

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1933

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 20 2023

RE: H.C.R. No. 80

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Water and Land, to which was referred H.C.R. No. 80 entitled:

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION DESIGNATING HAWAII'S CORAL REEFS AS CRITICAL NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND STRONGLY SUPPORTING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS SUCH AS CORAL REEF RESTORATION FOR RISK REDUCTION,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to designate Hawaii's coral reefs as critical natural infrastructure and strongly support nature-based solutions such as coral reef restoration for risk reduction.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources; The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i and Palmyra; Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition; Hawaii Fisherman's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition, Inc.; Kua'aina Ulu Auamo; and six individuals.

Your Committees find that healthy, effectively managed, and functioning coral reefs can help mitigate the risks and related loss and damage from floods, the effects of climate change, and natural disasters. However, coral reefs are being lost at alarming rates and threatened by global stressors related to climate change, such as sea level rise, coral bleaching, and ocean acidification; and by local stressors from land-based sources of pollution, unsustainable fishing practices, and invasive species.

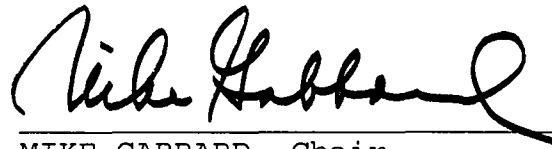


The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is responsible for responding to natural disasters and providing technical and financial hazard mitigation support, which is primarily distributed as grant funding through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs. Legislative recognition of coral reefs as critical natural infrastructure demonstrates political support for nature-based solutions, and the level of a State's political support is an important metric when FEMA directs activities and funding toward coral reef restoration for risk reduction projects. This measure recognizes the State's coral reefs as critical natural infrastructure to be eligible for important funding to protect coral reefs.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Water and Land that are attached to this report, your Committees concur with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 80, and recommend its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Agriculture and
Environment and Water and Land,


LORRAINE R. INOUÉ, Chair


MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

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| Bill / Resolution No.:* HCR 80 | Committee Referral: AEN / WTL | Date: 04-12-23 |
|--|---|--------------------------|

The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
 If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

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|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 | <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 | <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313 |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|

| Members | Aye | Aye (WR) | Nay | Excused |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|-----|----------|
| GABBARD, Mike (C) | X | | | |
| RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC) | X | | | |
| DECOITE, Lynn | | | | X |
| RHOADS, Karl | X | | | |
| AWA, Brenton | X | | | |
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| TOTAL | 4 | | | 1 |

Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:

Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod

File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate
 Thirty-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Water and Land
WTL

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|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| Bill / Resolution No.:* HCR 80 | Committee Referral: AEN/WTL | Date: 4/12/23 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____ | | | | |
| The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313 | | | | |
| Members | Aye | Aye (WR) | Nay | Excused |
| INOUYE, Lorraine R. (C) | ✓ | | | |
| ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C. (VC) | ✓ | | | |
| CHANG, Stanley | ✓ | | | |
| MCKELVEY, Angus L.K. | ✓ | | | |
| FEVELLA, Kurt | | | | ✓ |
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| TOTAL | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted | | | | |
| Chair's or Designee's Signature: | | | | |
| Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy | | | | |

*Only one measure per Record of Votes