



Ko`olau Foundation

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TO: Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Water and Land

FROM: Mahealani Cypher
Ko`olau Foundation

RE: S.R. 192 – Supporting a Study of Waiahole Stream Management & Maintenance

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

The Ko`olau Foundation strongly supports Senate Resolution 192, which calls for a collaborative study of Waiahole Stream to address jurisdictional responsibilities and possible mitigations to deal with stream maintenance and flooding problems.

Our organization is primarily dedicated to traditional methods of stream maintenance – i.e., including the entire community surrounding and using the stream to malama this water way – but we believe this particular study is needed because of decades of problems with flooding from overflowing streams in the area.

Such flooding has created road blockages and potential threats to homes and farms adjacent to the streams in the area.

In addition, some confusion may exist as to which entity – state or county – is responsible for maintaining these streams.

Having these agencies initiate and execute a collaborative plan to clarify the jurisdictional issues as well as work together to brainstorm various mitigation proposals would be beneficial to our communities in this ahupua`a, and to commuters who travel along Kamehameha Highway through this area.

We also recommend that community members from this area also be invited to participate in these discussions, in keeping with traditional practices, as maintenance of an ahupua`a is the kuleana not only of the konohiki (government agencies) but also the residents of the ahupua`a of Waiahole.

We urge this committee to adopt this resolution.

Mahalo for considering our mana`o on this matter.