

MAR 12 2008

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
REGULARLY CONSULT WITH HO'OLAULIMA IA KAWAI NUI TO
COORDINATE EFFORTS TO PROTECT, PRESERVE, AND MAINTAIN THE
NATURAL, CULTURAL, AND SCENIC RESOURCES OF KAWAI NUI MARSH.

1 WHEREAS, wetlands are lands or areas, such as tidal flats
2 and swamps, that contain a lot of soil moisture and protect and
3 maintain water quality in other near-shore habitats; and
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5 WHEREAS, the protection provided by wetlands is
6 particularly important for coral reefs occurring seaward of
7 coastal wetlands because the wetlands shield the reefs from
8 sediment, turbidity, and pulses of fresh water during periods of
9 heavy rain; and
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11 WHEREAS, Kawai Nui Marsh in Kailua, Oahu is Hawaii's
12 largest remaining natural wetland and an ecological and cultural
13 treasure; and
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15 WHEREAS, Kawai Nui Marsh, which encompasses approximately
16 eight hundred thirty acres of land, has been identified by the
17 United States Fish and Wildlife Service as a primary habitat for
18 endemic and endangered native Hawaiian birds such as the
19 'alaeke'oke'o, 'alae 'ula, ae'o, and koloa maoli; and
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21 WHEREAS, despite their significance to Hawaii's
22 environment, wetlands such as Kawai Nui Marsh are increasingly
23 threatened by urban sprawl as the wetlands are drained, dredged,
24 and filled to provide land for residential and commercial
25 development; and
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27 WHEREAS, community efforts to protect Kawai Nui Marsh began
28 in the 1970s, when the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle rallied to
29 educate the community, Legislature, and government agencies



1 about the natural and cultural values of Kawai Nui Marsh to
2 prevent a shopping mall from being built there; and

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4 WHEREAS, for more than thirty years, community
5 organizations have been instrumental in Kawai Nui Marsh's
6 designation as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance by
7 contributing to three consecutive master plans for the marsh and
8 conducting numerous natural and cultural restoration programs,
9 educational tours, and events; and

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11 WHEREAS, community organizations have also provided other
12 cooperative efforts to benefit Kawai Nui Marsh, such as
13 fundraising and conducting pollution control and prevention
14 efforts; and

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16 WHEREAS, Ho'olaulima ia Kawai Nui is a network of concerned
17 community organizations, government agencies, and individuals
18 cooperating to foster public awareness and understanding of the
19 natural, cultural, and scenic resources of Kawai Nui Marsh to
20 ensure the long-term protection, restoration, and stewardship of
21 Kawai Nui Marsh and the surrounding area; and

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23 WHEREAS, since 2003, Ho'olaulima ia Kawai Nui has been
24 actively advocating to unite county, state, and federal agencies
25 to further the goal of consolidating the ownership of Kawai Nui
26 Marsh under the State; and

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28 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is
29 currently responsible for the management and sustainability of
30 this important public resource; and

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32 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources
33 should regularly consult with Ho'olaulima ia Kawai Nui to
34 coordinate efforts to protect, preserve, and maintain the
35 natural, cultural, and scenic resources of Kawai Nui Marsh; now,
36 therefore,

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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
39 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
40 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land
41 and Natural Resources is requested to regularly consult with
42 Ho'olaulima ia Kawai Nui to coordinate efforts to protect,



1 preserve, and maintain the natural, cultural, and scenic
2 resources of Kawai Nui Marsh; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
5 Natural Resources is requested to meet with Ho'olaulima ia Kawai
6 Nui on a quarterly basis to review and assess the progress of
7 programs and goals relating to Kawai Nui Marsh; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board
11 of Land and Natural Resources and Ho'olaulima ia Kawai Nui.

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OFFERED BY:





