

MAR 18 2009

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND
OTHER STATE AGENCIES RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE AND ASSIST IN
THE PRESERVATION OF THE NUUANU AUWAI SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, ancient Hawaiian tradition held fresh water as a
2 treasure from the gods, with each person using that gift along
3 the way having a duty to the person below to preserve it for use
4 by others; and

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6 WHEREAS, the waters of Nuuanu start at its highest point in
7 the Koolau mountains with the waterfalls of Waipuhia and
8 Waipuulani feeding the streams of Nuuanu, Moole, and Waolani;
9 and

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11 WHEREAS, ancient Hawaiian inhabitants of Nuuanu Valley
12 developed an auwai or water ditch system to take the waters from
13 the three streams and distribute the waters to irrigate
14 extensive loi ai or taro fields that were present throughout the
15 entire valley, from its upper reaches down to makai of the
16 present Judd Street; and

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18 WHEREAS, after damage to the auwai system during the Battle
19 of Nuuanu, Kamehameha moved to quickly restore the valley's
20 agricultural production, summoning Kuhooheiheipahu Paki to
21 rebuild the irrigation system; and

22
23 WHEREAS, "in three days[, Paki] rallied several hundred men
24 to construct the tremendous [Nuuanu] irrigation system which
25 supplies the numerous taro pondfields This irrigation
26 system is known even today as the Paki auwai"; and

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28 WHEREAS, as Nuuanu evolved from an extensive agricultural
29 area into a residential area, many residents did not realize the
30 existence of or care about the ancient auwai system traversing
31 the valley, and in many instances, parts of the Nuuanu auwai
32 system were purposely closed, diverted, or covered up; as a
33 result, out of fourteen original auwai, there are only about
34 eight that remain either flowing or reparable; and



WHEREAS, the Nuuanu Valley Auwai Study Group is doing its best to spread information on the historic origins of the Nuuanu auwai system and is attempting to educate property owners on the value of ways of preserving this treasure; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii Historic Foundation, together with the State Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, has named the auwai of Nuuanu Valley as one of the nine most endangered historic places on its 2008 list, *The 9 Most Endangered Historic Sites in Hawaii*; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources and all other state agencies are requested to do everything in their respective areas of responsibility to protect and preserve the auwai of Nuuanu Valley; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Historic Hawaii Foundation, and the Nuuanu Valley Auwai Study Group.

OFFERED BY: *Shianne Chun Aduland*

