
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND THE
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO COLLABORATE TO
CREATE A MECHANISM FOR GENERATING WATER CIRCULATION IN
POKAI BAY ON LEEWARD OAHU.

1 WHEREAS, Pokai Bay is one of the most-visited ocean areas
2 on Oahu's Leeward Coast because of its wide sandy beach and
3 relatively calm waters; and
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5 WHEREAS, because it is protected by an offshore breakwater,
6 Pokai Bay maintains calm conditions year-round, which makes it
7 an ideal location for many ocean users including swimmers, canoe
8 paddlers, surfers, snorkelers, boaters, divers, and stand-up
9 paddlers; and
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11 WHEREAS, despite Pokai Bay's pristine appearance of
12 crystal-blue waters and white sand, it is sadly the site of
13 pollution from multiple sources including runoff from
14 surrounding surfaces, illegal dumping, and user-induced
15 contaminants; and
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17 WHEREAS, over the last decade, beach users and local
18 community members have reported the presence of health and
19 environmental hazards at Pokai Bay; and
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21 WHEREAS, water runoff containing industrial pollutants
22 washed from local surface streets, parking lots, and sidewalks
23 as well as petrochemical-based pollutants caused by vehicular
24 use of an adjacent boat ramp is a suspected source of tar balls
25 that have been found on the beach; and
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27 WHEREAS, illegal dumping of dredging materials and other
28 substances along the Leeward Coast, including at Pokai Bay, has



H.C.R. NO. 194

1 historically occurred at higher rates than at other locations on
2 Oahu; and

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4 WHEREAS, it is suspected that the significant use of
5 Leeward Coast beaches for camping and associated activities of
6 daily life, such as bathing, by homeless persons has introduced
7 higher than normal levels of bacteria to the sand and waters at
8 Pokai Bay, resulting in a rash of staph infections and other
9 health problems among regular beach uses; and

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11 WHEREAS, the very features, including the offshore
12 breakwater, that make Pokai Bay attractive to so many beach
13 users may be exacerbating problems caused by pollution and
14 contaminants in the water because they cause decreased water
15 circulation and stagnation; and

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17 WHEREAS, wetland and estuary management projects across the
18 world have employed various methods of artificial water
19 circulation, including jet aeration and pumping systems, to
20 increase oxygenation, improve water quality, and mitigate
21 environmental damage caused by shoreline destruction and water
22 contamination; now, therefore,

23
24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
26 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the United States Army
27 Corps of Engineers and the Department of Land and Natural
28 Resources are encouraged to work collaboratively to research and
29 develop a plan for increasing water circulation in Pokai Bay on
30 Oahu's Leeward Cost to improve water quality and mitigate
31 environmental and health risks caused by pollution and
32 contaminants in the water; and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Corps of Engineers and
35 Department of Land and Natural Resources are requested to submit
36 a report of their collaborative activities, including
37 significant findings, cost estimates, and any proposed
38 legislation to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to
39 the convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
42 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Commander and



H.C.R. NO. 194

1 District Engineer of the United States Army Corps of Engineers
 2 Honolulu District and the Chairperson of the Board of Land and
 3 Natural Resources.
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