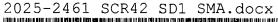
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE 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
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5	WHEREAS, the State's water quality standards and other
6	legal protections that apply to stream systems and "waters of
7	the State" 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	country of company when only polatoy, and
15	WHEREAS, the protection and restoration of wetlands helps
16	enhance wildfire and drought resistance; reduces the magnitude
17	of floods; and provides 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
30	can be cost-prohibitive to restore and maintain; and
31	



S.C.R. NO. ⁴² S.D. 1

1 WHEREAS, without further protections, the State's anchialine pools are also at risk of degradation, threating the 2 3 pools' rare ecosystems and species; now, therefore, 4 5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the 6 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land 7 and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife is urged 8 9 to prioritize the restoration and protection of additional wetlands in the State; and 10 11 12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Division of Agricultural 13 Resources is also urged to apply the protective policies afforded to wetlands to the State's anchialine pools; and 14 15 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Division is requested to 17 ensure that the protection of wetlands, especially wetlands in Kihei on the Island of Maui, is prioritized over development 18 19 concerns, where feasible; and 20 21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this 22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Administrator of the Division of 23 Forestry and Wildlife, and Native Ecosystem Protection and 24 25 Management Manager.

