Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 0 8 2023

RE: S.B. No. 432

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

Sir:

Your Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Water and Land, to which was referred S.B. No. 432 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DESIGNATION OF HAWAII CORAL REEFS AS CRITICAL NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to designate Hawaii coral reefs as critical natural infrastructure.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition, The Nature Conservancy, and five individuals. Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency.

Your Committees find that in Hawaii, coral reefs serve as the first line of defense to shoreline erosion and tidal flooding related events. Coral reefs act as natural breakwaters, dissipating up to ninety-seven percent of wave energy impacting shorelines and trapping sediment, which is estimated to save the State around \$836,000,000 annually. Your Committees additionally find that Hawaii's coral reefs are threatened by the effects of climate change, including sea level rise, coral bleaching, and ocean acidification, among other substantial stressors. This measure will designate Hawaii's coral reefs as critical natural infrastructure, which will demonstrate the State's support for nature-based climate change solutions and increase the likelihood

of receiving funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program to support coral reef protection and restoration in Hawaii.

Your Committees acknowledge a concern addressed in testimony by the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency, which requests that your Committees consider adding language to this measure that would also direct that this designation be considered by the State and counties in their hazard mitigation planning and that this would streamline and support the State's ability to pursue federal grants.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Water and Land that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 432 and recommend that it pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

> Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Water and Land,

The Senate Thirty-Second Legislature State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes Committee on Agriculture and Environment AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:			Date:				
SB432	AEN/WTL			02/03/23				
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to:								
The Recommendation is:								
Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313								
Members		Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused			
GABBARD, Mike (C)		X						
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Ti	X							
DECOITE, Lynn	X							
RHOADS, Karl		X						
AWA, Brenton		X						
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TOTAL		5						
Recommendation: Adopted 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

The Senate Thirty-Second Legislature State of Hawaiʻi

Record of Votes Committee on Water and Land WTL

Bill / Resolution No.:* 38 432	Committee	Referral:	Date: 02/03/23						
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.									
If so, then the previous decision was to:									
The Recommendation is:									
Pass, unamended 2312	nded Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2311 2310 2313								
Members		Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused				
INOUYE, Lorraine R. (C)									
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C. (VC	5)	/							
CHANG, Stanley		/							
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K.		1							
FEVELLA, Kurt									
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TOTAL		5	ϕ	ϕ	ϕ				
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