
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SPORT FISH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the northern
2 largemouth bass is one of the most popular gamefish in the
3 United States, and that largemouth bass have existed in the
4 State's artificial reservoirs since 1896 and butterfly peacock
5 bass since 1957. More than 828,000 jobs nationally are directly
6 supported in some way by bass fishing and more than
7 \$48,000,000,000 in retail sales are directly attributed to bass
8 fishing activities. Arkansas, Illinois, Mississippi, Missouri,
9 Kentucky, Michigan, New Hampshire, and Vermont all recognize
10 bass fishing as a high school sport.

11 The legislature further finds that based upon fishing
12 licenses issued by the department of land and natural resources,
13 bass fishing in the State is far less popular than in other
14 states. One reason for the small number of anglers fishing for
15 bass is the lack a diverse population of these sport fish in
16 Hawai'i's artificial reservoirs. Attempts to import largemouth
17 bass into the State to improve the fishing stock have faced



1 intense regulatory restrictions. The current permit process to
2 import northern largemouth bass into the State is the same as
3 that for a species that has never been brought into Hawai'i.

4 The purpose of this Act is to streamline the process to
5 import live northern largemouth bass and butterfly peacock bass
6 for the purpose of enhancing and supporting the pre-existing
7 populations for continued recreational fishing in Hawai'i.

8 SECTION 2. No later than January 1, 2022, the department
9 of agriculture shall engage in a review of whether the northern
10 largemouth bass should be placed on the list of conditionally
11 approved animals that require a permit for import into the State
12 maintained pursuant to section 150-6.2(a)(1), Hawaii Revised
13 Statutes.

14 SECTION 3. (a) The division of aquatic resources of the
15 department of land and natural resources shall establish a pilot
16 project to restock northern largemouth bass, butterfly peacock
17 bass, or both, in the Wahiawa public fishing area in central
18 Oahu; provided that the board of agriculture has placed northern
19 largemouth bass on the conditionally approved list that requires
20 a permit for import into the State maintained pursuant to
21 section 150A-6(a)(1). As part of this pilot program, the



1 division of aquatic resources shall apply to the department of
2 agriculture for a permit to import the northern largemouth bass
3 and butterfly peacock bass.

4 (b) The department of land and natural resources, division
5 of aquatic resources, department of agriculture, and all other
6 relevant boards and divisions shall work together until the
7 permitting process and pilot project are successfully completed,
8 subject to any applicable laws and pre-existing conditions.

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.



Report Title:

Department of Agriculture; Division of Aquatic Resources;
Department of Land and Natural Resources; Northern Largemouth
Bass

Description:

Requires the Department of Agriculture to engage in a review of whether northern largemouth bass should be placed on the list of conditionally approved animals. Requires the Division of Aquatic Resources to establish a pilot program to restock northern largemouth bass and butterfly peacock bass in the Wahaiwa public fishing area and apply for a permit to import them once they have been placed on the list of conditionally approved animals. (SD2)

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