

Honolulu, Hawaii
, 2022

FEB 15

RE: H.B. No. 1988
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water & Land, to which was referred H.B. No. 1988 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CORAL,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to prohibit the sale, import, or export of coral products in Hawaii, with certain exceptions.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from two individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from Maui Divers of Hawaii, Ltd.; Clean The Pacific; and three individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of the Attorney General, For the Fishes, Friends of Hanauma Bay, and one individual.

Your Committee finds that coral reefs form a vital part of the marine ecosystem of Hawaii and other islands and coastal areas throughout the tropics and deserve greater protection.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Addressing constitutional concerns about the dormant commerce clause, clarifying the local interest to Hawaii in protecting coral;



- (2) Exempting coral products imported, exported, sold, or offered for sale for state-permitted harvesting and coral products expressly authorized by federal law or federal permit;
- (3) Adding a definition of "coral";
- (4) Changing its effective date to July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (5) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water & Land that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1988, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1988, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water & Land,



DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



