
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that private corporations
2 and foreign entities have taken steps to mine the deep-sea floor
3 of the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and the continental United
4 States for its mineral wealth. Similar actions have been taken
5 throughout the exclusive economic zone of Hawaii's neighboring
6 Pacific island countries.

7 The legislature further finds that these seabed areas host
8 deep-sea mineral deposits enriched in manganese, cobalt, and
9 other metals of commercial interest. With the increase in
10 demand, global commercial exploration of deep-sea minerals is
11 accelerating.

12 The legislature additionally finds that mining of the deep-
13 sea floor causes the destruction of ocean ecosystems. To mine
14 the deep-sea floor, ships drag machinery across the floor and
15 release millions of cubic feet of discharge per day. This
16 discharge can contain toxins such as lead and mercury, and



1 currents will carry this toxic sediment to surrounding
2 ecosystems.

3 The legislature further finds that countless species are
4 found in the marine waters around Hawaii in areas that outside
5 interests may seek to mine, such as the world's oldest corals
6 and many endangered species found nowhere else on the planet.
7 The people of Hawaii also recreate and rely on these waters for
8 their livelihood. Without proper protections, these ocean
9 habitats could be at risk of extinction.

10 The purpose of this Act is to prohibit:

- 11 (1) Offshore drilling for oil, natural gas, or minerals in
12 state marine waters; and
- 13 (2) Issuance of permits for or in connection with the
14 development or operation of any facility or
15 infrastructure associated with offshore drilling for
16 oil, natural gas, or minerals in state waters.

17 SECTION 2. Chapter 190D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
19 and to read as follows:

20 "§190D- Offshore oil, natural gas, and mineral
21 exploration in state waters; applications in support of oil,



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1 natural gas, and mineral exploration; prohibited. (a)
2 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, offshore drilling for
3 oil, natural gas, or minerals shall be prohibited in state
4 marine waters.

5 (b) No permit shall be issued for or in connection with
6 the development or operation of any facility or infrastructure
7 associated with offshore drilling for oil, natural gas, or
8 minerals within state waters.

9 (c) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), collection of
10 sand from state waters to replenish beaches in the State is
11 permitted; provided that prior approval from the board of land
12 and natural resources is obtained."

13 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Lisa Morte*
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H.B. NO. 1227

Report Title:

Offshore Drilling; Oil, Natural Gas, and Minerals; State Waters; Infrastructure; Prohibition; Permitting

Description:

Prohibits offshore drilling for oil, natural gas, or minerals in state marine waters. Prohibits issuance of permits for or in connection with the development or operation of any facility or infrastructure associated with offshore drilling for oil, natural gas, or minerals in state waters. Provides exception for collection of sand for state beach replenishment.

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