



To: The Honorable Chair Lorraine Inouye, the Honorable Vice-chair Brandon Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

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

Re: Hearing **SCR95/SR88 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO PROTECT HAWAII'S WATERS AND RESOURCES BY PROHIBITING SEABED MINING**

Hearing: Friday, March 24, 2023, 1:00 p.m. CR229

Aloha Chair Inouye, the Honorable Vice-chair Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

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 Climate Protectors Hawai'i seek to educate and engage the local community in climate change action, to help Hawai'i show the world the way back to a safe and stable climate.

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii STRONGLY SUPPORT SCR 95/SR88 if bills to accomplish similar results are not enacted!

This Concurrent Resolution urges the DLNR to prohibit seabed mining all State marine waters, act to prevent transboundary impacts of seabed mining from other places, and prohibit the use of State ports by commercial vessels affiliated with seabed mining.

Seabed mining is like strip mining of the deep ocean floor, releasing toxic sediment plumes as well. It poses an unacceptably high risk of damage and disruption to the marine environment, including our globally significant ecosystems that host thousands of species, which are comparable in biodiversity and carbon storage to tropical rainforests. It may harm coral reefs, release stored carbon dioxide, and its noise may disrupt whales, dolphins and other marine mammals. It may take decades, if not hundreds of years, for marine ecosystems to recover from seabed mining. The effect on climate of seabed mining may be substantial, as the deep ocean below one thousand meters contains eighty percent of the carbon stored in the ocean.

Seabed mining also **may harm ocean-dependent industries such as commercial and recreational fishing and tourism.**

The Legislatures of California, Oregon, and Washington have all passed legislation banning seabed mining.

We thank the committee for hearing this important measure! Please pass SCR95/SR88 to urge DLNR to protect our marine ecosystems and ocean-dependent industries from seabed mining!

Mahalo!

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



THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2023 COMMITTEE ON
WATER AND LAND Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair Senator Brandon J.C.
Elefante, Vice Chair

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, March 24, 2023

TIME: 1:00 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 229 & Videoconference State Capitol 415 South
Beretania Street

TESTIMONY OF THE OCEAN TOURISM COALITION IN SUPPORT OF SCR95/SR88

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and the WTL Committee.

My name is Jim Coon speaking for the Ocean Tourism Coalition (OTC) which represents over 300 ocean tour operators state wide. **Speaking in Strong Support of SCR95/SR88** to prohibit ocean mining as well as prohibiting use of State Boating facilities for vessels affiliated with sea bed mining. We support this resolution for all the reasons outlined in the resolution.

Please pass this timely resolution.

Sincerely,

Jim Coon, President OTC