

FEB 22 2021

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO  
CONDUCT A NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR THE FEASIBILITY AND  
EFFECTIVENESS OF A DIVISION OF OCEAN AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT  
WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

1           WHEREAS, the entire State of Hawai'i falls within Hawai'i's  
2 coastal zone boundary; and

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4           WHEREAS, due to its physical location, configuration, and  
5 climate, Hawai'i is rich in a number of valuable coastal  
6 ecosystems, such as wetlands and reef flats, embayments and  
7 sheltered coves, sand beaches, and coral reefs that serve  
8 important natural functions, such as providing habitat and  
9 breeding grounds for wildlife and living marine resources,  
10 natural buffers to the action of storm waters, and a natural  
11 laboratory for scientific and biological research. In addition,  
12 they provide the basis for recreational and commercial fishing  
13 businesses; and

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15           WHEREAS, demand for coastal recreational opportunities for  
16 beach use and water sports continues to rise because of  
17 population, growth, increased affluence, greater leisure time,  
18 and increased tourism; and

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20           WHEREAS, increasing and competing demands upon the lands  
21 and waters of the coastal zone occasioned by population growth  
22 and economic development, including requirements for industry,  
23 commerce, residential development, transportation and  
24 navigation, waste disposal, and harvesting of marine resources  
25 have resulted in the loss of living marine resources, reduced  
26 groundwater and aquifer recharge areas, increased  
27 vulnerabilities to coastal development, reduced living marine  
28 resources, wildlife, nutrient-rich areas, permanent and averse  
29 changes to ecological systems, decreased open space for public  
30 use, increased shoreline erosion, and compromised infrastructure  
31 due to erosion and coastal flooding; and



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WHEREAS, climate change will result in substantial sea level rise with serious adverse effects in the coastal zone. Seventy percent of beaches in Hawai'i are experiencing coastal erosion and many miles of beach have been severely narrowed or lost over the past century; and

WHEREAS, Hawai'i has a substantial and significant interests in the protection, management, and development of ocean and coastal resources; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands, is responsible for the management of coastal resources including beaches, dunes, and rocky shorelines seaward of county jurisdictions and/or within the State Conservation District. The Coastal Lands Program is responsible for coordinating coastal management, maintaining the delicate balance between conservation of coastal resources and responsible development of coastal areas, mitigating risks from natural and human-induced hazards for coastal communities, and implementing innovative shoreline management techniques; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, the Legislature authorized the Department of Planning and Economic Development to prepare a plan for the management of the State's coastal zones to comply with the requirements of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act. The Federal Coastal Zone Management Act provided that the state Land Use Commission has the authority to administer land and water use regulations in coastal zones, control development to ensure compliance with the State's management program in coastal zones, and resolve conflicts among competing uses in coastal zones; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, the Legislature established the Coastal Zone Management Program within the Office of Planning of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism. The Office of Planning's purpose is to provide central direction and cohesion in the allocation of resources and effectuation of state activities and programs, and effectively address current or emerging issues and opportunities. The purpose of the Coastal Zone Management Program is to provide for the effective management, beneficial use, protection, and development of the coastal zone; and



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2 WHEREAS, through the Office of Planning's Coastal Zone  
3 Management Program and enactment of Chapter 205A, the  
4 Legislature established a network program, whereby the program  
5 works with a network of state agencies and local governments to  
6 administer and enforce all laws, regulations, and policies that  
7 protect the coastal zone; and

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9 WHEREAS, Hawai'i's environment is both undermanaged and  
10 overregulated and new regulatory mechanisms should not be added  
11 onto, but rather combined into, the existing systems; now,  
12 therefore,

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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the  
16 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land  
17 and Natural Resources is requested to conduct a needs assessment  
18 for the feasibility and effectiveness of a Division of Ocean and  
19 Coastal Management; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Division of Ocean and  
22 Coastal Management would be the designated state coastal  
23 management agency and be responsible for the implementation and  
24 administration of Hawai'i's coastal zone management program,  
25 including the direct regulation of coastal resources within the  
26 critical areas of the state including coastal waters, tidelines,  
27 beaches, and beach dune systems and the consideration of  
28 ecological, cultural, aesthetic, recreational, scenic, open  
29 space values, public access, coastal hazards, sea level rise,  
30 and needs for economic development; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Division of Ocean and  
33 Coastal Management should effectively manage networks of healthy  
34 coral reefs while improving the health of reef ecosystems at  
35 priority sites, identify and fill in management gaps that inform  
36 existing efforts to prevent further damage to fragile nearshore  
37 ecosystems, and supplement existing efforts to address the  
38 effects of sea level rise; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
41 Natural Resources is requested to submit a report of its  
42 findings and recommendations, including any proposed

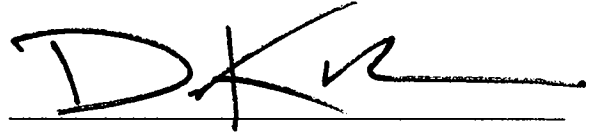


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1 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior  
2 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and  
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of  
6 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and Chairperson of  
7 the Board of Land and Natural Resources.  
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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DKR", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.