
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
CONDUCT A STUDY TO DETERMINE PROPER OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND
ON WHICH THE FORMER UNITED STATES COAST GUARD OMEGA STATION
LIES.

1 WHEREAS, in 1942, the United States Navy built a metal
2 staircase, which became known as the "Stairway to Heaven" or
3 "Haiku Stairs" (Stairs), as a means to access its transmission
4 facilities at the ridgeline of the Koolau Mountains above Haiku
5 Valley; and

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7 WHEREAS, in 1972, the transmission facilities were
8 transferred from the Navy to the United States Coast Guard for
9 operation of both LORAN and OMEGA navigational systems used by
10 ships crossing the Pacific Ocean; and

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12 WHEREAS, after newer navigational systems were employed in
13 1987, the OMEGA station became obsolete and was shut down by the
14 United States Coast Guard, eventually leading to the disrepair
15 of the Stairs, and restricting access to the Stairs that had
16 been granted to hikers since 1982; and

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18 WHEREAS, the area has not been officially opened to the
19 public since 1987; and

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21 WHEREAS, the area has many miles of hiking trails, paved
22 roadways, and a scenic climb to a lookout on the Koolau
23 Mountains, and many sites of historical, cultural and
24 archeological significance; and

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26 WHEREAS, the Haiku Stairs is comprised of 3,922 steps that
27 lead up to the Koolau Pali and the summit of Puu Keahiakahoe
28 that overlooks Haiku Valley; and
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1 WHEREAS, the Haiku Stairs ascend through the cliffs and
2 hillsides of Haiku Valley which is inhabited by native plant
3 species and contains natural habitats for a number of native
4 birds and on a clear day, the view at the top of the Haiku
5 Stairs includes most of Windward Oahu, Pearl Harbor, and parts
6 of Leeward Oahu; and
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8 WHEREAS, the Stairs' historical significance and
9 recreational potential make the area a desirable location for
10 public or private use; and
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12 WHEREAS, numerous public and private entities claim
13 ownership of the land on and surrounding the former Coast Guard
14 Omega station, including, but not limited to, the Department of
15 Hawaiian Home Lands, Department of Transportation, Department of
16 Land and Natural Resources, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the
17 Damon Estate, effectively preventing much needed repairs and
18 improvements from being completed; now, therefore,
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
21 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
22 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
23 Land and Natural Resources is requested to conduct a study to
24 determine the rightful owner of the land on which the former
25 Coast Guard Omega station lies; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
28 Natural Resources is urged to give direct participation to all
29 interested parties in the development of any contingency plans
30 for access to the Haiku Stairs and surrounding area; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Board of
33 Land and Natural Resources is requested to submit the study to
34 the Legislature no later than twenty days before the convening
35 of the Regular Session of 2008; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
39 Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Chairperson of the



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1 Hawaiian Homes Commission, the Chairperson of the Board of
2 Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Director of
3 Transportation, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Damon
4 Estate.
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OFFERED BY:

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