

MAR 16 2026

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR
THE ERADICATION OF OCTOCORAL AND OTHER INVASIVE SPECIES
FROM THE WATERS OF PEARL HARBOR, INCLUDING WEST LOCH,
MIDDLE LOCH, AND EAST LOCH.

1 WHEREAS, two invasive species of octocoral, or *Unomia*
2 *stolonifera* and *Capnella spicata*, are two of many invasive
3 species that threaten Pearl Harbor's maritime ecosystem; and
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5 WHEREAS, octocoral takes over marine habitats extremely
6 quickly because it is a "soft coral" that does not form a
7 calcium exoskeleton like reef-building corals, allowing it to
8 rapidly grow and spread colonies, smothering Hawaiian coral reef
9 ecosystems; and
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11 WHEREAS, in areas where octocorals dominate the marine
12 habitat, there is a lower density and diversity of fish; and
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14 WHEREAS, the United States Navy reported the presence of
15 octocoral near Pearl Harbor in late 2020 during surveys that
16 were not focused on these octocorals and recent surveys have
17 documented these species in a much larger area and indicate that
18 they were most likely present before 2019; and
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20 WHEREAS, consistent maintenance is necessary to preserve
21 and care for the natural features of Pearl Harbor and its
22 shoreline; and
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24 WHEREAS, a strong unified response is required to remove
25 and eradicate octocorals and other invasive species from the
26 waters of Pearl Harbor; and
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28 WHEREAS, the United States Navy is the principal caretaker
29 of Pearl Harbor, including both its waters and shoreline; now,
30 therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the United States Navy
4 is encouraged to take responsibility for the eradication of
5 octocoral and other invasive species from the waters of Pearl
6 Harbor, including West Loch, Middle Loch, and East Loch; and
7

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Navy is
9 encouraged to allocate resources to eradicate octocoral and
10 other invasive species from the waters of Pearl Harbor,
11 including West Loch, Middle Loch, and East Loch; and
12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Navy is urged
14 to allocate resources to clean, maintain, and secure the
15 shoreline of Pearl Harbor, including West Loch, Middle Loch, and
16 East Loch; and
17

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to United States Secretary
20 of the Navy.
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OFFERED BY: *Rachel Farina*

