
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
ESTABLISH A COLLABORATIVE WORKING GROUP TO SURVEY,
IDENTIFY, AND MONITOR CULTURALLY SENSITIVE SHORELINES
IMPACTED BY EROSION.

1 WHEREAS, the State recognizes the cultural and historical
2 significance of Native Hawaiian burial sites and the need to
3 protect these sacred places; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian iwi kūpuna were historically
6 interred along sandy shoreline areas, which are now increasingly
7 threatened by coastal erosion; and
8

9 WHEREAS, multiple culturally sensitive shoreline areas
10 across the State, including Lahilahi Beach Park in Wai'anae,
11 Kaulahao Beach in Hamakuapoko, and the Old Kona Airport Beach
12 Park in Kailua-Kona, have experienced ongoing coastal erosion,
13 resulting in the continuous exposure of iwi kūpuna; and
14

15 WHEREAS, pursuant to section 13-300-2, Hawaii
16 Administrative Rules, iwi exposed due to erosion are classified
17 as inadvertent discoveries; and
18

19 WHEREAS, the appropriate Island Burial Council is the
20 designated entity responsible for the disposition of
21 inadvertently discovered iwi kūpuna; and
22

23 WHEREAS, iwi discovered through shoreline erosion are
24 frequently located within the high-water mark, making it
25 difficult to preserve them in place; and
26

27 WHEREAS, iwi found in shoreline areas also fall within the
28 jurisdiction of the State, complicating quick reinterment



1 efforts within the immediate vicinity due to the need for
2 permission from adjacent property owners; and
3

4 WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced to address the
5 discovery of iwi kūpuna exposed along Hawaii's shorelines due to
6 coastal erosion; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the establishment of an inter-division program to
9 coordinate efforts among state and county agencies is necessary
10 to ensure the successful coordination of efforts in locating,
11 protecting, and restoring Native Hawaiian burial sites and iwi
12 kūpuna affected by coastal erosion; now, therefore,
13

14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
15 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
16 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Land and
17 Natural Resources is requested to establish a collaborative
18 working group to survey, identify, and monitor culturally
19 sensitive shorelines impacted by erosion; and
20

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the collaborative working group
22 is requested to include the following members:
23

- 24 (1) Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
25 Resources, or the Chairperson's designee;
26
- 27 (2) Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of
28 Hawaiian Affairs, or the Chairperson's designee;
29
- 30 (3) Administrator of the Department of Land and Natural
31 Resources' State Historic Preservation Division, or
32 the Administrator's designee;
33
- 34 (4) A representative from the Department of Land and
35 Natural Resources' Office of Conservation and Coastal
36 Lands;
37
- 38 (5) A representative of the Island Burial Councils, to be
39 selected by the Chairperson of the Board of Land and
40 Natural Resources;
41



1 (6) A representative from the City and County of Honolulu,
2 to be selected by the Mayor;

3
4 (7) A representative of the County of Hawaii, to be
5 selected by the Mayor;

6
7 (8) A representative of the County of Maui, to be selected
8 by the Mayor; and

9
10 (9) A representative of the County of Kauai, to be
11 selected by the Mayor; and

12
13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the collaborative working group
14 is requested to determine a process to address iwi kūpuna
15 exposed along shorelines, ensuring their protection from adverse
16 impact; and

17
18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the collaborative working group
19 is requested to assess public lands near culturally sensitive
20 areas where iwi kūpuna were exposed along shorelines to determine
21 locations that may be designated as suitable reinterment sites;
22 and

23
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
25 Natural Resources is requested to consider the appropriate
26 methods of funding to support the collaborative working group,
27 including for the construction of secure and culturally
28 appropriate reinterment vaults in areas designated by the
29 collaborative working group to ensure the respectful and
30 permanent protection of iwi kūpuna; and

31
32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the collaborative working group
33 is requested to submit a report of its findings and
34 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
35 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
36 the Regular Session of 2026; and

37
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
40 Board of Land and Natural Resources; Chairperson of the Board of
41 Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Administrator of the
42 Department of Land and Natural Resources' State Historic



- 1 Preservation Division; Administrator of the Office of
- 2 Conservation and Coastal Lands; and Mayors of the City and
- 3 County of Honolulu and County of Maui, County of Hawaii, and
- 4 County of Kauai.

