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# HOUSE 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 PURCHASE 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 one hundred 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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30           WHEREAS, the State, The Trust for Public Lands, and the  
31 Nature Conservancy are working together to purchase and manage  
32 Kamananui Valley for \$5,500,000.  
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1 WHEREAS, the Moanalua Gardens Foundation was established as  
2 a nonprofit organization in 1970 by the granddaughters of Samuel  
3 Mills Damon, Frances "Patches" Damon Holt and Harriet "Haku"  
4 Damon Baldwin, to protect Moanalua Gardens and Kamananui Valley  
5 from the construction of the H-3 highway and preserve the park's  
6 and valley's important historical and cultural sites; and  
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8 WHEREAS, for over thirty-five years, the Moanalua Gardens  
9 Foundation has continued the legacy of Samuel Mills Damon and  
10 his granddaughters to protect and preserve Moanalua Gardens and  
11 Kamananui Valley; and  
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13 WHEREAS, the Moanalua Gardens Foundation has given to the  
14 community in other ways, including providing environmental  
15 education in Hawaii by teaching its award-winning Partners in  
16 Education program to 4,000 public school children each year and  
17 presenting the annual Prince Lot Hula Festival for twenty-nine  
18 years at the Moanalua Gardens, which is the largest non-  
19 competitive hula festival in Hawaii; and  
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21 WHEREAS, the Moanalua Gardens Foundation has stated its  
22 sincere interest in purchasing Moanalua Gardens in partnership  
23 with other organizations, to preserve it in perpetuity for the  
24 people of Hawaii and to operate and maintain Moanalua Gardens as  
25 a community resource for public benefit; and  
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27 WHEREAS, Moanalua Gardens Foundation has the knowledge,  
28 experience, expertise, and commitment to operate and maintain  
29 Moanalua Gardens; now, therefore,  
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
32 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
33 of 2006, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is  
34 urged to work with the Samuel Mills Damon Estate Trustees, the  
35 Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Moanalua Gardens Foundation, the  
36 Trust for Public Lands, and the Nature Conservancy to purchase  
37 Moanalua Gardens for the purpose of protecting and preserving  
38 one of Hawaii's most treasured cultural and historical areas for  
39 the people of Hawaii; and  
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Land and  
42 Natural Resources shall submit a report of its findings and  
43 recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days  
44 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2007; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 2 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson and members of the  
 3 Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Office of Hawaiian  
 4 Affairs, the President of Moanalua Gardens Foundation, the Trust  
 5 for Public Lands, and the Nature Conservancy.

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OFFERED BY:

*Min. A. C. C. C.*

MAR 15 2006

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*Maui B. Lee*  
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*Bertha C. Kawakani*  
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