THE SENATE
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2017
STATE OF HAWAII

S.C.R. NO. 88
S.D. 2

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, DEPARTMENT OF
LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, AND OTHERS, TO COLLABORATE TO
RESEARCH AND DEVELOP A PLAN FOR INCREASING WATER
CIRCULATION AND IMPROVING WATER QUALITY IN POKAI BAY ON
LEEWARD OAHU.

WHEREAS, Pokai Bay is one of the most-visited ocean areas
on Oahu's Leeward Coast because of its wide sandy beach and
relatively calm waters; and

WHEREAS, because it is protected by an offshore breakwater,
Pokai Bay maintains calm conditions year-round, which makes it
an ideal location for many ocean users including swimmers, canoe
paddlers, surfers, snorkelers, boaters, divers, and stand-up
paddlers; and

WHEREAS, despite Pokai Bay's pristine appearance of
crystal-blue waters and white sand, it is sadly the site of
pollution from multiple sources including runoff from
surrounding surfaces, illegal dumping, and user-induced
contaminants; and

WHEREAS, over the last decade, beach users and local
community members have reported the presence of health and
environmental hazards at Pokai Bay; and

WHEREAS, water runoff containing industrial pollutants
washed from local surface streets, parking lots, and sidewalks
as well as petrochemical-based pollutants caused by vehicular
use of an adjacent boat ramp is a suspected source of tar balls
that have been found on the beach; and

WHEREAS, illegal dumping of dredging materials and other
substances along the Leeward Coast, including at Pokai Bay, has
historically occurred at higher rates than at other locations on Oahu; and

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the House of Representatives concurring, that the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Land and Natural Resources, along with the Department of Health, University of Hawaii System, City and County of Honolulu, and Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, are encouraged to work collaboratively to research and develop a plan for increasing water circulation and improving water quality in Pokai Bay on Oahu's Leeward Coast to mitigate environmental and health risks caused by pollution and contaminants in the water; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Army Corps of Engineers and Department of Land and Natural Resources are requested to submit a report of their collaborative activities, including significant findings, cost estimates, and any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Commander and District Engineer of the United States Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu District, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Director of Health, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, President of the University of Hawaii System, and Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center.