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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES 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, 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, that the President of the United States and the  
20 United States Congress are requested to exempt the *Montipora*  
21 *patula* and the *Montipora flabellate* species of coral in all  
22 harbors in the State of Hawaii from reclassification under the  
23 proposed rule, "Endangered and Threatened Species: Listing of 66  
24 Reef-Building Coral Species; Reclassification of Elkhorn  
25 *Acropora palmata* and Staghorn *Acropora cervicornis*" (77 FR  
26 73219); and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
29 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States;  
30 United States Secretary of Transportation, Interior, and  
31 Commerce; members of Hawaii's congressional delegation; Acting  
32 Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
33 Administration; Governor; Chairperson of the Board of Land and  
34 Natural Resources; and the state Director of Transportation.

