

ACT 353

S.B. NO. 1274

A Bill for an Act Relating to Ocean Resources.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State has always promoted its tourism industry on the basis of Hawaii's natural beauty. This is especially true of Hawaii's coastal areas, beaches, and near-shore ocean waters. The ocean recreation industry of the State is currently valued at approximately \$200 million. The legislature, therefore, finds that the natural beauty of Hawaii's coastal areas, beaches, and near-shore ocean waters are vital to the State's tourism industry.

The legislature further finds that recent events involving oil spills, waste water disposal, and marine life depletion have affected popular ocean and beach areas. The legislature recognizes that the natural resources of the coastal areas are a finite resource and that increased usage of these resources without proper coordination and planning may result in their diminishing value as visitor attractions.

In other states and countries such as Switzerland, Kenya, Costa Rica, and Minnesota there have been instituted resource tourist development plans designed to maintain the long term attractiveness of their environment and natural resources.

The purpose of this Act is to establish a governor's ocean resources tourism development task force to study how the natural beauty of Hawaii's coastal areas, beaches, and near-shore ocean waters might be preserved,

restored, or enhanced for the promotion and development of the ocean recreation and tourism industries.

SECTION 2. There is established a governor's ocean resources tourism development task force. The purpose of the task force shall be to study how the natural beauty of Hawaii's coastal areas, beaches, and near-shore ocean waters might be preserved, restored, or enhanced for the promotion and development of the ocean recreation and tourism industries.

The task force shall consist of seven members, one each to be selected by the governor from the department of planning and economic development's ocean resources office, the department of land and natural resources, the department of transportation, the University of Hawaii, the Hawaii state association of counties, the Hawaii Visitors Bureau, and the ocean recreation council of Hawaii. The representative from the department of planning and economic development's ocean resources office shall chair the task force. The members of the task force selected by the governor shall serve without compensation, but members shall be reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the performance of their duties.

SECTION 3. The task force shall submit a preliminary report of its findings and recommendations to the legislature twenty days prior to the convening of the 1988 regular session of the legislature. The task force shall submit its final report twenty days prior to the convening of the 1989 regular session of the legislature.

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$10,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the fiscal year 1987-1988, and the sum of \$10,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the fiscal year 1988-1989, for the purposes of this Act. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the governor's ocean resources tourism development task force.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1987.

(Approved July 2, 1987.)