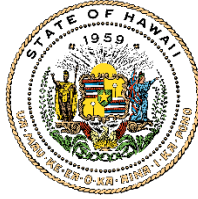


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRPERSON
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committees on
WATER & LAND
and
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, April 13, 2023
8:45 AM

State Capitol, VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 113
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
MINIMIZE HUMAN INTERACTION AT CERTAIN LOCATIONS DURING CORAL
SPAWNING EVENTS

Senate Concurrent Resolution 113 urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to determine priority locations around the State where minimizing human interaction immediately after cauliflower coral spawning may contribute to greater coral reef formation and requests the Department to take actions to support healthier coral reefs, including public education, to minimize human interaction following coral spawning periods. **The Department supports this measure.**

The Department has collaborated with the County of Hawaii and the Kohala Center to minimize human interactions at Kahalu'u Bay during annual coral spawning events. The Department has also closed facilities at Waiakea Bay State Park for the same reasons. These protective measures are most effective where parking and beach access points are controlled by the Department. Where public ocean access is more porous, outreach and education can help to reduce human use at sensitive areas during coral spawning times.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

DAWN N. S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
LAURA H. E. KAAKUA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - LAND
M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER
AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



To: The Honorable Chairs Linda Ichiyama and Nicole Lowen, The Honorable Vice-chairs Mahaina Poepoe and Elle Cochran, and members of the Committees on Water and Land and Energy and Environment

From: Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing SCR113 **URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO MINIMIZE HUMAN INTERACTION AT CERTAIN LOCATIONS DURING CORAL SPAWNING EVENTS**

Hearing: Thursday, April 13, 2023, 8:45 a.m., Room 325

Aloha Chairs Ichiyama and Lowen, Vice-chairs Poepoe and Cochran, and members of the Committees on Water and Land and Energy and Environment:

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (HIROC) is a group of scientists, educators, filmmakers and environmental advocates who have been working since 2017 to protect Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean.

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition STRONGLY SUPPORTS SCR 113!

Hawaii should act to encourage greater coral survival.

The health of the corals and ocean are essential to the health and economic, cultural, and environmental well-being of Hawaii. Coral reefs in Hawaii and worldwide are currently threatened by oceans becoming warmer and more acidic, sediments, sewage and runoff nutrients, and other factors. Native Hawaiians have a unique and sacred relationship with the ocean and corals.

Cauliflower coral, a major reef-building coral that protects Hawaii's shorelines and provides habitat for fish and crabs, is imperiled, though not officially endangered, throughout a significant portion of its range in Hawaii. Cauliflower corals reproduce by spawning, in which the corals synchronize their release of massive numbers of eggs and sperm to spread over a broad area during, or a few days after, the full moon once a year in April or May. This event can be predicted reliably by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Cauliflower coral's larvae die at a high rate unless they settle into a reef but survive at higher rates if they are not disturbed by human interaction such as swimming, snorkeling, and scuba diving in the first few days after they form.

The Kohala Center's Kahalu'u Bay Education Center on Hawaii Island has been educating visitors to minimize human interaction during spawning for several days per year since April of 2018. There have been increases in juvenile cauliflower corals in Kahalu'u Bay as a result of these efforts to minimize human

contact after spawning. As a result of the successful program at Kahalu'u Bay, the Department of Land and Natural Resources has ordered brief spawning closures at Wai'akea Bay State Park, providing a strong foundation for extending closures to other suitable areas.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources is urged to determine priority locations around the State where minimizing human interaction immediately after cauliflower coral spawning may contribute to greater coral reef formation and requested to take actions to support healthier coral reefs, including public education, to minimize human interaction following coral spawning periods.

We thank the committees for hearing this important measure and respectfully urge your passage of SCR113.

Mahalo!

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)



*Dedicated to the conservation of coastal and marine environments,
emphasizing stewardship of the natural resources of Hanauma Bay*

COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair

Rep. Elle Cochran, Vice Chair

DATE:	Thursday, April 13, 2023
TIME:	8:45 A.M.
PLACE:	VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

Re: Strong Support for SCR113

Aloha Chair Ichiyama and Chair Lowen; Vice Chair Poepoe and Vice Chair Cochran; and members of the House Water and Land and Energy and Environmental Protection Committees:

Friends of Hanauma Bay **Strongly Supports SCR113** urging the Department of Land and Natural Resources to minimize human interaction at certain locations during coral spawning events.

Thanks to the exceptional leadership of The Kohala Center's Kahalu'u Bay Education Center on Hawaii Island, visitors have been educated with aloha to minimize human interaction during coral spawning for several days per year since 2020. This common sense approach initiated by Kahalu'u Bay



*Dedicated to the conservation of coastal and marine environments,
emphasizing stewardship of the natural resources of Hanauma Bay*

community stewards has resulted in documented increases in juvenile cauliflower corals in Kahalu'u.

The successful community-driven program at Kahalu'u Bay has led the Department of Land and Natural Resources to order brief spawning closures at Wai'akea Bay Beach Park, providing a strong foundation for extending closures to other suitable locations.

Further, the Department of Land and Natural Resources should also embrace and implement actions to support healthier coral reefs including, public education, to minimize human interaction following coral spawning periods.

Mahalo for hearing and supporting SCR113!

With Aloha,

Lisa Bishop
President
Friends of Hanauma Bay

SCR-113

Submitted on: 4/12/2023 8:48:38 AM

Testimony for WAL on 4/13/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Culbertson	Big Island Reef Keepers hui	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support for SCR 113!

Mahalo nui loa!

R A Culbertson

Honokaa

SCR-113

Submitted on: 4/11/2023 12:05:55 PM

Testimony for WAL on 4/13/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SCR-113

Submitted on: 4/12/2023 10:54:08 AM

Testimony for WAL on 4/13/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Virginia Tincher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Members of the Water and Land Committee and the Energy & Environmental Protection Committee,

I'm testifying in strong support of SCR113.

With increasing impacts to our oceans Hawaii needs to send a message as a state that we value our precious and unique environment. Limiting access during coral spawning events with appropriate signage is an opportunity to protect our coral reefs and educate the public about their value as a critical part of the ecosystem and as protection of our shoreline.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Virginia Tincher, Oahu

SCR-113

Submitted on: 4/12/2023 11:29:41 AM

Testimony for WAL on 4/13/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Geyer	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

SUPPORT SCR113. Our coral reefs are in extreme danger of dieing out completely in the next decade or so due to climate change. Please do everything in your power to protect them, including passing this resolution.

SCR-113

Submitted on: 4/12/2023 12:46:48 PM

Testimony for WAL on 4/13/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elena Arinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this resolution.

Thank you,

Elena Arinaga

SCR-113

Submitted on: 4/12/2023 6:49:50 PM

Testimony for WAL on 4/13/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of [SCR113](#).

Thank you.