
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE CONGRESS
TO EXEMPT CERTAIN CORAL SPECIES IN ALL COMMERCIAL HARBORS
IN THE STATE OF HAWAII FROM RECLASSIFICATION UNDER A
PROPOSED FEDERAL RULE CHANGE.

1 WHEREAS, the geographic isolation of the State of Hawaii
2 results in its residents' crucial dependence on ocean surface
3 transportation for the importing of goods through the State's
4 commercial harbors; and

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6 WHEREAS, eighty per cent of goods consumed in the State are
7 imported and nearly ninety-nine per cent of those imported goods
8 are maintained, received, and processed through the State's
9 commercial harbor system; and

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11 WHEREAS, no other state in the United States is as
12 dependent on ocean transportation and its commercial harbors
13 systems as Hawaii; and

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15 WHEREAS, the State's commercial harbor system, and by
16 extension, ocean transportation, is the State's connection to
17 national and international economies, supporting every facet of
18 the State's local economy, including tourism, construction,
19 national defense, agriculture, and all other industries; and

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21 WHEREAS, as part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
22 Administration's ongoing responsibilities under the Coral Reef
23 Conservation Act of 2000 and the National Coral Reef Action
24 Strategy, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is
25 currently considering adding sixty-six reef-building coral
26 species to the Endangered Species Act, including two species,
27 *Montipora patula* and *Montipora flabellate*, which are the fourth
28 and fifth most abundant coral in the waters surrounding Hawaii;
29 and

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1 WHEREAS, the Hilo Harbor New Day Work Project was delayed
2 for three years and incurred an additional cost of \$4,300,000 to
3 mitigate potential damage to eighty square feet of coral that
4 was found growing in the commercial harbor; and
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6 WHEREAS, Honolulu Harbor New Day Work Projects and other
7 commercial harbor projects in the State will require similar
8 efforts to mitigate coral damage, which is likely to add
9 considerable expense to the projects; and
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11 WHEREAS, the State's commercial harbor facilities and
12 commercial importation and transportation activities would be
13 severely impacted by a federal designation of any endangered
14 coral that is prevalent in the State's commercial harbors; now,
15 therefore,
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
18 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
19 Session of 2013, the Senate concurring, that the President of
20 the United States and the Congress are requested to exempt the
21 *Montipora patula* and the *Montipora flabellate* species of coral
22 in all harbors in the State of Hawaii from reclassification
23 under the proposed rule, "Endangered and Threatened Species:
24 Listing of 66 Reef-Building Coral Species; Reclassification of
25 Elkhorn *Acropora palmata* and Staghorn *Acropora cervicornis*" (77
26 FR 73219); and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
30 United States, United States Secretary of Transportation,
31 Interior, and Commerce, respectively, members of Hawaii's
32 congressional delegation, Acting Administrator of the National
33 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Governor, Chairperson of
34 the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and the state Director
35 of Transportation.