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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PRIORITIZE THE TESTING AND RESEARCH OF BEACH SAND CONTAMINATION LEVELS AT POKAI BAY ON OAHU'S LEEWARD COAST AND REQUESTING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO RENOVATE ITS PUBLIC FACILITIES AT POKAI BAY TO MITIGATE ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH RISKS CAUSED BY POLLUTION AND CONTAMINANTS.

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, are suspected sources of tar balls  
25 that have been found on the beach; and  
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27           WHEREAS, historically, illegal dumping of dredging  
28 materials and other substances have occurred at higher rates



1 along the Leeward Coast, including at Pokai Bay, than at other  
2 locations on Oahu; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, the significant use of Leeward Coast beaches for  
5 camping and associated activities of daily life by homeless  
6 persons, such as bathing, are suspected of having introduced  
7 higher than normal levels of bacteria to the sand and waters at  
8 Pokai Bay, resulting in a rash of staph infections and other  
9 health problems among regular beach users; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, a 2015 study by professors and researchers at the  
12 University of Hawaii at Manoa's Department of Civil and  
13 Environmental Engineering found that beach sand holds more fecal  
14 indicator bacteria (FIB) than seawater; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, based upon the results of this study, the beach  
17 sand at Pokai Bay may be found to retain pollutants from the  
18 restroom facilities in the area, specifically rinse-off from the  
19 showers and fecal bacteria from toilet plumbing; and

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21 WHEREAS, the Department of Health has the supplies to test  
22 seawater, and occasionally tests the seawater in Pokai Bay  
23 specifically for FIB, which decays at slower rates in the beach  
24 sand than in seawater; and now, therefore,

25  
26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
27 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of  
28 2020, that the Department of Health is urged to prioritize the  
29 testing and researching of the FIB levels and any other  
30 pollutants of the beach sand at Pokai Bay; and

31  
32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that testing and researching the FIB  
33 levels and any other pollutants in beach sand at Pokai Bay  
34 should become a priority of the Department of Health's non-point  
35 source pollution program; and

36  
37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
38 urged to develop plan to increase water circulation at Pokai Bay  
39 to improve water quality and mitigate environmental and health  
40 risks caused by pollution and contaminants in the water; and




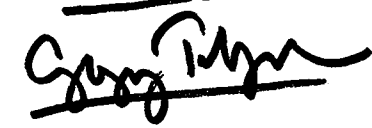


1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
2 requested to collaborate with other appropriate state and county  
3 agencies to develop the plan to increase water circulation; and  
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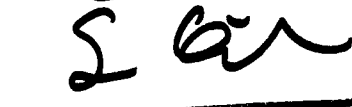
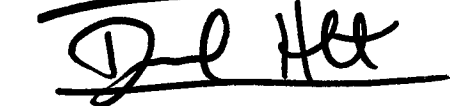


5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health submit  
6 a report of its collaborative activities, including significant  
7 findings, cost estimates, and any proposed legislation to  
8 increase water circulation at Pokai Bay to the Legislature no  
9 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
10 Session of 2021; and  
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that based upon the Department of  
13 Health's testing and research of FIB in the beach sand at Pokai  
14 Bay, the City and County of Honolulu Department of Parks and  
15 Recreation is requested to prioritize renovations of the  
16 restroom facilities at Pokai Bay; and  
17

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
19 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health and Director  
20 of the City and County of Honolulu Department of Parks and  
21 Recreation.  
22  
23  
24

OFFERED BY: 

MAR 05 2020