

March 10, 2024

The Honorable Senator Brian Schatz
United States Senate
Washington, D.C 20510

Re: Kawaihae Harbor Improvements will violate Presidential Executive Order 13089

Dear Senator Schatz,

Aloha Senator Schatz,

This is my second contact to ask for some explanation and to warn you about the potential harm to the coral reef inside the Kawaihae Harbor. I am still waiting for a reply from the first one. I have also sent you a letter regarding this subject.

We appreciate your dedication to Hawaii and all your continued efforts to care for our people.

I want to make it very brief.

1. Hawaii DOT harbors plans to destroy a protected coral reef inside the harbor when it proceeds with Phase Four. This plan has been available publically for decades.
2. There is a law called Executive Order 13089, Coral Protection, which HDOT will violate.
3. There is a beach that locals have loved and used extensively since 1960 that will be destroyed along with the reef.
4. These are critical Hawaiian issues with a long, unhappy history.
5. None of the Federal Agencies involved—DOT, HDOT, DLNR, NOAA, EPA, and the USACE—makes an effort to identify the coral ecosystem affected by HDOT plans to protect and enhance that coral reef system as mandated by EO 13089.
6. HDOT will deceive the public by procuring taxpayers' funding to commit crimes. Senator Schatz, you may have a big part in procuring millions to help HDOT achieve its goal and thus be complicit.
7. HDOT must look for other options and terminate its plan to destroy a protected coral reef.

You have all the power bestowed upon you by the public to protect something so dear to all of us. Please learn more about what is at stake for your constituents and nationally. It is our responsibility to protect the reef.

Please let us know what you can do and how you will address this dilemma.

Mahalo,

Hai On

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