
HOUSE 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

6
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

11
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

18
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

27
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

31
32 WHEREAS, alternatives to shoreline hardening must be
33 developed and encouraged if we are to conserve our beaches for
34 the next generation; and



1
2 WHEREAS, Hawaii is left with a legacy of homes and
3 infrastructure built too close to eroding shorelines due to a
4 historical lack of understanding of shoreline variability and
5 insufficient building setbacks; and

6
7 WHEREAS, erosion-rate based setback policies adopted by the
8 State and by Kauai and Maui counties apply only to new
9 construction; and

10
11 WHEREAS, some existing infrastructure and homes need to be
12 moved away from highly vulnerable coastal areas through a
13 process known as managed retreat to improve resilience to
14 coastal hazards and preserve beaches, coastal ecosystems, and
15 public shoreline access; and

16
17 WHEREAS, acquisition of coastal lands for public
18 conservation or park lands may be a viable and cost-effective
19 alternative for conserving beaches and assisting private
20 landowners and government in conducting managed retreat away
21 from highly vulnerable coastal areas; and

22
23 WHEREAS, sufficient funding and agency staffing support do
24 not presently exist for planning for managed coastal retreat and
25 acquisition of coastal lands; and

26
27 WHEREAS, development of a coastal lands acquisition program
28 will require close coordination between government agencies,
29 scientists, legal experts, and non-governmental organizations;
30 now, therefore,

31
32 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
33 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
34 Session of 2014, that the Chairperson of the Board of Land and
35 Natural Resources is requested to convene a task force to
36 investigate, evaluate, and make recommendations regarding
37 managed retreat and coastal land acquisition in Hawaii; and

38
39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Board of
40 Land and Natural Resources or the Chairperson's designee is
41 requested to serve as chair of the task force; and

42
43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force comprise the
44 following individuals:



- 1
- 2 (1) The Administrator of the Office of Conservation and
- 3 Coastal Lands, or the Administrator's representative;
- 4
- 5 (2) A representative from the Kauai Mayor's Office;
- 6
- 7 (3) A representative from the Honolulu Mayor's Office;
- 8
- 9 (4) A representative from Maui Mayor's Office;
- 10
- 11 (5) A representative from the Hawaii Mayor's Office;
- 12
- 13 (6) The Program Manager of the State Coastal Zone
- 14 Management Program, or the Program Manager's
- 15 representative;
- 16
- 17 (7) A professor from the Department of Geology and
- 18 Geophysics at the University of Hawaii, or the
- 19 professor's representative;
- 20
- 21 (8) The Coastal Lands Program Coordinator at the Office of
- 22 Conservation and Coastal Lands, or the Coordinator's
- 23 representative;
- 24
- 25 (9) An environmental attorney specializing in land use as
- 26 it relates to climate and sustainability; and
- 27
- 28 (10) A representative from a non-governmental land trust;
- 29 and
- 30

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
32 consider:

- 33
- 34 (1) Whether acquisition of coastal lands abutting legacy
- 35 beaches is feasible;
- 36
- 37 (2) If feasible, what agency or entity would be tasked
- 38 with the responsibility of administering a coastal
- 39 lands acquisition program; and
- 40
- 41 (3) How the program would be funded; and
- 42

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force are
44 requested to serve without compensation; and



1
 2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
 3 submit its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
 4 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
 5 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and

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 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be dissolved on
 8 June 30, 2016; and

9
 10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 11 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
 12 Land and Natural Resources, Program Manager of the Hawaii
 13 Coastal Zone Management Program, Administrator of the Office of
 14 Conservation and Coastal Lands, Department Chair of the
 15 Department of Geology and Geophysics at the University of
 16 Hawaii, Mayor of the County of Kauai, Mayor of the City and
 17 County of Honolulu, Mayor of the County of Maui, and Mayor of
 18 the County of Hawaii.

OFFERED BY:

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