
HOUSE 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
10

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
29 historically occurred at higher rates than at other locations on
30 Oahu; and



H.R. NO. 122

1 WHEREAS, it is suspected that the significant use of
2 Leeward Coast beaches for camping and associated activities of
3 daily life, such as bathing, by homeless persons has introduced
4 higher than normal levels of bacteria to the sand and waters at
5 Pokai Bay, resulting in a rash of staph infections and other
6 health problems among regular beach uses; and
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8 WHEREAS, the very features, including the offshore
9 breakwater, that make Pokai Bay attractive to so many beach
10 users may be exacerbating problems caused by pollution and
11 contaminants in the water because they cause decreased water
12 circulation and stagnation; and
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14 WHEREAS, wetland and estuary management projects across the
15 world have employed various methods of artificial water
16 circulation, including jet aeration and pumping systems, to
17 increase oxygenation, improve water quality, and mitigate
18 environmental damage caused by shoreline destruction and water
19 contamination; now, therefore,
20

21 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
22 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
23 of 2017, that the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the
24 Department of Land and Natural Resources are encouraged to work
25 collaboratively to research and develop a plan for increasing
26 water circulation in Pokai Bay on Oahu's Leeward Cost to improve
27 water quality and mitigate environmental and health risks caused
28 by pollution and contaminants in the water; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Corps of Engineers and
31 Department of Land and Natural Resources are requested to submit
32 a report of their collaborative activities, including
33 significant findings, cost estimates, and any proposed
34 legislation to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to
35 the convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Resolution be transmitted to the Commander and District Engineer



1 of the United States Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu District
2 and the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.
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OFFERED BY:

Ray M. Smith

Don

Kurt

George Taylor

Lyn Delort

Jakobi Orr

Stacy

Jim Smith
John

Al

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

Richard [Signature]

[Signature]

Nadene K. Nakan

Nicole E. [Signature]

Tam [Signature]

Cindy Evans

[Signature]

