

---

---

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII 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 its  
3 relatively calm waters; and  
4

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  
16

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  
20

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  
26

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



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  
7

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  
13

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, the Senate concurring, that the United States Army  
24 Corps of Engineers, the Department of Land and Natural  
25 Resources, the Department of Health, the City and County of  
26 Honolulu, and the University of Hawaii are urged to work  
27 collaboratively to research and develop a plan for increasing  
28 water circulation in Pokai Bay on Oahu's Leeward Coast to  
29 improve water quality and mitigate environmental and health  
30 risks caused by pollution and contaminants in the water; and  
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Army Corps of  
33 Engineers, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the  
34 Department of Health, the City and County of Honolulu, and the  
35 University of Hawaii are requested to conduct a study of Pokai  
36 Bay and the activities running to Pokai Bay to investigate  
37 whether there are any land-based sources of marine contaminants  
38 or pollutants coming from the land to the ocean; and  
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Army Corps of  
41 Engineers, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the  
42 Department of Health, the City and County of Honolulu, and the  
43 University of Hawaii are requested to submit a report of their  
44 collaborative activities, including significant findings, cost



1 estimates, and any proposed legislation to the Legislature no  
2 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
3 Session of 2018; and

4  
5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
6 Resolution be transmitted to the Commander and District Engineer  
7 of the United States Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu District,  
8 the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the  
9 Director of Health, the Mayor of the City and County of  
10 Honolulu, the President and Chairperson of the Board of Regents  
11 of the University of Hawaii.

