
HOUSE 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
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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
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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
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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
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30 WHEREAS, the August 2018 Wai'anae Kai forest fire burned
31 1,500 acres of native forest, which degraded forest cover and
32 decreased water percolation into the perched aquifers; and



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2 WHEREAS, Ka'ala Farm, Inc., has requested a grant-in-aid for
3 the Wai'anae Kai wildfire preparedness plan; and
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5 WHEREAS, the goals of the Wai'anae Kai wildfire preparedness
6 plan are to prevent ignition of fires in Wai'anae Valley by
7 implementing key best management practices and increasing
8 security in the upper valley, and improve the ability of
9 firefighters to respond to fires and extinguish them quickly by
10 increasing water availability for firefighting; and
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12 WHEREAS, there have been community-based conversation on
13 the need to restore the Wai'anae Kai Forest to promote Wai'anae
14 watershed health, and ensuring a healthy Wai'anae watershed will
15 lead to continuous mauka-to-makai stream flow; and
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17 WHEREAS, stream flow from the perched aquifers catalyzes
18 the spawning of native stream and nearshore aquatic species,
19 including endemic species of o'opu, 'ōpae, and other fish like
20 'anae, promotes limu growth, and is critical for the perpetuation
21 of traditional and customary practices such as lo'i kalo
22 restoration; and
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24 WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Hawaii
25 establishes the State's obligation to protect, control, and
26 regulate the use of Hawaii's water resources for the benefit of
27 its people; reaffirms and requires the State to protect all
28 rights, customarily and traditionally exercised for subsistence,
29 cultural and religious purposes; and requires all public natural
30 resources to be held in trust by the State for the benefit of
31 the people; and
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33 WHEREAS, these constitutional provisions are the basis for
34 the establishment of water rights through the State Water Code
35 and the determination that the maintenance of waters in their
36 natural state constitutes a distinct use under the water
37 resources trust; now, therefore,
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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
40 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
41 2019, that this body urges the Department of Land and Natural



1 Resources to ensure water flow from the perched aquifers located
2 in the upper reaches of the Wai'anae Watershed for Native
3 Hawaiian traditional and customary practices; and

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

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8 (1) Improvements to security through construction of a
9 security office or gate;
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11 (2) Construction of a tank, pond, or reservoir to provide
12 water for firefighting helicopters;
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14 (3) Installation of fire hydrants and pressurized water
15 lines at strategic locations in the upper valley;
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17 (4) Creation and maintenance of fire breaks at strategic
18 locations;
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20 (5) Installation of a sprinkler system to irrigate
21 vegetative fire breaks;
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23 (6) Fuel load reduction; and
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25 (7) Public education and preparedness training; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
28 Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, is
29 requested to continue to effectively manage the Wai'anae Kai
30 Forest Reserve with native trees and shrubs; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Division of Forestry and
33 Wildlife is requested to restore the recently burned forest
34 areas from the August 2018 fire with native trees and shrubs;
35 and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the
39 Board of Land and Natural Resources, Administrator of the
40 Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Chairperson of the Board of
41 Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Manager and Chief
42 Engineer of the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, Mayor of the



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1 City and County of Honolulu, Mayor of the County of Kaua'i, Mayor
 2 of the County of Maui, Mayor of the County of Hawai'i,
 3 Administrator of the Cultural Learning Center at Ka'ala, and
 4 President of Ho'omau Ke Ola Treatment Center.

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OFFERED BY:

Carl Lutz

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