
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING STATE DEPARTMENTS TO USE TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN NAMES
WHEN IDENTIFYING FISHPONDS.

1 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians constructed nearly 500 fishponds
2 in Hawai'i beginning in the 13th century, including the 523-acre
3 Keahupua o Maunalua Pond, the largest fishpond in Polynesia; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Hawai'i's fishponds represent one of the most
6 advanced fish husbandry techniques among the original peoples of
7 the Pacific; and
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9 WHEREAS, fishponds reinforced traditional cultural values
10 of community and solidarity since the construction of each was a
11 monumental task requiring the cooperation of every family in the
12 *ahupua'a*; and
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14 WHEREAS, the unique fishponds of Hawai'i have sustained
15 Native Hawaiians since ancient times; and
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17 WHEREAS, fishponds are often fed by springs and provide a
18 favorable environment for fish, limu, and a wide variety of
19 other marine, terrestrial, and plant species; and
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21 WHEREAS, the fishponds provided a source of fish when it
22 was not available from the ocean due to weather and surf, or was
23 *kapu* during spawning season; and
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25 WHEREAS, this life-giving function of fishponds has been
26 obscured in recent years by the use of such terms as "lagoon,"
27 "lake," "basin," "ditch," and "loch;" and
28

29 WHEREAS, sole reliance on Tax Map Key numbers and terms
30 such as "remnant" and "vacant" lands has led to the exclusion of
31 traditional Hawaiian names; and
32

33 WHEREAS, fishponds are quickly disappearing due to
34 continuing urban development; and



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1 WHEREAS, restoring fishponds will help address the shortage
2 of healthy local food products and promote sustainability; now,
3 therefore,
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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 state departments are requested to use traditional
8 Hawaiian names when identifying fishponds; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
11 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, and the Director or
12 Chairperson of each state department and the Board of Land and
13 Natural Resources.
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OFFERED BY:

Jyla B. Berg

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