
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL
RESOURCES TO CONVENE AND CHAIR A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP
THE MEANS TO ALLOW PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE HAIKU STAIRS AREA.

1 WHEREAS, in 1942, the United States Navy built a staircase,
2 which became known as the "Stairway to Heaven" or "Haiku Stairs"
3 (Stairs), as a means to access its transmission facilities at
4 the ridgeline of the Koolau Mountains above Haiku Valley; and

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6 WHEREAS, in 1972, the transmission facilities were
7 transferred from the Navy to the United States Coast Guard for
8 operation of both LORAN and OMEGA navigational systems used by
9 ships crossing the Pacific Ocean; and

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11 WHEREAS, after newer navigational systems were employed in
12 1987, the OMEGA station became obsolete and was shut down by the
13 Coast Guard, eventually leading to the disrepair of the Stairs,
14 and restricting access to the Stairs that had been granted to
15 hikers since 1982; and

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17 WHEREAS, the area has not been officially opened to the
18 public since 1987; and

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20 WHEREAS, the Stairs is composed of 3,922 steps that lead up
21 to the Koolau Pali and the summit of Puu Keahiakahoe that
22 overlooks Haiku Valley, and on a clear day the view at the top
23 includes most of Windward Oahu, Pearl Harbor, and parts of
24 Leeward Oahu; and

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26 WHEREAS, the area has many miles of hiking trails, paved
27 roadways, a scenic climb to a lookout on the Koolau Mountains,
28 and many sites of historic, cultural, and archeological
29 significance; and



1 WHEREAS, the Stairs ascend through the cliffs and hillsides
2 of the Haiku Valley, which is inhabited by native plant species
3 and contains natural habitats for a number of native birds; and
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5 WHEREAS, numerous public and private entities claim an
6 interest in the lands surrounding the Stairs; and
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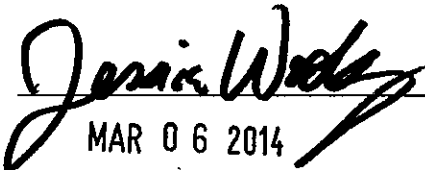
8 WHEREAS, the area of the Stairs due to its historical,
9 aesthetic, environmental, and recreational significance should
10 be open to the public; now, therefore,
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
13 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
14 Session of 2014, that the Chairperson of the Board of Land and
15 Natural Resources, or the Chairperson's designee, is requested
16 to convene and chair a working group to develop the means to
17 allow public access to the Haiku Stairs area; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group include
20 representatives from state and county agencies, community
21 organizations, and private entities and individuals, deemed
22 necessary by the Chairperson to achieve the purpose of this
23 Resolution; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson report the
26 findings and recommendations of the working group, including any
27 necessary proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
28 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2015;
29 and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the
33 Board of Land and Natural Resources, and the Mayor of the City
34 and County of Honolulu.
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OFFERED BY:  _____
MAR 06 2014