
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTIES TO SUSPEND CONSIDERATION OF ALL APPLICATIONS FOR GOLF COURSE PROJECTS UNTIL JULY 1, 2010, WHILE THE OFFICE OF PLANNING CONDUCTS A STUDY AND PRODUCES A PLAN OF ACTION FOR GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT.

1 WHEREAS, the State Planning Act requires planning for the
2 state's physical environment to be directed towards prudent use
3 of Hawaii's land-based, shoreline, and marine resources, and
4 effective protection of Hawaii's unique and fragile
5 environmental resources; and
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7 WHEREAS, the State Planning Act also requires the State to
8 manage natural resources to encourage their beneficial and
9 multiple use without generating costly or irreparable
10 environmental damage, encourage the protection of rare or
11 endangered plant and animal species and habitats, and pursue
12 compatible relationships among activities, facilities, and
13 natural resources; and
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15 WHEREAS, the State Water Code states that the waters of the
16 state are held and protected for the benefit of the citizens of
17 the state, and acknowledges that a program of comprehensive
18 water resources planning to address the problems of supply and
19 conservation of water is needed; and
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21 WHEREAS, golf course development is said to have adverse
22 environmental consequences for the water supply and ecology; and
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24 WHEREAS, golf course development may have a significant
25 impact on the land ecosystem through the removal of natural
26 trees and vegetation from the land, the planting and maintaining
27 of non-native grass, trees, and shrubs; and
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29 WHEREAS, large amounts of Hawaii's limited water resources
30 are needed to maintain the golf course, and this water is
31 diverted from other potential uses; and
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1 WHEREAS, maintaining the greens and fairways also requires
2 the use of fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides,
3 which may cause contamination of groundwater aquifers, surface
4 waters, and shoreline ocean waters; and

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6 WHEREAS, there are already 88 golf courses in Hawaii, and
7 two more are being built on the Big Island; and

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9 WHEREAS, an analysis of the environmental impact of
10 existing golf courses in Hawaii on our land, ocean, and water
11 resources is necessary and must be considered in the context of
12 the goals of our State Plan and Water Code prior to authorizing
13 any new golf course development; and

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15 WHEREAS, the Office of Planning is required to conduct
16 special studies and prepare reports that address major policy
17 issues relating to statewide growth and development; now,
18 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, that the counties are urged to suspend consideration
23 until July 1, 2010, of all golf course project applications as
24 of the date this Resolution is adopted; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is urged
27 to perform a comprehensive study to:

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29 (1) Determine and evaluate the environmental impact that
30 existing golf courses have on the regions of the state
31 where they are located, including their impact on
32 potable water sources;
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34 (2) In consultation with the county planning department of
35 each county, demarcate the boundaries of each region
36 to be analyzed for golf course impacts and carrying
37 capacity and determine the carrying capacity of each
38 region of the state to sustain further golf course
39 development; and
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41 (3) Produce a plan for environmentally-sound and
42 sustainable golf course development in each region of
43 the state;
- 44



1 and

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3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is
4 requested to submit to the Legislature a report on its findings
5 and recommendations, including evaluation of impact, boundaries,
6 plans for environmentally-sound and sustainable golf course
7 development, and necessary proposed legislation no later than
8 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
9 2007; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in performing this study, the
12 Office of Planning is requested to solicit and carefully
13 consider appropriate input from golf course architects,
14 engineers, and developers, county governments, environmental
15 groups, local golf associations, and members of affected
16 communities; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Resolution be transmitted to the Mayors and Directors of the
20 county planning departments of the County of Hawaii, County of
21 Maui, County of Kauai, and City and County of Honolulu, and the
22 Director of the Office of Planning.

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OFFERED BY:

Jyle B. Berg

MAR 15 2006

