

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 958

To authorize Federal agencies to establish prize competitions for innovation or adaptation management development relating to coral reef ecosystems, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 27, 2017

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. CARPER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## A BILL

To authorize Federal agencies to establish prize competitions for innovation or adaptation management development relating to coral reef ecosystems, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Coral Reef Sustain-  
5 ability Through Innovation Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. PRIZE COMPETITIONS TO PROMOTE INNOVATION**  
2 **IN CORAL REEF RESEARCH AND CONSERVA-**  
3 **TION.**

4 The Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C.  
5 6401 et seq.) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating sections 208, 209, and 210  
7 (16 U.S.C. 6407, 6408, and 6409) as sections 209,  
8 210, and 211, respectively; and

9 (2) by inserting after section 207 the following:

10 **“SEC. 208. CORAL REEF PRIZE COMPETITIONS.**

11 “(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The head of any Federal agency  
12 with a representative serving on the U.S. Coral Reef Task  
13 Force established under Executive Order 13089 issued on  
14 June 11, 1998 (16 U.S.C. 6401 note), may, either individ-  
15 ually or in cooperation with one or more agencies, carry  
16 out a program to award prizes competitively under section  
17 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of  
18 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719).

19 “(b) **PURPOSES.**—Any program carried out under  
20 this section shall be for the purpose of stimulating innova-  
21 tion to advance the ability of the United States to under-  
22 stand, research, or monitor coral reef ecosystems, or to  
23 develop management or adaptation options to preserve,  
24 sustain, and restore coral reef ecosystems.

25 “(c) **PRIORITY PROGRAMS.**—Priority shall be given to  
26 establish programs under this section that address com-

1 munities, environments, or industries that are in distress  
2 due to the decline or degradation of coral reef ecosystems,  
3 including—

4           “(1) scientific research and monitoring that  
5 furthers the understanding of causes behind coral  
6 reef decline and degradation and the generally slow  
7 recovery following disturbances, including ocean  
8 acidification and its impacts on coral reproduction;

9           “(2) the development of monitoring or manage-  
10 ment options for communities or industries that are  
11 experiencing significant financial hardship;

12           “(3) the development of adaptation options to  
13 alleviate economic harm and job loss caused by dam-  
14 age to coral reef ecosystems;

15           “(4) the development of measures to help vul-  
16 nerable communities or industries, with an emphasis  
17 on rural communities and businesses; and

18           “(5) the development of adaptation and man-  
19 agement options for impacted tourism industries.”.

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