
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO COORDINATE THE TRANSFER OF SMALL BOAT HARBORS BACK TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND TO ESTABLISH A MANAGEMENT TEAM TO DEVELOP TRANSITION PLANS.

1 WHEREAS, Act 272, Session Laws of Hawaii 1991 (Act 272),
2 transferred the administration of the State's small boat harbors
3 from the Department of Transportation to the Department of Land
4 and Natural Resources; and

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6 WHEREAS, Act 272 included transition provisions requiring
7 the establishment of a joint management team to ensure
8 continuity of operations, personnel alignment, and
9 administrative readiness during the transfer period; and

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11 WHEREAS, the Legislature now seeks to return the small boat
12 harbor program to the Department of Transportation to better
13 align harbor planning, capital programming, operations, and
14 maintenance with the State's integrated, multimodal
15 transportation system; and

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17 WHEREAS, the transfer of authority, staff, operations, and
18 assets requires a structured transition process, sufficient lead
19 time, and clear accountability to ensure uninterrupted services
20 and responsible stewardship of public resources; and

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22 WHEREAS, while the transfer of full regulatory authority,
23 responsibilities, and jurisdiction over the State's small boat
24 harbors would require statutory amendments through the enactment
25 of laws, the Legislature finds value in initiating coordinated
26 planning to ensure that any prospective transition proceeds in
27 an orderly and informed manner; now, therefore,

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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session



1 of 2026, that the Department of Transportation and Department of
2 Land and Natural Resources are requested to coordinate the
3 transfer of all authority, responsibilities, positions, staff,
4 operations, programs, assets, funds, and accounts associated
5 with the State's small boat harbors back to the Department of
6 Transportation; and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Transportation
9 and Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources are
10 requested to establish a management team to coordinate the
11 transfer; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Transportation
14 and Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources are
15 requested to designate or assign necessary staff to support the
16 management team in developing and implementing transition plans;
17 and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the management team is
20 requested to develop transition and implementation plans
21 necessary to ensure that the transferred functions and personnel
22 are operational within the Department of Transportation,
23 including, at a minimum:

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25 (1) Reworking position descriptions and reviewing
26 personnel classifications;
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28 (2) Developing an organizational structure for
29 administering small boat harbors within the Department
30 of Transportation; and
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32 (3) Addressing operational, administrative, and
33 personnel-related matters necessary for an orderly
34 transfer; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the management team is
37 requested to submit a report of its findings and
38 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
39 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
40 the Regular Session of 2027; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation and
3 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.
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OFFERED BY:

Arnon Mizale

MAR 12 2026

