
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the near shore
2 marine resources of the State have declined over several
3 generations, impacting Native Hawaiian traditional and customary
4 practices, all residents' lifestyle, and the visitor industry.
5 Land-based sources of pollution, invasive species, overuse, and
6 poor management have all played a part in our near shore ocean's
7 decline. At the same time, today and tomorrow's users should be
8 able to partake in the ocean as past generations once did. This
9 situation necessitates the implementation of innovative and
10 effective approaches, policies, and regulations that are
11 informed by the values of the people of Hawaii.

12 The legislature further finds that Hawaii's people have a
13 long tradition of resource stewardship and strong stewardship
14 values that are essential to reversing resource declines.
15 Community-based co-management of near shore marine areas, that
16 is, communities working with government, is recognized as an
17 effective tool to increase opportunities for stakeholder



1 involvement, re-invigoration of Hawaii's history and culture of
2 mālama 'āina, increasing voluntary compliance with regulations,
3 and ultimately improvement of resource conditions and
4 availability for future generations. In more than two dozen
5 coastal areas across the State, local communities want to engage
6 in marine co-management to see their resources sustained and
7 traditional practices preserved. All of these processes include
8 families, fishermen, kūpuna, youth, government, and many others
9 with deep and caring ties to their coastal areas.

10 The legislature further finds efforts need to be devised to
11 bring users and other interests together rather than further
12 dividing them. These efforts promote tradition and culture not
13 as artifacts to be preserved in books and museums, but as
14 solutions to be practiced as keys to a sustainable future.

15 Research and experience in Hawaii and around the world
16 demonstrate that community-based co-management of marine
17 resources in partnership with government can be a successful
18 policy and management strategy, because:

19 (1) It recognizes and honors the unique resources,
20 habitat, condition, people, and tradition of each
21 place;



- 1 (2) Community members have a high level of identification
2 with and commitment to their place;
- 3 (3) Community members are respected as local leaders and
4 directly involved in decisions and management with
5 shared norms, trust, communication, and connection
6 between networks and groups of stakeholders;
- 7 (4) Co-management fosters a sense of kuleana through
8 genuine sharing of responsibility and authority with
9 government in policy development, decision-making, and
10 setting standards of conduct; and
- 11 (5) An engaged community has a shared commitment to
12 compliance in preservation, achievement of successful
13 resource enhancement, and promotion of sustainable
14 use.

15 The department of land and natural resources has the
16 statutory mandate to implement policies and management
17 strategies, which include community-based co-management, to
18 preserve and protect Hawaii's marine resources and traditional
19 practices. In order to successfully implement appropriate
20 programs and to grow and maintain the active participation and
21 trust of communities, the department needs consistent technical



1 and staff capacity to engage with communities and other
2 stakeholders and to deliver government services effectively.

3 The legislature further finds that the increase in ocean
4 use and threats necessitates the development of innovative
5 partnerships, policies, regulations, and strategies in the
6 department of land and natural resources to ensure the
7 department meets its mandate to properly manage and administer
8 the aquatic resources of the State. In the area of community-
9 based co-management of marine resources, this includes having
10 the essential staff members who can engage with interested
11 communities and help them to coordinate traditional stewardship
12 practices with the departmental systems and processes, to
13 develop community-driven rules and standards of conduct that
14 meet the State's regulatory requirements, and to implement a
15 collaborative and effective approach to compliance with
16 community-based standards and rules.

17 The purpose of this Act is make an appropriation to
18 establish three permanent positions in the department of land
19 and natural resources to support community-based co-management
20 of the State's marine resources, ensure compliance with state
21 and federal mandates, and support effective rulemaking and



1 compliance with adopted standards and rules for sustainable
2 resource use and protection.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and
6 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
7 year 2016-2017 for program operating costs and to establish
8 three permanent full-time equivalent (3.00 FTE) positions in the
9 department of land and natural resources to include a community-
10 based subsistence fishing area planner, marine regulation and
11 policy specialist, and makai watch coordinator to support
12 community-based co-management of near shore marine resources,
13 implement effective rule-making, and help ensure compliance with
14 resource use and protection standards and regulations.

15 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
16 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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H.B. NO. 1298

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Sony M. Puhl
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[Signature]

JAN 28 2015



H.B. NO. 1298

Report Title:

DLNR; Appropriation; Planner; Policy Specialist; Watch Coordinator

Description:

Makes an appropriation to establish three permanent full-time equivalent (3.00 FTE) positions in the Department of Land and Natural Resources to include a community-based subsistence fishing area planner, marine regulation and policy specialist, and makai watch coordinator to support community-based co-management of near shore marine resources, implement effective rule-making, and help ensure compliance with resource use and protection standards and regulations.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

