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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO  
REGULARLY CONSULT WITH HO'OLAULIMA IA KAWAINUI TO COORDINATE  
EFFORTS TO PROTECT, CONSERVE, AND RESTORE THE NATURAL,  
CULTURAL, AND SCENIC RESOURCES OF THE KAWAINUI/HAMAKUA  
MARSH COMPLEX AND RELATED WATERWAYS.

1           WHEREAS, wetlands are lands or areas, such as tidal flats  
2 and swamps, that contain a lot of soil moisture and protect and  
3 maintain water quality in other near-shore habitats; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the protection provided by wetlands is  
6 particularly important for coral reefs occurring seaward of  
7 coastal wetlands because the wetlands shield the reefs from  
8 sediment, turbidity, and pulses of fresh water during periods of  
9 heavy rain; and  
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11           WHEREAS, the Kawainui/Hamakua Marsh complex in Kailua, Oahu  
12 is Hawaii's largest remaining natural wetland and an ecological  
13 and cultural treasure; and  
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15           WHEREAS, the Kawainui/Hamakua Marsh complex, which  
16 encompasses approximately eight hundred thirty acres of land,  
17 has been identified by the United States Fish and Wildlife  
18 Service as a primary habitat for endemic and endangered native  
19 Hawaiian birds such as the 'alaek'e'oke'o, 'alae 'ula, ae'o, and  
20 koloa maoli; and  
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22           WHEREAS, despite their significance to Hawaii's  
23 environment, wetlands such as the Kawainui/Hamakua Marsh complex  
24 are increasingly threatened by urban sprawl as the wetlands are  
25 drained, dredged, and filled to provide land for residential and  
26 commercial development; and  
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28           WHEREAS, community efforts to protect the Kawainui/Hamakua  
29 Marsh complex began in the 1970s, when the Lani-Kailua Outdoor



1 Circle rallied to educate the community, Legislature, and  
2 government agencies about the natural and cultural values of  
3 Kawainui Marsh to prevent a shopping mall from being built  
4 there; and  
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6 WHEREAS, for more than thirty years, community  
7 organizations have been instrumental in the Kawainui/Hamakua  
8 Marsh complex's designation as a Ramsar Wetland of International  
9 Importance by contributing to three consecutive master plans for  
10 the marsh and conducting numerous natural and cultural  
11 restoration programs, educational tours, and events; and  
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13 WHEREAS, community organizations have also provided other  
14 cooperative efforts to benefit the Kawainui/Hamakua Marsh  
15 complex, such as fundraising and conducting pollution control  
16 and prevention efforts; and  
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18 WHEREAS, Ho'olaulima ia Kawainui is a network of concerned  
19 community organizations, government agencies, and individuals  
20 cooperating to foster public awareness and understanding of the  
21 natural, cultural, and scenic resources of the Kawainui/Hamakua  
22 Marsh complex to ensure the long-term protection, restoration,  
23 and stewardship of the Kawainui/Hamakua Marsh complex and the  
24 surrounding area; and  
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26 WHEREAS, since 2003, Ho'olaulima ia Kawainui has been  
27 actively advocating to unite county, state, and federal agencies  
28 to further the goal of consolidating the ownership of the  
29 Kawainui/Hamakua Marsh complex under the State; and  
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31 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is  
32 currently responsible for the management and sustainability of  
33 this important public resource; and  
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35 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources  
36 should regularly consult with Ho'olaulima ia Kawainui to  
37 coordinate efforts to protect, preserve, and maintain the  
38 natural, cultural, and scenic resources of the Kawainui/Hamakua  
39 Marsh complex; now, therefore,  
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41 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
42 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the  
43 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land



1 and Natural Resources is requested to regularly consult with  
2 Ho'olaulima ia Kawainui and other concerned community entities to  
3 coordinate efforts to protect, conserve, and restore the  
4 natural, cultural, and scenic resources of the Kawainui/Hamakua  
5 Marsh complex by responding positively to a quarterly invitation  
6 from Ho'olaulima ia Kawai Nui to meet with it and other concerned  
7 community entities to review and assess the progress of programs  
8 and goals relating to the Kawainui/Hamakua Marsh complex; and  
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board  
12 of Land and Natural Resources and Ho'olaulima ia Kawainui.

