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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MARINE DEBRIS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that marine debris, such  
2 as derelict fishing gear including nets, lines, and ropes, is  
3 often discarded into the ocean either with intent or negligence.  
4 This debris is a pollutant to the environment and efforts to  
5 dispose of it properly should be a priority.

6           The legislature further finds that engagement by the crew  
7 aboard vessels should be encouraged to remove debris from the  
8 ocean.

9           The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
10 land and natural resources division of boating and ocean  
11 recreation to create a pilot program to further rid the ocean of  
12 marine debris. The program would create a partnership between  
13 the State and owners, lessees, crews, or other occupants of  
14 vessels, whereby crews aboard those vessels would gather marine  
15 debris and transfer it to a marine debris collection center.  
16 Appropriated funds would be used to pay those persons for the  
17 eligible marine debris delivered to an approved facility.



1 SECTION 2. The department of land and natural resources  
2 division of boating and ocean recreation shall implement a pilot  
3 project to encourage the collection of man-made marine debris  
4 found abandoned in the ocean, including but not limited to  
5 fishing nets, ropes, lines, and other similar materials that are  
6 not naturally occurring in the ocean. The department shall pay  
7 fifty cents per pound of eligible marine debris delivered to a  
8 marine debris collection center approved by the department. The  
9 program shall commence on January 1, 2021 and end on  
10 December 31, 2023."

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much  
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for  
14 creating a pilot project to carry out the purposes of this Act.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
16 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much  
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the  
20 University of Hawaii water resources research center to research  
21 and develop specialized equipment for effectively and



1 efficiently removing plastic marine debris from beaches and  
2 shorelines. The University of Hawaii water resources research  
3 center may contract with other entities as needed.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
5 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



**Report Title:**

Marine Debris Collection; Department of Land and Natural Resources; Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation; Pilot Project

**Description:**

Appropriating funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to create and implement a marine debris collection pilot project. Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii for research and development of specialized equipment for effectively and efficiently removing plastic marine debris from beaches and shorelines. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

