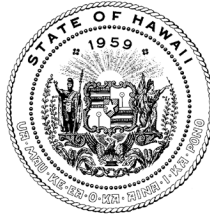


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of**  
**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
**Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on**  
**JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Thursday, April 21, 2022**  
**1:30 PM**

**State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of**  
**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 201**  
**STRONGLY URGING THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO**  
**WORK WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO**  
**MITIGATE NEGATIVE IMPACTS TO CORALS AND OTHER IMPORTANT CORAL**  
**REEF RESOURCES WHILE DREDGING IN STATE WATERS.**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 201 strongly urges the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to work with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to mitigate negative impacts to corals and other important coral reef resources while dredging in state waters. **The Department supports this measure and offers the following comments.**

Coral reefs are vital to the health of the fragile coastal ecosystem that has sustained the people of Hawai'i from time immemorial. In order to ensure that important coastal resources such as coral reefs can continue to support the people of Hawai'i, the Department has set-up extensive preventative and mitigating measures in the form of administrative, criminal, and civil penalties for the destruction of corals and live rock.

The Department recognizes that maintenance dredging is important to keeping shipping lanes clear of debris and that ensuring shipping channels are functioning provides many benefits to the people of Hawai'i. However, under the current Nationwide Permit 35 authorization from the Corps, maintenance dredging does not require consultation with the Department, does not require any quantitative surveying of the affected area, nor does it require any mitigating efforts to reduce the negative impacts of the proposed dredging. Because there is such a high value placed on the coastal resources of Hawai'i, the Department believes that the wanton destruction of corals and other important coral resources without consultation with the Department and without any type of plan to document affected corals and mitigate the negative impacts of the dredging

**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**ROBERT K. MASUDA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**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

activity is extremely harmful to the people and coastal resources of Hawai‘i and directly contradictory to the role of the Department that stewards these resources held in trust for the people of Hawai‘i.

The Department recently met with the Corps to discuss ways to improve coordination on maintenance dredging projects. The Corps expressed a desire to coordinate better with the State to mitigate the loss of corals and other aquatic resources in the future. This resolution is an opportunity for the Corps to recognize the importance the State of Hawai‘i has placed on its coastal resources, especially its coral reefs, and allow permittees to continue to carry out important maintenance dredging activity while working with the Department to mitigate negative impacts to coral reefs and other important coral resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**SCR-201**

Submitted on: 4/20/2022 10:20:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 4/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Sakoda	DLNR	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am available for questions to DLNR. Please allow me Zoom access.