
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND
OTHER STATE AGENCIES RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF AND ASSIST
IN THE PRESERVATION OF THE NU`UANU `AUWAI SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, ancient Hawaiian tradition held fresh water as a
2 treasure from the gods, with each person along its way using
3 that gift having a duty to the person below to preserve it for
4 use by others; and

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6 WHEREAS, the waters of Nu`uanu start at its highest point
7 in the Ko`olau mountains with the waterfalls of Waipuhia and
8 Waipuilani, feeding the steams of Nu`uanu, Mo`ole, and Waolani;
9 and

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11 WHEREAS, ancient Hawaiian inhabitants of Nu`uanu Valley
12 developed an `auwai or water ditch system to take the waters
13 from the three streams and distribute the waters to irrigate
14 extensive lo`i ai or taro fields that were present throughout
15 the entire valley, from its upper reaches down to below the
16 present Judd Street; and

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18 WHEREAS, after damage to the `auwai system during the
19 battle of Nu`uanu, Kamehameha moved to quickly restore the
20 valley's agriculture production, summoning Kuho`oheiheipahu Paki
21 to rebuild the irrigation system; and

22
23 WHEREAS, "in three days, [Paki] rallied several hundred men
24 to construct the tremendous Nu`uanu irrigation system which
25 supplies the numerous pondfields....this irrigation system is
26 known even today as the Paki `awai" ; and

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28 WHEREAS, as Nu`uanu evolved from an extensive agricultural
29 area into a residential area, many residents did not realize the
30 existence of or care about the ancient `auwai system traversing
31 the valley and in many instances, parts of the Nu`uanu `auwai




1 system were purposely closed, diverted, or covered up and as a
2 result, out of fourteen original `auwai there are only about
3 eight that remain either flowing or reparable; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Nu`uanu Valley `Auwai Study Group is doing its
6 best to spread information on the historic origins of the
7 Nu`uanu `auwai system and attempting to educate property owners
8 on the value of ways of preserving this treasure; and
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10 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Historic Foundation, together with the
11 State Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Land
12 and Natural Resources, has named the `Auwai of Nu`uanu Valley as
13 one of the nine most endangered historic places on its 2008 List
14 of endangered places; now, therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
17 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
18 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Land and
19 Natural Resources and all other state agencies are requested to
20 do everything in their respective areas of responsibility to
21 protect and preserve the `auwai of Nu`uanu Valley; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
25 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Historic
26 Hawaii Foundation, and Nu`uanu Valley `Auwai Study Group.
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