



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 27, 2021

The Honorable Ed Case  
2210 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Case:

As the State Representative for much of the area that directly borders Kāneʻohe Bay where the Hawaiʻi Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) is located, I would like to take this opportunity to share my strong support of HIMB's proposal, entitled “Nature-Based Coral Reef Features for Coastal Protection”. This proposal is for a pilot investigation into innovative approaches to enhance native coral habitats and provide crucial coastal infrastructure protection in Hawaiʻi.

The HIMB at the University of Hawaiʻi is a world-class facility dedicated to place-based education and research of tropical marine ecosystems. Located on Moku o Loʻe (Coconut Island), the HIMB is home to over one hundred researchers, postdocs, students, and staff focused on research that helps advance responsible stewardship and protection of marine ecosystems and coastal biodiversity not just in Hawaiʻi but also globally.

This proposed project would combine alternative seawall designs with existing methods of rapidly growing coral fragments to explore the use of engineered coral reef “living shoreline” approaches for coastal protection and restoration. Using bio-enhancing concrete materials, textures, and shapes on the existing seawall at the HIMB, the project would promote habitats for corals, fish, and other organisms as well. This project would include collaboration with The Nature Conservancy Hawaiʻi and the Hawaiʻi Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources, as the results of this pilot investigation will inform future erosion management solutions for coasts and shorelines across Hawaiʻi.

The community that I represent has shared with me on numerous occasions that protecting our environmental and natural resources are important, not only for our generation, but for future generations as well. Protecting our coral habitats, crucial coastal infrastructure, and the well-being of Kāneʻohe Bay are a priority, not only for me, but for many in my community.

**Representative Lisa Kitagawa**  
House District 48 – Kāneʻohe, Kahaluʻu, Waiāhole  
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As Hawai'i continues to confront the growing impacts of climate change and sea level rise, we need innovative solutions like this one that enhance our coastal resiliency and restore marine habitats. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or my staff at [repkitagawa@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repkitagawa@capitol.hawaii.gov).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Kitagawa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa Kitagawa  
Hawai'i State Representative – District 48  
Kāne'ōhe, Kahalu'u, Waiāhole