

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1736-26

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 02 , 2026

RE: H.R. No. 15  
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2026  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Water & Land, to which was referred H.R. No. 15 entitled:

"HOUSE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO COLLABORATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION TO DEVELOP A STUDENT CORAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to request the Department of Land and Natural Resources to collaborate with the Department of Education and State Public Charter School Commission to develop a Student Coral Stewardship Program that assists with public education, outreach, and reef-safe sunscreen awareness at state beaches.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from three individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources and one individual.

Your Committee finds that coral reefs are vital to the State's environment, culture, shoreline protection, and economy, yet they are increasingly threatened by climate change, pollution, and human activities. Your Committee further finds that scientific research has shown that certain chemical-based

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sunscreen ingredients, including oxybenzone and octinoxate, contribute to coral bleaching and harm marine ecosystems when they enter nearshore waters. Your Committee also finds that improving public education and awareness regarding reef-safe practices, including the use of mineral-based sunscreen, can help protect coral reefs while also promoting skin-cancer prevention and public health among residents and visitors alike.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Instead of requesting the Department of Land and Natural Resources to collaborate with the Department of Education and State Public Charter School Commission to develop a Student Coral Stewardship Program, requesting the Department of Education and State Public Charter School Commission to collaborate with the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop the Program;
- (2) Requesting the Department of Education and State Public Charter School Commission, rather than the Department of Land and Natural Resources, to submit a report to the Legislature that summarizes their collaborative efforts;
- (3) Amending its title in accordance with its amended purpose; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water & Land that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.R. No. 15, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Education in the form attached hereto as H.R. No. 15, H.D. 1.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Water & Land,

*for*   
MARK J. HASHEM, Chair



**Record of Votes of the Committee on Water & Land**

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> <i>HR 15</i>	<b>Committee Referral:</b> <i>WAL, EDN</i>	<b>Date:</b> <i>3/31/2026</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
<b>WAL Members</b>	<b>Ayes</b>	<b>Ayes (WR)</b>	<b>Nays</b>	<b>Excused</b>
1. <b>HASHEM, Mark J. (C)</b>	✓			
2. <b>MORIKAWA, Dee (VC)</b>	✓			
3. <b>BELATTI, Della Au</b>	✓			
4. <b>ICHIYAMA, Linda</b>	✓			
5. <b>IWAMOTO, Kim Coco</b>	✓			
6. <b>POEPOE, Mahina</b>	✓			
7. <b>WOODSON, Justin H.</b>				✓
8. <b>SHIMIZU, Garner M.</b>	✓			
9. <b>SOUZA, Kanani</b>	✓			
<b>TOTAL (9)</b>	<i>8</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <small>committee acronym(s)</small>				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b> <i>Mark J. Hashem</i>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee    Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office    Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				