
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY OF STATE LAND ASSETS AND NATURAL RESOURCES
AND A DETERMINATION OF THEIR UTILIZATION AND POTENTIAL FOR
REVENUE GENERATION.

1 WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 76, H.D. 1,
2 S.D. 1, 2009, established a Task Force on Reinventing Government
3 (Task Force) to examine the existing operations and
4 organizations of Hawaii's state government and recommend ways to
5 make Hawaii's government more efficient; and
6

7 WHEREAS, the Task Force was formed in October 2009 and
8 gathered together a varied group of government leaders, state
9 agency and department heads, community leaders, nonprofit
10 organization leaders, and business executives from around the
11 State; and
12

13 WHEREAS, in light of the financial strain that Hawaii faces
14 due to the world economic downturn and resulting decline in tax
15 revenue, the group was tasked with examining opportunities to
16 reevaluate and restructure state government operations and
17 organizations to do more with fewer resources in order to
18 weather current economic crises and prepare for future
19 challenges; and
20

21 WHEREAS, at its final meeting on January 4, 2010, the Task
22 Force adopted a number of recommendations, including
23 recommendations to improve government efficiency in relation to
24 land and natural resources; and
25

26 WHEREAS, in its report issued January 2010, the Task Force
27 found that Hawaii's "green and blue" infrastructure - our land,
28 water, natural, and cultural resources - provide the backbone of
29 our economic base; for example, ocean recreation and tourism
30 provide an estimated \$1,000,000,000 per year in business and
31 tourism is based in large part on our natural beauty and public
32 lands; and commercial fisheries create over \$300,000,000 per
33 year in business; and
34



1 WHEREAS, in addition, our drinking water is completely
2 reliant upon healthy and open watersheds, and many of Hawaii's
3 residents also rely on these resources for sustenance and
4 constitutionally protected cultural practices; and
5

6 WHEREAS, the Task Force found that government factors the
7 actual costs of maintaining "hard" infrastructure into operating
8 and capital improvement budgets for highways, harbors, and
9 schools, and developments that impact roads and schools are
10 provided formulas for measuring those impacts and are required
11 to factor the mitigation of those impacts into the cost of
12 development; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the real cost of maintaining Hawaii's natural
15 resources, however, is not factored into governmental operating
16 or capital budgets or fully considered when reviewing new
17 development, and as a result, Hawaii, while still beautiful, has
18 undergone a slow, steady, and unrelenting degrading of our green
19 and blue infrastructure; and
20

21 WHEREAS, among its recommendations, the Task Force
22 addressed ways to improve management efficiency in maintaining,
23 managing, and sustaining Hawaii's green and blue infrastructure
24 without increasing the burden upon taxpayers; now, therefore,
25

26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
28 of 2010, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is
29 requested to study state land assets and natural resources and
30 determine their utilization and potential for revenue
31 generation; and
32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include, but not be
34 limited to:
35

- 36 (1) An identification and inventory of state land assets
37 and other natural resources;
- 38
- 39 (2) Projections of the real cost of maintaining these
40 state assets and natural resources;
- 41
- 42 (3) Recommendations regarding allocations of operating and
43 capital funds to care for these resources to sustain
44 them and our way of life, including:



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35

(A) Utilizing government assets to support government land and natural resources; and

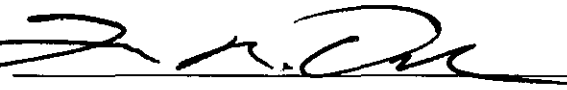
(B) Requiring private development or businesses that obtain financial benefit from utilizing public natural or cultural resources to dedicate financial or other support for a portion of the maintenance costs required to sustain those resources; e.g., requiring a portion of revenue from renewable energy leases or sales of water to be dedicated to sustaining the renewable resource through contributing membership of a watershed partnership, in-kind contributions, or dedication of a percentage of revenue; and

(4) Additional information, as appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to consult with government leaders, state and county agency and department heads, community leaders, nonprofit organization leaders, and business executives, as appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to report on the study and any recommendations, including recommendations for legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the Regular Session of 2011; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and the Director of Finance.

OFFERED BY: 

MAR 08 2010

