



# DLNR-DAR

## AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

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# DAR Aquatic Invasive Species Team



- Strategy:

1. Prevention
2. Early Detection & Rapid Response
3. Management & Control

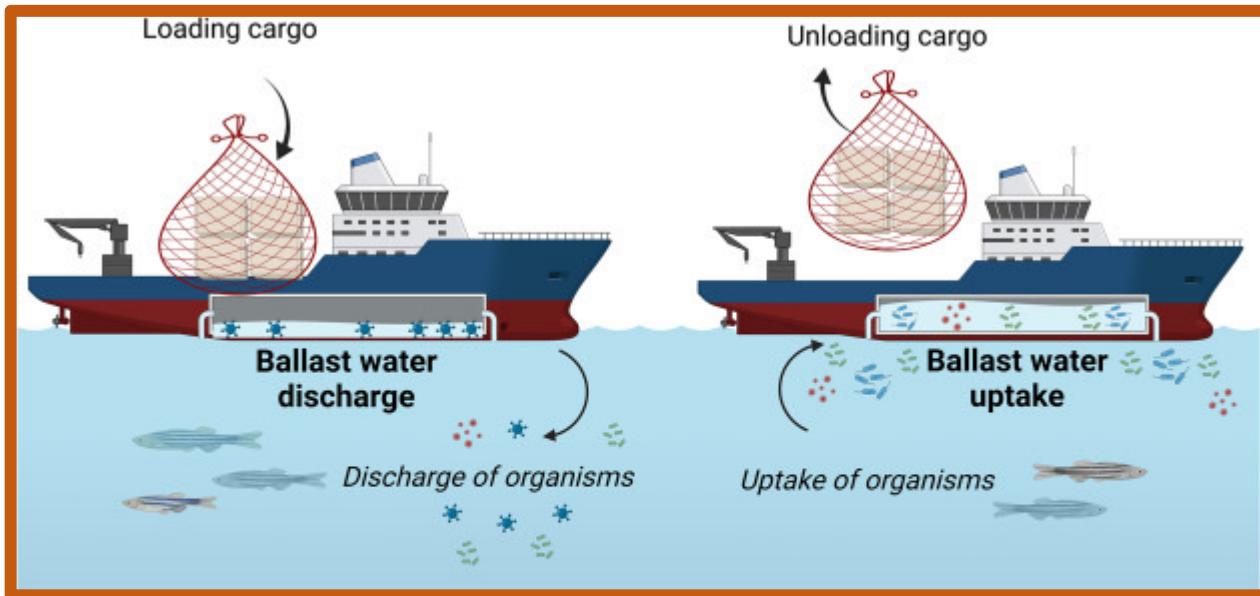
- Top Vectors:

- Vessel Traffic (Ballast Water and Biofouling)
- Release (Aquarium and Aquaculture)



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# Ballast Water & Hull Fouling





## The Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA)



- *Preempts* states from developing and enforcing ballast water and vessel hull in-water cleaning regulations that are more stringent than the federal regulations
- *Allows* states to **enforce/co-enforce** the new federal regulations or enforce state regulations that mirror federal regulations
- *Prohibits* states from charging shipping companies a **fee** to support this regulatory work = *no revenue to build a DAR team*

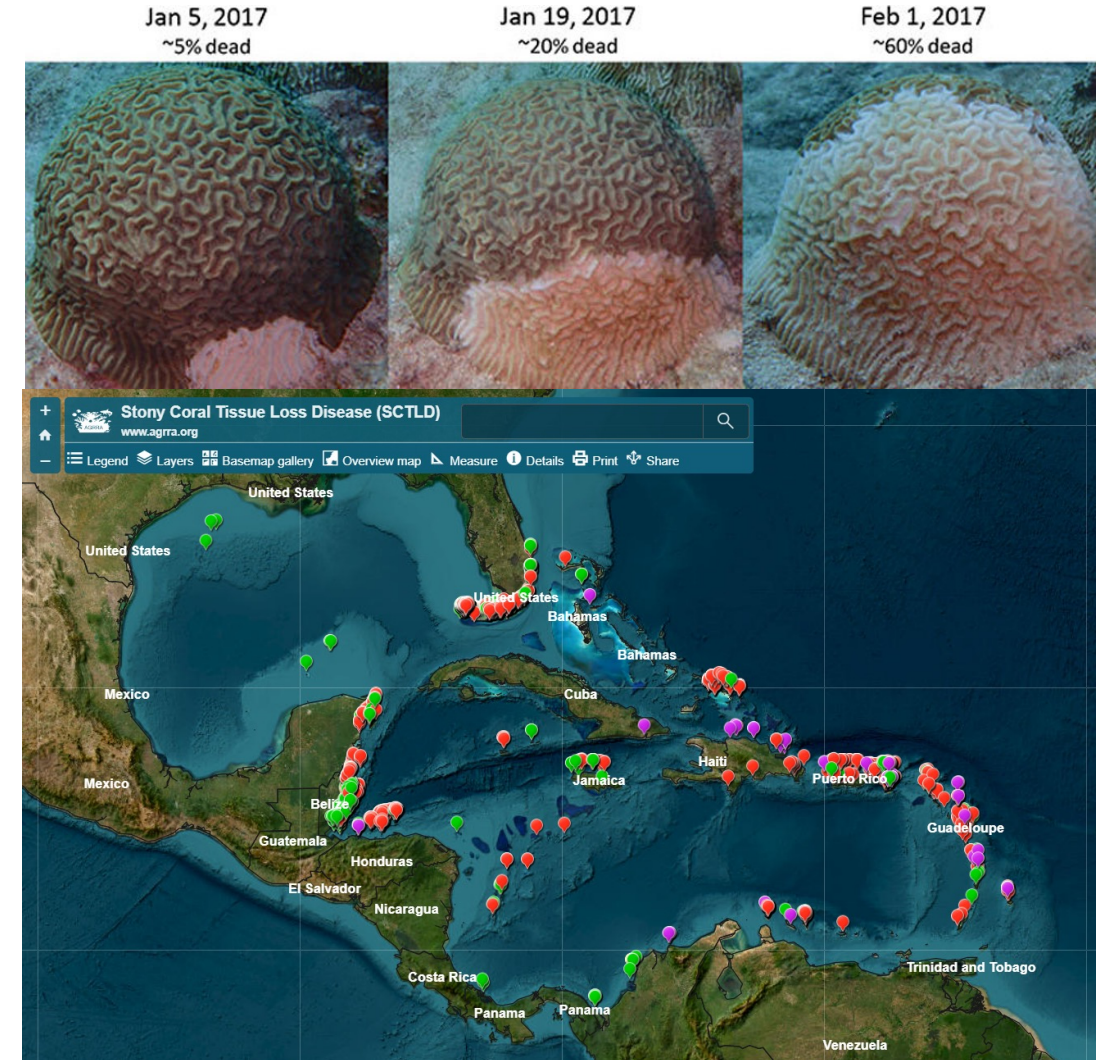
# Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD)

- Disease devastating Caribbean coral - rapid spread and high mortality
- Travels via vessel traffic (ballast water and biofouling communities) = high risk to Hawai'i

## Need:

Robust legislation to prevent vessels from discharging infected ballast water over Hawaiian reefs.

- Emergency Rules
- Petition for Emergency Orders under VIDA



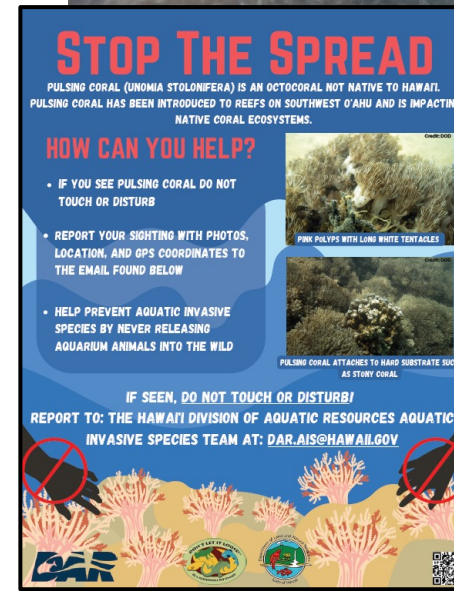


# Invasive Octocorals in Pearl Harbor

- Two species of **octocoral** (*Unomia stolonifera* & *Capnella spicata*) introduced to **Pearl Harbor** watershed by an aquarium release
- Have spread to **82 acres of seafloor** and cover native hard corals, potentially smothering them
- *Unomia* is also highly invasive in Venezuela and has colonized over 60 miles of reef devastating the natural ecosystem

## Need:

Funding to conduct statewide diver and eDNA surveys for signs of octocoral spread outside Pearl Harbor







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## Urchin Biocontrol of Invasive Algae

- In 2023, 71,150 m<sup>2</sup> of reef in Kāneʻohe Bay was treated with the native Hawaiian collector urchin (*Tripneustes gratilla*)
- **DAR Urchin Hatchery and AIS Team outplanted the 1,000,000<sup>th</sup> urchin!**



# Contact Us

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