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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ALA WAI WATERSHED ASSOCIATION, TO EVALUATE OPTIONS, POLICY FOUNDATIONS, TECHNICAL ASSESSMENTS, AND COMMUNITY INPUT REGARDING THE USE OF PUBLIC LAND TRUSTS AND PUBLIC EASEMENTS TO REDUCE FLOODING AND POLLUTION IN THE ALA WAI WATERSHED.

1 WHEREAS, covering the most congested urban area in the  
2 state, the Ala Wai Watershed is home to more than 161,000  
3 people, and its streams, springs, and pools flow with rainfall  
4 from the Ko'olau mountains; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, the surface water bodies of the Ala Wai Watershed  
7 are characterized by significant environmental degradation,  
8 including heavy sedimentation, poor water quality, lack of  
9 habitat for native species, prevalence of alien species, and  
10 high potential for flood damage to the densely populated and  
11 economically important areas of Waikiki, McCully, and Moiliili,  
12 due to the debris and runoff from rainstorms often sent into the  
13 Ala Wai Canal; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, the mix of public and private ownership of  
16 streamside and hillside properties has inhibited the progress of  
17 sensible solutions for reducing downstream flooding; and

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19 WHEREAS, the ability to plan an effective storm water  
20 strategy for the Ala Wai Watershed has been inhibited by the  
21 densely populated nature of the area and the widely scattered  
22 pattern of public and private land ownership along streams and  
23 hillsides; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, conservation easements have been successfully used  
26 in rural and agricultural areas to preserve conservation lands  
27 for the public benefit while offering tax benefits for private  
28 owners; and



1 WHEREAS, no report on the Ala Wai Watershed has yet  
2 addressed the potential for using public land trusts and public  
3 easements on private land to alleviate downstream impacts of  
4 storm water flooding and pollution; and

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6 WHEREAS, public land trusts and easements may be able to  
7 establish a continuous corridor in which to implement effective  
8 storm water flooding and pollution improvements; now, therefore,

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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
11 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
12 Session of 2007, that the Department of Land and Natural  
13 Resources, in conjunction with the Ala Wai Watershed  
14 Association, is requested to evaluate options, policy  
15 foundations, technical assessments, and community input  
16 regarding the use of public land trusts and public easements to  
17 reduce flooding and pollution in the Ala Wai Watershed; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
20 Natural Resources is requested to report its findings and  
21 recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days  
22 before the convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and

23  
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
25 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
26 Land and Natural Resources and the Executive Director of the Ala  
27 Wai Watershed Association.

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30 OFFERED BY:

Edwin H. Ay  
Kirk Caldwell

MAR 12 2007

