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