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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING CULTURAL PERPETUATION IN RURAL HAWAIIAN COMMUNITIES.

1           WHEREAS, isolated and undeveloped rural communities that  
2 were historically bypassed by the mainstream of social and  
3 economic development activities while these communities pursued  
4 traditional subsistence livelihoods in which they applied  
5 cultural customs, beliefs, and practices, are of singular  
6 importance to the perpetuation of the Hawaiian people and  
7 culture; and  
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9           WHEREAS, if these last remaining Hawaiian enclaves do not  
10 survive with the resources that make subsistence economic  
11 activities in these areas viable, then, over the next century,  
12 Ka Po`e Hawai`i, as a distinct people, will gradually disappear;  
13 and although they may continue to live and reproduce as ethnic  
14 Hawaiians, they will eventually lose the language, culture,  
15 religion, land base, and livelihoods that distinguish them as  
16 the original settlers of these islands and would be completely  
17 assimilated into the mainstream of Hawai`i society; and  
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19           WHEREAS, Hawaiian culture is also at the core of "local  
20 culture," which is an amalgamation of the Hawaiian culture with  
21 the cultures of the various immigrant groups who settled in  
22 Hawai`i, especially in rural and agrarian areas, resulting in  
23 such features as local food, "pidgin" English, and other shared  
24 ways of life distinct to Hawai`i; and  
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26           WHEREAS, the persistence of "local" culture is reliant upon  
27 the persistence of Hawaiian culture; and  
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29           WHEREAS, Hawaiian and "local" culture and ways of life are  
30 a treasure and a hallmark of Hawai`i and of inestimable value to  
31 its citizens and an attraction to visitors; and



1           WHEREAS, "cultural kipuka" are defined in *Native Hawaiian*  
2 *and Local Cultural Assessment Project, Phase 1, Problems/Assets*  
3 *Identification* (June 1993, Luciano Minerbi, Davianna McGregor,  
4 and Jon Matsuoka, editors, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, page  
5 23) as follows:  
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7           *Botanists who study the natural rainforest in the*  
8 *area of active Kilauea volcano have observed that lava*  
9 *flows which destroy and cover up large areas of forest*  
10 *lands, leave little oases of native trees and plants*  
11 *in the wake which are called kipuka. From these*  
12 *natural kipuka come seeds and spores for the eventual*  
13 *regeneration of the native flora upon the fresh lava.*  
14 *For contemporary Hawaiians, the traditional Hawaiian*  
15 *rural communities are cultural kipuka from which*  
16 *Hawaiian culture can be regenerated and revitalized in*  
17 *the contemporary setting; and*  
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19           WHEREAS, accelerating mainstream economic development and  
20 its impacts imparts new significance to these rural enclaves or  
21 "cultural kipuka" to Hawaiians and all those who seek to  
22 perpetuate and revitalize the native Hawaiian culture; and  
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24           WHEREAS, certain rural enclave areas on every island have  
25 been recognized as functioning or having the resources to  
26 function as "cultural kipuka," notably Hana district from Ha'iku  
27 to Kahikinui on Maui, Kahakuloa on Maui, Anahola on Kaua'i,  
28 Kekaha/Waimea on Kaua'i, Waipa on Kaua'i, Miloli'i fishing  
29 village in South Kona on Hawai'i, portions of the Ka'u district  
30 on Hawai'i, Puna/Kalapana district on Hawai'i, Kohanaiki/Kaloko  
31 in Kona on Hawai'i, Keaukaha-Pana'ewa on Hawai'i, King's Landing  
32 on Hawai'i, Kahana on O'ahu, Waiahole on O'ahu, Waikane on  
33 O'ahu, Kualoa on O'ahu, La'ie on O'ahu, Waialua district on  
34 O'ahu, Wai'anae district on O'ahu, Waimanalo on O'ahu, Moloka'i  
35 island, Kaho'olawe island, Lana'i island, and other enclaves as  
36 may be identified through a process established by the Office of  
37 Hawaiian Affairs; and  
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39           WHEREAS, among the resources important to the perpetuation  
40 of traditional Hawaiian customs, beliefs, and practices for  
41 cultural, religious, and subsistence purpose in rural areas are  
42 wahi pana (sacred sites and historical sites--for example,  
43 heiau, shrines, burials, and house sites), streams for taro  
44 cultivation, marine resources, and domestic water, shorelines,



1 reefs, and ocean for gathering of foods, medicine and spiritual  
2 customs, forests for hunting, gathering of medicines, foods,  
3 ceremonial uses for hula adornment and ritual offerings, and  
4 spiritual customs, habitats for endangered native species of  
5 plants and animals, and natural and cultural areas as  
6 traditional domains of ancestral spirits and Hawaiian deities  
7 where Hawaiians renew their ties to ancestors through  
8 experiencing natural phenomena and witnessing ho`ailona or  
9 signs; and

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11 WHEREAS, Hawaiians have legal standing to access, use, and  
12 malama these resources; now, therefore,

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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
15 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawai`i, Regular  
16 Session of 2006, the Senate concurring, that rural Hawaiian  
17 communities or "cultural kipuka" are worthy of consideration as  
18 cultural heritage treasures to the State of Hawai`i; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that county and state governmental  
21 bodies in the State of Hawai`i are urged to accord consideration  
22 to these cultural heritage treasures; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that county and state governmental  
25 bodies are urged to make every effort to assist in the  
26 preservation and perpetuation of these cultural treasures  
27 through early and frequent consultation with these communities,  
28 as well as early notification of plans and actions in connection  
29 to the lands within and surrounding their communities, and extra  
30 efforts during planning stages to include community people and  
31 organizations throughout the process; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, whenever possible, these  
34 governmental bodies are urged to make every effort to focus on  
35 the health, integrity, and well-being of the rural Hawaiian  
36 community and its connection to its surrounding environment,  
37 especially when facing development by outside economic  
38 interests, and that opportunities for funding and community-  
39 based planning be afforded to these rural Hawaiian communities;  
40 and

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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
43 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Mayors



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1 of the respective counties, and the Chairperson of the Board of  
2 Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.  
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OFFERED BY:

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MAR 03 2006

