
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
CONVENE A KAILUA BAY ADVISORY WORKING GROUP.

1 WHEREAS, the Kailua-Kona Wharf, commonly referred to as the
2 Kailua Pier, in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii island, serves as a vital
3 hub for place-based cultural history, community gatherings,
4 ocean-based tourism, and recreational activities which supports
5 local businesses and enhances the economy of West Hawaii; and
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7 WHEREAS, Kailua Pier and the surrounding area of Kailua Bay
8 hold deep cultural and historical significance to the Hawaii
9 island community as a sacred and political center for Native
10 Hawaiians, serving as the royal residence of King Kamehameha I
11 in his later years and the site of Ahu'ena Heiau, where the King
12 governed and upheld traditional Hawaiian practices; and
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14 WHEREAS, Kailua Bay witnessed pivotal moments in Hawaiian
15 history, including the transition from the traditional kapu
16 system to a new era of governance in 1819, marking a profound
17 shift in the cultural and societal structure of Hawaii; and
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19 WHEREAS, the area has remained a vital hub for maritime
20 activity, commerce, and cultural traditions, sustaining
21 generations of Native Hawaiian fishers, voyagers, and
22 practitioners who continue to honor the ancestral connection to
23 the land and ocean; and
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25 WHEREAS, today, the Kailua Pier provides essential access
26 for fishing, boating, and cultural events, including the annual
27 Queen Lili'uokalani Canoe Race, the IRONMAN World Championship,
28 and traditional Hawaiian ceremonies, fostering both economic
29 growth and cultural preservation; and
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31 WHEREAS, in addition to servicing local residents, the
32 Kailua Pier serves as a key arrival point for cruise ships,
33 bringing thousands of visitors to West Hawaii each year, who
34 contribute significantly to the region's economy through



1 tourism-related spending by supporting local businesses,
2 restaurants, tour operators, and cultural sites; and
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4 WHEREAS, the high level of activity at the Kailua Pier has
5 resulted in persistent challenges related to homelessness,
6 including the frequent vandalism of public facilities, damage to
7 restroom infrastructure, and unauthorized encampments, creating
8 ongoing safety and sanitation concerns for residents and
9 visitors; and
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11 WHEREAS, while maintenance of the Kailua Pier is essential
12 for public safety, environmental protection, and the long-term
13 benefit of the community, persistent vandalism and destruction
14 of public restrooms and infrastructure have led to rising
15 maintenance costs, disruptions to public access, and the need
16 for continuous repairs by state and county agencies; and
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18 WHEREAS, the management and operations of Kailua Pier fall
19 under the jurisdiction of multiple government agencies,
20 including the Department of Land and Natural Resources, various
21 departments of the County of Hawaii such as Parks and Recreation
22 and the Police Department as well as federal entities such as
23 the United States Coast Guard; and
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25 WHEREAS, local nonprofit organizations, including
26 Destination Kona Coast, play a crucial role in visitor education
27 and greeting programs while serving as dedicated stewards of
28 Kailua Pier, actively monitoring its operations, identifying
29 facility concerns, and relaying issues to government officials
30 in a timely manner; and
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32 WHEREAS, adopting an interjurisdictional approach to
33 addressing challenges at Kailua Pier would enhance communication
34 between pier users and government officials, while fostering
35 coordinated oversight and effective management among responsible
36 authorities; now, therefore,
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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
39 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
40 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested
41 to convene a Kailua Bay Advisory Working Group; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kailua Bay Advisory Working
2 Group is requested to:

- 3
4 (1) Provide a structured forum for state, county, and
5 community stakeholders to collaborate on
6 interjurisdictional issues affecting Kailua Pier;
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8 (2) Identify and implement solutions to enhance safety for
9 pier users, including swimmers, boaters, and visitors;
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11 (3) Ensure that commercial, recreational, and cultural
12 activities at the pier remain viable and beneficial to
13 the West Hawaii community;
14
15 (4) Monitor and advocate for necessary repairs, upgrades,
16 and funding to maintain the pier's long-term
17 sustainability;
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19 (5) Address issues including water quality, marine life
20 protection, and pollution affecting Kailua Pier and
21 Kailua Bay;
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23 (6) Offer policy and operational recommendations to
24 improve pier management and operations;
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26 (7) Serve as a liaison between government entities and the
27 public, ensuring that community voices are heard and
28 considered in decision-making;
29
30 (8) Track ongoing and emerging challenges, including
31 homelessness, parking availability, and user
32 conflicts, and propose collaborative solutions; and
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34 (9) Convene on a monthly basis; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
37 Natural Resources is requested to include the following members
38 in the working group:

- 39
40 (1) The Administrator of the Division of Boating and Ocean
41 Recreation or the Administrator's designee, who shall
42 serve as chairperson;



- 1
- 2 (2) The member of the Senate who represents the senatorial
- 3 district in which the pier located;
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- 5 (3) The member of the House of Representatives who
- 6 represents the house district in which the pier is
- 7 located;
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- 9 (4) The member of the Hawaii County Council who represents
- 10 the council district in which the pier is located;
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- 12 (5) The Mayor of the County of Hawaii, or the Mayor's
- 13 designee;
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- 15 (6) A representative of the Statewide Office on
- 16 Homelessness and Housing Solutions;
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- 18 (7) A representative of the Hawaii Tourism Authority;
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- 20 (8) The Chief of the Hawaii Police Department, or the
- 21 Chief's designee;
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- 23 (9) A representative of the Kai 'Opua Canoe Club to be
- 24 invited by the chairperson;
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- 26 (10) A representative of the Kai 'Ehitu Outrigger Team of
- 27 Kailua-Kona to be invited by the chairperson;
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- 29 (11) A representative of the Kailua Village Business
- 30 Improvement District to be invited by the chairperson;
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- 32 (12) A representative of the Courtyard King Kamehameha's
- 33 Kona Beach Hotel to be invited by the chairperson;
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- 35 (13) Two at-large members of the community appointed by the
- 36 Senator representing the senatorial district in which
- 37 the pier is located; and
- 38
- 39 (14) Two community at-large members of the community
- 40 appointed by the Representative representing the house
- 41 district in which the pier is located; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that beginning in 2025 and for three
2 years thereafter, the Kailua Bay Advisory Group is requested to
3 submit a quarterly report of its findings and recommendations,
4 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
8 Land and Natural Resources, Governor's Coordinator on
9 Homelessness, Administrator of the Division of Boating and Ocean
10 Recreation, Mayor of the County of Hawaii, Chairperson of the
11 Hawaii County Council, Chief of the Hawaii Police Department,
12 and Chairperson of the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

