
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO INVESTIGATE,
EVALUATE, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE ISSUE OF
MANAGED SHORELINE RETREAT AND COASTAL LAND ACQUISITION IN
HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, beaches are central to cultural, recreational, and
2 subsistence practices in Hawaii; and

3
4 WHEREAS, beaches are a key part of the coastal environment,
5 providing essential habitat for many species; and

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7 WHEREAS, beaches are a major attraction for Hawaii's
8 \$14,400,000,000 visitor economy, and Hawaiian beaches
9 consistently rank among the most popular beach destinations in
10 the world; and

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12 WHEREAS, healthy beach and dune systems provide natural
13 protection from coastal flooding and property loss during high
14 waves and storms; and

15
16 WHEREAS, Hawaii's beaches are being lost by a process known
17 as coastal erosion or shoreline retreat; and

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19 WHEREAS, studies by the University of Hawaii and the United
20 States Geological Survey find that seventy percent of beaches
21 have eroded and over thirteen miles of beach have been
22 completely lost to erosion in Hawaii over the past century; and

23
24 WHEREAS, the percentage of beaches eroding and rates of
25 beach erosion will only increase with projected increases in
26 rates of sea level rise; and

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28 WHEREAS, construction of seawalls and other methods of
29 hardened shoreline protection on eroding beaches are shown to
30 contribute to beach loss in Hawaii; and



1 WHEREAS, alternatives to shoreline hardening must be
2 developed and encouraged if we are to conserve our beaches for
3 the next generation; and

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5 WHEREAS, Hawaii is left with a legacy of homes and
6 infrastructure built too close to eroding shorelines due to a
7 historical lack of understanding of shoreline variability and
8 insufficient building setbacks; and

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10 WHEREAS, erosion-rate based setback policies adopted by the
11 State and by Kauai and Maui counties apply only to new
12 construction; and

13
14 WHEREAS, some existing infrastructure and homes need to be
15 moved away from highly vulnerable coastal areas through a
16 process known as managed retreat to improve resilience to
17 coastal hazards and preserve beaches, coastal ecosystems, and
18 public shoreline access; and

19
20 WHEREAS, acquisition of coastal lands for public
21 conservation or park lands may be a viable and cost-effective
22 alternative for conserving beaches and assisting private
23 landowners and government in conducting managed retreat away
24 from highly vulnerable coastal areas; and

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26 WHEREAS, sufficient funding and agency staffing support do
27 not presently exist for planning for managed coastal retreat and
28 acquisition of coastal lands; and

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30 WHEREAS, development of a coastal lands acquisition program
31 will require close coordination between government agencies,
32 scientists, legal experts, and non-governmental organizations;
33 now, therefore,

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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
36 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
37 Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the Chairperson of
38 the Board of Land and Natural Resources is requested to convene
39 a task force to investigate, evaluate, and make recommendations
40 regarding managed retreat and coastal land acquisition in
41 Hawaii; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Board of
2 Land and Natural Resources or the Chairperson's designee is
3 requested to serve as chair of the task force; and

4
5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force comprise the
6 following individuals:

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8 (1) The Administrator of the Office of Conservation and
9 Coastal Lands, or the Administrator's representative;
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11 (2) A representative from the Kauai Mayor's Office;
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13 (3) A representative from the Honolulu Mayor's Office;
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15 (4) A representative from the Maui Mayor's Office;
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17 (5) A representative from the Hawaii Mayor's Office;
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19 (6) The Program Manager of the State Coastal Zone
20 Management Program, or the Program Manager's
21 representative;
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23 (7) A professor from the Department of Geology and
24 Geophysics at the University of Hawaii, or the
25 professor's representative;
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27 (8) The Coastal Lands Program Coordinator at the Office of
28 Conservation and Coastal Lands, or the Coordinator's
29 representative;
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31 (9) An environmental attorney specializing in land use as
32 it relates to climate and sustainability; and
33
34 (10) A representative from a non-governmental land trust;
35 and
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
38 consider:

- 39
40 (1) Whether acquisition of coastal lands to protect
41 beaches is feasible;



1 (2) If feasible, what agency or entity would be tasked
2 with the responsibility of administering a coastal
3 lands acquisition program; and
4

5 (3) How the program would be funded; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force are
7 requested to serve without compensation; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
10 submit its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
11 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
12 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be dissolved on
15 June 30, 2016; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
19 Board of Land and Natural Resources, Program Manager of the
20 Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program, Administrator of the
21 Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands, Department Chair of
22 the Department of Geology and Geophysics at the University of
23 Hawaii, Mayor of the County of Kauai, Mayor of the City and
24 County of Honolulu, Mayor of the County of Maui, and Mayor of
25 the County of Hawaii.

