
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
PRIORITIZE THE RESTORATION AND PROTECTION OF ADDITIONAL
WETLANDS AND ANCHIALINE POOLS.

1 WHEREAS, wetlands are a vital part of Hawaii's environment
2 and ecosystem, and the State has an obligation to protect them;
3 and
4

5 WHEREAS, the State's water quality standards and other
6 legal protections that apply to stream systems and state waters
7 also apply to Hawaii's wetlands; and
8

9 WHEREAS, the County of Maui requires wetlands to be
10 restored and protected beyond what is minimally required by the
11 Clean Water Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, or other federal
12 laws, and requires all discretionary permits issued by the
13 County to comply with this policy; and
14

15 WHEREAS, the protection and restoration of wetlands help
16 enhance wildfire and drought resistance; reduce the magnitude of
17 floods; and provide valuable habitats for flora, fauna, and
18 endangered species; and
19

20 WHEREAS, wetlands also act as filters for stream, storm,
21 and urban runoff, preventing high levels of sediment from
22 reaching the ocean; and
23

24 WHEREAS, without the natural filters offered by wetlands,
25 coral reefs, aquatic life, and recreational ocean activities
26 would be threatened; and
27

28 WHEREAS, it is financially prudent for the State to prevent
29 the degradation of wetlands because, once degraded, wetlands can
30 be cost-prohibitive to restore and maintain; and



1
2 WHEREAS, without further protections, the State's
3 anchialine pools are also at risk of degradation, threatening the
4 pools' rare ecosystems and species; now, therefore,
5

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
8 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Land and
9 Natural Resources is urged to prioritize the restoration and
10 protection of additional wetlands in the State; and
11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Division of Aquatic
13 Resources of the Department of Land and Natural Resources is
14 also urged to apply the protective policies afforded to wetlands
15 to the State's anchialine pools; and
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Maui is requested
18 to ensure that the protection of wetlands, especially wetlands
19 in Kihei on the Island of Maui, is prioritized over development
20 concerns, where feasible; and
21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
24 Board of Land and Natural Resources, Administrator of the
25 Division of Aquatic Resources of the Department of Land and
26 Natural Resources, and Mayor of the County of Maui.

