
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO ERADICATE OCTOCORAL AND OTHER INVASIVE SPECIES FROM THE WATERS OF PEARL HARBOR AND TO PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES WITH REGULAR UPDATES ON THE STATUS OF ERADICATION AND THE EXTENT OF THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE OCTOCORAL.

1 WHEREAS, two invasive species of octocoral, or *Unomia*
2 *stolonifera* and *Capnella spicata*, are two of many invasive
3 species that threaten Pearl Harbor's maritime ecosystem; and
4

5 WHEREAS, octocoral takes over marine habitats extremely
6 quickly because it is a "soft coral" that does not form a
7 calcium exoskeleton like reef-building corals, allowing it to
8 rapidly grow and spread colonies, smothering Hawaiian coral reef
9 ecosystems; and
10

11 WHEREAS, in areas where octocorals dominate the marine
12 habitat, there is a lower density and diversity of fish; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the United States Navy reported the presence of
15 octocoral near Pearl Harbor in late 2020 during surveys that
16 were not focused on octocorals, and recent surveys have
17 documented octocoral in a much larger area, indicating that they
18 were most likely present before 2019; and
19

20 WHEREAS, a strong unified response is required to remove
21 and eradicate octocorals and other invasive species from the
22 waters of Pearl Harbor; and
23

24 WHEREAS, the United States Navy has conducted pilot
25 eradication projects in certain areas of Pearl Harbor to test
26 the efficacy of various eradication efforts; and
27



1 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources has
2 not been informed of the outcomes of these projects, including
3 any data collected; and
4

5 WHEREAS, this information is essential to informing the
6 State's response if the invasive species are found outside of
7 Pearl Harbor; and
8

9 WHEREAS, the United States Navy is the principal caretaker
10 of Pearl Harbor and its waters; now, therefore,
11

12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
13 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
14 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the United States
15 Navy is encouraged to eradicate octocoral and other invasive
16 species from the waters of Pearl Harbor and to provide the
17 Department of Land and Natural Resources with regular updates on
18 the status of eradication and the extent of the spread of
19 invasive octocoral; and
20

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Navy is
22 encouraged to allocate resources to eradicate octocoral and
23 other invasive species from the waters of Pearl Harbor,
24 including West Loch, Middle Loch, and East Loch; and
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States
28 Secretary of the Navy and Chairperson of the Board of Land and
29 Natural Resources.

