
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO ERADICATE OCTOCORAL AND
OTHER INVASIVE SPECIES FROM THE WATERS OF PEARL HARBOR.

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
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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
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11 WHEREAS, in areas where octocorals dominate the marine
12 habitat, there is a lower density and diversity of fish; and
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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
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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
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24 WHEREAS, the United States Navy is the principal caretaker
25 of Pearl Harbor and its waters; now, therefore,
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
29 House of Representatives concurring, that the United States Navy
30 is encouraged to eradicate octocoral and other invasive species
31 from the waters of Pearl Harbor; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Navy is
2 encouraged to allocate resources to eradicate octocoral and
3 other invasive species from the waters of Pearl Harbor,
4 including West Loch, Middle Loch, and East Loch; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Navy is urged
7 to provide the state Department of Land and Natural Resources
8 with regular updates on the status of eradication efforts and
9 the extent of invasive octocoral; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States
13 Secretary of the Navy and Chairperson of the Board of Land and
14 Natural Resources.

