



**COMMENTS ON SCR 27 / SR 17**  
ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO ERADICATE OCTOCORAL AND OTHER  
INVASIVE SPECIES FROM PEARL HARBOR

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

Monday, March 25, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Elefante and Richards, and Members of the  
Committees:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") **offers comments** on SCR 27 and SR 17.

The MAC was established in 1985 when the Chamber was appointed by the State to serve as the liaison to the military. The MAC advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders, academic institutions, State and County officials, members of the CODEL, community leaders, labor unions and organizations and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region which is crucial for U.S. national and homeland security.

The MAC wishes to update the committee that the U.S. Navy is executing on efforts to reduce octocoral and other invasive species in Pearl Harbor. Specifically, the U.S. Navy has been convening an interagency team of experts for this effort, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources.



U.S. Navy is working closely with agency partners to employ and continually refine our response plan and methodology, and to identify resources, capabilities, and experts that will be necessary for full-scale response and successful eradication.

To be specific, the team has successfully demonstrated that both manual removal and tarp smothering are effective in the short term. To-date, the manual removal method has removed approximately 19,956 sq ft (.45 acres) and the tarping method has eradicated approximately 13,900 sq ft (.32 acres).

Going forward, the U.S. Navy's goal is to scale up operations using funding in FY 2024 including U.S. Navy's pre-proposal for National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP) funding which has been approved to move to full proposal. Additionally, a Fish & Wildlife Coral Reef Conservation fund grant application has also been submitted.

We will be pleased to keep the Committee informed of our efforts and believe this resolution is not necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on this matter.

**SR-17**

Submitted on: 3/20/2024 11:56:31 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/25/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kevin Faccenda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure