
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO ADOPT
RULES PROHIBITING THE DELIBERATE OBSTRUCTION AND
DESTRUCTION OF NATURAL SPRINGS.

1 WHEREAS, there once existed immensely large expanses of
2 manmade ponds and naturally-formed estuaries stretching from
3 Waikiki to Pearl Harbor that have since been filled in to
4 accommodate the attraction of seaside living for residents, the
5 tourist industry, and military interests; and
6

7 WHEREAS, the same fate has befallen ancient fishponds and
8 natural springs that once dotted the shoreline surrounding the
9 island of Oahu: from the former site of the state's largest
10 fishpond in Hawaii Kai to the numerous fishponds of Kaneohe Bay,
11 and to the spring-fed sinkholes in the Ewa Plain; and
12

13 WHEREAS, with few exceptions, all of these areas that were
14 once working fishponds or natural estuaries have been
15 permanently removed or altered; and
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17 WHEREAS, the destruction of such ecologically- and
18 culturally-significant bodies of water continues today, as with
19 the natural spring in Hawaii Kai that is connected with Hawea
20 Heiau, that was recently bulldozed over by developers; and
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22 WHEREAS, all waters of the state are subject to regulation
23 under the provisions of the State Water Code; and
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25 WHEREAS, as stated in section 174C-2 of the Hawaii Revised
26 Statutes regarding water, "adequate provision shall be made for
27 the protection of traditional and customary Hawaiian rights, the
28 protection and procreation of fish and wildlife, the maintenance
29 of proper ecological balance and scenic beauty, and the
30 preservation and enhancement of waters of the State for
31 municipal uses, public recreation, public water supply,
32 agriculture, and navigation"; and



1 WHEREAS, the State has the responsibility to prevent the
2 knowing, willful obstruction or destruction of natural springs;
3 now, therefore,
4

5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
6 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
7 of 2010, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources
8 (DLNR) is requested to adopt rules prohibiting the deliberate
9 obstruction and destruction of natural springs; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in developing its rules, DLNR
12 is also requested to take inventory of and assess all natural
13 springs in the state; and
14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
17 Land and Natural Resources, Chairperson of the Hawaii Kai
18 Neighborhood Board, Executive Director of the Sierra Club -
19 Hawaii Chapter, and Executive Director of the Nature Conservancy
20 in Hawaii.
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OFFERED BY:

Lyla B. Berg
[Signature]
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MAR 10 2010

