
SENATE RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO ERADICATE OCTOCORAL AND
OTHER INVASIVE SPECIES FROM 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 these octocorals and recent surveys have
17 documented these species in a much larger area and indicate that
18 they 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,
29 that the United States Navy is encouraged to take responsibility
30 for the eradication of octocoral and other invasive species from
31 the waters of Pearl Harbor; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Navy is
34 encouraged to allocate resources to eradicate octocoral and



1 other invasive species from the waters of Pearl Harbor,
2 including West Loch, Middle Loch, and East Loch; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of the
6 Navy.

