
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING CULTURAL PERPETUATION IN RURAL HAWAIIAN COMMUNITIES.

1 WHEREAS, isolated and undeveloped rural communities that
2 were historically bypassed by the mainstream of social and
3 economic development activities while these communities pursued
4 traditional subsistence livelihoods in which they applied
5 cultural customs, beliefs, and practices, are of singular
6 importance to the perpetuation of the Hawaiian people and
7 culture; and

8
9 WHEREAS, if these last remaining Hawaiian enclaves do not
10 survive with the resources that make subsistence economic
11 activities in these areas viable, then, over the next century,
12 Ka Poe Hawaii, as a distinct people, will gradually disappear
13 and although they may continue to live and reproduce as ethnic
14 Hawaiians, they will eventually lose the language, culture,
15 religion, land base, and livelihoods that distinguish them as
16 the original settlers of these islands and would be completely
17 assimilated into the mainstream of Hawaii society; and

18
19 WHEREAS, Hawaiian culture is also at the core of "local
20 culture," which is an amalgamation of the Hawaiian culture with
21 the cultures of the various immigrant groups who settled in
22 Hawaii, especially in rural and agrarian areas, resulting in
23 such features as local food, "pidgin" English, and other shared
24 ways of life distinct to Hawaii; and

25
26 WHEREAS, the persistence of "local" culture is reliant upon
27 the persistence of Hawaiian culture; and

28
29 WHEREAS, Hawaiian and "local" culture and ways of life are
30 both a treasure and a hallmark of Hawaii and of inestimable
31 value to its citizens and an attraction to visitors; and

32
33 WHEREAS, "cultural kipuka" are defined in Native Hawaiian
34 and Local Cultural Assessment Project, Phase 1, Problems/Assets



1 Identification (June 1993, Luciano Minerbi, Davianna McGregor,
2 and Jon Matsuoka, editors, University of Hawaii at Manoa, page
3 23) as follows:

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5 Botanists who study the natural rainforest in the area
6 of active Kilauea volcano have observed that lava
7 flows which destroy and cover up large areas of forest
8 lands, leave little oases of native trees and plants
9 in the wake which are called kipuka. From these
10 natural kipuka come seeds and spores for the eventual
11 regeneration of the native flora upon the fresh lava.
12 For contemporary Hawaiians, the traditional Hawaiian
13 rural communities are cultural kipuka from which
14 Hawaiian culture can be regenerated and revitalized in
15 the contemporary setting;

16
17 and

18
19 WHEREAS, accelerating mainstream economic development and
20 its impacts imparts new significance to these rural enclaves or
21 "cultural kipuka" to Hawaiians and all those who seek to
22 perpetuate and revitalize the native Hawaiian culture; and

23
24 WHEREAS, certain rural enclave areas on every island have
25 been recognized as functioning or having the resources to
26 function as "cultural kipuka," notably Hana district from Haiku
27 to Kahikinui on Maui, Kahakuloa on Maui, Anahola on Kauai,
28 Kekaha/Waimea on Kauai, Waipa on Kauai, Milolii fishing village
29 in South Kona on Hawaii, portions of the Kau district on Hawaii,
30 Puna/Kalapana district on Hawaii, Kohanaiki/Kaloko in Kona on
31 Hawaii, Keaukaha-Panaewa on Hawaii, King's Landing on Hawaii,
32 Kahana on Oahu, Waiahole on Oahu, Waikane on Oahu, Kualoa on
33 Oahu, Laie on Oahu, Waialua district on Oahu, Waianae district
34 on Oahu, Waimanalo on Oahu, Molokai island, Kahoolawe island,
35 Lanai island, and other enclaves as may be identified through a
36 process established by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; and

37
38 WHEREAS, among the resources important to the perpetuation
39 of traditional Hawaiian customs, beliefs, and practices for
40 cultural, religious, and subsistence purposes in rural areas are
41 wahi pana (sacred sites and historical sites--heiau, shrines,
42 burials, house sites, etc.), streams for taro cultivation,
43 marine resources and domestic water, shorelines, reefs, and
44 ocean for gathering of foods, medicine and spiritual customs,



1 forests for hunting, gathering of medicines, foods, ceremonial
2 uses for hula adornment or ritual offerings, spiritual customs,
3 habitats for endangered native species of plants and animals,
4 and natural and cultural areas as traditional domains of
5 ancestral spirits and Hawaiian deities where Hawaiians renew
6 their ties to ancestors through experiencing natural phenomena
7 and witnessing hoailona or signs; and
8

9 WHEREAS, Hawaiians have legal standing to access, use, and
10 malama these resources; now, therefore,
11

12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the
14 House of Representatives concurring, that rural Hawaiian
15 communities or "cultural kipuka" are worthy of all consideration
16 as cultural heritage treasures to the State of Hawaii; and
17

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that county and state governmental
19 bodies in the State of Hawaii are urged to accord consideration
20 to these cultural heritage treasures; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that county and state governmental
23 bodies make every effort to assist in the preservation and
24 perpetuation of these cultural treasures through early and
25 frequent consultation with these communities, as well as early
26 notification of plans and actions in connection to the lands
27 within and surrounding their communities, and extra efforts
28 during the planning stages to include community people and
29 organizations throughout the process; and
30

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, whenever possible, these
32 governmental bodies are urged to make every effort to focus on
33 the health, integrity, and well-being of the rural Hawaiian
34 community and its connection to its surrounding environment,
35 especially when facing development by outside economic
36 interests, and that opportunities for funding and community-
37 based planning be afforded to these rural Hawaiian communities;
38 and
39



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Mayors
3 of the respective counties, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.
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OFFERED BY: 

By Request

