
SENATE 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
29 historically occurred at higher rates than at other locations on
30 Oahu; and
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1 WHEREAS, the very features, including the offshore
2 breakwater, that make Pokai Bay attractive to so many beach
3 users may be exacerbating problems caused by pollution and
4 contaminants in the water because they cause decreased water
5 circulation and stagnation; and
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7 WHEREAS, wetland and estuary management projects across the
8 world have employed various methods of artificial water
9 circulation, including jet aeration and pumping systems, to
10 increase oxygenation, improve water quality, and mitigate
11 environmental damage caused by shoreline destruction and water
12 contamination; now, therefore,
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017,
16 that the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the
17 Department of Land and Natural Resources, along with the
18 Department of Health, University of Hawaii System, City and
19 County of Honolulu, and Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health
20 Center, are encouraged to work collaboratively to research and
21 develop a plan for increasing water circulation and improving
22 water quality in Pokai Bay on Oahu's Leeward Coast to mitigate
23 environmental and health risks caused by pollution and
24 contaminants in the water; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Army Corps of Engineers and
27 Department of Land and Natural Resources are requested to submit
28 a report of their collaborative activities, including
29 significant findings, cost estimates, and any proposed
30 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
31 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Resolution be transmitted to the Commander and District Engineer
35 of the United States Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu District,
36 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Director
37 of Health, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, President
38 of the University of Hawaii System, and Waianae Coast
39 Comprehensive Health Center.

