

MAR 04 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO COMPLETE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE SHORELINE STABILIZATION PROJECT AT THE PUULOA RANGE TRAINING FACILITY.

1 WHEREAS, studies conducted by the University of Hawaii show
2 that hardening the shoreline of Oahu where there is chronic
3 coastal erosion causes beach narrowing and beach loss; and

4
5 WHEREAS, in heavily armored sectors, sand impoundment mauka
6 of walls can lead to general sand volume decreases causing or
7 exacerbating sector-wide erosion trends; and

8
9 WHEREAS, coastal hardening can also produce coastal water
10 quality impacts through increased turbulence and turbidity; and

11
12 WHEREAS, the shoreline stabilization project at the Puuloa
13 Range training facility (PRTF) is a plan to harden the shoreline
14 along the makai boundary of the PRTF; and

15
16 WHEREAS, the PRTF shoreline project plans to use impact
17 pile driving to force steel sheet pile vertically through sand
18 and then further to a depth of twenty feet below the surface of
19 the underlying coral rock along the shoreline creating a
20 bulkhead which will cover a horizontal distance of fifteen
21 hundred to twenty-five hundred feet; and

22
23 WHEREAS, no environmental impact statement was conducted
24 prior to the major shoreline hardening project at Iroquois Point
25 immediately to the east of the PRTF which was completed in 2013;
26 and

27
28 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii coastal erosion website
29 details a stable Ewa shoreline west of Keahi Point from 1928
30 through 2005 with net accretion during that time along the
31 entire PRTF shoreline; and



S.C.R. NO. 48

1
2 WHEREAS, modeling forecasts in the Iroquois Point
3 environmental assessment (2012) predicted a continued stable
4 shoreline west of the Iroquois Point beach restoration project,
5 citing predominantly west to east sand transport; and
6

7 WHEREAS, in about 2014, shortly after completion of the
8 Iroquois Point hardening project, increasing erosion led to a
9 steepening of the slope and undermining of approximately ninety
10 percent of the vegetation on the PRTF shoreline; and
11

12 WHEREAS, Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), as custodians of
13 the PRTF, assert that their lead-filled berms are now in danger
14 of imminent erosion which would introduce lead into the Ewa
15 shoreline environment; and
16

17 WHEREAS, erosion events of increasing magnitude have
18 occurred west of Iroquois Point and PRTF since the completion of
19 the Iroquois Point hardening project completion in 2013; and
20

21 WHEREAS, the shoreline stabilization at PRTF environmental
22 assessment (2019) released by MCBH does not properly consider
23 potential beach narrowing and beach loss west of PRTF resulting
24 from strong trade wind wave events producing east to west near
25 shore sand transport; and
26

27 WHEREAS, the environmental assessment does not properly
28 consider potential beach narrowing and beach loss west of PRTF
29 resulting from cumulative beach hardening projects at Iroquois
30 Point and PRTF; and
31

32 WHEREAS, the environmental assessment does not account for
33 existing prominent structures of historic significance that
34 would potentially be affected by this project or exacerbate
35 potential negative impact to private and public property west of
36 the project; and
37

38 WHEREAS, the environmental assessment does not sufficiently
39 analyze alternative options such as retreat of the entire range
40 from the shoreline into vacant land owned by the Department of
41 the Navy; and
42



S.C.R. NO. 4B

1 WHEREAS, the Ewa Beach community is concerned that
2 prolonged impact pile driving has the potential to damage and
3 collapse the karst system, creating sink holes and damaging the
4 water table which is hydraulically connected to the coral reef
5 feeding vital fresh water to limu which is vital to the food
6 chain; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the Ewa Beach community is concerned that the
9 proposed project has the potential to create significant impact
10 to the human and natural environment to include endangered
11 Hawaiian monk seal habitat, sea turtle habitat, and essential
12 fish habitat; and
13

14 WHEREAS, MCBH did not take action that would most
15 effectively notify and involve the public as directed by Marine
16 Corps Order 5090.2-vol 12, ch.3; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the Ewa Neighborhood Board was not notified of
19 this project nor the public comment period that was open from
20 August 29 to September 13, 2019; now, therefore,
21

22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
24 House of Representatives concurring, that the United States
25 Marine Corps is requested to complete an environmental impact
26 statement for the shoreline stabilization at the Puuloa Range
27 training facility; and
28

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Commander of the
31 Marine Corps Base Hawaii, members of Hawaii's congressional
32 delegation, Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Land and
33 Natural Resources, and Chairperson of the Ewa Beach Neighborhood
34 Board.
35
36
37

OFFERED BY:

