
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU 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



1 WHEREAS, conservation land trusts have been successful in
2 preserving private lands for public benefit in rural and
3 agricultural areas, and have provided tax benefits to the
4 participating private land owners; and
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6 WHEREAS, a conservation land trust in the Ala Wai watershed
7 area that incorporates nonprofit land ownership and easements
8 may provide the means to establish a continuous corridor in
9 which to implement effective storm water and pollution
10 improvements; and
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12 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources and
13 City and County of Honolulu should evaluate the possibility of
14 using a conservation land trust in the Ala Wai watershed area to
15 establish a continuous corridor in which to implement effective
16 storm water and pollution improvements; now, therefore,
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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
19 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
20 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
21 Land and Natural Resources and the City and County of Honolulu
22 are requested to evaluate the possibility of using a
23 conservation land trust in the Ala Wai watershed area to
24 establish a continuous corridor in which to implement effective
25 storm water and pollution improvements; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in evaluating the possibility
28 of using a conservation land trust in the Ala Wai watershed
29 area, the Department of Land and Natural Resources and City and
30 County of Honolulu, are requested to:
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- 32 (1) Collaborate with the Ala Wai Watershed Association;
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- 34 (2) Review the policy foundations for using a conservation
35 land trust;
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- 37 (3) Review the use of conservation land trusts in relation
38 to other watershed and storm water improvement
39 projects undertaken by the State, the City and County
40 of Honolulu, the United States Army Corps of
41 Engineers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency,
42 and the Natural Resources Conservation Service;
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1 (4) Make a technical assessment of the possibility of
2 using a conservation land trust; and
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4 (5) Solicit input from the local community;
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6 and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
10 Board of Land and Natural Resources, Mayor and Chairperson of
11 the City Council of the City and County of Honolulu, and the
12 President of the Board of Directors and the Executive Director
13 of the Ala Wai Watershed Association.
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