
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, AND OTHERS, TO COLLABORATE TO RESEARCH AND DEVELOP A PLAN FOR INCREASING WATER CIRCULATION AND IMPROVING WATER QUALITY 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



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

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4 WHEREAS, the very features, including the offshore
5 breakwater, that make Pokai Bay attractive to so many beach
6 users may be exacerbating problems caused by pollution and
7 contaminants in the water because they cause decreased water
8 circulation and stagnation; and

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10 WHEREAS, wetland and estuary management projects across the
11 world have employed various methods of artificial water
12 circulation, including jet aeration and pumping systems, to
13 increase oxygenation, improve water quality, and mitigate
14 environmental damage caused by shoreline destruction and water
15 contamination; now, therefore,

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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
18 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the
19 House of Representatives concurring, that the United States Army
20 Corps of Engineers and the Department of Land and Natural
21 Resources, along with the Department of Health, University of
22 Hawaii System, City and County of Honolulu, and Waianae Coast
23 Comprehensive Health Center, are encouraged to work
24 collaboratively to research and develop a plan for increasing
25 water circulation and improving water quality in Pokai Bay on
26 Oahu's Leeward Coast to mitigate environmental and health risks
27 caused by pollution and contaminants in the water; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Army Corps of Engineers and
30 Department of Land and Natural Resources are requested to submit
31 a report of their collaborative activities, including
32 significant findings, cost estimates, and any proposed
33 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
34 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Commander and
38 District Engineer of the United States Army Corps of Engineers
39 Honolulu District, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
40 Resources, Director of Health, Mayor of the City and County of
41 Honolulu, President of the University of Hawaii System, and
42 Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center.

