

MAR 08 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STREAM MAINTENANCE WORKING
GROUP WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

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

23
24 WHEREAS, this problem is compounded by the illegal dumping
25 of trash that clogs and pollutes Hawaii's streams; and

26
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



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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,

9
10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,
12 that a Stream Maintenance Working Group is requested to be
13 established within the Department of Land and Natural Resources;
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 Department of Land and Natural
20 Resources, to be designated by the Chairperson of the
21 Board of Land and Natural Resources and to serve as
22 chairperson of the working group;
23
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;
27
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 City and County of Honolulu,
36 to be designated by the Mayor of the City and County
37 of Honolulu;
38
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
25

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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OFFERED BY: Carol Johnson

