

ROY T. HIRAGA
County Clerk



DEPT. COMM. NO. 67

JEFFREY T. KUWADA
Deputy County Clerk

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793

March 9, 2009

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President
Senate
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President:

Transmitted herewith is a copy of Resolution No. 09-23, which was adopted by the Council of the County of Maui, State of Hawaii, on March 6, 2009.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "RH", is written over the typed name and title of Roy T. Hiraga.

ROY T. HIRAGA
County Clerk

/tav

Enclosure

Resolution

No. 09-23

SUPPORTING THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL
SURVEY REPORT, "THE CORAL REEF OF SOUTH
MOLOKA'I, HAWAI'I: PORTRAIT OF A
SEDIMENT-THREATENED FRINGING REEF",
AND ENCOURAGING FEDERAL, STATE, AND
COMMUNITY COOPERATION TO STEWARD THE
SOUTH MOLOKAI REEF FISHERY

WHEREAS, in ancient times, the people of the island of Molokai were known for producing abundant quantities of food, and they maintained a sustainable and self-sufficient food supply for over a thousand years; and

WHEREAS, the island of Molokai's south shore's protection from prevailing ocean swells have led to the growth of Hawaii's largest coral reef, known as the South Molokai Reef; and

WHEREAS, the South Molokai Reef still has more than 50 traditional Hawaiian fishponds along its shoreline as well as the enduring fishing traditions that continue to sustain the people of Molokai; and

WHEREAS, a century of cattle grazing, goat foraging, construction, and other land-use practices have caused severe sedimentation that negatively impacts the South Molokai Reef; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the United States Geological Survey began an in-depth study of the sedimentation crisis on the South Molokai Reef, concluding in a 2008 report entitled, "The Coral Reef of South Moloka'i, Hawai'i: Portrait of a Sediment-Threatened Fringing Reef", which provides details that have never been available before; and

WHEREAS, the United States Geological Survey report states that the South Molokai Reef has "major significance in terms of its intrinsic beauty, biodiversity, cultural importance, and as a local food resource," that it is "longer, more continuous, and has denser coral cover than reefs at any of the other (main Hawaiian) islands," and that "this alone makes it a state and national treasure worthy of study and protection"; and

WHEREAS, the United States Geological Survey report states that sediment run-off from the mauka lands "inhibits or prevents coral growth (on the reef)" and is a "first order cause of reef degradation"; and

WHEREAS, the United States Geological Survey report concludes that “there is encouraging evidence that, with enough will and local support, the condition of the reef can improve”; and

WHEREAS, multiple community planning documents that have been produced by the people of Molokai, have consistently stated that protection of the South Molokai Reef and controlling land-based sedimentation impacts on the reef are first priorities of the community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it expresses support of the United States Geological Survey report, “The Coral Reef of South Moloka‘i, Hawai‘i: Portrait of a Sediment-Threatened Fringing Reef”, and its conclusion that the overall condition of the South Molokai Reef can be improved; and
2. That it urges State and Federal agencies to recognize and support the conclusions of the United States Geological Survey report, “The Coral Reef of South Moloka‘i, Hawai‘i: Portrait of a Sediment-Threatened Fringing Reef”; and
3. That it expresses recognition of and support for the community-based efforts to steward the South Molokai Reef fishery for continued subsistence use, beginning with a systematic restoration and reforestation of mauka lands; and
4. That it expresses support of the use of the scientific findings as presented in the United States Geological Survey report, “The Coral Reef of South Moloka‘i, Hawai‘i: Portrait of a Sediment-Threatened Fringing Reef”, and traditional Hawaiian conservation practices to preserve the health of the South Molokai Reef; and
5. That it expresses its appreciation for the efforts of the United States Geological Survey scientists, researchers, and others for their innovative study of the South Molokai Reef over a decade; and
6. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Linda Lingle, Governor, State of Hawaii; the Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, Senate President, Hawaii State Legislature; the Honorable Calvin K. Y. Say, Speaker of the House, Hawaii State Legislature; the Honorable Clayton Hee, State Senator; the Honorable Charmaine Tavares, Mayor, County of Maui; Ken Salazar, United States Secretary of the Interior; and Suzette Kimball, Acting Director, United States Geological Survey.

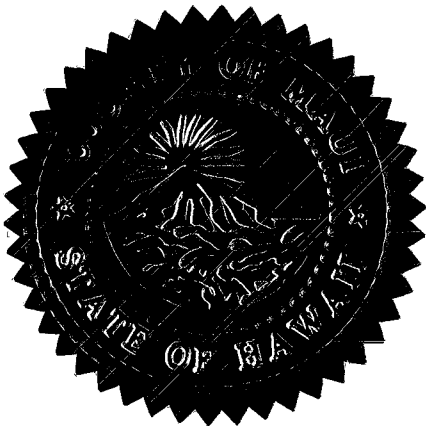
COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

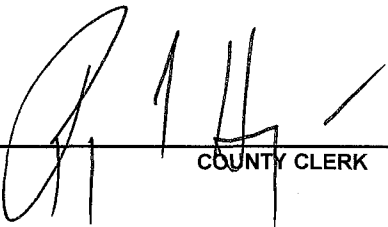
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793

CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION

It is HEREBY CERTIFIED that RESOLUTION NO. 09-23 was adopted by the Council of the County of Maui, State of Hawaii, on the 6th day of March, 2009, by the following vote:

MEMBERS	Dennis A. MATEO Chair	Michael J. MOLINA Vice-Chair	Gladys C. BAISA	Jo Anne JOHNSON	Solomon P. KAHO'OHALAHALA	William J. MEDEIROS	Wayne K. NISHIKI	Joseph PONTANILLA	Michael P. VICTORINO
ROLL CALL	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye




COUNTY CLERK