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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO WORK WITH THE SAMUEL MILLS DAMON ESTATE TRUSTEES, MOANALUA GARDENS FOUNDATION, THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LANDS, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, AND OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS TO CONSIDER PURCHASING THE MOANALUA GARDENS.

1           WHEREAS, Samuel Mills Damon was a very successful  
2 businessman in Hawaii and created a trust to manage his assets  
3 after his death in 1924; and  
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5           WHEREAS, Samuel Mills Damon's trust included many real  
6 estate holdings such as the popular 23-acre community park and  
7 tourist attraction known as Moanalua Gardens and the pristine  
8 3,700-acre Kamananui Valley; and  
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10           WHEREAS, during his life and after his death, Samuel Mills  
11 Damon permitted Moanalua Gardens to be used for public use and  
12 enjoyment, allowing Moanalua Gardens to remain open to the  
13 public for over 100 years; and  
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15           WHEREAS, following Samuel Mills Damon's death, Kamananui  
16 Valley was opened to the public for recreational and educational  
17 use; and  
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19           WHEREAS, as Hawaii becomes more urbanized and open spaces  
20 and park areas become less available, many of Hawaii's families  
21 and visitors have visited Moanalua Gardens and Kamananui Valley  
22 to delight in the attractions' many natural beauties, including  
23 wildlife, plants, and cultural artifacts; and  
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25           WHEREAS, under the terms of Samuel Mills Damon's will,  
26 Damon's trust is set to terminate and all of the assets of the  
27 trust, including Moanalua Gardens and Kamananui Valley, must be  
28 liquidated; and  
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1 WHEREAS, the State, The Trust for Public Lands, and the  
2 Nature Conservancy are working together to purchase and manage  
3 Kamananui Valley for \$5,500,000; and

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5 WHEREAS, the Moanalua Gardens Foundation was established as  
6 a nonprofit organization in 1970 by the granddaughters of Samuel  
7 Mills Damon, Frances "Patches" Damon Holt and Harriet "Haku"  
8 Damon Baldwin, to protect Moanalua Gardens and Kamananui Valley  
9 from the construction of the H-3 highway and preserve the park's  
10 and valley's important historical and cultural sites; and

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12 WHEREAS, for over 35 years, the Moanalua Gardens Foundation  
13 has continued the legacy of Samuel Mills Damon and his  
14 granddaughters to protect and preserve Moanalua Gardens and  
15 Kamananui Valley; and

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17 WHEREAS, the Moanalua Gardens Foundation has given to the  
18 community in other ways, including providing environmental  
19 education in Hawaii by teaching its award-winning Partners in  
20 Education program to 4,000 public school children each year and  
21 presenting the annual Prince Lot Hula Festival for 29 years at  
22 the Moanalua Gardens, which is the largest non-competitive hula  
23 festival in Hawaii; and

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25 WHEREAS, the Moanalua Gardens Foundation has stated its  
26 sincere interest in purchasing Moanalua Gardens in partnership  
27 with other organizations, to preserve it in perpetuity for the  
28 people of Hawaii and to operate and maintain Moanalua Gardens as  
29 a community resource for public benefit; and

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31 WHEREAS, the Moanalua Gardens Foundation has the knowledge,  
32 experience, expertise, and commitment to operate and maintain  
33 Moanalua Gardens; now, therefore,

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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
36 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
37 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Land and  
38 Natural Resources (DLNR) is urged to work with the Samuel Mills  
39 Damon Estate Trustees, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Moanalua  
40 Gardens Foundation, The Trust for Public Lands, and the Nature  
41 Conservancy to consider purchasing Moanalua Gardens for the  
42 purpose of protecting and preserving one of Hawaii's most  
43 treasured cultural and historical areas for the people of  
44 Hawaii; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DLNR is requested to submit  
3 a report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature  
4 no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular  
5 Session of 2007; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson and  
9 members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Office of  
10 Hawaiian Affairs, President of Moanalua Gardens Foundation, The  
11 Trust for Public Lands, and the Nature Conservancy.

