
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CORAL.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the commercial use
2 of coral contributes to the decline and degradation of the
3 State's coral reefs. The import and export of coral for
4 jewelry, curios, and other products lead to overharvesting and
5 risks damage to vulnerable reef ecosystems. The legislature
6 recognizes that while stony corals are legally protected in
7 Hawaii, the sale, import, and export of coral jewelry in the
8 State still threaten coral reefs and reef ecosystems in Hawaii
9 and other parts of the world.

10 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to prohibit the
11 sale, import, harvest, or export of coral products, with certain
12 exceptions.

13 SECTION 2. Chapter 187A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately
15 designated and to read as follows:

16 "§187A- Sale, import, harvest, or export of coral
17 products; prohibited. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person



1 to import into, export from, sell in, harvest from, or offer for
2 sale in the State any coral product; provided that the coral
3 product is an endangered species native to Hawaii.

4 (b) This section shall not apply to:

5 (1) The import into, export from, sale in, or offer for
6 sale in the State of any coral product for the
7 purposes of:

8 (A) Research or scientific identification by an
9 accredited museum or university;

10 (B) Rehabilitation or restoration of historic and
11 culturally significant Hawaiian sites;

12 (C) Performance and exercise of native Hawaiian
13 cultural practices and sacraments;

14 (D) Use as limestone or construction materials,
15 cosmetics, or medicines; or

16 (E) Education;

17 (2) The harvest of coral products pursuant to a special
18 activity permit for non-commercial harvesting
19 purposes; and

20 (3) Coral products expressly authorized by federal law or
21 federal permit.



1 (c) As used in this section:
2 "Coral" means a species of the phylum Cnidaria, including:
3 (1) All species of the orders Antipatharia (black corals),
4 Scleractinia (stony corals), Gorgonacea (horny
5 corals), Stolonifera (organpipe corals and others),
6 Alcyonacea (soft corals), and Coenothecalia (blue
7 coral) of the class Anthozoa; and
8 (2) All species of the order Hydrocorallina (fire corals
9 and hydrocorals) of the class Hydrozoa;

10 provided that "coral" does not include jellyfish or man o' war.

11 "Coral product" means any product, including curios,
12 jewelry, and other novel commercial products, that is made from
13 dead coral or coral skeleton."

14 SECTION 3. No later than December 31, 2024, the department
15 of land and natural resources shall amend its administrative
16 rules in accordance with chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to
17 comply with the provisions of this Act.

18 SECTION 4. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
19 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
20 begun before its effective date.

21 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.



Report Title:

Department of Land and Natural Resources; Coral Products; Coral Skeletons; Sale; Import; Export; Prohibition

Description:

Prohibits the sale, import, harvest, or export of certain coral products, with certain exceptions. Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to amend its administrative rules accordingly no later than 12/31/2024. (SD2)

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