
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURCHASE OF WAIMEA VALLEY, OAHU.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Preliminary archaeological surveys indicate
2 that Waimea valley, Oahu, was inhabited by native Hawaiians from
3 approximately A.D. 1100. Waimea valley was also the first place
4 on Oahu to be visited by foreigners on February 22, 1779, when
5 the survivors of the ill-fated Captain Cook Pacific expedition
6 landed there, rested, and replenished their water supplies
7 before continuing on to Kauai. It is reputed that Kamehameha
8 recognized the importance of Waimea valley when he awarded the
9 valley to his top spiritual advisor, Hewahewa. Since then,
10 forty generations of kahuna nui or religiously elite Hawaiians
11 lived in and nurtured the valley until a major flood in 1898
12 drove most of the valley inhabitants to safer coastline areas.

13 Today, the 1,875 acre valley, the only remaining intact
14 ahupua'a on the island of Oahu, remains a rich and sacred
15 cultural, historic, and aesthetic resource for the entire State.
16 The bottom or makai three hundred acres of the valley contain
17 many known cultural resources, including agricultural terraces,
18 kauhale kahiko or ancient living sites, a heiau dedicated to



1 Lono, the god of agriculture, weather, medicine, and peace, a
2 hale iwi or house of bones, and a platform of large boulders
3 believed to be the burial site of a high priest or chief. The
4 back or mauka one thousand five hundred plus acres has yet to be
5 surveyed to determine the extent of further cultural sites.

6 Waimea valley is also the home of many species of endemic
7 and migratory avifauna, including the endemic and endangered
8 nene or Hawaiian goose, koloa or Hawaiian duck, alae ula or
9 Hawaiian gallinule, and the aukuu or black-crowned night heron.
10 The valley flora includes many endemic and endangered species of
11 native Hawaiian plants and trees, including two members of the
12 hibiscus plant, the nearly extinct kokia cookei and the once
13 thought extinct hibiscus brackenridgei molokaianus. As with the
14 archaeological resources, only the makai-most portions of the
15 valley have been properly surveyed to determine the presence of
16 other floral treasures.

17 Today, the legislature finds that this vast treasure may be
18 lost to the people of Hawaii. In 2001, in response to the
19 threat of the possible development of the valley by its private
20 owner, the city and county of Honolulu filed a suit to condemn
21 the entire valley and deposited \$5,200,000 in court for the
22 acquisition. However, with the appraised value for the entire



1 valley anticipated to be in excess of the deposited amount and
2 the limited financial resources of the city, the private owner
3 of the valley has proposed to the city that the front or makai
4 three hundred acres be acquired by the city, with the remainder
5 of the valley being subdivided into large residential lots and
6 an area for eco-tourism activities.

7 Wisely, the city council recently rejected the proposal and
8 the matter is now scheduled for a condemnation trial in February
9 2006 to determine the value of the entire valley. The
10 legislature finds that it is important to the people of Hawaii
11 to preserve and protect Waimea valley.

12 The purpose of this Act is to make an appropriation for the
13 purchase of the entire Waimea valley, Oahu, comprised of 1,875
14 acres.

15 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for
18 the purpose of purchasing Waimea valley, Oahu, comprising of
19 1,875 acres, more or less.

20 SECTION 3. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the
21 department of land and natural resources for the purposes of
22 this Act.



SB3147, SD1

Report Title:

Waimea Valley; Appropriation

Description:

Makes an appropriation for the purchase of Waimea valley, Oahu.
(SD1)

