
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS/BISHOP ESTATE TO KEEP KAMILO NUI VALLEY IN AGRICULTURAL LAND USE IN PERPETUITY AND TO ESTABLISH AFFORDABLE LEASE RENTS TO ALLOW FARMERS TO CONTINUE TO PRODUCE AGRICULTURAL CROPS AS A NATURAL RESOURCE INDUSTRY WHILE PROTECTING THE ESTABLISHED WATERSHED AND MINIMIZING THE FLOODING AND CONTAMINATION OF KUAPA POND.

1 WHEREAS, the constitution of Hawaii sets forth the goal of
2 preservation of agriculture lands in the State of Hawaii; and
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4 WHEREAS, land ownership in Hawaii is dominated by a small
5 number of large land owners who exercise large amounts of
6 influence on the overall social and economic fabric of the
7 islands, especially upon those who are dependent upon lease
8 rents particularly at times of lease readjustments; and
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10 WHEREAS, Kamilo Nui Valley is the last large parcel of
11 undeveloped land in East Honolulu, and is owned by Kamehameha
12 Schools/Bishop Estate; and
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14 WHEREAS, the farmers of Kamilo Nui Valley have been working
15 the land for decades, raising many different types of
16 agricultural products from vegetables to nurseries and are now
17 entering a period of rent adjustments; and
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19 WHEREAS, the farmers of Kamilo Nui Valley wish to be able
20 to afford to remain on their farms and that the agriculture
21 lands of the valley remain in such usage; and
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23 WHEREAS, the City Council on August 11, 2004 unanimously
24 adopted a resolution to maintain Kamilo Nui's agricultural
25 designation until at least 2020, the time period called for
26 under Honolulu's East Oahu Sustainable Communities Plan; and
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1 WHEREAS, the farmers held their leases since the 1970's,
2 and the leases run until 2025 under the condition that the use
3 of land remain agricultural, however, the lease rents are due
4 for readjustment this year; and
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6 WHEREAS, a local developer and Kamehameha Schools/Bishop
7 Estate reached an agreement in 2005 to buy the 87 acres of
8 Kamilo Nui Valley for an undisclosed amount of money, under the
9 condition that the developer convince the leaseholders to sell
10 him their lease interests; and
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12 WHEREAS, most current and future farmers want to continue
13 to work the land and conduct their business as afforded under
14 their leases; and
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16 WHEREAS, a community group, Livable Hawai`i Kai Hui,
17 submitted a petition to the City Council that was signed by
18 3,500 Hawai`i Kai residents demanding no change in the current
19 urban/agricultural boundary; and
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21 WHEREAS, Kamilonui Farmers' Co-op sponsored, "A Day on the
22 Farm" Open House event, which featured games, live
23 entertainment, ono food, door prizes, community booths, farm
24 tours, and produce from the 12 farms. The event was attended by
25 over 500 people, including Governor Linda Lingle who gave
26 remarks, and was instrumental in letting the public know about
27 this agricultural oasis in the midst of an urban development;
28 and
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30 WHEREAS, Kamilo Nui Valley is part of the natural watershed
31 for Hawai`i Kai, the first line of defense in a system of flood
32 control of which the marina is also a part of; and
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34 WHEREAS, development of Kamilo Nui Valley could lead to a
35 situation similar to the New Year's Eve flood of 1987, when
36 flood water turned Hahaione Valley into a river complete with
37 floating cars and trees; and
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39 WHEREAS, Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate already stated
40 that they will continue to base rents on the agricultural zoning
41 of the land, but also observed that the value of agricultural



1 land has skyrocketed but is primarily driven by urban land
2 values; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
6 of 2010, that this body requests Kamehameha Schools/Bishop
7 Estate to keep Kamilo Nui Valley in agricultural use in
8 perpetuity for its crucial role in sustainability and for its
9 key role in its watershed abilities to prevent flooding and to
10 protect water quality; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kamehameha Schools/Bishop
13 Estate is encouraged to exercise fairness, reasonableness and
14 discretion in its readjustment of lease rents in July of this
15 year based on affordable lease rents for the farmers; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Kamilo Nui Valley Farmers
19 Cooperative, Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate, the members of
20 the Honolulu City Council, the Hawai'i Kai Neighborhood Board,
21 and Livable Hawai'i Kai Hui.

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