
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE SHORELINE STABILIZATION PROJECT AT THE PUULOA RANGE TRAINING FACILITY AND URGING THE MARINE CORPS TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO COASTLINE MANAGEMENT.

1 WHEREAS, shoreline hardening is a coastline management
2 approach that uses seawalls, jetties, or other human-made
3 structures to prevent and mitigate coastal erosion; and
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5 WHEREAS, although increasingly common, shoreline hardening
6 is controversial because of the damage it can cause to coastal
7 infrastructure, ecosystems, and the environment; and
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9 WHEREAS, a report from the University of Hawaii found that
10 using shoreline hardening on some Oahu coasts could cause beach
11 narrowing, beach loss, and amplified erosion on adjacent
12 beaches, leaving the areas inaccessible for recreational use or
13 cultural practices; and
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15 WHEREAS, a study by the Smithsonian Environmental Research
16 Center showed that shoreline hardening also significantly
17 reduces populations of fish, crabs, and other aquatic life; and
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19 WHEREAS, a shoreline hardening project carried out in 2013
20 at Iroquois Point on the island of Oahu killed nearly ninety
21 percent of the shoreline's vegetation and caused amplified
22 erosion all along the adjacent coast; and
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24 WHEREAS, the United States Marine Corps has recently
25 proposed to use shoreline hardening at Puuloa Range Training
26 Facility on the island of Oahu in support of its Shoreline
27 Stabilization Project; and

28 WHEREAS, the United States Marine Corps argues that
29 shoreline hardening is necessary to mitigate costal erosion and



1 protect impact berms and other range structures at Puuloa Range
2 Training Facility; and

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4 WHEREAS, the United States Marine Corps has not prepared an
5 environmental impact statement for the project, instead issuing
6 a less-comprehensive environmental assessment; and

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8 WHEREAS, the 2019 environmental assessment for the
9 Shoreline Stabilization Project does not consider the potential
10 loss of beach access, damage to historic buildings, and other
11 significant environmental and cultural interests that may be
12 negatively impacted by shoreline hardening; and

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14 WHEREAS, the environmental assessment for the project also
15 fails to take into account the potential damage that prolonged
16 impact driving could have on the area's karst system, water
17 table, and coral reef; and

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19 WHEREAS, the environmental assessment does not provide an
20 adequate analysis of alternative, less damaging, approaches to
21 coastline and resource management or discuss the possibility of
22 relocating the Puuloa Range Training Facility; and

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24 WHEREAS, communities in Ewa Beach who will be affected by
25 the project say they were not provided adequate notice or an
26 opportunity to be heard on the issue; now, therefore,

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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
29 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
30 2020, that the United States Marine Corps is requested to
31 prepare an environmental impact statement for the Shoreline
32 Stabilization Project at the Puuloa Range Training Facility; and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Marine Corps
35 is urged to consider alternative approaches to coastline
36 management and the possibility of moving the training facility
37 to vacant land owned by the Department of the Navy on the island
38 of Oahu; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Marine Corps
 2 is urged to provide relevant communities with adequate notice of
 3 and opportunities to be heard on any actions taken in
 4 furtherance of the Shoreline Stabilization Project that may
 5 affect those communities or community members; and

6
 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 8 Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the Navy,
 9 Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, members of
 10 Hawaii's congressional delegation, Commander of Joint Base Pearl
 11 Harbor-Hickam, Commanding Officer of United States Marine Corps
 12 Base Hawaii, and Honolulu City Council member for District 1.
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OFFERED BY:

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