
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A MANAGEMENT AND FISCAL AUDIT
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

1 WHEREAS, the natural environment of our lands and
2 surrounding ocean are what make Hawaii unique in the world; and
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4 WHEREAS, maintaining the natural environment is essential
5 to the social, cultural, and economic well-being of the State;
6 and
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8 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is
9 mandated with the responsibility to protect and maintain all
10 public and conservation lands, water resources, submerged lands,
11 natural area reserves, historical and cultural resources, native
12 flora and fauna, aquatic resources, and small boat harbors and
13 ocean recreation; and
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15 WHEREAS, on December 31, 2003, the Department of Land and
16 Natural Resources had a total of one hundred sixty-one vacant
17 positions, representing approximately twenty-two per cent of its
18 permanent positions; and
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20 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources
21 appears to have engaged in an intentional and deliberate
22 practice of keeping positions unfilled to reap "vacancy
23 savings"; and
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25 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources
26 receives funding from a number of sources, including but not
27 limited to the general fund, capital improvement funds, Hawaii
28 Tourism Authority, Research Corporation of the University of
29 Hawaii, Special Land and Development Fund, conveyance tax,
30 boating fund, United States Fish and Wildlife Service funds,
31 United States Department of Agriculture Wetland Reserve funds,
32 United States Department of the Interior National Parks Service
33 funds; and



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2 WHEREAS, the Legislature is concerned with the transparency
3 of the funding sources, expenditures, and overall fiscal
4 management of the Department of Land and Natural Resources; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Legislature is also concerned with the
7 continued practice of maintaining significant numbers of vacant
8 positions in the Department of Land and Natural Resources; and
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10 WHEREAS, recent months have seen the departure of a
11 significant percentage of upper level departmental
12 administrative personnel that may be symptomatic of wide-ranging
13 and deep-rooted managerial problems within the Department; and
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15 WHEREAS, the Legislature is further concerned that in its
16 present state the Department of Land and Natural Resources may
17 not be capable of fulfilling its broad mandate to protect and
18 maintain the natural resources of the State; now, therefore,
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
21 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
22 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Auditor is requested to
23 conduct a management and fiscal audit of the Department of Land
24 and Natural Resources, to include but not be limited to the
25 following:

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- 27 (1) A review of the mission and operation of all of the
28 divisions and agencies within the Department of Land
29 and Natural Resources;
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 - 31 (2) A review of the personnel recruitment, hiring,
32 management, employment, and salary policies of the
33 Department of Land and Natural Resources;
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 - 35 (3) An examination and inspection of all the sources and
36 amounts of funding received by the Department of Land
37 and Natural Resources;
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 - 39 (4) An examination and inspection of all expenditures by
40 the Department of Land and Natural Resources,
41 including transfers of funds to or from other state
42 departments; and
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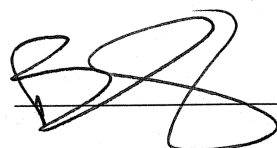


1 (5) Any and all other matters that the Auditor would
2 normally review in a management and fiscal audit; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
5 report any findings and recommendations, including proposed
6 legislation, to the Legislature not later than twenty days prior
7 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2007; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and the
11 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.
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OFFERED BY:



Warren Snow



Cindy Evans

Mel Carrall

Jyla B. Berg

MAR 15 2006

