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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO ASSESS  
THE IMPACT OF JUG LINE FISHING AND TO ADOPT RULES PURSUANT  
TO CHAPTER 91, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, NECESSARY TO  
ADDRESS ANY CONCERNS RAISED BY THE ASSESSMENT.

1           WHEREAS, protecting Hawaii's marine life is vital to  
2 maintaining ocean ecosystems for present and future generations;  
3 and

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5           WHEREAS, jug line fishing typically involves deploying  
6 offshore floating jugs, bobbers, or other buoyant devices to  
7 suspend baited hooks in the ocean and often targets large fish  
8 species, requiring the use of thick and strong, or high-test,  
9 fishing lines; and

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11           WHEREAS, jug line fishing is different from hand-pole  
12 fishing in that with jug line fishing, gear can be largely  
13 unattended, allowing for passive fishing of large areas with  
14 minimal gear, effort, or follow up to retrieve gear; and

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16           WHEREAS, jug line fishing is a largely non-selective  
17 fishing practice that poses major threats to marine life,  
18 frequently resulting in the hooking, entanglement, or injury of  
19 non-target species, including sharks and protected green sea  
20 turtles, and presenting a severe risk to endangered species,  
21 such as the Hawaiian monk seal and hawksbill sea turtle; and

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23           WHEREAS, jug lines often become marine debris when they are  
24 lost, cut, or otherwise left in the ocean; and

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26           WHEREAS, once in the ocean, this gear can persist for  
27 years, continuing to pollute coastal and offshore areas, damage  
28 delicate coral reefs, and pose a serious threat to marine life  
29 through entanglement; and

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1           WHEREAS, in September 2025, the Department of Land and  
 2 Natural Resources reported the death of RS34, a two-year-old  
 3 female Hawaiian monk seal known as Moana, which was caused by a  
 4 jug line fishing method; and

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 6           WHEREAS, wildlife officials determined that the use of  
 7 high-test line and buoyant jugs significantly increased the risk  
 8 of gear loss and entanglement, resulting in fatal consequences  
 9 for the Hawaiian monk seal; and

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 11           WHEREAS, this incident demonstrates the unsustainable  
 12 nature of jug line fishing and its impact on non-target marine  
 13 life; and

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 15           WHEREAS, the continued use of jug lines and jug rig variant  
 16 fishing methods is incompatible with responsible resource  
 17 management and the State's obligation to protect marine wildlife  
 18 and the marine environment of Hawaii; now, therefore,

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 20           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 21 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
 22 of 2026, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is  
 23 urged to assess the impact of jug line fishing and to adopt  
 24 rules pursuant to Chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, necessary  
 25 to address any concerns raised by the assessment; and

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 27           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
 28 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
 29 Land and Natural Resources.

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OFFERED BY: *Rindalchingane*  
 MAR 16 2026

