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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO COLLABORATE TO CREATE A MECHANISM FOR GENERATING WATER CIRCULATION IN POKAI BAY ON LEEWARD OAHU.

1           WHEREAS, Pokai Bay is one of the most visited ocean areas  
2 on Oahu's Leeward Coast because of its wide sandy beach and its  
3 relatively calm waters; and  
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5           WHEREAS, because it is protected by an offshore breakwater,  
6 Pokai Bay maintains calm conditions year-round, which makes it  
7 an ideal location for many ocean users including swimmers, canoe  
8 paddlers, surfers, snorkelers, boaters, divers, and stand-up  
9 paddlers; and  
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11           WHEREAS, despite Pokai Bay's pristine appearance of  
12 crystal-blue waters and white sand, it is sadly the site of  
13 pollution from multiple sources including runoff from  
14 surrounding surfaces, illegal dumping, and user-induced  
15 contaminants; and  
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17           WHEREAS, over the last decade, beach users and local  
18 community members have reported the presence of health and  
19 environmental hazards at Pokai Bay; and  
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21           WHEREAS, water runoff containing industrial pollutants  
22 washed from local surface streets, parking lots, and sidewalks  
23 as well as petrochemical-based pollutants caused by vehicular  
24 use of an adjacent boat ramp is a suspected source of tar balls  
25 that have been found on the beach; and  
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27           WHEREAS, illegal dumping of dredging materials and other  
28 substances along the Leeward Coast, including at Pokai Bay, has



1 historically occurred at higher rates than at other locations on  
2 Oahu; and

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4 WHEREAS, it is suspected that the significant use of  
5 Leeward Coast beaches for camping and associated activities of  
6 daily life, such as bathing, by homeless persons has introduced  
7 higher than normal levels of bacteria to the sand and waters at  
8 Pokai Bay, resulting in a rash of staph infections and other  
9 health problems among regular beach uses; and

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11 WHEREAS, the very features, including the offshore  
12 breakwater, that make Pokai Bay attractive to so many beach  
13 users may be exacerbating problems caused by pollution and  
14 contaminants in the water because they cause decreased water  
15 circulation and stagnation; and

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17 WHEREAS, wetland and estuary management projects across the  
18 world have employed various methods of artificial water  
19 circulation, including jet aeration and pumping systems, to  
20 increase oxygenation, improve water quality, and mitigate  
21 environmental damage caused by shoreline destruction and water  
22 contamination; now, therefore,

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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
25 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
26 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the United States Army  
27 Corps of Engineers, the Department of Land and Natural  
28 Resources, the Department of Health, the City and County of  
29 Honolulu, and the University of Hawaii are urged to work  
30 collaboratively to research and develop a plan for increasing  
31 water circulation in Pokai Bay on Oahu's Leeward Coast to  
32 improve water quality and mitigate environmental and health  
33 risks caused by pollution and contaminants in the water; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Army Corps of  
36 Engineers, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the  
37 Department of Health, the City and County of Honolulu, and the  
38 University of Hawaii are requested to conduct a study of Pokai  
39 Bay and the activities running to Pokai Bay to investigate  
40 whether there are any land-based sources of marine contaminants  
41 or pollutants coming from the land to the ocean; and

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43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Army Corps of  
44 Engineers, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the



1 Department of Health, the City and County of Honolulu, and the  
2 University of Hawaii are requested to submit a report of their  
3 collaborative activities, including significant findings, cost  
4 estimates, and any proposed legislation to the Legislature no  
5 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
6 Session of 2018; and  
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
9 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Commander and  
10 District Engineer of the United States Army Corps of Engineers  
11 Honolulu District, the Chairperson of the Board of Land and  
12 Natural Resources, the Director of Health, the Mayor of the City  
13 and County of Honolulu, the President and Chairperson of the  
14 Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

