

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
INFRASTRUCTURE AND
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

February 18, 2015

Committee
Report No. _____

Honorable Chair and Members
of the County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee, having met on February 2, 2015, makes reference to County Communication 13-303, from Councilmember Elle Cochran, transmitting a proposed resolution to support a coral reef recovery plan developed by the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council ("MNMRC").

The MNMRC is a community advocacy group dedicated to improving marine resource management in Maui County.

Your Committee notes that the Council's Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee (2013-2015 Council term) met on this matter on December 16, 2013, and December 5, 2014.

By correspondence dated January 27, 2015, the Chair of your Committee transmitted a revised proposed resolution entitled "RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING AND ENHANCING THE REEF ECOSYSTEMS IN MAUI COUNTY".

The purpose of the revised proposed resolution is to recognize the importance of saving, protecting, and enhancing the reef ecosystems of Maui County for their cultural, ecological, subsistence, and economic benefits.

At its meeting of February 2, 2015, your Committee received a presentation from Tegan Hammond, Maui Coral Reef Recovery Plan Coordinator, MNMRC, and Robin Newbold, Chair, MNMRC, providing an update on the MNMRC's activities relating to implementation of the plan.

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Your Committee received comments relating to brown-water issues and community-managed marine areas ("CMMAs") from a panel of resource persons. The panel was composed of members from the MNMRC's Maui Coral Reef Recovery Team, including Dr. Robert Richmond, Director, Kewalo Marine Laboratory, University of Hawaii; Darla White, Special Projects Coordinator, Division of Aquatic Resources, Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawaii; Edwin "Ekolu" Lindsey, President, Maui Cultural Lands; Ms. Hammond; and Ms. Newbold.

Your Committee notes brown water refers to nearshore waters that appear brownish in color because of elevated levels of sediment that enter the ocean in storm water runoff during heavy rain events. Brown water negatively impacts coral reef health by decreasing the availability of sunlight, depositing sediment that suffocates coral, and introducing toxins that affect ocean chemistry.

Your Committee further notes establishing CMMAs is a strategy that promotes resource stewardship among local communities and collaboration between government and community members in the management of marine areas. CMMAs have proven effective at sustaining the long-term support needed for coral reef recovery programs to succeed. An important component of the plan is the establishment of CMMAs at priority sites around Maui.

Your Committee noted concerns related to the prevalence of brown-water events and the need to mitigate the severity of these events.

Your Committee notes the Countywide Policy Plan calls for the protection and restoration of nearshore reefs and improving communication, coordination, and collaboration among government agencies, nonprofit organizations, communities, individuals, and landowners working for the protection of the natural environment.

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Your Committee voted 5-0 to recommend adoption of the revised proposed resolution. Committee Chair Cochran and members Baisa, Carroll, Crivello, and Guzman voted "aye". Committee Vice-Chair Hokama and member White were excused.

Your Committee is in receipt of a further revised proposed resolution incorporating nonsubstantive revisions.

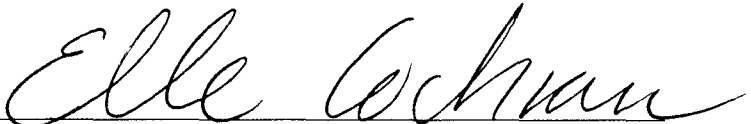
Your Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee RECOMMENDS that Resolution _____, as revised herein and attached hereto, entitled "RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING AND ENHANCING THE REEF ECOSYSTEMS IN MAUI COUNTY", be ADOPTED.

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This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of the Council.


ELLE COCHRAN, Chair

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Resolution

No. _____

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING AND ENHANCING THE REEF ECOSYSTEMS IN MAUI COUNTY

WHEREAS, the value of Maui County's coral reefs is widely appreciated but not always appropriately considered when decisions are made regarding land use and marine resources; and

WHEREAS, according to the Hawaiian Creation Chant, the *Kumulipo*, the coral polyp was the first living thing to emerge from the sea during creation and is regarded as a foundational ancestor; and

WHEREAS, in the *Kumulipo*, Kānaka Maoli embrace the deep and inseparable relationship between the land and sea, and that the ocean is guarded by what is on the land; and

WHEREAS, the future quality of our lands, waters, and seas that our grandchildren will inherit depend deeply upon wise and careful decisions made today; and

WHEREAS, a 2011 study by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration estimated the economic value of Hawaii's coral reefs at \$33.57 billion; and

WHEREAS, the people of Maui Nui depend on the reefs for nourishment, protection from storms, and jobs and economic security, making it incumbent upon all Hawaii to protect and replenish this critically important habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council established a Maui Coral Reef Recovery Team that has undertaken efforts toward the technical and cultural restoration of Maui's coral reefs; and

WHEREAS, the United States Coral Reef Task Force acknowledges the significant contributions of the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council, including its model of community-based management and ability to address degradation of coral reefs in Maui Nui by involving communities

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in more traditional management while supporting the State's efforts to protect marine resources; and

WHEREAS, the Nature Conservancy recognized the Council's contribution to coral reef restoration with its 2014 Kāko'o 'Āina Award; and

WHEREAS, the Maui Island Plan (Chapter 2, Objective 2.2.2-Action 4), calls for the County to "implement a reef protection restoration plan"; and

WHEREAS, implementing reef restoration goals and policies will require a united effort from County, State, and Federal agencies; nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations; developers and landowners; commercial enterprises; schools and educators; and citizens and ocean users; and

WHEREAS, conservation-based goals and local management goals can work successfully together for the environmental, cultural, and economic well-being of the community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it recognizes the importance of saving, protecting, and enhancing the reef ecosystems of Maui County for their cultural, ecological, subsistence, and economic benefits; and
2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Hawaii delegation to the United States Congress; the County's delegation to the State Legislature; the Mayor; the Governor of the State of Hawaii; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, United States Department of Commerce; the Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture; the United States Army Corps of Engineers; the Aha Moku Advisory Committee, Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawaii; the Clean Water Branch, Department of Health, State of Hawaii; the Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism, State of Hawaii; the Department of Transportation, State of Hawaii; the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, University of Hawaii; the Office of

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Hawaiian Affairs, State of Hawaii; the Office of Planning, State of Hawaii; the University of Hawaii Maui College; the Department of Environmental Management; the Department of Planning; the Department of Public Works; the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary; and the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council.

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