
HOUSE 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-
26 sustaining benefits and extended from the mountains to the sea
27 and afforded its habitants agricultural products from lowlands



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



1 fishponds has the potential to play a vital and viable role in
2 restoring Hawaii's fragile ecosystem; and

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4 WHEREAS, in addition to being historically important,
5 native Hawaiian fishponds are ecologically highly productive
6 zones, as they are, in essence, small artificial reconstructed
7 estuaries; and

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9 WHEREAS, because the construction of fishponds is labor
10 intensive, communal support is an integral feature of their
11 successful restoration; now, therefore,

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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
14 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
15 of 2010, that the Department of Agriculture (DOA), Department of
16 Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), and Department of Business,
17 Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) are requested to:

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19 (1) Investigate the feasibility of using native Hawaiian
20 fishpond construction as a foundation in the
21 development of a new sustainable aquaculture industry
22 in Hawaii;
- 23
24 (2) Develop a list of recommendations regarding the
25 feasibility of developing a new sustainable model for
26 culture-based aquaculture development in Hawaii; and
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28 (3) Promote and encourage all efforts to enhance
29 aquaculture ventures that incorporate native Hawaiian
30 fishpond construction in the effort to create a
31 sustainable and economically sound future for Hawaii;

32 and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED DOA, DLNR, and DBEDT are requested
35 to report back to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to
36 the convening of the Regular Session of 2011; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the
40 Board of Agriculture, Chairperson of the Board of Land and



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1 Natural Resources, and Director of the Department of Business,
2 Economic Development and Tourism.

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OFFERED BY:

Lyla B. Berg

Clara

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