
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS TO REPORT ON
STRATEGIES FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN RURAL RESILIENCY.

1 WHEREAS, safeguarding the character and identity of
2 Hawaii's rural and remote communities is fundamental to the
3 character, identity, and future of the State; and
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5 WHEREAS, Hawaii's rural and remote communities are under
6 threat of erasure due to the ongoing challenges of rapid
7 urbanization, gentrification, economic instability, limited
8 resources, and limited access to essential services; and
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10 WHEREAS, Hawaii's rural and remote communities are
11 historically disadvantaged, facing greater disparities in health
12 care, education, food security, and economic opportunities in
13 the State; and
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15 WHEREAS, despite these disproportionate challenges,
16 Hawaii's rural and remote communities are resilient, highly
17 adaptive, and tempered, with aspirations to address their
18 problems while preserving their character and identity; and
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20 WHEREAS, historical barriers to addressing the disparities
21 endured by Hawaii's rural and remote communities may be overcome
22 through the use of technological advancements, providing
23 innovative solutions in community-led economic development; and
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25 WHEREAS, the lack of economic opportunities in Hawaii's
26 rural and remote communities forces trans-generational
27 outmigration of residents, exacerbating vulnerabilities and
28 accelerating the erasure of community character and identity;
29 and
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31 WHEREAS, Hawaii's rural and remote communities comprise
32 some of the last remaining bastions of intact and ecologically
33 interconnected native Hawaiian culture, serving as treasured and



1 living archives of wisdom for the benefit of present and future
2 generations; and

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4 WHEREAS, protecting the rural character and identity of
5 these communities is essential for the State to uphold its
6 obligations to the Native Hawaiian people; and

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8 WHEREAS, Hawaii's catastrophic loss of biodiversity,
9 significantly attributed to urbanization, has led to its
10 recognition as the "endangered species capital of the world";
11 and

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13 WHEREAS, Hawaii's rural and remote communities are critical
14 buffer areas between urban sprawl, serving as vital green
15 infrastructure and corridors for the conservation and bolstering
16 of natural environmental systems and resources; and

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18 WHEREAS, the green infrastructure provided by Hawaii's
19 rural and remote communities is essential for Hawaii's
20 resiliency in the face of existential threats like climate
21 change; and

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23 WHEREAS, climate change will have a more severe impact on
24 historically disadvantaged communities, which face
25 disproportionate social vulnerabilities without adequate
26 strategies and support; and

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28 WHEREAS, Hawaii's rural and remote communities are integral
29 to the State's resilience against supply chain vulnerabilities,
30 food insecurity, and crises, upholding critical infrastructure
31 sectors, including food and agriculture; and

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33 WHEREAS, adequate solutions to the plight of Hawaii's rural
34 and remote communities should be achieved through the
35 responsible and appropriate intersection and participation of
36 external and internal entities that seek to preserve each
37 community's character and identity; and

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39 WHEREAS, Hawaii's rural and remote communities have the
40 capacity to propose solutions to their challenges, provided
41 their voices are amplified and heard and they receive the
42 necessary resources and support, without disrupting the



1 integrity of their unique character and identity; now,
2 therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
6 Session of 2024, that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs is
7 requested to report on strategies for Native Hawaiian rural
8 resiliency, including possible steps for the development of
9 strategies that provide for:

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11 (1) Innovative culturally appropriate housing models that
12 address housing and economic development needs, while
13 maintaining the character and aspirations of Native
14 Hawaiian rural communities;

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16 (2) Innovative culturally appropriate health care
17 solutions; and

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19 (3) Preservation and protection of Native Hawaiian
20 cultural resources and their interdependent
21 traditional and customary practices; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs
24 is requested to submit a report of its findings and
25 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
26 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
27 the Regular Session of 2025; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Chairperson of the
31 Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Chairperson
32 of the Hawaiian Homes Commission; Chairperson of the Board of
33 Land and Natural Resources; Chairperson of the Board of
34 Agriculture; Director of Business, Economic Development, and
35 Tourism; Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu; Mayor of
36 Hawaii County; Mayor of Maui County; Mayor of Kauai County;
37 Chair of the Honolulu City Council; Chair of the Hawaii County
38 Council; Chair of the Maui County Council; and Chair of the
39 Kauai County Council.

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OFFERED BY: Del Hill

MAR - 5 2024

