

# Resolution

No. \_\_\_\_\_

## RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING AND ENHANCING THE REEF ECOSYSTEMS IN MAUI COUNTY

WHEREAS, the value of Maui's coral reefs is widely appreciated but not always appropriately considered when decisions are made regarding land use and marine resources; and

WHEREAS, according to the Hawaiian Creation Chant, the *Kumulipo*, the coral polyp was the first living thing to emerge from the sea during creation and is regarded as a foundational ancestor; and

WHEREAS, in the *Kumulipo*, Kanaka Maoli embrace the deep and inseparable relationship between the land and sea, and that the ocean is guarded by what is on the land; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the future quality of our lands, waters, and seas which our grandchildren will inherit depend deeply upon wise and careful decisions made today; and

WHEREAS, a 2011 study by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration estimated the economic value of Hawaii's coral reefs at \$33.57 billion; and

WHEREAS, the people of Maui Nui depend on the reefs for nourishment, protection from storms, and jobs and economic security, making it incumbent upon all Hawaii to protect and replenish this critically important habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council established a Maui Coral Reef Recovery Team that has undertaken efforts toward the technical and cultural restoration of Maui's coral reefs; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force acknowledges the significant contributions of Maui Nui Marine Resource Council, including its model of community-based management and the Council's ability to address degradation of coral reefs in Maui Nui by involving communities

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in more traditional management while supporting the State's efforts to protect marine resources; and

WHEREAS, the Nature Conservancy recognized the Council's contribution to coral reef restoration with its 2014 Kako'o 'Aina Award; and

WHEREAS, the Maui Island Plan (Chapter 2, Objective 2.2.2-Action 4), calls for the County to "implement a reef protection restoration plan"; and

WHEREAS, implementing reef restoration goals and policies will require a united effort from County, State, and Federal agencies; non-profit and non-governmental organizations; developers and land owners; commercial enterprises; schools and educators; and citizens and ocean users; and

WHEREAS, conservation-based goals and local management goals can work successfully together for the environmental, cultural, and economic well-being of the community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it recognizes the importance of saving, protecting, and enhancing the reef ecosystems of Maui County for their cultural, ecological, subsistence, and economic benefits; and
2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor; the Department of Environmental Management; the Department of Planning; the Department of Public Works; Office of Planning, State of Hawaii; Aha Moku O Maui, Aha Moku Advisory Committee, Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawaii; the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, State of Hawaii; Clean Water Branch, Department of Health, State of Hawaii; Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism, State of Hawaii; Department of Transportation, State of Hawaii; the Institute of Marine Biology, University of Hawaii; the University of Hawaii Maui College; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association; Natural Resource Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture; United States Coral Reef Task

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Force; United States Geological Survey; United States Army  
Corps of Engineers; the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale  
National Marine Sanctuary; and the Maui Nui Marine  
Resource Council.

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