
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 1978, the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) was
2 listed as a threatened and protected species under the
3 Endangered Species Act; and
4

5 WHEREAS, because green sea turtles were classified as a
6 threatened and protected species worldwide, the Hawaiian green
7 sea turtle, known as honu, was to receive the same protections,
8 including cessation of harvesting as a traditional Hawaiian
9 source of food, despite protests by the State and people of
10 Hawaii; and
11

12 WHEREAS, in the early 1970s, the State of Hawaii developed
13 a management plan to limit the hunting of honu in Hawaii by
14 requiring permits and reporting; and
15

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

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

29 WHEREAS, the Recovery Plan for the United States Pacific
30 Populations of the Green Sea Turtle of 1998 requires that a
31 management plan be in place to maintain sustained populations of



H.C.R. NO. 87

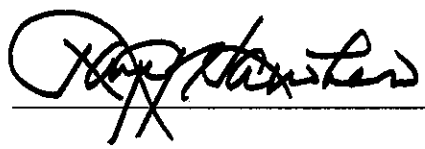
1 green sea turtles for the species to be considered for
2 delisting; now, therefore,

3
4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
6 of 2012, the Senate concurring, that the United States is urged
7 to recognize the recovery of the Hawaiian green sea turtle and
8 begin active management of this important species; and

9
10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Marine Fisheries
11 Service and United States Fish and Wildlife Service are urged to
12 designate the Hawaiian green turtle as a distinct population
13 segment and delist it from the threatened list under the
14 Endangered Species Act; and

15
16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Regional
18 Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Pacific
19 Islands Regional Office; the Chairperson of the Western Pacific
20 Regional Fishery Management Council; the Chairperson of the Board
21 of Land and Natural Resources; and the members of Hawaii's
22 congressional delegation.

23
24
25

OFFERED BY: 

MAR 08 2012

