
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AQUATIC RESOURCES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that marine managed areas
2 are effective tools for preserving Hawaii's nearshore resources.
3 The department of land and natural resources defines a marine
4 managed area as any area of the marine environment established
5 by law or regulation to protect or enhance part or all of the
6 natural and cultural resources therein. Studies of similar
7 areas in Hawaii and worldwide have shown large increases in
8 biomass, density, size, and diversity of marine organisms in the
9 area. Marine managed areas promote healthy diverse ecosystems,
10 which are more likely to survive disturbances caused by people,
11 weather, or climate-related changes. In a study of sixty
12 fishing sites in the main Hawaiian islands, no-take areas had
13 over twice the biomass, higher diversity, and larger fish than
14 partially protected and open access sites. Marine managed areas
15 have also been shown to result in sustainable fisheries, to
16 promote marine education and recreation, and to stimulate the
17 economy through ecotourism and education. Marine managed areas,



1 particularly those that contain healthy coral ecosystems, can be
2 critical in increasing protection against natural hazards by
3 reducing wave energy and buffering shorelines against waves,
4 storms, and floods, and helping to prevent loss of life,
5 property damage, and erosion. When reefs are damaged or
6 destroyed, the loss of this natural barrier can significantly
7 increase damage to coastal communities from wave action and
8 violent storms. Marine managed areas are an essential tool in
9 the State's commitment to actively combat climate change and sea
10 level rise, and to protect the State's economies and coastal
11 communities.

12 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
13 land and natural resources to establish a network of marine
14 managed areas to protect Hawaii's marine resources and
15 effectively manage thirty per cent of the State's nearshore
16 resources by 2030.

17 SECTION 2. Chapter 188, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
19 and to read as follows:

20 "§188- Designation of marine managed areas. (a) The
21 department of land and natural resources, through its division



1 of aquatic resources, shall designate a network of marine
2 managed areas and carry out marine management strategies for
3 such areas for the purpose of preserving the State's nearshore
4 marine resources. The department shall adopt administrative
5 rules pursuant to chapter 91 to designate and manage marine
6 managed areas.

7 (b) The network of marine managed areas shall consider and
8 may include, but not be limited to, no-take areas and herbivore
9 replenishment areas or other marine management designations, in
10 areas identified to provide the most benefit to the State's
11 nearshore marine resources. The location of the areas to be
12 designated as marine managed areas shall be based on the most
13 relevant statistical data and reports and stakeholder input.

14 (c) When designating a network of marine managed areas and
15 carrying out marine management strategies for such areas, the
16 department shall consider and provide for the preservation of
17 traditional and customary native Hawaiian practices.

18 (d) The department of land and natural resources shall
19 submit a report to the legislature no later than twenty days
20 prior to the convening of each regular session in 2019, 2020,
21 2025, and 2030 on its progress towards the goal of effective



1 management of thirty per cent of the State's nearshore resources
2 by 2030 to help ensure the survival of Hawaii's nearshore
3 ecosystems for future generations.

4 (e) For the purposes of this section:

5 "No-take area" means an area that is closed to all taking
6 of aquatic life.

7 "Herbivore replenishment area" means an area that is closed
8 to the taking of herbivorous fish."

9 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on December 24,
11 2088.



Report Title:

Marine Managed Areas; Department of Land and Natural Resources

Description:

Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources, through its Division of Aquatic Resources, to establish a network of marine managed areas in areas identified to provide the most benefit to the State's nearshore marine resources. (HB1751 HD2)

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