
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
TO EXEMPT CERTAIN CORAL SPECIES IN ALL STATE WATERS,
PARTICULARLY COMMERCIAL HARBORS, 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, 80 percent of goods consumed in the State are
7 imported and nearly 99 percent of those imported goods are
8 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 harbor
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 66 reef-building coral species to
26 the Endangered Species Act, including two species, *Montipora*
27 *patula* and *Montipora flabellate*, which are the fourth and fifth
28 most abundant coral in the waters surrounding Hawaii; and



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 80 square feet of coral that was
4 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 National
20 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is requested to exempt
21 the *Montipora patula* and the *Montipora flabellate* species of
22 coral in all state waters, particularly commercial harbors, from
23 reclassification under the proposed rule, "Endangered and
24 Threatened Species: Listing of 66 Reef-Building Coral Species;
25 Reclassification of Elkhorn *Acropora palmata* and Staghorn
26 *Acropora cervicornis*" (77 FR 73219); and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Acting Administrator
30 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
31 Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
32 Resources, and state Director of Transportation.
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