
SENATE RESOLUTION

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 'alaeke'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
30 Circle rallied to educate the community, Legislature, and
31 government agencies about the natural and cultural values of



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



1 conserve, and restore the natural, cultural, and scenic
2 resources of the Kawainui/Hamakua Marsh complex by responding
3 positively to a quarterly invitation from Ho'olaulima ia Kawai
4 Nui to meet with it and other concerned community entities to
5 review and assess the progress of programs and goals relating to
6 the Kawainui/Hamakua Marsh complex; and

7
8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board of Land and
10 Natural Resources and Ho'olaulima ia Kawainui.

