
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO PROCEED WITH CAUTION
IN REVIEWING DEVELOPMENTS ON STEEP HILLSIDES WITH POTENTIAL
ROCKFALL HAZARDS.

1 WHEREAS, a private landowner intends to develop a nine-lot
2 subdivision on approximately 50 acres of land in Dowsett
3 Highlands, Nuuanu, Oahu, on the property identified by tax map
4 key numbers 2-2-47:3 and 5; and

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6 WHEREAS, this property is located above existing homes
7 between Ragsdale Place and Kamuela Place and has a steep
8 terrain; and

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10 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu (City) approved
11 residential zoning of this property decades ago and is currently
12 processing a subdivision application by the landowner; and

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14 WHEREAS, homeowners below the property are opposed to the
15 subdivision, believing it will create rockfall, landslide, and
16 flooding hazards, and have collected more than 1,000 signatures
17 on a petition; and

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19 WHEREAS, there have been rockfalls that have occurred in
20 Nuuanu valley, including a boulder which killed 26-year-old Dara
21 Onishi in 2002; and

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23 WHEREAS, other rockfalls have occurred around the island of
24 Oahu damaging property and risking people's health and safety;
25 and

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27 WHEREAS, the land located uphill of the proposed Nuuanu
28 subdivision is owned by the Department of Land and Natural
29 Resources; and

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31 WHEREAS, developments that are approved and constructed
32 adjacent to pristine, undeveloped state mountainous lands may



1 expose the State to liability should rockfalls occur from its
2 lands; and

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4 WHEREAS, the City, as the approving entity of developments,
5 must strive to protect landowners below, above, and adjacent to
6 the potential rockfall and landslide hazards; now, therefore,

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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
9 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the
10 House of Representatives concurring, that the City is urged to
11 proceed with caution in reviewing any developments proposed to
12 be built on steep terrain and to require all necessary
13 engineering and geotechnical studies to ascertain and ensure
14 public health and safety; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
17 Bureau is requested to contact the National Conference of State
18 Legislatures and other states and county jurisdictions for
19 statutes, ordinances, and rules relating to permitting
20 development in areas subject to rockslides, and report back to
21 the Legislature no later than 15 days prior to the convening of
22 the Regular Session of 2007; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the City
26 and County of Honolulu and the Chair of the City Council.