

Fertilizers, chemicals, and other pollution from drains and lawns make their way to the coast due to rain and flooding. The pollution makes ocean water more acidic.

Acidic ocean water slows down the ability of corals to build reefs. The stress from acidic water also puts corals at risk for disease.

Protecting coral reefs from the impacts of ocean acidification means protecting tens of thousands of Americans and millions in infrastructure and economic activity. Addressing the impacts of ocean acidification also means that federal dollars will not be used in vain for coral restoration.

## Problem

## Audience:

Staff for Senate Commerce Committee, Subcommittee on Oceans, Fishing, Climate Change, and Manufacturing

Goal:

Benefits

Congressional members show support for ocean acidification research and mitigations

## Solutions

Losing coral reefs would expose over 12,000 Hawaiians, nearly \$625 million in infrastructure, and over \$899 million in economic activity to damage from extreme storms, which are increasing in frequency. Coral reefs were recently designated as natural infrastructure by the state of Hawaii and the US Coral Reef Task Force, meaning that the state may become eligible for federal funding to rebuild reefs after extreme storms.

So What?

Support the federal agencies, state agencies, and academic institutions that study the impacts of ocean acidification on coral reefs.

Support the resource managers working on the ground to reduce pollution making its way to the coast and coral reefs.