
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM TO INVESTIGATE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE FEASIBILITY OF USING NATIVE HAWAIIAN FISHPOND CONSTRUCTION AS A FOUNDATION OF A NEW SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY IN HAWAII, AND TO PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE ITS DEVELOPMENT.

1 WHEREAS, increasing population growth and mounting demands
2 on natural resources have raised public concern over Hawaii's
3 carrying capacity and created a pressing need for the
4 implementation of sustainable solutions; and
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6 WHEREAS, the concept of sustainable development was
7 explained by the 1987 World Commission on Environment and
8 Development as, "meeting the needs of the present without
9 compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their
10 own needs"; and
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12 WHEREAS, in 2005 the Legislature officially embraced
13 sustainability as a guiding principle in the future development
14 and land use management of the Hawaiian Islands, and
15 subsequently created the Hawaii 2050 Task Force (Task Force);
16 and
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18 WHEREAS, the role of the Task Force was to guide the
19 creation of the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan, which focused
20 on respecting the host culture, history, and natural resources
21 of the islands, as well as striking a balance between economic,
22 social, communal, and environmental priorities; and
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24 WHEREAS, in the native Hawaiian land tenure system,
25 Hawaii's natural resources were valued primarily for their self-



1 sustaining benefits and extended from the mountains to the sea
2 and afforded its habitants agricultural products from lowlands
3 and mid-elevation lands, forest products from the uplands, and
4 more significantly, marine products from the fishponds; and
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6 WHEREAS, the ahupua'a (land management) system recognized
7 the interconnectedness of island ecosystems, whose health was
8 necessary to the survival of native Hawaiian communities; and
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10 WHEREAS, to increase the provision of proteins for ancient
11 Hawaiian populations, extensive fishpond systems were
12 constructed by Hawaiian settlers as early as the 13th century,
13 and by the early 19th century nearly 350 fishponds were in
14 operation throughout the Hawaiian Islands; and
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16 WHEREAS, the fishponds contained a diverse array of fish
17 species, which included awa (milkfish), 'ama'ama (mullet),
18 'awa'awa (ten pounder), and ahole (flagtail); as well as 'opae
19 (shrimp), and several varieties of limu (seaweed); and
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21 WHEREAS, while some attempts have been made to restore
22 fishponds to functioning fish production farms, none constitute
23 models of economic sustainability, where the money generated is
24 used to maintain the ponds and support the community; and
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26 WHEREAS, increasing costs of food and energy worldwide have
27 highlighted the vulnerability of Hawaii's economy because of its
28 dependence on imports for most of its food, energy, and income;
29 and
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31 WHEREAS, the diversification of Hawaii's economy and
32 agricultural base through such initiatives as the development of
33 fish farms would enable the State to be self-sufficient; and
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35 WHEREAS, the development of native Hawaiian fishponds as
36 actively producing fish farms serves not only as a valuable and
37 viable aspect of agricultural diversification, but also provides
38 important cultural, educational, and environmental benefits to
39 the people of Hawaii; and
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41 WHEREAS, the traditional and current scientific knowledge
42 regarding the building, managing, and use of native Hawaiian
43 fishponds has the potential to play a vital and viable role in
44 restoring Hawaii's fragile ecosystem; and



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2 WHEREAS, in addition to being historically important,
3 native Hawaiian fishponds are ecologically highly productive
4 zones, as they are, in essence, small artificial reconstructed
5 estuaries; and
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7 WHEREAS, because the construction of fishponds is labor
8 intensive, communal support is an integral feature of their
9 successful restoration; now, therefore,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
12 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
13 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
14 Agriculture (DOA), Department of Land and Natural Resources
15 (DLNR), and Department of Business, Economic Development and
16 Tourism (DBEDT) are requested to:
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- 18 (1) Investigate the feasibility of using native Hawaiian
19 fishpond construction as a foundation in the
20 development of a new sustainable aquaculture industry
21 in Hawaii;
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23 (2) Develop a list of recommendations regarding the
24 feasibility of developing a new sustainable model for
25 culture-based aquaculture development in Hawaii; and
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27 (3) Promote and encourage all efforts to enhance
28 aquaculture ventures that incorporate native Hawaiian
29 fishpond construction in the effort to create a
30 sustainable and economically sound future for Hawaii;

31 and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED DOA, DLNR, and DBEDT are requested
34 to report back to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to
35 the convening of the Regular Session of 2011; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
39 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Chairperson of the
40 Board of Land and Natural Resources, and Director of the
41 Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.
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H.C.R. NO. 126

OFFERED BY:

Lyla B. Berg

[Signature]

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