

---

---

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO  
CONDUCT A STUDY TO DETERMINE PROPER OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND  
ON WHICH THE FORMER UNITED STATES COAST GUARD OMEGA STATION  
LIES.

1 WHEREAS, in 1942, the United States Navy built a metal  
2 staircase, which became known as the "Stairway to Heaven" or  
3 "Haiku Stairs" (Stairs), as a means to access its transmission  
4 facilities at the ridgeline of the Koolau Mountains above Haiku  
5 Valley; and  
6

7 WHEREAS, in 1972, the transmission facilities were  
8 transferred from the Navy to the United States Coast Guard for  
9 operation of both LORAN and OMEGA navigational systems used by  
10 ships crossing the Pacific Ocean; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, after newer navigational systems were employed in  
13 1987, the OMEGA station became obsolete and was shut down by the  
14 United States Coast Guard, eventually leading to the disrepair  
15 of the Stairs, and restricting access to the Stairs that had  
16 been granted to hikers since 1982; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, the area has not been officially opened to the  
19 public since 1987; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, the area has many miles of hiking trails, paved  
22 roadways, and a scenic climb to a lookout on the Koolau  
23 Mountains, and many sites of historical, cultural and  
24 archeological significance; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, the Haiku Stairs is comprised of 3,922 steps that  
27 lead up to the Koolau Pali and the summit of Puu Keahiakahoe  
28 that overlooks Haiku Valley; and  
29



1 WHEREAS, the Haiku Stairs ascend through the cliffs and  
2 hillsides of Haiku Valley which is inhabited by native plant  
3 species and contains natural habitats for a number of native  
4 birds and on a clear day, the view at the top of the Haiku  
5 Stairs includes most of Windward Oahu, Pearl Harbor, and parts  
6 of Leeward Oahu; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, the Stairs' historical significance and  
9 recreational potential make the area a desirable location for  
10 public or private use; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, numerous public and private entities claim  
13 ownership of the land on and surrounding the former Coast Guard  
14 Omega station, including, but not limited to, the Department of  
15 Hawaiian Home Lands, Department of Transportation, Department of  
16 Land and Natural Resources, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the  
17 Damon Estate, effectively preventing much needed repairs and  
18 improvements from being completed; now, therefore,  
19

20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
21 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
22 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
23 Land and Natural Resources is requested to conduct a study to  
24 determine the rightful owner of the land on which the former  
25 Coast Guard Omega station lies; and  
26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
28 Natural Resources is urged to give direct participation to all  
29 interested parties in the development of any contingency plans  
30 for access to the Haiku Stairs and surrounding area; and  
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Board of  
33 Land and Natural Resources is requested to submit the study to  
34 the Legislature no later than twenty days before the convening  
35 of the Regular Session of 2008; and  
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
38 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
39 Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Chairperson of the



# H.C.R. NO. 164

1 Hawaiian Homes Commission, the Chairperson of the Board of  
2 Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Director of  
3 Transportation, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Damon  
4 Estate.  
5  
6  
7

OFFERED BY:

*Ken A.*

*Pono Chong*

*Opuniala Meyaroy*

*Tony Water*

MAR 14 2007

