
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO FORM
A TASK FORCE TO RECOMMEND SOLUTIONS TO ABATE AND PREVENT
THE ACCUMULATION OF SEDIMENT IN WAILOA RIVER AND HILO BAY.

1 WHEREAS, there are five natural bodies of water that
2 discharge into the Hilo Bay: Wailoa River, Wailuku River,
3 Pukihae Stream, Pohakaunanaka Stream, and Maili Stream; and
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5 WHEREAS, these rivers and their tributaries originate on
6 the slopes of Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa, and drain forests,
7 pasture and range land, agricultural fields, and urban areas;
8 and
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10 WHEREAS, the Wailoa River discharges into Hilo Bay and is
11 one of the major sources of sediment into Hilo Bay; and
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13 WHEREAS, the prevailing winds along Wailoa River and the
14 stagnation of water in places of the river encourage the growth
15 of phytoplankton; and
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17 WHEREAS, the movement of water of the Wailoa River is
18 generally insufficient to flush out silt and mud; and
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20 WHEREAS, the sediment accumulation in the Wailoa River
21 eventually deposits into the Hilo Bay which causes water
22 pollution of the bay and is a public health hazard; and
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24 WHEREAS, it has been reported that State monitoring of
25 water for Hilo Bay in the past showed frequent violations of
26 water quality standards for nitrogen, phosphorus, and turbidity;
27 and
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29 WHEREAS, there are exceptionally high levels of arsenic in
30 sediments in Hilo Bay and other contaminants found in Hilo Bay
31 include lead, zinc, chromium, chlordane residues, and harmful
32 agricultural chemicals; and
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34 WHEREAS, Wailoa River and Hilo Bay are subject to chronic
35 nonpoint source sewage pollution with high bacterial counts; and
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1 WHEREAS, Wailoa River and Hilo Bay are important wildlife
2 and fishery areas and are highly visible to residents and
3 tourists; now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,
7 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested
8 to form a Wailoa River and Hilo Bay sedimentary abatement task
9 force to recommend solutions to sedimentation; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of
12 the following members:
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- 14 (1) Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources
15 or designee, as chair;
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17 (2) Director of Transportation or designee;
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19 (3) Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, or designee;
- 20
21 (4) Director of Health, or designee;
- 22
23 (5) Mayor of Hawaii County, or designee;
- 24
25 (6) Representative of an environmental protection advocacy
26 organization, as selected by the Chairperson of the
27 Board of Land and Natural Resources;
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29 (7) Representative of a Big Island farm organization, as
30 selected by the Chairperson of the Board of
31 Agriculture;
- 32
33 (8) Representative of recreational boaters, to be selected
34 by the Director of Transportation;
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36 (9) Representative of commercial boaters, to be selected
37 by the Director of Transportation; and
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39 (10) Representative of canoe clubs, to be selected by the
40 Mayor of Hawaii County.

41 and
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43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
44 findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than



1 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
2 2007; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
6 Land and Natural Resources, Director of Transportation,
7 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Director of Health, and
8 Mayor of Hawaii County.

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OFFERED BY:

Mahealani A. Iwama
Dig Kanno
Amelia A. Iwama
Will Iwama

