

**Department of Land and Natural Resources
PO Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

22 September 2020

Board Meeting Date: **September 25, 2020**

Time: **9 a.m.**

Location: **Online via Zoom, Livestream via You Tube**

Aloha Chair Case and Board Members,

I am writing in support of agenda item:

F - 1 DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES

Request for Approval to outplant a Small Number of Coral Colony Modules grown at Anuenue Fisheries Research Center to determine viability of Restoring Damaged and Deceased Coral Assemblages at Hanauma Bay Marine Life Conservation District, Honolulu, Hawaii.

TESTIMONY

The inner reef of Hanauma Bay has little remaining coral cover as described in the Biological Carrying Capacity Year Two Report:

http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/dpr/hanaumabay_docs/Hanauma_Bay_Carrying_Capacity_Report_August_2020.pdf

However, the remaining live coral along all sectors of the inner reef is testimony that coral colonies can survive and thrive along the inner reef, even with visitors present. However, we need to do more to educate visitors so they can help us protect our precious marine preserves, and better understand how important live coral are to a healthy reef ecosystem. Outplanting coral, monitoring their health and growth, and informing visitors of such restoration efforts can greatly improve the health of the inner reef, the variability of marine life, and therefore the attractiveness of Hanauma Bay to Hawai'i residents and visitors alike.

Approval of this project will demonstrate whether additional coral restoration at Hanauma Bay MLCD is viable in order to accelerate the return of lost ecological services and functions at this important reef site for the people of the State of Hawai'i.

Please approve this proposal.

Mahalo,

Anke Roberts
520 Lunalilo Home Rd #363
Honolulu, HI 96825



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Testimony in Support of F - 1 DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES:

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Aloha Chair Case and Board Members,

The Friends of Hanauma Bay, The Kohala Center, Ocean Defenders Alliance Hawai'i, the Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition, FairWind Cruises, For The Fishes, the Center for Biological Diversity Hawai'i, the Haereticus Environmental Laboratory, and the Napili Bay and Beach Foundation strongly support agenda item F-1: Division of Aquatic Resources proposal to outplant a small number of coral colonies at Hanauma Bay to determine the viability of restoring damaged and deceased corals at the Bay.

The City and County of Honolulu's closure of the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve in March 2020 due to COVID-19 closed public access to the Hanauma Bay Marine Life Conservation District (MLCD).

After only six months of closure, the Hanauma Bay MLCD has engendered a dramatic natural resurgence in water quality and marine life in the inner reef unseen in decades. There is now an

unprecedented opportunity for Hawai'i to renew its dedication to Hanauma Bay more than 50 years after its designation as the State's first MLCD by resetting its focus to restoring the Bay.

The Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) Hawai'i Coral Restoration Nursery (HCRN) is the acknowledged world leader in innovative and successful Hawaiian coral cultivation and outplanting. It is the only facility in the world to develop and implement a successful method to accelerate the growth of slow-growing Hawaiian corals. Hawaiian corals grown in the HCRN routinely reach the size in one year that would take 20+ in the wild. Further, the Nursery has a 100% outplant success rate, and is only one of two facilities in the State to successfully outplant corals without introducing invasive species or disease vectors to the outplant sites. The HCRN also created and maintains the largest collection of rare and endemic Hawaiian corals in the world in its Rare Hawaiian Coral Ark, kept in trust for Hawaii's current and future generations. Given its excellent track record, we have full confidence in the HCRN's ability to implement this small controlled outplanting at Hanauma Bay.

This project would help DAR determine the viability of restoring various portions of Hanauma Bay where a variety of coral species have died or disappeared over the decades due to high human use, natural events, and most recently, a large piece of marine debris that entered the Bay and destroyed numerous large coral colonies as it washed ashore.

Approval of this project will build on Hanauma Bay's recent resurgence and demonstrate whether additional coral restoration is viable in order to accelerate the return of lost ecological services and functions at this important reef site for the people of the State of Hawaii.

Mahalo for your consideration of our testimony. We urge you to approve this landmark coral restoration pilot project at Hanauma Bay!

Sincerely,

Lisa Bishop
President
Friends of Hanauma Bay

Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy
Director, Kahalu'u Bay Education Center
The Kohala Center

Ken Staples
Director of Hawai'i Operations
Ocean Defenders Alliance

Michael Feeley
Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition

Mendy Dant
Executive Vice President

FairWind Cruises
Kona Sunrise Charters

Rene Umberger
Executive Director
For the Fishes

Maxx Phillips, Esq.
Hawai'i Director
Center for Biological Diversity

Craig A. Downs, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Haereticus Environmental Laboratory
Invited Professor, Sorbonne University

Pat Lindquist
President
Napili Bay and Beach Foundation

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Since public access to the Hanauma Bay Marine Life Conservation District was closed to the public in March 2020 due to COVID-19, Hanauma Bay has demonstrated a great natural resurgence. Approval of this project will build on that resurgence and demonstrate whether additional coral restoration at Hanauma Bay MLCD is viable in order to accelerate the return of lost ecological services and functions at this important reef site for the people of the State of Hawaii.

Please approve this proposal.

Mahalo nui,

Steve & Darnell Depaoli
250 Kawaihae St., 7C
Honolulu, HI
96825

From: Ann Marten
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AGenda item F--Division of Aquatic Resources
Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 10:19:00 PM

Aloha Chair Case and Board Members,

I am writing in support of agenda item:

F - 1 DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES

Request for Approval to outplant a Small Number of Coral Colony Modules grown at Anuenue Fisheries Research Center to determine viability of Restoring Damaged and Deceased Coral Assemblages at Hanauma Bay Marine Life Conservation District, Honolulu, Hawaii.

I am a volunteer at Hanauma Bay and avid snorkeler. It has been so sad to watch the deterioration of the coral not only at Hanauma Bay, but at other places I like to snorkel. If this project is successful it will ensure the longevity of Hanauma Bay as a resource for local and tourism alike. It can also be a prototype for other parts of Hawaii's reef ecosystems that are suffering from bleaching and overuse. I particularly am thinking about Lanikai where the coral is being devastated.

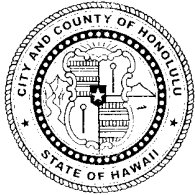
Since public access to the Hanauma Bay Marine Life Conservation District was closed to the public in March 2020 due to COVID-19, Hanauma Bay has demonstrated a great natural resurgence. Approval of this project will build on that resurgence and demonstrate whether additional coral restoration at Hanauma Bay MLCD is viable in order to accelerate the return of lost ecological services and functions at this important reef site for the people of the State of Hawaii.

Please approve this proposal.

Mahalo,

Ann R. Marten

349 Ilimano Place, Kailua HI 96734



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 202
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5010 • FAX: (808) 768-5011

TOMMY WATERS

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 4
PHONE: 768-5004 FAX: 768-1171
EMAIL: tommy.waters@honolulu.gov

September 23, 2020

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in support of the Department of Aquatic Resources' Request for Approval to outplant a Small Number of Coral Colony Modules grown at Anuenue Fisheries Research Center to determine viability of Restoring Damaged and Deceased Coral Assemblages at Hanauma Bay Marine Life Conservation District, Honolulu, Hawaii.

One of the unintended benefits related to COVID-19 was the closure of Hanauma Bay to the public. Since its closure, there has been a revitalization to the aquatic life within the Bay, which has attracted larger fish and monk seals. As the Councilmember for Honolulu City Council District IV, which encompasses Hanauma Bay, I have supported efforts to both urge the City to establish a reservation system for the Bay and increasing fee rates for non-residents.

It's abundantly clear that DAR's Hawai'i Coral Restoration Nursery (HCRN) is unique in its innovation and successful Hawaiian coral cultivation. It is my understanding that HCRN is the only facilitate to develop and implement a successful method to accelerate the growth of slow-growing Hawaiian corals.

I believe that coral restoration is an essential component toward revitalization of the Bay. In addition to preventing coastal erosion, coral reefs form an essential ecosystem for the spawning, nursing and feeding grounds for aquatic life and help to promote biodiversity at Hanauma Bay. Simply put, I believe that this program will go a long way toward ensuring that many future generations of kama'āina will be able to enjoy the beauty of Hanauma Bay.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony on this matter.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tommy Waters". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Councilmember Tommy Waters

District 4 (*Hawaii Kai, Kuliouou, Niu Valley, Aina Haina, Wailupe, Waialae-Iki, Kalani Valley, Kahala, Wilhemina Rise, Kaimuki, portions of Kapahulu, Diamond Head, Black Point, Waikiki, and Ala Moana Beach Park*)

Kathi Alice Saks
info@chefkathi.com
808 489 6530

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I am a regular swimmer at Hanauma Bay and welcome this project and all those which help sustain our natural environment. Please approve this proposal.

Mahalo,

Kathi Saks
5060 A Maunalani Circle
Kaimuki

From: Tom Wallace
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F - 1 DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES
Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 12:23:13 PM

Aloha Chair Case and Board Members,

Regarding agenda item:

F - 1 DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES

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Please support this measure. Whatever we can do to help restore coral, we should do!

I was recently in Bali, Indonesia and they have done remarkable things to bring back coral. I would hope that we could dedicate more resources than a third world country.

Thanks!

Tom Wallace
Hawaii Kai
808-284-2486