
HOUSE 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
32 system were purposely closed, diverted, or covered up and as a
33 result, out of fourteen original `auwai there are only about
34 eight that remain either flowing or reparable; and



