

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
WATER & LAND**

**Thursday, April 14, 2022
8:30 AM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 430

**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: 4/12/2022 12:56:06 PM

Testimony for WAL on 4/14/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Sakoda	DLNR	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

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

SCR-201

Submitted on: 4/11/2022 4:53:45 PM

Testimony for WAL on 4/14/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Bishop	Friends of Hanauma Bay	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Friends of Hanauma Bay strongly supports this resolution to help preserve our corals!

With Aloha,

Lisa Bishop

President

Friends of Hanauma Bay

SCR-201

Submitted on: 4/13/2022 9:39:02 PM

Testimony for WAL on 4/14/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ella Marie Siroskey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

SCR-201

Submitted on: 4/13/2022 11:53:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 4/14/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Mello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support protection of our coral reefs