
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
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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
11 a monumental task requiring the cooperation of every family in
12 the *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
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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
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33 WHEREAS, fishponds are quickly disappearing due to
34 continuing urban development; and



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 the Department of Land and
11 Natural Resources is requested to work with the Hawaii Board on
12 Geographic Names and the United States Geological Survey (USGS)
13 to ensure that the traditional Hawaiian names of fishponds are
14 used in the USGS' update of the official map or database of
15 surface waters for Hawaii; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Director or
19 Chairperson of each state department, including the Board of
20 Land and Natural Resources; the Chair of the Native Hawaiian
21 Historic Preservation Council of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
22 Chairperson of the Aha Kiole Advisory Committee; Director of the
23 Kamakakuokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies at the University of
24 Hawaii-Manoa; mayor of each county; President of the Association
25 of Hawaiian Civic Clubs; Director of the Edith Kanakaole
26 Foundation; and the President of the Bishop Museum.

