

MAR 04 2010

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY OF STATE LAND ASSETS AND NATURAL RESOURCES
AND A DETERMINATION OF THEIR UTILIZATION AND POTENTIAL FOR
REVENUE GENERATION.

1 WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 76, H.D. 1,
2 S.D. 1, 2009, established a Task Force on Reinventing Government
3 (Task Force) to examine the existing operations and
4 organizations of Hawaii's state government and recommend ways to
5 make Hawaii's government more efficient; and
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7 WHEREAS, the Task Force was formed in October 2009 and
8 gathered together a varied group of government leaders, state
9 agency and department heads, community leaders, nonprofit
10 organization leaders, and business executives from around the
11 State; and
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13 WHEREAS, in light of the financial strain that Hawaii faces
14 due to the world economic downturn and resulting decline in tax
15 revenue, the group was tasked with examining opportunities to
16 reevaluate and restructure state government operations and
17 organizations to do more with fewer resources in order to
18 weather current economic crises and prepare for future
19 challenges; and
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21 WHEREAS, at its final meeting on January 4, 2010, the Task
22 Force adopted a number of recommendations, including
23 recommendations to improve government efficiency in relation to
24 land and natural resources; and
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26 WHEREAS, in its report issued January 2010, the Task Force
27 found that Hawaii's "green and blue" infrastructure - our land,
28 water, natural, and cultural resources - provide the backbone of
29 our economic base; for example, ocean recreation and tourism
30 provide an estimated \$1,000,000,000 per year in business and
31 tourism is based in large part on our natural beauty and public
32 lands; and commercial fisheries create over \$300,000,000 per
33 year in business; and
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1 WHEREAS, in addition, our drinking water is completely
2 reliant upon healthy and open watersheds, and many of Hawaii's
3 residents also rely on these resources for sustenance and
4 constitutionally protected cultural practices; and

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6 WHEREAS, the Task Force found that government factors the
7 actual costs of maintaining "hard" infrastructure into operating
8 and capital improvement budgets for highways, harbors, and
9 schools, and developments that impact roads and schools are
10 provided formulas for measuring those impacts and are required
11 to factor the mitigation of those impacts into the cost of
12 development; and

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14 WHEREAS, the real cost of maintaining Hawaii's natural
15 resources, however, is not factored into governmental operating
16 or capital budgets or fully considered when reviewing new
17 development, and as a result, Hawaii, while still beautiful, has
18 undergone a slow, steady, and unrelenting degrading of our green
19 and blue infrastructure; and

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21 WHEREAS, among its recommendations, the Task Force
22 addressed ways to improve management efficiency in maintaining,
23 managing, and sustaining Hawaii's green and blue infrastructure
24 without increasing the burden upon taxpayers; now, therefore,

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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010,
28 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested
29 to study state land assets and natural resources and determine
30 their utilization and potential for revenue generation; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include, but not be
33 limited to:

- 34
35 (1) An identification and inventory of state land assets
36 and other natural resources;
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38 (2) Projections of the real cost of maintaining these
39 state assets and natural resources;
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41 (3) Recommendations regarding allocations of operating and
42 capital funds to care for these resources to sustain
43 them and our way of life, including:
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1 (A) Utilizing government assets to support government
2 land and natural resources; and
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4 (B) Requiring private development or businesses that
5 obtain financial benefit from utilizing public
6 natural or cultural resources to dedicate
7 financial or other support for a portion of the
8 maintenance costs required to sustain those
9 resources; e.g., requiring a portion of revenue
10 from renewable energy leases or sales of water to
11 be dedicated to sustaining the renewable resource
12 through contributing membership of a watershed
13 partnership, in-kind contributions, or dedication
14 of a percentage of revenue; and
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16 (4) Additional information, as appropriate; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
19 Natural Resources is requested to consult with government
20 leaders, state and county agency and department heads, community
21 leaders, nonprofit organization leaders, and business
22 executives, as appropriate; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
25 Natural Resources is requested to report on the study and any
26 recommendations, including recommendations for legislation, no
27 later than twenty days prior to the Regular Session of 2011; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board of Land and
31 Natural Resources and the Director of Finance.
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OFFERED BY:

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