A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the board of land and natural resources does not include a member from the State's fishing and boating communities. The legislature further finds that including a member on the board who represents the State's fishing and boating communities will help to educate the other board members on the issues facing those communities, traditional fishing rights, and conservation of the State's ocean resources. This additional knowledge will result in well-informed decision-making by the board for matters that affect the fishing and boating communities.

Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require that a member of the board of land natural resources has knowledge of the State's fishing and boating communities, traditional fishing rights, and conservation of the State's ocean resources.

SECTION 2. Section 171-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:
§171-4  Board of land and natural resources; terms and qualifications of members of the board; organization; expenses.

(a) The board of land and natural resources shall be composed of seven members, one from each land district and three at large, to be nominated and, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, appointed by the governor as provided in section 26-34. The term and removal of a member of the board and the filling of a vacancy on the board shall also be as provided in section 26-34. There shall be not more than three members on the board from the same political party.

(b) At least one member of the board, other than the members appointed pursuant to subsections (c) and (d), shall have a background in conservation and natural resources, as evidenced by:

(1) A college degree in a relevant field, including forestry, wildlife conservation, geology, environmental science, or marine biology; or

(2) Work history sufficient to demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge in the subject of land and natural resources, including parks and recreation, public lands management, natural area reserves, aquatic
resources, boating and recreation, forestry and
wildlife, water resources management, or conservation
and resources.

(c) At least one member of the board, other than the
members appointed pursuant to subsections (b) and (d), shall have demonstrated expertise in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, as evidenced by:

(1) A college degree in a relevant field, such as Hawaiian studies, native Hawaiian law, native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, or related subject area;

(2) Work history that demonstrates an appropriate level of knowledge in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices; or

(3) Substantial experience as a native Hawaiian traditional and customary practitioner.

(d) At least one member of the board, other than the members appointed pursuant to subsections (b) and (c), shall have demonstrated knowledge of the State's non-commercial and commercial fishing communities and recreational and commercial boating communities, as evidenced by:
(1) Fishing experience that demonstrates an appropriate level of knowledge in the State's non-commercial and commercial fishing communities, traditional fishing rights, and conservation of the State's ocean resources;

(2) Boating experience that demonstrates an appropriate level of knowledge in the State's recreational and commercial boating communities; and

(3) Recommendation by a statewide fishing organization for appointment to the board.

(e) Each member shall disclose and file with the board a list of all transactions with the department of land and natural resources in which the member has a direct interest. The member shall also disclose all transactions with the department involving any corporation, association, partnership, or joint venture in which the member is an officer, partner, or employee. Any member having any interest, direct or indirect, in any matter before the board shall disqualify oneself from voting on or participating in the discussion of the matter.

(f) The governor shall select a chairperson of the board from among its members. The chairperson shall call and
preside at meetings and may appoint a member of the board as secretary. The members of the board shall choose one of their number to act as chairperson during the absence or disability of the chairperson.

[g] The members of the board shall serve without pay but shall be entitled to reimbursement for necessary expenses while attending meetings and while in the discharge of their duties."

SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were begun before its effective date.

SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
Report Title:
BLNR; Fishing; Boating; Appointment; Qualifications

Description:
Adds a member to the Board of Land and Natural Resources who has demonstrated knowledge of the State's boating and fishing communities.

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