
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY OF LIMU AND REEF FISH DECLINE IN CERTAIN
AREAS OF THE EWA COAST OF OAHU.

1 WHEREAS, limu and fishes in Hawaii's coral reefs are of
2 tremendous economic, cultural, and ecological value; and
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4 WHEREAS, limu is a significant cornerstone of Native
5 Hawaiian culture, used by Native Hawaiians in conflict
6 resolution ceremonies and in their traditional medicinal
7 practices; and
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9 WHEREAS, these plants of the sea are food for fish and key
10 indicators of environmental health and activity; and
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12 WHEREAS, limu played an important part in the ancient
13 Native Hawaiian diet, and today, limu has many culinary
14 applications enjoyed by Native Hawaiians and many others; and
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16 WHEREAS, once abundant, there has been a steep decline of
17 limu along the Ewa Coast of Oahu; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Ewa Coast of Oahu is also experiencing a
20 markedly steep decline in reef fish; and
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22 WHEREAS, over-picking and over-fishing, improper
23 harvesting, climate change, urban development, stream flow
24 diversion, and invasive species are among the factors that can
25 cause declines in the supply of limu and reef fish, and
26 ultimately destruction of Hawaii's coral reefs; and
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28 WHEREAS, the causes of such declines must be determined in
29 order to enable the development of workable strategies to
30 preserve these valuable natural resources; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
3 Session of 2015, that the Department of Land and Natural
4 Resources is requested to:

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6 (1) Study the causes of the decline of limu and reef fish
7 for the area of the Ewa Coast of Oahu that stretches
8 from the easternmost point of Pu'uloa to Barber's
9 Point; and

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11 (2) Based on its findings, develop recommendations on what
12 actions need to be taken to stop the decline and
13 replenish the limu and reef fish supply; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
16 Natural Resources is requested to submit a report of its
17 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
18 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
19 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
23 Land and Natural Resources.
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OFFERED BY: *Marc Spurr*

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