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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
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LAND
STATE PARKS

Sent via Email (no hard copy to follow): sendecorte@capitol.hawaii.gov

October 12, 2026

The Honorable Samantha DeCorte
Senator, District 22
415 South Beretania Street, Room 223
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Senator DeCorte:

Subject: Pōkaʻī Bay Hawaii Administrative Rules Amendment

This is in response to your September 14, 2026, email regarding proposed rule amendments for Pōkaʻī Bay. The Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) has received the proposed Ramseyer amendments to Hawaii Administrative Rule (HAR) Chapter 13-256 referenced in your email, to prohibit vessel mooring and relocate the swim buoys at Pōkaʻī Bay. Because HAR Chapter 13-256 includes all Ocean Recreation Management rules and the rule amendment process can take a year or more to complete, DOBOR is also making efficient use of staff time by compiling a rule amendment package for the entirety of Chapter 13-256, which includes specialized regulations for other areas around the State in addition to Pōkaʻī Bay.

We understand the frustration that may result from the duration of the rulemaking process and are pleased to report that DOBOR has recently hired a legal fellow who will focus on administrative rule amendments. Once the rule draft is completed and reviewed by the Department of Attorney General, DOBOR will proceed with the formal rulemaking process required by Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 91. The next step will be requesting approval from the Board of Land and Natural Resources to hold public hearings.

Please feel free to reach out to DOBOR directly should you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

RYAN K.P. KANAKAʻOLE
Chairperson

c: DOBOR