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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE GENKI ALA WAI PROJECT FOR ITS EFFORTS TO HELP  
RESTORE AND REVITALIZE THE ALA WAI CANAL.

1           WHEREAS, the Genki Ala Wai Project was established in 2019  
2 with a goal of making the Ala Wai Canal fishable and swimmable  
3 in seven years; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, the Genki Ala Wai Project uses "genki balls," or  
6 mud balls, containing microorganisms that decompose harmful  
7 chemicals and microbes; and  
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9           WHEREAS, the Genki Ala Wai Project has brought together  
10 numerous stakeholders throughout the Ala Wai watershed and has  
11 helped schools develop place-based STEM collaborations with  
12 Hawaiian cultural practitioners, allowing students to complete  
13 service-learning through actual environmental revitalization;  
14 and  
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16           WHEREAS, genki balls were first tossed into the Ala Wai  
17 Canal by volunteers aboard the Hawaiian voyaging canoe Hokulea  
18 on April 22, 2019, and nine hundred eighty more were tossed by  
19 students from Jefferson Elementary School and Ala Wai Elementary  
20 School in November 2019; and  
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22           WHEREAS, since the initial toss, more than one hundred  
23 fifteen thousand genki balls have been tossed at the specific  
24 locations in the Ala Wai Canal where water quality is regularly  
25 monitored, accounting for one-third of the three hundred  
26 thousand genki balls expected to be tossed by 2026; and  
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28           WHEREAS, the Genki Ala Wai Project's efforts have led to a  
29 reduction of odor, a decrease in sludge height, and an  
30 improvement in water quality at Ala Wai Canal test sites; and  
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# H.R. NO. 219

1 WHEREAS, the water in the Ala Wai Canal will eventually  
2 find its way to the Ala Moana Beach Park area, which is heavily  
3 used for recreational purposes; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the Surfrider Foundation's Blue Water Task Force  
6 monitors coastal waters and has found that the Magic Island  
7 canoe launch regularly has high levels of Enterococcus bacteria,  
8 finding in 2022 that only sixty percent of the samples collected  
9 met water quality standards set by the Department of Health; and  
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11 WHEREAS, in the past twelve months, the Blue Water Task  
12 Force has found that eighty-two percent of samples collected at  
13 the Magic Island canoe launch met the Department of Health water  
14 quality standards, showing a significant improvement in water  
15 quality for the collective watershed system; and  
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17 WHEREAS, with improved water quality, more native fish have  
18 been spotted in the Ala Wai Canal, including Aholehole, Weke,  
19 Papio, Moi, and schools of Amaama; and  
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21 WHEREAS, ultimately, the successful revitalization of the  
22 Ala Wai Canal can serve as a model for compromised waterways  
23 worldwide; now, therefore,  
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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
26 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
27 Session of 2024, that the Genki Ala Wai Project is recognized  
28 for its efforts to help restore and revitalize the Ala Wai  
29 Canal; and  
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature expresses its  
32 Aloha, support, and best wishes for the Genki Ala Wai Project's  
33 continued success.  
34  
35  
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OFFERED BY: 

MAR 19 2024

