
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES TO RECOGNIZE THE RECOVERY OF HAWAIIAN
GREEN SEA TURTLES AND BEGIN ACTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THIS
IMPORTANT SPECIES.

1 WHEREAS, in the early 1970s, the State of Hawaii developed
2 a management plan to limit the hunting of the Hawaiian green sea
3 turtle, known as honu, in Hawaii by requiring permits and
4 reporting; and

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6 WHEREAS, in 1978, the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) was
7 listed as a threatened and protected species under the Federal
8 Endangered Species Act; and

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10 WHEREAS, because green sea turtles are classified as a
11 threatened and protected species worldwide, the Hawaiian green
12 sea turtle has received the same protections; and

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14 WHEREAS, such protections required the cessation of
15 harvesting honu as a traditional Hawaiian food source, despite
16 protests by the State and the people of Hawaii; and

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18 WHEREAS, today, scientific studies as well as reports by
19 Native Hawaiian lawaia (cultural practitioners of fishing) have
20 concluded that the honu population is approaching full recovery
21 and that the environment and ecosystem are suffering from the
22 current over-protection and over-population of honu; and

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24 WHEREAS, on June 16, 2011, Fishers Forum: The Future of
25 Honu Management, was convened by the Western Pacific Regional
26 Fishery Management Council to inform the public about the status
27 of honu, the process for delisting a species from the Endangered
28 Species Act, and to initiate community dialogue regarding the
29 future management of honu; and

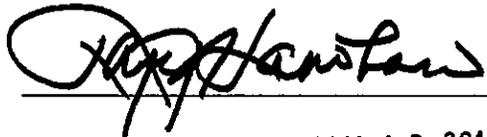


1 WHEREAS, the Recovery Plan for the United States Pacific
 2 Populations of the Green Sea Turtle of 1998 requires that a
 3 management plan be in place to maintain sustained populations of
 4 green sea turtles in order for the species to be considered for
 5 delisting; now, therefore,

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 7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 8 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 9 Session of 2013, the Senate concurring, that the United States
 10 is urged to recognize the recovery of the Hawaiian green sea
 11 turtle and begin the active management of this species; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Marine Fisheries
 14 Service and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service are
 15 urged to designate the Hawaiian green sea turtle as a distinct
 16 population segment and delist it from the threatened species
 17 list under the Endangered Species Act; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 20 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Regional
 21 Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Pacific
 22 Islands Regional Office; the Chairperson of the Western Pacific
 23 Regional Fishery Management Council; the Chairperson of the
 24 Board of Land and Natural Resources; and the members of Hawaii's
 25 congressional delegation.
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OFFERED BY: 

JAN 19 2013