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# SENATE 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  
32 ahupua'a management reports in 1999 and 2000 and offered possible  
33 solutions to many of the issues identified; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, the Waipi'o Valley Stakeholders Alliance was formed  
3 in July 2015, and includes representation from the Waipi'o Taro  
4 Farmers Association, Waipi'o Community Circle, and Hā Ola O  
5 Waipi'o Valley, their voices representing the many perspectives  
6 of the Waipi'o community; and  
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8 WHEREAS, the Waipi'o Valley Stakeholders Alliance works  
9 collaboratively with various community resource partners to  
10 proactively implement solutions to issues that have negatively  
11 impacted the valley, including addressing road access and safety  
12 issues and implementation of the Waipi'o Valley Stream Management  
13 Plan; and  
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15 WHEREAS, the Bishop Museum has owned and managed five  
16 hundred thirty-seven acres of Waipi'o Valley property,  
17 representing approximately sixty per cent of the valley floor,  
18 for the past one hundred thirty years and has publicly announced  
19 its intent to sell its interest in order to enable the museum to  
20 move forward with a new strategic management plan; and  
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22 WHEREAS, the land, which is divided into approximately one  
23 hundred tax map key parcels, contains a majority of the taro  
24 growing lands as well as significant cultural sites such as  
25 Pāka'alana Heiau; and  
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27 WHEREAS, most of the taro production lands are leased to  
28 Waipi'o families, many of whom have cared for their 'āina for  
29 many generations, and the announcement by the Bishop Museum to  
30 sell their lands has created a great deal of uncertainty and  
31 anxiety for the taro farming families of Waipi'o Valley and the  
32 future of their beloved and well-cared for farms; and  
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34 WHEREAS, the Waipi'o Valley Stakeholders Alliance is fully  
35 committed to take the lead on stewardship efforts to transition  
36 the Bishop Museum lands, and is currently working with many  
37 stakeholders, community leaders from groups who have experienced  
38 similar situations, and others who have expertise in land  
39 acquisition and land management to identify possible options  
40 that will ensure that the Bishop Museum can remain solvent and  
41 continue its important work caring for Hawai'i's cultural



1 treasures, while at the same time honoring Waipi'o Valley's past,  
2 present, and future to ensure that the land remains in the  
3 loving, caring hands of the Waipi'o families as it has for  
4 centuries; now, therefore,  
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
7 Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2016,  
8 that the Waipi'o Valley Stakeholders Alliance is requested to  
9 coordinate with the Bishop Museum, Kamehameha Schools, Friends  
10 of the Future, County of Hawai'i, Office of Hawaiian Affairs,  
11 Trust For Public Land, State of Hawai'i, and other interested  
12 parties who may be invited by the Waipi'o Valley Stakeholders  
13 Alliance to provide their guidance and mana'o regarding the  
14 future preservation and stewardship of Waipi'o Valley; and  
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Waipi'o Valley Stakeholders  
17 Alliance is requested to submit a report of the results of  
18 stewardship meetings including findings, recommendations, and  
19 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than  
20 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
21 2017; and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
24 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chair of the Board of  
25 Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Hawai'i State  
26 Director of the Trust for Public Land, Mayor of the County of  
27 Hawai'i, Community Liaison of Waipi'o Valley Stakeholders  
28 Alliance, President of the Bishop Museum, Chair of the Board of  
29 Trustees of Kamehameha Schools, and President of the Board of  
30 Directors of Friends of the Future.

