
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO PROMOTE
GREATER AWARENESS OF OCEAN SAFETY MEASURES FOR INDIVIDUALS
WHO GATHER OR HARVEST OPIHI.

1 WHEREAS, opihi, which includes *Cellana exarata* (blackfoot),
2 *Cellana sandwicensis* (yellowfoot), *Cellana talcosa* (koele), and
3 *Cellana melanostoma* (greenfoot), is a widely enjoyed delicacy in
4 Hawaii; and
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6 WHEREAS, ordinarily, commercial opihi harvesters charge
7 between \$200 and \$250 for a gallon of opihi that is cleaned and
8 shelled; however, during periods of high demand, opihi can
9 command up to \$400 per gallon--and even more under certain
10 circumstances; and
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12 WHEREAS, because the opihi-harvesting trade can be so
13 lucrative, individuals often risk life and limb to gather these
14 limpets, which tend to live on rocks where the ocean surf is
15 roughest; and
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17 WHEREAS, accordingly a Hawaiian saying -- "*He i'a make ka*
18 '*opih*i" -- describes the opihi as "the fish of death"; and
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20 WHEREAS, according to the Department of Health, from 1993
21 to 1997, nine individuals drowned while picking opihi in the
22 State; and
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24 WHEREAS, there were at least 13 opihi-related deaths from
25 1999 to 2009 on the island of Hawaii alone; and
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27 WHEREAS, individuals must be made more aware of the many
28 dangers that accompany opihi gathering and harvesting; and



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1 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is
 2 uniquely positioned to increase such awareness among opihi
 3 gatherers and harvesters; now, therefore,

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 5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 6 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 7 Session of 2015, that the Department of Land and Natural
 8 Resources is urged to promote greater awareness of ocean safety
 9 measures for individuals who gather or harvest opihi, such as:

- 10 (1) The wearing of flotation devices;
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 12 (2) The wearing of protective footwear;
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 14 (3) The use of brightly colored rope at least 200 feet in
 15 length that can be readily seen in the water;
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 17 (4) The use of communication devices;
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 19 (5) Gathering or harvesting opihi with a partner; and
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 21 (6) Informing others of their whereabouts; and
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23
 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 25 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Chairperson of the
 26 Board of Land and Natural Resources.
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OFFERED BY:

Calvin K. Y. Ang

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