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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO COMPLETE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE SHORELINE STABILIZATION PROJECT AT THE PUULOA RANGE TRAINING FACILITY.

1 WHEREAS, studies conducted by the University of Hawaii show  
2 that hardening the shoreline of Oahu where there is chronic  
3 coastal erosion causes beach narrowing and beach loss; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, in heavily armored sectors, sand impoundment mauka  
6 of walls can lead to general sand volume decreases causing or  
7 exacerbating sector-wide erosion trends; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, coastal hardening can also produce coastal water  
10 quality impacts through increased turbulence and turbidity; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, the shoreline stabilization project at the Puuloa  
13 Range training facility (PRTF) is a plan to harden the shoreline  
14 along the makai boundary of the PRTF; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, the PRTF shoreline project plans to use impact  
17 pile driving to force steel sheet pile vertically through sand  
18 and then further to a depth of twenty feet below the surface of  
19 the underlying coral rock along the shoreline creating a  
20 bulkhead which will cover a horizontal distance of fifteen  
21 hundred to twenty-five hundred feet; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, no environmental impact statement was conducted  
24 prior to the major shoreline hardening project at Iroquois Point  
25 immediately to the east of the PRTF which was completed in 2013;  
26 and  
27

28 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii coastal erosion website  
29 details a stable Ewa shoreline west of Keahi Point from 1928  
30 through 2005 with net accretion during that time along the  
31 entire PRTF shoreline; and



# H.C.R. NO. 75

1  
2 WHEREAS, modeling forecasts in the Iroquois Point  
3 environmental assessment (2012) predicted a continued stable  
4 shoreline west of the Iroquois Point beach restoration project,  
5 citing predominantly west to east sand transport; and  
6

7 WHEREAS, in about 2014, shortly after completion of the  
8 Iroquois Point hardening project, increasing erosion led to a  
9 steepening of the slope and undermining of approximately ninety  
10 percent of the vegetation on the PRTF shoreline; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), as custodians of  
13 the PRTF, assert that their lead-filled berms are now in danger  
14 of imminent erosion which would introduce lead into the Ewa  
15 shoreline environment; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, erosion events of increasing magnitude have  
18 occurred west of Iroquois Point and PRTF since the completion of  
19 the Iroquois Point hardening project completion in 2013; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, the shoreline stabilization at PRTF environmental  
22 assessment (2019) released by MCBH does not properly consider  
23 potential beach narrowing and beach loss west of PRTF resulting  
24 from strong trade wind wave events producing east to west near  
25 shore sand transport; and  
26

27 WHEREAS, the environmental assessment does not properly  
28 consider potential beach narrowing and beach loss west of PRTF  
29 resulting from cumulative beach hardening projects at Iroquois  
30 Point and PRTF; and  
31

32 WHEREAS, the environmental assessment does not account for  
33 existing prominent structures of historic significance that  
34 would potentially be affected by this project or exacerbate  
35 potential negative impact to private and public property west of  
36 the project; and  
37

38 WHEREAS, the environmental assessment does not sufficiently  
39 analyze alternative options such as retreat of the entire range  
40 from the shoreline into vacant land owned by the Department of  
41 the Navy; and  
42



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1           WHEREAS, the Ewa Beach community is concerned that  
 2 prolonged impact pile driving has the potential to damage and  
 3 collapse the karst system, creating sink holes and damaging the  
 4 water table which is hydraulically connected to the coral reef  
 5 feeding vital fresh water to limu which is vital to the food  
 6 chain; and

7  
 8           WHEREAS, the Ewa Beach community is concerned that the  
 9 proposed project has the potential to create significant impact  
 10 to the human and natural environment to include endangered  
 11 Hawaiian monk seal habitat, sea turtle habitat, and essential  
 12 fish habitat; and

13  
 14           WHEREAS, MCBH did not take action that would most  
 15 effectively notify and involve the public as directed by Marine  
 16 Corps Order 5090.2-vol 12, ch.3; and

17  
 18           WHEREAS, the Ewa Neighborhood Board was not notified of  
 19 this project nor the public comment period that was open from  
 20 August 29 to September 13, 2019; now, therefore,

21  
 22           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 23 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
 24 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the United States Marine  
 25 Corps is requested to complete an environmental impact statement  
 26 for the shoreline stabilization at the Puuloa Range training  
 27 facility; and

28  
 29           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Commander of the  
 31 Marine Corps Base Hawaii, members of Hawaii's congressional  
 32 delegation, Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Land and  
 33 Natural Resources, and Chairperson of the Ewa Beach Neighborhood  
 34 Board.

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37  
OFFERED BY:



MAR 05 2021

