
HOUSE CONCURRENT 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, Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i; 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 Hawai'i
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 Hawai'i; 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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1 WHEREAS, in addition to servicing local residents, the
2 Kailua Pier serves as a key arrival point for cruise ships,
3 bringing thousands of visitors to West Hawai'i each year, who
4 contribute significantly to the region's economy through
5 tourism-related spending by supporting local businesses,
6 restaurants, tour operators, and cultural sites; and

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8 WHEREAS, the high level of activity at the Kailua Pier has
9 resulted in persistent challenges related to homelessness,
10 including the frequent vandalism of public facilities, damage to
11 restroom infrastructure, and unauthorized encampments, creating
12 ongoing safety and sanitation concerns for residents and
13 visitors; and

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15 WHEREAS, while maintenance of the Kailua Pier is essential
16 for public safety, environmental protection, and the long-term
17 benefit of the community, persistent vandalism and destruction
18 of public restrooms and infrastructure have led to rising
19 maintenance costs, disruptions to public access, and the need
20 for continuous repairs by state and county agencies; and

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22 WHEREAS, the management and operations of Kailua Pier fall
23 under the jurisdiction of multiple government agencies,
24 including the Department of Land and Natural Resources, various
25 departments of the County of Hawai'i such as Parks and Recreation
26 and the Police Department and federal entities such as the
27 United States Coast Guard; and

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29 WHEREAS, local nonprofit organizations, including
30 Destination Kona Coast, play a crucial role in visitor education
31 and greeting programs while serving as dedicated stewards of
32 Kailua Pier, actively monitoring its operations, identifying
33 facility concerns, and relaying issues to government officials
34 in a timely manner; and

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36 WHEREAS, adopting an interjurisdictional approach to
37 addressing challenges at Kailua Pier would enhance communication
38 between pier users and government officials, while fostering
39 coordinated oversight and effective management among responsible
40 authorities; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
3 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Land and
4 Natural Resources is requested to convene a Kailua Bay Advisory
5 Working Group; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kailua Bay Advisory Working
8 Group is requested to:

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- 10 (1) Provide a structured forum for state, county, and
11 community stakeholders to collaborate on
12 interjurisdictional issues affecting Kailua Pier;
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 - 14 (2) Identify and implement solutions to enhance safety for
15 pier users, including swimmers, boaters, and visitors;
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 - 17 (3) Ensure that commercial, recreational, and cultural
18 activities at the pier remain viable and beneficial to
19 the West Hawai'i community;
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 - 21 (4) Monitor and advocate for necessary repairs, upgrades,
22 and funding to maintain the pier's long-term
23 sustainability;
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 - 25 (5) Address issues, including water quality, marine life
26 protection, and pollution, affecting Kailua Pier and
27 Kailua Bay;
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 - 29 (6) Offer policy and operational recommendations to
30 improve pier management and operations;
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 - 32 (7) Serve as a liaison between government entities and the
33 public, ensuring that community voices are heard and
34 considered in decision-making;
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 - 36 (8) Track ongoing and emerging challenges, including
37 homelessness, parking availability, and user
38 conflicts, and propose collaborative solutions; and
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 - 40 (9) Convene on a monthly basis; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
2 Natural Resources is requested to include the following members
3 in the working group:
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5 (1) The Administrator of the Division of Boating and Ocean
6 Recreation or the Administrator's designee, who shall
7 serve as chairperson;
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9 (2) The member of the Senate who represents the senatorial
10 district in which the pier is located;
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12 (3) The member of the House of Representatives who
13 represents the house district in which the pier is
14 located;
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16 (4) The member of the Hawai'i County Council who represents
17 the council district in which the pier is located;
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19 (5) The Mayor of the County of Hawai'i, or the Mayor's
20 designee;
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22 (6) The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, or the
23 Coordinator's designee;
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25 (7) A representative of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority;
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27 (8) The Chief of the Hawai'i Police Department, or the
28 Chief's designee;
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30 (9) A representative of the Kai 'Opua Canoe Club to be
31 invited by the chairperson;
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33 (10) A representative of the Kai 'Ehitu Outrigger Team of
34 Kailua-Kona to be invited by the chairperson;
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36 (11) A representative of the Kailua Village Business
37 Improvement District to be invited by the chairperson;
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39 (12) A representative of the Courtyard King Kamehameha's
40 Kona Beach Hotel to be invited by the chairperson;
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1 (13) Two community at-large members, to be appointed by the
2 Senator representing the senatorial district in which
3 the pier is located; and
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5 (14) Two community at-large members, to be appointed by the
6 Representative representing the house district in
7 which the pier is located; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that beginning in 2025 and for two
10 years thereafter, the Kailua Bay Advisory Group is requested to
11 submit a quarterly report of its findings and recommendations,
12 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
16 Board of Land and Natural Resources, Governor's Coordinator on
17 Homelessness, Administrator of the Division of Boating and Ocean
18 Recreation, Mayor of the County of Hawai'i, Chairperson of the
19 Hawai'i County Council, Chief of the Hawai'i Police Department,
20 the Chairperson of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, President of
21 the Kai 'Opua Canoe Club, President of the Kai 'Ehitu Outrigger
22 Team, President of the Kailua Village Business Improvement
23 District, and General Manager of the Courtyard King Kamehameha's
24 Kona Beach Hotel.

