

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

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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

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

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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  
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,  
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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  
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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  
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OFFERED BY:



