
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO MANAGE
THE WAI'ANAE KAI FOREST AND RESTORE WATER FLOW IN WAI'ANAE
STREAMS FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN TRADITIONAL AND CUSTOMARY
PRACTICES AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WAI'ANAE KAI WILDFIRE
PREPAREDNESS PLAN.

1 WHEREAS, the literal meaning of "wai'anae" is "mullet
2 water", signifying the historical presence of mullet in the
3 muliwai or brackish water pools and estuaries once common along
4 the Wai'anae coast; and
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6 WHEREAS, the O'ahu Council of the Association of Hawaiian
7 Civic Clubs passed a resolution expressing support of efforts to
8 restore water flow in the historic, natural waterways of Hawaii
9 for traditional and customary Native Hawaiian practices; and
10

11 WHEREAS, the Wai'anae watershed is defined by the geographic
12 area encompassed by the City and County of Honolulu's Wai'anae
13 District boundaries and roughly coterminous with the traditional
14 boundaries of the Wai'anae Moku; and
15

16 WHEREAS, the Kaupuni Stream is classified as a perennial
17 stream within the Wai'anae aquifer with a drainage area of 2,291
18 acres and nine tributaries; and
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20 WHEREAS, the Wai'anae community has shown a strong interest
21 in restoring stream flow in order to provide for native aquatic
22 species habitat, local small-scale farming and irrigation, and
23 the revitalization of cultural practices; and
24

25 WHEREAS, in 2016, the Wai'anae Coast Neighborhood Board
26 unanimously passed the 'A'ali'i Resolution authored by students
27 from Nānākuli High School regarding water management in Wai'anae;
28 and
29



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1 WHEREAS, the August 2018 Wai‘anae Kai forest fire burned
2 1,500 acres of native forest, which degraded forest cover and
3 decreased water percolation into the perched aquifers; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Ka‘ala Farm, Inc., has requested a grant-in-aid for
6 the Wai‘anae Kai wildfire preparedness plan; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the goals of the Wai‘anae Kai wildfire preparedness
9 plan are to prevent ignition of fires in Wai‘anae Valley by
10 implementing key best management practices and increasing
11 security in the upper valley, and improve the ability of
12 firefighters to respond to fires and extinguish them quickly by
13 increasing water availability for firefighting; and
14

15 WHEREAS, there have been community-based conversation on
16 the need to restore the Wai‘anae Kai Forest to promote Wai‘anae
17 watershed health, and ensuring a healthy Wai‘anae watershed will
18 lead to continuous mauka-to-makai stream flow; and
19

20 WHEREAS, stream flow from the perched aquifers catalyzes
21 the spawning of native stream and nearshore aquatic species,
22 including endemic species of o‘opu, ‘ōpae, and other fish like
23 ‘anae, promotes limu growth, and is critical for the perpetuation
24 of traditional and customary practices such as lo‘i kalo
25 restoration; and
26

27 WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Hawaii
28 establishes the State's obligation to protect, control, and
29 regulate the use of Hawaii's water resources for the benefit of
30 its people; reaffirms and requires the State to protect all
31 rights, customarily and traditionally exercised for subsistence,
32 cultural and religious purposes; and requires all public natural
33 resources to be held in trust by the State for the benefit of
34 the people; and
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36 WHEREAS, these constitutional provisions are the basis for
37 the establishment of water rights through the State Water Code
38 and the determination that the maintenance of waters in their
39 natural state constitutes a distinct use under the water
40 resources trust; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
3 2019, the Senate concurring, that this body urges the Department
4 of Land and Natural Resources to ensure water flow from the
5 perched aquifers located in the upper reaches of the Wai'anae
6 Watershed for Native Hawaiian traditional and customary
7 practices; and

8
9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urge efforts to
10 implement the Wai'anae Kai wildfire preparedness plan, including:

- 11 (1) Improvements to security through construction of a
12 security office or gate;
- 13
14 (2) Construction of a tank, pond, or reservoir to provide
15 water for firefighting helicopters;
- 16
17 (3) Installation of fire hydrants and pressurized water
18 lines at strategic locations in the upper valley;
- 19
20 (4) Creation and maintenance of fire breaks at strategic
21 locations;
- 22
23 (5) Installation of a sprinkler system to irrigate
24 vegetative fire breaks;
- 25
26 (6) Fuel load reduction; and
- 27
28 (7) Public education and preparedness training; and
- 29
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
32 Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, is
33 requested to continue to effectively manage the Wai'anae Kai
34 Forest Reserve with native trees and shrubs; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Division of Forestry and
37 Wildlife is requested to restore the recently burned forest
38 areas from the August 2018 fire with native trees and shrubs;
39 and

40
41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
42 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,



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1 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,
 2 Administrator of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife,
 3 Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian
 4 Affairs, Manager and Chief Engineer of the Honolulu Board of
 5 Water Supply, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Mayor of
 6 the County of Kaua'i, Mayor of the County of Maui, Mayor of the
 7 County of Hawai'i, Administrator of the Cultural Learning Center
 8 at Ka'ala, and President of Ho'omau Ke Ola Treatment Center.

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OFFERED BY:

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