**ANINI NON-NATIVE CORAL REMOVED, APRIL 4, 2024**

<https://vimeo.com/931092847?share=copy>

:00-3:58 Coral removal by DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources Team

# Heather Ylitalo-Ward, DAR Aquatic Biologist SOTS

# 4:24-4:34 “We did okay, we went out for two and we got four. It’s a good thing and a bad thing. We were happy we got four of them removed, but it’s also disappointing

# that there’s still non-native coral out there. We did search for a while

# hoping we didn’t see anything else. Hoping we got what’s out there.

# 4:34-4:55 Three different species, yea, as far as we can tell, and we will take DNA

# Samples just to confirm but they do all appear to be Indo-Pacific species, non-

# Native to Hawaii, so yea our concern is that they would spread disease and we

# don’t want them proliferating across the reef. They do appear to be quite healthy.

# 4:55-5:46 DAR team analyzing non-native coral.

# Aaron Swink-DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources Education & Outreach Specialist SOTS

# 5:46-6:10 There’s a non-profit group that does some education and conservation work here at Anini, called Reef Guardians. I do a lot of work with them, actually we all do helping out with their summer education programs. And they’d seen a weird coral that they didn’t recognize.

# 6:10-6:20 Really think it was someone moving off-island and dumped their coral. There

# was a Craig’s List ad at the same time for a large saltwater aquarium and so

# we figured that might be the one.

# 6:20-6:33 Invasive just means a non-native that starts spreading and starts displacing

# Native corals, so it could have the potential to be that.

# 6:33-6:52 Several of the colonies appear to be fragments that rooted and started

# growing or spread through spawning from the original colonies. These were

# not tied down. The originals we found had been tied down with zip ties or

# string.

# 6:52-7:10 Since then we are finding ones that are naturally attached to the rock. So, that

# does seem like they are taking some hold. We have only found them in this

# very small area here. We were out there for a while and were looking for two

# and ended up finding four.

# 7:10-7:35 Think about invasive species on land, right. People bring them in because

# they look pretty. But they’re often…they don’t have the natural predators,

# they don’t have the natural disease. They’re not built for the environment

# here, so they can overgrow. You might think any coral is good coral, but

# people used to have the same idea about trees and plants and look how that’s turned out.

# 7:35-8:08 Hawaii’s corals are built for Hawaii’s environment. So, that means big

# surf, big surge. So, these things live in cooler, colder waters. So, these

# corals could grow up larger and then a big surf comes in and just shatters

# and fragments are going everywhere. They’re not really good habitat for

# the fish because they’re fragile. I’m speaking conjecturally here. We don’t

# know, I’m just saying these are some of the potential problems.

# 8:08-8:12 In the meantime we have a chance to do something before it becomes a

# problem. That’s what we want to do.

# 8:12- Coral is not legal to import and it is not legal to collect native corals. If

# you have a saltwater aquarium you can have limu in it, you can have

# different types of, you know, aquatic life. Live fish and invertebrates. You can’t have coral.

**SEARCH AND DESTROY MISSION AT ANINI (APRIL 4, 2024):**

<https://vimeo.com/931227739?share=copy>

**ANINI NATIVE CORAL AND SEA TURTLES MEDIA CLIPS (APRIL 4, 2024):**

<https://vimeo.com/931201949?share=copy>