

MAR 07 2025

SENATE CONCURRENT 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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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



1 for sustainable fishing to ensure that marine resources remain
2 available and plentiful; and

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

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

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

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OFFERED BY:

