agreement recommendations provide the
17 basis for climate justice, sustainable development, and earth
18 rights; and
19
20   WHEREAS, this body supports the implementation of the BBNJ
21 Agreement where applicable to the State; and
22
23   WHEREAS, this body also supports the promotion of a culture
24 of climate justice based on the principles established in the
25 Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Pacific
26 Islands Forum; and
27
28   WHEREAS, this body encourages greater participation in the
29 United Nations' efforts to support human rights, sustainable
30 development, and climate processes that promote various rights
31 and fundamental freedoms and protect the planet; now, therefore,
32
33   BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the
35 House of Representatives concurring, that the State is urged to
36 adopt the BBNJ Agreement and support legislative,
37 administrative, and policy measures to implement the BBNJ
38 Agreement at the state and county levels; and
39
40   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State is urged to undertake
41 effective, inclusive, sustainable, and rights-based
42 considerations to address the BBNJ Agreement's aspirations; and

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2   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
3 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Mayors
4 of each county.
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                    OFFERED BY: _____