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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING STATE AGENCIES TO EVALUATE, COLLABORATE, AND IMPLEMENT  
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES, TECHNOLOGIES, AND REGULATIONS TO  
ADDRESS VESSEL BIOFOULING IN HAWAII HARBORS.

1           WHEREAS, biofouling, or biological fouling, is the  
2 accumulation of microorganisms, plants, algae, or animals on a  
3 wetted surface, such as the hull of a shipping vessel; and  
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5           WHEREAS, biofouling begins to accumulate on submerged  
6 portions of vessels within a few weeks, and this layer of  
7 microfouling facilitates the growth of larger fouling organisms  
8 that can decrease the efficiency and safe operation of a vessel;  
9 and  
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11           WHEREAS, studies have shown that biofouling on shipping  
12 vessels is an important vector of aquatic invasive species  
13 transfer, which, if established in new ecosystems, may pose  
14 threats to the environment, human health, property, and  
15 resources; and  
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17           WHEREAS, the *Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan 2017-2027*  
18 recognizes that up to seventy-eight percent of Hawaii's non-  
19 native marine algae and invertebrate species can be attributed  
20 to vessel biofouling; and  
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22           WHEREAS, the *Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan 2017-2027*  
23 calls on the Department of Land and Natural Resources,  
24 Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, and Department  
25 of Transportation to develop hull husbandry practices and  
26 proactive hull cleaning standards for nonmilitary vessels to  
27 minimize movement of non-native aquatic organisms into Hawaii's  
28 ports, harbors, and marinas; and  
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30           WHEREAS, section 187A-32, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
31 designates the Department of Land and Natural Resources as the



1 lead state agency for preventing the introduction of non-native  
2 aquatic organisms through the regulation of hull fouling  
3 organisms; and

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5 WHEREAS, chapter 342D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, tasks the  
6 Department of Health with administering water pollution control  
7 regulations and enforcing water quality standards; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, section 266-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides  
10 that all vessels and shipping within the State's commercial  
11 harbors and roadsteads are under the care and control of the  
12 Department of Transportation; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, the maritime industry is an important component of  
15 the State's economy; and

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17 WHEREAS, a high level of coordination between various state  
18 agencies will be required to develop and implement safe and  
19 effective measures for management of biofouling in Hawaii's  
20 harbors; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, commercial shipping companies have made great  
23 efforts to adopt voluntary best management practices to reduce  
24 vessel biofouling, including the use of less toxic protective  
25 hull coatings and by cleaning and reapplying coatings within  
26 recommended timeframes; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, the Alliance for Coastal Technologies and the  
29 Maritime Environmental Resource Center have developed a program  
30 for testing full-capture biofouling removal technologies and  
31 have formally invited participation from Hawaii's agencies in  
32 its testing programs; and

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34 WHEREAS, the State has been requested to represent isolated  
35 tropical island climates for this program; and

36  
37 WHEREAS, chapter 194, Hawaii Revised Statutes, authorizes  
38 the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to advise and coordinate  
39 invasive species-related efforts with and between state,  
40 federal, international, and private programs, and to coordinate  
41 the State's position with regard to invasive species; and

42  
43 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Invasive Species Council Resolution  
44 18-1 supports the State's involvement in the Alliance for



1 Coastal Technologies and Maritime Environmental Resource  
2 Center's program for the assessment and evaluation of biofouling  
3 management technologies; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Invasive Species Council Resolution  
6 18-1 further urges state agencies to cooperate in the  
7 development and implementation of an in-water cleaning program  
8 in Hawaii's harbors; now, therefore,  
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
11 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
12 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that state agencies are urged to  
13 work together and with interested stakeholders, including the  
14 Hawaii Harbor Users Group, in planning for Hawaii's involvement  
15 in the Alliance for Coastal Technologies and Maritime  
16 Environmental Resource Center's program for the assessment and  
17 evaluation of biofouling management technologies; and  
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state agencies are urged to  
20 review the risks of the non-abrasive cleaning of ship hull  
21 microfouling and create processes and conditions, such as best  
22 management practices, to allow certain vessels with low-risk  
23 hull coatings or paint to apply for an in-water cleaning permit;  
24 and  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state agencies are urged to  
27 develop and implement a measurable and enforceable program to  
28 address biofouling, to launch with a voluntary compliance phase-  
29 in period by December 31, 2019, in accordance with the *Hawaii*  
30 *Interagency Biosecurity Plan 2017-2027*; and  
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,  
34 administrative head of each member of the Hawaii Invasive  
35 Species Council, and the Executive Director of the Hawaii  
36 Harbors User Group.

