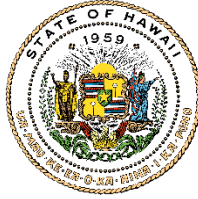


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRPERSON
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on
WATER AND LAND
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, March 22, 2023
1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 113/SENATE RESOLUTION 106
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
MINIMIZE HUMAN INTERACTION AT CERTAIN LOCATIONS DURING CORAL
SPAWNING EVENTS

Senate Concurrent Resolution 113/Senate Resolution 106 urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to determine priority locations around the State where minimizing human interaction immediately after cauliflower coral spawning may contribute to greater coral reef formation and requests the Department to take actions to support healthier coral reefs, including public education, to minimize human interaction following coral spawning periods. **The Department supports these measures.**

The Department has collaborated with the County of Hawaii and the Kohala Center to minimize human interactions at Kahalu'u Bay during annual coral spawning events. The Department has also closed facilities at Waiakea Bay State Park for the same reasons. These protective measures are most effective where parking and beach access points are controlled by the Department. Where public ocean access is more porous, outreach and education can help to reduce human use at sensitive areas during coral spawning times.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of these measures.

DAWN N. S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

LAURA H. E. KAAKUA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - LAND

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

AEN-WTL_03-22-23 1:00pm SCR113/SC106 , SCR41/SR35

TO: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

and

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

CONCERNING: SCR113: Urging the Department of Land and Natural

Resources to minimize human interaction at certain locations during
coral spawning events.

SCR41: Designating Hawaii's Coral Reefs As Critical

Natural Infrastructure and strongly supporting nature-based
solutions such as Coral Reef Restoration for risk reduction

POSITION: STRONG UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT

The Environmental Caucus strongly supports both of these resolutions as vital to the health of our Islands and as consistent with Native Hawaiian Culture and Marine and Climate Science.

SCR41 Recognizes our Coral Reefs as critical natural infrastructure which are under extraordinary stress due to human interaction, human, industrial and natural pollution, invasive species and climate change.

SCR 113 supports SCR41 by further recognizing the importance of protecting the reefs when the living coral is spawning by forbidding human interference with the process.

The legislature should do everything in its power to protect the reefs especially now when they are and will continue to be fighting to survive to side effects of climate change.

We hope that the individual loyalties of any Senators or Representatives to any persons, industries, or groups will not be allowed to defeat either of these resolutions just to protect any special interests.

SR-106

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 11:29:26 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/22/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Hixon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. As a professional coral reef biologist, it is exceedingly clear that our corals are in trouble and need all the protections we can provide for them. Ensuring that corals are able to spawn unimpeded is critical to sustaining and restoring our reefs. I urge you to pass this bill. Mahalo.

SR-106

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 7:20:31 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/22/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a good common sense bill, please support it. Mahalo.