

MAR 07 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO ADOPT
RULES LIFTING THE MORATORIUM ON FISHING IN THE LAPAKAHI
MARINE LIFE CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

1 WHEREAS, the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) of the
2 Department of Land and Natural Resources issued a fishing
3 moratorium in the water surrounding the Lapakahi State
4 Historical Park; and
5

6 WHEREAS, DAR intended for the moratorium to restore
7 overfished species, support the local ecological balance, and
8 honor the region's rich cultural and historical significance;
9 and
10

11 WHEREAS, studies conducted by DAR indicate that fish
12 populations have rebounded and coral health has improved since
13 the adoption of the moratorium; and
14

15 WHEREAS, the moratorium has also negatively affected local
16 fishers and surrounding communities that rely on these waters
17 for their incomes and livelihoods; and
18

19 WHEREAS, the moratorium on fishing in the Lapakahi Marine
20 Life Conservation District is no longer necessary as recent
21 assessments indicate that populations of key fish species have
22 recovered; and
23

24 WHEREAS, to address the economic needs of the local
25 community and to ensure the preservation of the marine resources
26 in the conservation district, fishing should be reintroduced to
27 the area under sustainable management protocols; and
28

29 WHEREAS, reintroducing sustainable fishing practices with
30 the proper rules and regulations will benefit the local economy,
31 reinvigorate local fishing activity, and establish guidelines
32 for sustainable fishing to ensure that marine resources remain
33 available and plentiful; and
34



1 WHEREAS, lifting the moratorium will also provide the local
2 community with an opportunity to provide input and collaborate
3 with the Department of Land and Natural Resources in the
4 management of the conservation district; now, therefore,
5

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
8 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested
9 to adopt rules lifting the moratorium on fishing in the Lapakahi
10 Marine Life Conservation District; and
11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
13 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
14 Land and Natural Resources and Administrator of the Division of
15 Aquatic Resources.
16
17
18

OFFERED BY:

