

MAR 07 2025

SENATE 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

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7 WHEREAS, nearly two-thirds of the ocean belongs to all, but
8 no one in particular, and is a global common; and

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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

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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

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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

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29 WHEREAS, on June 19, 2023, nearly two hundred countries
30 adopted the BBNJ Agreement by consensus. The BBNJ Agreement
31 represents over two decades of international collaboration among
32 a wide range of stakeholders, which includes countries,



1 scientists, indigenous peoples and local communities, civil
2 society, academics, research institutions, and the private
3 sector; and
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5 WHEREAS, the key elements of the BBNJ Agreement are marine
6 genetic resources and their digital sequence information,
7 including the fair and equitable sharing of benefits; area-based
8 management tools, including marine protected areas;
9 environmental impact assessments; and capacity building and
10 transfer of marine technology; and
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12 WHEREAS, the BBNJ Agreement recommendations provide the
13 basis for climate justice, sustainable development, and earth
14 rights; and
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16 WHEREAS, this body supports the implementation of the BBNJ
17 Agreement where applicable to the State; and
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19 WHEREAS, this body also supports the promotion of a culture
20 of climate justice based on the principles established in the
21 Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Pacific
22 Islands Forum; and
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24 WHEREAS, this body encourages greater participation in the
25 United Nations' efforts to support human rights, sustainable
26 development, and climate processes that promote various rights
27 and fundamental freedoms and protect the planet; now, therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
31 that the State is urged to adopt the BBNJ Agreement and support
32 legislative, administrative, and policy measures to implement
33 the BBNJ Agreement at the state and county levels; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State is urged to undertake
36 effective, inclusive, sustainable, and rights-based
37 considerations to address the BBNJ Agreement's aspirations; and
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S.R. NO. 127

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



