
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE DECLARATION OF THE CELLANA EXARATA SHELL AS THE
HAWAII STATE SEA SHELL.

1 WHEREAS, the cellana exarata, also known as the Hawaiian
2 blackfoot opihi, is a limpet, which is part of a broad category
3 of marine snail characterized by conical shells; and
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5 WHEREAS, although limpets are found around the world the
6 Hawaiian blackfoot opihi is only found in the Hawaiian islands;
7 and
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9 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian blackfoot opihi are mainly found in
10 the most violent areas where surf crashes on the wet rocks,
11 tightly braced so they are unharmed by surf while they slowly
12 graze on algae;
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14 WHEREAS, native Hawaiians once used Hawaiian blackfoot
15 opihi for fertilizer, jewelry, scraping taro, and considered it
16 an important source of protein; and
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18 WHEREAS, today Hawaiian blackfoot opihi are a highly
19 coveted delicacy, especially for baby luaus, because the intense
20 opihi-rock connection is equated with the bond between mother
21 and child; and
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23 WHEREAS, some believe that Hawaiian blackfoot opihi also
24 symbolize tightly knit families because they tend to cluster
25 together with other Hawaiian blackfoot opihi; and
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27 WHEREAS, because there is a high demand for Hawaiian
28 blackfoot opihi, many people in Hawaii each year attempt to pick
29 Hawaiian blackfoot opihi in these dangerous conditions, in fact,
30 more people in Hawaii die each year picking Hawaiian blackfoot
31 opihi than from shark or an animal attacks; and



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WHEREAS, the population of the Hawaiian blackfoot opihi is dwindling because of over-harvesting of this sought-after treat and, in 2013, the price of opihi was approximately \$40 a pound at Honolulu fish markets; and

WHEREAS, many states, including South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, and Massachusetts have designated a state sea shell; and

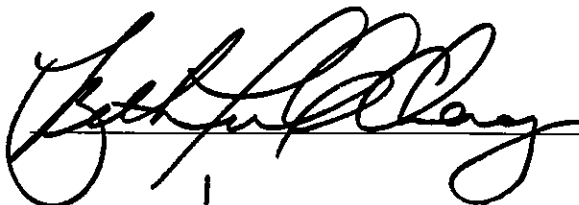
WHEREAS, it is fitting for Hawaii to have a designated state sea shell, especially because it is the only state in the United States that is an island; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to protect the overharvested limpet and to promote awareness for the culturally vital Hawaiian blackfoot opihi and its beautiful conical sea shell; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature supports the declaration of the cellana exarata shell as the Hawaii state sea shell; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

OFFERED BY:


by request
MAR 13 2015

