

JAN 19 2024

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CORAL.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's coral reefs  
2 are vital to the State's marine ecosystems and are home to many  
3 endemic and native species. Designated as the official gem of  
4 the State by Act 9, Session Laws of Hawaii 1987, black coral  
5 played a significant role in marketing campaigns showcasing  
6 Hawaii's beauty. The promotion of black coral led tourists and  
7 residents alike to covet black coral jewelry, curios, and other  
8 products to embrace as treasured family heirlooms or gifts that  
9 represent Hawaii's natural beauty. However, the long-term  
10 promotion of Hawaii and its natural resources, including black  
11 coral, has led to increased commercial use of coral,  
12 contributing to the decline and degradation of the State's coral  
13 reefs.

14           The legislature further finds that the overharvesting of  
15 coral has led to concerns that, while legally protected, the  
16 sale, import, and export of coral jewelry in the State continues  
17 to threaten coral reefs and reef ecosystems in Hawaii. While



1 the legislature attempted to address overharvesting of coral in  
2 H.B. No. 1988, H.D. 2, S.D. 3 (2022), the ongoing marketing and  
3 promotion of black coral as the official state gem to both  
4 tourists and residents must be addressed to prevent further harm  
5 to vital coral reefs and reef ecosystems in the State's waters.

6 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to remove the  
7 designation of black coral as the official gem of the State.

8 SECTION 2. Section 5-15, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
9 repealed.

10 ~~["§5-15] State gem. The black coral is established and~~  
11 ~~designated as the official gem of the State."]~~

12 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
13 and stricken.

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is highly cursive and appears to be the name of the person introducing the bill.

# S.B. NO. 2480

**Report Title:**

Black Coral; Hawaii State Gem; Repeal

**Description:**

Repeals the designation of black coral as the official gem of the State.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

