
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
EVALUATE THE POSSIBILITY OF USING A CONSERVATION LAND TRUST
IN THE ALA WAI WATERSHED AREA.

1 WHEREAS, the Ala Wai watershed is comprised of streams,
2 springs, and pools of water originating from the Ko'olau
3 mountains; and
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5 WHEREAS, approximately 161,000 people reside in the Ala Wai
6 watershed area, making it one of the most congested areas in the
7 State; and
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9 WHEREAS, during heavy storms, the Ala Wai watershed swells
10 sending runoff and debris into the Ala Wai canal and adjoining
11 areas; and
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13 WHEREAS, the combination of public and private ownership of
14 streamside and hillside properties in the Ala Wai watershed area
15 has hindered the development of integrated solutions and the
16 reduction of downstream flooding and property damage in the
17 area; and
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19 WHEREAS, efforts to plan an effective storm water and
20 pollution strategy for the Ala Wai watershed are also inhibited
21 by the population density; and
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23 WHEREAS, to date, no report on the Ala Wai watershed has
24 focused on the possibility of using a conservation land trust on
25 private land to alleviate the downstream impact of storm water
26 and pollution from the Ala Wai watershed; and
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28 WHEREAS, conservation land trusts have been successful in
29 preserving private lands for public benefit in rural and
30 agricultural areas, and have provided tax benefits to the
31 participating private land owners; and



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WHEREAS, a conservation land trust in the Ala Wai watershed area that incorporates nonprofit land ownership and easements may provide the means to establish a continuous corridor in which to implement effective storm water and pollution improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources should evaluate the possibility of using a conservation land trust in the Ala Wai watershed area to establish a continuous corridor in which to implement effective storm water and pollution improvements; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to evaluate the possibility of using a conservation land trust in the Ala Wai watershed area to establish a continuous corridor in which to implement effective storm water and pollution improvements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in evaluating the possibility of using a conservation land trust in the Ala Wai watershed area, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, is requested to:

- (1) Collaborate with the Ala Wai Watershed Association;
- (2) Review the policy foundations for using a conservation land trust;
- (3) Review the use of conservation land trusts in relation to other watershed and storm water improvement projects undertaken by the State, the City and County of Honolulu, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service;
- (4) Make a technical assessment of the possibility of using a conservation land trust; and
- (5) Solicit input from the local community; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board
3 of Land and Natural Resources and the President of the Board of
4 Directors and the Executive Director of the Ala Wai Watershed
5 Association.

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OFFERED BY:

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