
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND REAFFIRMING SUPPORT OF THE NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN
ISLANDS MARINE REFUGE.

1 WHEREAS, October 10, 2015, will mark the ten-year
2 anniversary of the establishment of the Northwestern Hawaiian
3 Islands Marine Refuge by the State of Hawaii; and
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5 WHEREAS, this anniversary serves as an important reminder
6 of our State's commitment to the long-term conservation and
7 protection of the resources of the northwestern Hawaiian islands
8 for present and future generations; and
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10 WHEREAS, recognizing the unity among all of the Hawaiian
11 islands within our archipelago is integral to effectively
12 managing our resources; and
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14 WHEREAS, the purposes of the marine refuge at the time of
15 designation included "[t]o manage, preserve, protect, and
16 conserve the unique resources in the marine refuge, using the
17 best available science and a precautionary management approach
18 to resource protection to minimize risks of possible adverse
19 effects on the regional ecosystem, its biodiversity or its
20 indigenous wildlife, especially where data is limited"; and
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22 WHEREAS, the northwest Hawaiian islands are considered a
23 sacred area, from which native Hawaiians believe all life
24 springs, and to which spirits return to after death; and
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26 WHEREAS, the northwest Hawaiian islands serve as a
27 significant region of Hawaii, where cultural, subsistence, and
28 religious practices occur for the perpetuation of Hawaiian
29 traditions; and
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H.C.R. NO. 225

1 WHEREAS, in recent years, native Hawaiians, in their
2 continuing journey to rediscover and perpetuate their
3 traditional and customary practices, have voyaged to the
4 northwest Hawaiian islands to honor their ancestors and to
5 access their kupuna islands for the knowledge and spiritual
6 inspiration these islands provide; and

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8 WHEREAS, the reefs of the northwest Hawaiian islands
9 comprise about seventy percent of the coral reefs under the
10 jurisdiction of the United States; and

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12 WHEREAS, these reefs are considered some of the richest and
13 healthiest ocean environments remaining on the planet; and

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15 WHEREAS, since the 2005 designation, these marine areas
16 alongside surrounding waters and lands have been nationally and
17 internationally recognized both as the Papahānaumokuākea Marine
18 National Monument in 2006 and as a mixed World Heritage site by
19 the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, United
20 Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations in
21 2010; now, therefore,

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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
25 Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the ten-year
26 anniversary of the establishment of the Northwestern Hawaiian
27 Islands Marine Refuge is a time to recognize and reaffirm
28 support of prior state leadership, which helped forge the way
29 towards future designations, which have further protected and
30 recognized this wahi pana, legendary place; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Concurrent Resolution
33 recognizes and reaffirms the purposes of the marine refuge as
34 originally envisioned by our leaders ten years ago; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Concurrent Resolution
37 supports the continued state management for this aina momona,
38 place of abundance; and

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H.C.R. NO. 225

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
3 Board of Land and Natural Resources.
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OFFERED BY:



MAR 13 2015

