

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Wednesday, February 5, 2020
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2036
RELATING TO CORAL RESTORATION

House Bill 2036 proposes to establish a pilot project to plan and design an expansion of the Hawaii Coral Restoration Nursery, including improvements to the sea urchin hatchery; requires a report to the Legislature; and appropriates funds. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget Request.**

Hawaii's coral reefs provide habitat for nearshore marine life, protect our coastal areas from waves and storms, and support tourism and fishing industries—ecosystem services worth billions of dollars. Coral reefs are also fundamental to the fabric of our local communities, providing a source of food, materials, and traditional activities.

Hawaiian corals are highly endemic and grow extremely slowly in their natural habitat. As a result, we are losing corals faster than they are naturally being replaced. The Department has created a unique land-based Coral Restoration Nursery (CRN) to fast-grow Hawaiian corals under strict biosecurity protocols and with professional coral husbandry care.

The CRN provides large, healthy native corals for transplantation onto impacted coral reefs in Hawaii to help recover the ecosystem services and functions lost to vessel groundings, anchor damage, coral bleaching mortality, and other impacts. Large colonies have greater levels of survival against environmental change, produce greater reproductive output, protect our shorelines, and provide shelter and habitat for a wide variety of fish and invertebrates important to both our residents and visitors alike. The CRN is currently limited in its ability to produce enough large corals for out-planting due to facility size and staffing. With expansion, the

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
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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
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

nursery could go from producing a couple hundred large coral colonies a year to out-planting over a thousand a year, a level where reef restoration is realistic and which could begin to keep up with expected levels of climate change affecting our reefs.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

By

Judith Lemus, Director
Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology

And

Michael Bruno
Provost

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 2036 – RELATING TO CORAL RESTORATION

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and members of the committee:

Thank for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2036, which would establish a pilot project to plan and design an expansion of the Hawai'i Coral Restoration Nursery, including improvements to the sea urchin hatchery.

As a research institute heavily involved in coral cultivation and restoration, and a collaborative partner with the state coral nursery facilities, the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology wishes to express its support of efforts aimed at increasing the state's capacity to cultivate corals and other invertebrates in nurseries that will help recover our reef ecosystems.

HB-2036

Submitted on: 2/1/2020 5:19:32 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/5/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexandra Kahn	Surfrider Oahu	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2036

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 4:16:06 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/5/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Bishop	Friends of Hanauma Bay	Support	No

Comments:

To: Committee on Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs

Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair

Representative Chris Todd, Vice Chair

Re: HB2036 Relating to Coral Restoration

Hearing: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 9 a.m. Conference Room 325

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2036 to expand the Hawai'i Coral Restoration Program and improve the sea urchin hatchery.

DLNR's highly successful Hawai'i Coral Restoration Program and sea urchin hatchery are essential to help protect Hawaii's reef ecosystems and help them recover. They require additional funding to expand and improve the facilities to better serve the critical needs of these fragile natural resources.

Please support and pass HB2036!

Respectfully,

Lisa Bishop

President

Friends of Hanauma Bay



To: The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair,
The Honorable Chris Todd, Vice Chair, and Members
House Committee on Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs

Re: HB 2036– relating to coral reef restoration

Hearing: Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 9:00 a.m. Room 325

Position: **Strong Support**

The HAWAII REEF AND OCEAN COALITION – HIROC – was formed in 2017 by coral reef scientists, educators, local Hawaii environmental organizations, elected officials, and others to address a crisis facing Hawaii’s coral reefs and ocean that is literally killing our marine life and jeopardizing our reef shoreline protection. We are currently asking the Legislature to pass a handful of very important bills to save our coral reefs from this crisis.

This bill would fund a pilot program at the coral restoration nursery, including improvements for the sea urchin hatchery. It is essential to protect the State’s reef ecosystems and help them recover. Urchins contribute to reef resilience by grazing algae and providing settlement space for corals, thereby helping to maintain conditions necessary for coral communities to recover after acute disturbances such as storms or bleaching events.

HIROC asks you to pass this bill and to provide additional funding for the coral reef restoration nursery. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill for the restoration of our coral reefs.

Alan B. Burdick, on behalf of HIROC, 486-1018

Burdick808@gmail.com

HB-2036

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 10:44:25 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/5/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ralph Bishop	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is no-brainer legislation. Pass now.

HB-2036

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 11:32:45 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/5/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2036

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 2:40:56 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/5/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Ross	Individual	Support	No

Comments: