
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS FOR STEWARDSHIP AND
PRESERVATION OF WAIPI'O VALLEY.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that Waipi'o Valley, located
2 on Hawai'i Island, is an area with great cultural, historical,
3 genealogical, and agricultural significance; and
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5 WHEREAS, Waipi'o Valley is a revered wahi pana, or sacred
6 place, and has served as a cultural and demographic center for
7 the Native Hawaiian culture for many centuries, housing precious
8 resources including multiple heiau, an extensive taro lo'i and
9 auwai system, fishponds, burial sites, ocean culture, and
10 incomparable scenic beauty; and
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12 WHEREAS, the Task Force to Preserve Waipi'o Valley, formed
13 pursuant to House Resolution No. 277, Regular Session of 1990,
14 found a need to protect and preserve the cultural, aesthetic,
15 and agricultural integrity of Waipi'o Valley and identified
16 several concerns including:
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- 18 (1) Health and safety issues arising from a lack of public
19 facilities and substandard infrastructure aggravated
20 by unregulated access into the valley;
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- 22 (2) Demographic changes on Hawai'i Island and in the
23 Hāmākua region impacting the natural and cultural
24 resources of the valley; and
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- 26 (3) Environmental concerns related to stream management
27 and flood control to preserve and protect life and
28 property; and
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30 WHEREAS, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Department of
31 Urban and Regional Planning compiled community planning and



1 ahupua'a management reports in 1999 and 2000 and offered possible
2 solutions to many of the issues identified; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Waipi'o Valley Stakeholders Alliance was formed
5 in July 2015, and includes representation from the Waipi'o Taro
6 Farmers Association, Waipi'o Community Circle, and Hā Ola O
7 Waipi'o Valley, their voices representing the many perspectives
8 of the Waipi'o community; and

9
10 WHEREAS, the Waipi'o Valley Stakeholders Alliance works
11 collaboratively with various community resource partners to
12 proactively implement solutions to issues that have negatively
13 impacted the valley, including addressing road access and safety
14 issues and implementation of the Waipi'o Valley Stream Management
15 Plan; and

16
17 WHEREAS, the Bishop Museum has owned and managed five
18 hundred thirty-seven acres of Waipi'o Valley property,
19 representing approximately sixty per cent of the valley floor,
20 for the past one hundred thirty years and has publicly announced
21 its intent to sell its interest in order to enable the museum to
22 move forward with a new strategic management plan; and

23
24 WHEREAS, the land, which is divided into approximately one
25 hundred tax map key parcels, contains a majority of the taro
26 growing lands as well as significant cultural sites such as
27 Pāka'alana Heiau; and

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29 WHEREAS, most of the taro production lands are leased to
30 Waipi'o families, many of whom have cared for their 'āina for
31 many generations, and the announcement by the Bishop Museum to
32 sell their lands has created a great deal of uncertainty and
33 anxiety for the taro farming families of Waipi'o Valley and the
34 future of their beloved and well-cared for farms; and

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36 WHEREAS, the Waipi'o Valley Stakeholders Alliance is fully
37 committed to take the lead on stewardship efforts to transition
38 the Bishop Museum lands, and is currently working with many
39 stakeholders, community leaders from groups who have experienced
40 similar situations, and others who have expertise in land
41 acquisition and land management to identify possible options



1 that will ensure that the Bishop Museum can remain solvent and
2 continue its important work caring for Hawai'i's cultural
3 treasures, while at the same time honoring Waipi'o Valley's past,
4 present, and future to ensure that the land remains in the
5 loving, caring hands of the Waipi'o families as it has for
6 centuries; now, therefore,

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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
9 Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2016, the
10 House of Representatives concurring, that the Waipi'o Valley
11 Stakeholders Alliance is requested to coordinate with the Bishop
12 Museum, Kamehameha Schools, Friends of the Future, County of
13 Hawai'i, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Trust For Public Land, State
14 of Hawai'i, and other interested parties who may be invited by
15 the Waipi'o Valley Stakeholders Alliance to provide their
16 guidance and mana'o regarding the future preservation and
17 stewardship of Waipi'o Valley; and

18
19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Waipi'o Valley Stakeholders
20 Alliance is requested to submit a report of the results of
21 stewardship meetings including findings, recommendations, and
22 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
23 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
24 2017; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chair of
28 the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Hawai'i
29 State Director of the Trust for Public Land, Mayor of the County
30 of Hawai'i, Community Liaison of Waipi'o Valley Stakeholders
31 Alliance, President of the Bishop Museum, Chair of the Board of
32 Trustees of Kamehameha Schools, and President of the Board of
33 Directors of Friends of the Future.



Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 07 2016

RE: S.R. No. 91

S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2016
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture, to which was referred S.R. No. 91 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION REQUESTING COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS FOR
STEWARDSHIP AND PRESERVATION OF WAIPI'O VALLEY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request that the Waipi'o Valley Stakeholders Alliance coordinate with the Bishop Museum, Kamehameha Schools, Friends of the Future, County of Hawai'i, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Trust For Public Land, State of Hawai'i, and other interested parties who may be invited by the Waipi'o Valley Stakeholders Alliance to provide their guidance and mana'o regarding the future preservation and stewardship of Waipi'o Valley.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from Ho'omana Pono, LLC; Kamehameha Schools; and four individuals.

Your Committee finds that Waipi'o Valley is a revered wahi pana, or sacred place, on the island of Hawaii and has served as a cultural and demographic center for the Native Hawaiian culture for many centuries, housing precious resources including multiple heiau, an extensive taro lo'i and auwai system, fishponds, burial sites, ocean culture, and incomparable scenic beauty. Your Committee further finds that the Bishop Museum has owned and managed five hundred thirty-seven acres of Waipi'o Valley property, representing approximately sixty percent of the valley floor, for



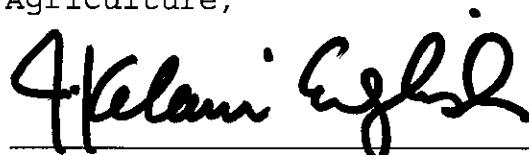
the past one hundred thirty years and has publicly announced its intent to sell its interest in order to enable the museum to move forward with a new strategic management plan. The Waipi'o Valley Stakeholders Alliance is fully committed to take the lead on stewardship efforts to transition the Bishop Museum lands, and is currently working with many stakeholders, community leaders from groups who have experienced similar situations, and others who have expertise in land acquisition and land management to identify possible options that will ensure that Bishop Museum can remain solvent and continue its important work caring for Hawai'i's cultural treasures, while at the same time honoring Waipi'o Valley's past, present, and future to ensure that the land remains in the hands of the Waipi'o families as it has for centuries.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

Your Committee notes the suggestion in Dr. Kū Kahakalau's testimony that the community organization Hā Ola O Waipi'o be named in this measure, rather than the Waipi'o Valley Stakeholders Alliance, and defers to the legislators of the district in which Waipi'o Valley is located to determine whether substantive amendments are needed as discussion of this measure continues.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 91, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.R. No. 91, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water, Land, and
Agriculture,




MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Eighth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
WLA

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SR 91	WLA	April 4, 2016
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____		
The Recommendation is:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended <small>2312</small>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments <small>2311</small>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Hold <small>2310</small>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommit <small>2313</small>		
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)
Nay	Excused	
GABBARD, Mike (C)	/	
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (VC)	/	
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M.		/
RIVIERE, Gil	/	
RUDERMAN, Russell E.	/	
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L.	/	
THIELEN, Laura H.		/
WAKAI, Glenn		/
SLOM, Sam		/
TOTAL	5	4
Recommendation:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted		
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted		
Chair's or Designee's Signature:		
		
Distribution:		
Original	Yellow	Pink
File with Committee Report	Clerk's Office	Drafting Agency
		Goldenrod
		Committee File Copy

*Only one measure per Record of Votes