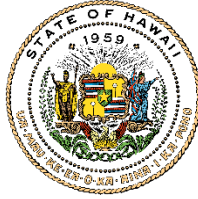
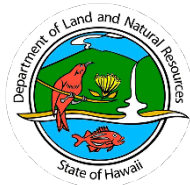


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

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 Senate Committees on
WATER AND LAND
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, March 22, 2023
1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 113/SENATE RESOLUTION 106
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
MINIMIZE HUMAN INTERACTION AT CERTAIN LOCATIONS DURING CORAL
SPAWNING EVENTS

Senate Concurrent Resolution 113/Senate Resolution 106 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 these measures.**

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 these measures.

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 Lorraine Inouye and Mike Gabbard, The Honorable Vice-chairs Brandon Elefante and Tim Richards, III, and members of the Senate Committees on Water and Land and Agriculture 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: Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

Aloha Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Elefante and Richards, and members of the Committees on Water and Land and Agriculture 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!

Native Hawaiians have a unique and sacred relationship with the ocean and corals. 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. Hawaii should act to encourage greater coral survival.

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)



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

AEN-WTL_03-22-23 1:00pm SCR113/SC106 , SCR41/SR35

TO: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

and

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

CONCERNING: SCR113: Urging the Department of Land and Natural

Resources to minimize human interaction at certain locations during
coral spawning events.

SCR41: Designating Hawaii's Coral Reefs As Critical

Natural Infrastructure and strongly supporting nature-based
solutions such as Coral Reef Restoration for risk reduction

POSITION: STRONG UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT

The Environmental Caucus strongly supports both of these resolutions as vital to the health of our Islands and as consistent with Native Hawaiian Culture and Marine and Climate Science.

SCR41 Recognizes our Coral Reefs as critical natural infrastructure which are under extraordinary stress due to human interaction, human, industrial and natural pollution, invasive species and climate change.

SCR 113 supports SCR41 by further recognizing the importance of protecting the reefs when the living coral is spawning by forbidding human interference with the process.

The legislature should do everything in its power to protect the reefs especially now when they are and will continue to be fighting to survive to side effects of climate change.

We hope that the individual loyalties of any Senators or Representatives to any persons, industries, or groups will not be allowed to defeat either of these resolutions just to protect any special interests.



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

[COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT](#)

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

[COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND](#)

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

DATE:	Wednesday, March 22, 2023
TIME:	1:00 PM
PLACE:	Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Re: Strong Support for SCR113 / SR106

Aloha AEN Chair Gabbard and Vice Chair Richards; WTL Chair Inouye and Vice Chair Elefante; and members of the Joint Senate AEN and WTL Committees:

Friends of Hanauma Bay **Strongly Supports SCR113 / SR106** 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 community stewards has resulted in documented increases in juvenile cauliflower corals in Kahalu'u.



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

The successful community-driven program at Kahalu'u Bay has led the Department of Land and Natural Resources to order brief spawning closures at Waialea Beach, 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 / SR106!

With Aloha,

Lisa Bishop
President
Friends of Hanauma Bay

SCR-113

Submitted on: 3/19/2023 4:50:33 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/22/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this resolution. Protection of coral reefs is something we must definitely prioritize in this state (and the whole world).

Thank you,

Elena Arinaga

SCR-113

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 6:12:35 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/22/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Members of the Water and Land Committee and the Agriculture and Environment 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: 3/21/2023 12:39:41 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/22/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Molly Whiteley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SCR113.

Mahalo!

M. Whiteley

Kihei

SCR-113

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 1:08:49 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/22/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We must protect what's left of our precious coral reefs