

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1660

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 04 2023

RE: S.C.R. No. 41

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.C.R. No. 41 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION DESIGNATING HAWAII'S CORAL REEFS AS CRITICAL NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND STRONGLY SUPPORTING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS SUCH AS CORAL REEF RESTORATION FOR RISK REDUCTION,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to designate Hawaii's coral reefs as Critical Natural Infrastructure and to strongly support nature-based solutions such as coral reef restoration for climate-related risk reduction.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources; Hawai'i Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition, Inc.; Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Fair Wind Cruises, Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition, Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, Friends of Hanauma Bay, The Nature Conservancy, and five individuals.

Your Committees find that healthy coral reef ecosystems can help to mitigate the effects of climate change and natural disasters by absorbing up to ninety-seven percent of wave energy brought about by storms and extreme weather events. Furthermore, one study has estimated that Hawaii's coral reefs protect and save coastal infrastructure from \$836,000,000 in costs and damages



annually due to destructive flooding and similar events. Your Committees recognize that coral reefs globally are being threatened by increasing temperatures, coral bleaching events, ocean acidification, and pollution. Therefore, this measure designates Hawaii's coral reefs as critical natural infrastructure and proclaims the Legislature's support for nature-based climate based solutions such as coral reef restoration.

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 concur with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 41 and recommend its adoption.

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

  
LORRAINE R. INOUE, Chair

  
MIKE GABBARD, Chair





The Senate  
 Thirty-Second Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Water and Land**  
**WTL**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SCR 41</b>	Committee Referral: <b>AEN/WTL</b>	Date: <b>3/22/23</b>		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
INOUYE, Lorraine R. (C)	✓			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C. (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K.				✓
FEVELLA, Kurt				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original     Yellow     Pink     Goldenrod File with Committee Report     Clerk's Office     Drafting Agency     Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes