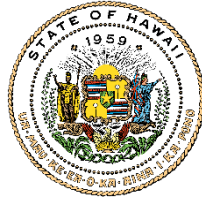


**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

**LAURA H.E. KAAKUA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**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

**Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
WATER AND LAND**

**Monday, February 6, 2023  
1:05 PM**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 417  
RELATING TO CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEMS**

Senate Bill 417 proposes to establish a Hawaii Near Shore Waters Quality Program to monitor and test for the quality of waters near coral reefs to assess and ensure health of reef ecosystems and appropriate funds. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request, and suggests the following amendments.**

Pursuant to Section 187A-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Department is mandated to manage and administer the aquatic life and aquatic resources of the State. It is generally understood that corals, fish, invertebrates, limu, and other native and endemic species that inhabit coral reef ecosystems require good water quality to survive, grow, and reproduce. A program to enable the Department to better understand the condition of nearshore water quality would enhance our capacity to partner with other agencies, community groups, and policy makers to mitigate pollution sources to improve coral reef health.

The Department currently lacks water quality monitoring capacity or expertise. Such a program would have to be built from the ground up, which will require a large investment of resources for staff, facilities, and training. The Department has consulted with the Department of Health (DOH) to discuss the feasibility of augmenting DOH's existing water quality monitoring program to test for contaminants and water quality parameters that affect reef ecosystems. While both the Department and DOH are very interested in expanding water quality monitoring for coral reef health, we agree that a necessary first step is to commission a study and technical

report to discover what is currently known about the impacts of various contaminants on marine ecosystems, identify the most useful water quality parameters to monitor, and make recommendations on sampling frequency and locations. This will enable us to identify what resources are needed to collect meaningful data that can inform nearshore ecosystem management.

The Department estimates that a study and technical report would cost \$200,000 and could be completed before the start of the 2025 Legislative Session if funding was made available in July 2023.

**The Department has attached a proposed Senate Draft 1 (the Department's proposed changes highlighted in yellow).**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEMS.

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

1           SECTION 1. (a) ~~[There is established the Hawaii near shore~~  
2 ~~waters quality program, to be administered by the department of~~  
3 ~~land and natural resources, to monitor and test the quality of~~  
4 ~~near shore waters to ensure the health of coastal coral reefs~~  
5 ~~and ecosystems.~~

6           ~~(b) Under the Hawaii near shore waters quality program,~~  
7 ~~the department of land and natural resources shall:~~

8           ~~(1) Create a near coast waters stewardship council to~~  
9           ~~administer the program;~~

10          ~~(2) Monitor and test the quality of near shore waters and~~  
11          ~~establish a baseline standard of water quality; and~~

12          ~~(3) Collect and test water samples from near shore reefs~~  
13          ~~to determine the existence and levels of any~~  
14          ~~contaminates that may pose risks to the~~  
15          ~~health of the reef ecosystems;~~

16          ~~(e)]~~ The department of land and natural resources shall  
17 submit a report to the legislature no later than twenty days

# S.B. NO. 417

1 prior to the convening of the regular session of ~~[2024 on the~~  
2 ~~expenditure of all funds for the Hawaii near shore waters~~  
3 ~~quality program and any recommendations arising from the~~  
4 ~~program.]~~ 2025 that:

5 (1) Describes what is currently known about the impacts of  
6 various contaminants and water quality parameters on  
7 marine ecosystems;

8 (2) Identifies and prioritizes the various contaminants  
9 and water quality parameters that should be monitored  
10 as indicators of coral reef ecosystem health; and

11 (3) Makes recommendations on the establishment and  
12 operation of a Hawaii nearshore water quality program,  
13 including the level of funding needed, to monitor and  
14 test the quality of near shore waters to ensure the  
15 health of coastal coral reefs and ecosystems.

16 The department of land and natural resources shall consult with  
17 the department of health in preparing this report.

18 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much  
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 ~~[and the~~  
21 ~~same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year~~

# S.B. NO. 417

1 ~~2024-2025 for the Hawaii near shore waters quality program.] to~~  
2 ~~prepare this report.~~

3       The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
4 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

5       SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

6

# S.B. NO. 417

**Report Title:**

Hawaii Near Shore Waters Quality Program; Department of Land and Natural Resources; Appropriation (\$)

**Description:**

~~[Establishes]~~ Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources, in consultation with the Department of Health, to prepare a report making recommendations on the establishment of a Hawaii Near Shore Waters Quality Program to monitor and test for the quality of waters near coral reefs to assess and ensure health of reef ecosystems. Appropriates funds.

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



**Ka Moku'aina 'O Hawai'i Aha Moku O Pae'Aina**

**State of Hawai'i Aha Moku**

**P. O. Box 621**

**Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

**LATE**

Testimony of the Hawaii State Aha Moku  
Before the Senate Committee on Water and Land

Monday, February 6, 2023

1:00 PM

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

**IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 417**

Relating to Coral Reef Ecosystems

Senate Bill 417 establishes a Hawaii near shore waters quality program to monitor and test for the quality of waters near coral reefs to assess and ensure health of reef ecosystems. Appropriate (\$).

**The Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) SUPPORTS this measure.**

The health of our coral reefs is crucial to the Public Trust. But to the host culture, the Native Hawaiian, it is critical. To the ocean *lawai'a*, (practitioners). The health of marine and coastal areas is essential to the sustainability of traditional cultural practices.

Thank you for the opportunity to show our support and ask that SB 417 be adopted.

Respectfully,

Leimana DaMate, Luna Alaka'i/Executive Director

Hawaii State Aha Moku

808-640-1214

Leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov

**SB-417**

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 1:04:49 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2023 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HIROC supports water quality testing near reefs to help protect our precious reefs.Mahalo!



**SB-417**

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 5:59:55 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2023 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Water Quality is very important. I am in support

**SB-417**

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 11:20:52 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2023 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support. Thank you.