

MAR 07 2025

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND OTHER STATE AGENCIES TO WORK WITH COMMITTED COMMUNITY GROUPS TO CO-STEWARD COMMUNITY FORESTS LOCATED ON PUBLIC LANDS FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE STATE'S FORESTS AND COMMUNITIES.

1           WHEREAS, Governor Josh Green, M.D., has proclaimed 2025 the  
2 Year of Our Community Forests; and  
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4           WHEREAS, the mission of the Department of Land and Natural  
5 Resources is to enhance, protect, conserve, and manage the  
6 State's unique and limited natural, cultural, and historic  
7 resources that are held in public trust for current and future  
8 generations of the people of Hawaii and its visitors, in  
9 partnership with others from the public and private sectors; and  
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11           WHEREAS, community forests are forests where the people of  
12 Hawaii live, learn, work, and play; and  
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14           WHEREAS, trees and community forests provide significant  
15 health benefits, including access to food and medicinal plants,  
16 stress reduction, and reduced incidences of cardiovascular and  
17 respiratory diseases; and  
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19           WHEREAS, trees and community forests provide extensive  
20 environmental benefits, including clean air and water, reduced  
21 noise and air pollution, native species habitats, carbon  
22 storage, and reduced erosion; and  
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24           WHEREAS, trees and community forests provide important  
25 economic benefits, including increased property values; cooling  
26 for cities and neighborhoods, with less need for air  
27 conditioning; increased spending at businesses near trees;  
28 support for arboriculture and forestry jobs and ecotourism and  
29 outdoor recreation businesses; and the sale of forest products  
30 such as food, fiber, timber, medicines, and textiles; and  
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1 WHEREAS, traditional and customary Native Hawaiian  
2 practices are supported through forestry stewardship and aloha  
3 'āina; therefore, it is critical for the State to build and  
4 maintain sustainable, healthy forests; and

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6 WHEREAS, the State manages over seven hundred thousand  
7 acres of public forest reserve lands, in addition to other  
8 public lands with trees and community forests such as state  
9 parks, school campuses, and transit corridors; and

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11 WHEREAS, investing in forest stewardship requires  
12 considerable dedication, effort, expertise, tools, human  
13 resources, and time and is often associated with community  
14 members' love of the land; and

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16 WHEREAS, there exists a need for sustained, collaborative  
17 relationships among communities and agencies that recognize and  
18 honor community investment; and

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20 WHEREAS, active co-stewardship of community forests between  
21 the State and the people of Hawaii will improve the State's  
22 communities and community forests; now, therefore,

23  
24 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
25 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,  
26 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources and other  
27 state agencies are urged to work with committed community groups  
28 to co-steward community forests located on public lands for the  
29 betterment of the State's forests and communities; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
32 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson and each member of  
33 the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

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36 OFFERED BY: 