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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STREAM MAINTENANCE WORKING  
GROUP BY THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

1           WHEREAS, the flooding of streams has been a persistent  
2 problem in Hawaii; and

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4           WHEREAS, trash and other debris can restrict the flow of  
5 water through streams and other waterways, thereby preventing  
6 the draining of stormwater and contributing to flooding; and

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8           WHEREAS, woody debris, such as fallen trees, logs, and  
9 branches, while important to the aquatic habitat, can also  
10 obstruct drainage patterns and contribute to flooding; and

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12           WHEREAS, the State and counties are statutorily required to  
13 conduct maintenance for streams under their respective  
14 jurisdictions, which includes stream cleaning and drainage  
15 improvement projects; and

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17           WHEREAS, private landowners are responsible for stream  
18 management on their properties; and

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20           WHEREAS, a common concern of homeowners and other  
21 landowners is the accumulation of debris in the stream channel  
22 that obstructs stream flow, which can lead to flooding; and

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24           WHEREAS, this problem is compounded by the illegal dumping  
25 of trash that clogs and pollutes Hawaii's streams; and

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27           WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources,  
28 through its stream maintenance schedule, as well as other  
29 departments and agencies that have jurisdiction over stream  
30 maintenance, such as the Department of Education, are often  
31 unable to clear all streams ahead of events that could lead to  
32 flooding; and



1 WHEREAS, proper stream management and maintenance are  
2 essential to clear waterways and prevent flooding; and  
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4 WHEREAS, effective stream management and maintenance are  
5 complex, multi-jurisdictional issues that require a high degree  
6 of collaboration and coordination, particularly in order to  
7 reduce inefficiencies and ensure that upkeep is sustained over  
8 the long term; now, therefore,  
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
11 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
12 Session of 2024, that a Stream Maintenance Working Group is  
13 requested to be established by the City and County of Honolulu;  
14 and  
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Stream Maintenance Working  
17 Group is requested to consist of the following members:  
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19 (1) A representative of the City and County of Honolulu,  
20 to be designated by the Mayor of the City and County  
21 of Honolulu and to serve as chairperson of the  
22 working group;  
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24 (2) A representative of the United States Army Corps of  
25 Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division, to be invited by  
26 the chairperson of the working group;  
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28 (3) A representative of the Department of Education, to be  
29 designated by the Superintendent of Education;  
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31 (4) A representative of the University of Hawaii, to be  
32 designated by the President of the University of  
33 Hawaii;  
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35 (5) A representative of the Department of Land and Natural  
36 Resources, to be designated by the Chairperson of the  
37 Board of Land and Natural Resources;  
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39 (6) A representative of the Hawaii Emergency Management  
40 Agency, to be designated by the Administrator of the  
41 Hawaii Emergency Management Agency;  
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1 (7) A private landowner, to be invited by the Speaker of  
2 the House of Representatives; and  
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4 (8) A private landowner, to be invited by the President of  
5 the Senate; and  
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Stream  
8 Maintenance Working Group are requested to serve without  
9 compensation but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses,  
10 including travel expenses, incurred in carrying out their  
11 duties; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Stream Maintenance Working  
14 Group is requested to determine and develop a comprehensive  
15 solution for effective stream management and maintenance,  
16 working in collaboration with and seeking input from other state  
17 and county agencies, private landowners, and applicable  
18 stakeholders; and  
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Stream Maintenance Working  
21 Group is requested to submit a report of its findings and  
22 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
23 Legislature no later than twenty days before the Regular Session  
24 of 2025; and  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
27 Natural Resources is requested to provide any necessary  
28 administrative and staff support to the Stream Maintenance  
29 Working Group, including preparation of the report; and  
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
32 Resolution be transmitted to the Commander and Division Engineer  
33 of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean  
34 Division; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural  
35 Resources; Superintendent of Education; President of the  
36 University of Hawaii; Administrator of the Hawaii Emergency  
37 Management Agency; and Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu.  
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