
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO WORK WITH THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CREATE A CORAL REEF ADVISORY TEAM OF YOUTH.

1 WHEREAS, coral reefs are some of the most diverse
2 ecosystems in the world; and

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4 WHEREAS, about twenty-five percent of the ocean's fish
5 depend on healthy coral reefs; and

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7 WHEREAS, coral reefs protect coastlines from storms and
8 erosion, provide a source of food and new medicines, and offer
9 opportunities for recreation; and

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11 WHEREAS, Hawaii's coral reefs account for about eighty-five
12 percent of all coral reefs in the United States; and

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14 WHEREAS, the Northwestern Hawaiian Island coral reefs,
15 which are part of the Papahānaumokuākea National Marine
16 Monument, provide an example of the diversity of life associated
17 with shallow-water reef ecosystems, supporting more than seven
18 thousand species of fishes, invertebrates, plants, sea turtles,
19 birds, and marine mammals; and

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21 WHEREAS, unfortunately, climate change is threatening coral
22 reefs worldwide, primarily through increased temperature stress,
23 which causes coral bleaching, where corals lose the algal
24 symbionts living within their cells; and

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26 WHEREAS, corals are able to recover from bleaching events
27 if conditions improve before they die, though it can take many
28 years for the ecosystems to fully heal; and

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30 WHEREAS, providing educational initiatives where students
31 can learn about coral reefs, including the science and best
32 practices related to preservation and restoration, will help to



1 engage students about an important ecosystem that is critical to
2 life in Hawaii; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
6 of 2022, that the University of Hawaii is requested to work with
7 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and
8 Department of Education to create a Coral Reef Advisory Team of
9 Youth; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that through the Coral Reef Advisory
12 Team of Youth, the University of Hawaii is requested to engage
13 students in the science and background of coral reefs, including
14 ways of saving and preserving coral reefs; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is
17 requested to consider using the Partnerships for Reform through
18 Investigative Science and Math Program's curricula related to
19 coral reefs; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the National
23 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Education,
24 President of the University of Hawaii, and Superintendent of
25 Education.

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OFFERED BY Jinda A. Clark

MAR - 7 2022

