

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 690

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 02 2023

RE: S.B. No. 403
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts, to which was referred S.B. No. 403 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CORAL,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to repeal the designation of black coral as the official gem of the State.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition, Big Island Reef Keepers Hui, Friends of Hanauma Bay, and For the Fishes. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Your Committee finds that Hawaii's coral reefs are vital to marine ecosystems and are home to many endemic and native species. Designated as the official gem of the State by Act 9, Session Laws of Hawaii 1987, black coral played a significant role in marketing campaigns showcasing Hawaii's beauty. However, the long-term promotion of Hawaii and its natural resources, including black coral, has led to increased commercial use of coral, contributing to the decline and degradation of coral reefs. This measure preserves one of the State's prized natural resources to ensure longevity and revitalization of coral reefs and marine ecosystems across the State.



Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 403, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 403, S.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Transportation and
Culture and the Arts,

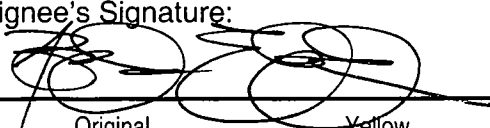


CHRIS LEE, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
TCA

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB403	Committee Referral: TCA	Date: 2/28/23		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
LEE, Chris (C)	✓			
INOUYE, Lorraine R. (VC)				✓
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	✓			
KEOHOKALOOLE, Jarrett	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	4	0	0	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes