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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE AND CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO CONVENE  
A WORKING GROUP TO COLLABORATE ON MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL  
STREAM MAINTENANCE.

1 WHEREAS, the State and counties are statutorily required to  
2 conduct maintenance for streams under their respective  
3 jurisdictions, which includes stream cleaning and drainage  
4 improvement projects, and homeowners are responsible for stream  
5 management on their properties; and  
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7 WHEREAS, the division of jurisdictional responsibilities  
8 and property ownership among these various entities can  
9 complicate and often obstruct the necessary maintenance required  
10 for the proper functioning of streams, thus further exacerbating  
11 the magnitude of damage as well as the costs to rebuild and  
12 repair property and correct structural damages after significant  
13 rainfall; and  
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15 WHEREAS, as periodic heavy rainfall occurs, private  
16 businesses, residences, schools, institutions, and other places  
17 are in imminent danger of property damage caused by heavy  
18 flooding, debris, water damage, and displaced materials; and  
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20 WHEREAS, according to the Department of Land and Natural  
21 Resources Division of Aquatic Resources, localized heavy  
22 rainfall and storms passing through the Hawaiian Islands cause  
23 frequent flooding or flash floods, resulting in damages and  
24 potential risk to human life and property; and  
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26 WHEREAS, according to the Honolulu 2019 Multi-Hazard Pre-  
27 Disaster Mitigation Plan, from about 1915 to 2019, floods caused  
28 by rainstorms, tsunamis, and hurricanes have claimed more than  
29 one hundred forty lives and inflicted more than \$225,000,000 of  
30 direct and indirect damage on Oahu; and  
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1 WHEREAS, jurisdiction over stream maintenance on Oahu is  
2 divided among the State, City and County of Honolulu, and  
3 private homeowners and businesses; and  
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5 WHEREAS, to be effective in maintaining streams and avoid  
6 inaction due to divided responsibilities for maintenance, the  
7 State and City and County of Honolulu should convene a working  
8 group to identify ownership of all streams and, if a stream is  
9 under multiple ownership, determine what jurisdiction should be  
10 the lead for maintaining the stream; now, therefore,  
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
13 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
14 of 2022, that the State and City and County of Honolulu are  
15 requested to convene a working group to collaborate on multi-  
16 jurisdictional stream maintenance; and  
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18 BT IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
19 to discuss and produce the following relating to multi-  
20 jurisdictional stream maintenance:  
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- 22 (1) A list of all streams on Oahu, including ownership of  
23 and responsibility for each stream;  
24
- 25 (2) The advantages and disadvantages of private ownership  
26 of streams, including whether the working group  
27 determines that private ownership is in the best  
28 interest of the State, City and County of Honolulu,  
29 and communities where the streams are located;  
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- 31 (3) If private ownership is determined to be  
32 disadvantageous to the community, an evaluation of how  
33 stream ownership should be transferred to the State or  
34 the City and County of Honolulu;  
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- 36 (4) If private ownership is determined to be advantageous  
37 to the community, an evaluation of how private stream  
38 owners are currently notified of their  
39 responsibilities for stream maintenance and how the  
40 State and City and County of Honolulu can improve  
41 communication regarding stream maintenance and



responsibilities of homeowners or other private owners;

(5) A list of resources needed to better maintain streams, including the amount of funding and staff needed; and

(6) A suggested schedule of maintenance of all streams on Oahu and the corresponding public or private entity that will be responsible for the maintenance of each part of the stream under its responsibility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to consist of the following members or their respective designees:

(1) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, who is requested to serve as a co-chair of the working group;

(2) The Director of the City and County of Honolulu Department of Facility Maintenance, who is requested to serve as a co-chair of the working group;

(3) The Assistant Superintendent of the Department of Education Office of Facilities and Operations;

(4) Any additional representative from a state department or agency with ownership over streams, to be invited by the working group;

(5) Any additional representative from a City and County of Honolulu department or agency with ownership over streams, to be invited by the working group; and

(6) Any additional members deemed necessary by the working group; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group should cease  
3 to exist on June 30, 2023; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
6 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
7 Land and Natural Resources, Acting Superintendent of Education,  
8 Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, and Director of the  
9 City and County of Honolulu Department of Facility Maintenance.  
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OFFERED BY:

*Aia Kingawa*

MAR 08 2022

