HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO DETERMINE WHETHER LANDS ALONG THE WAIPIO PENINSULA AND WAIPAHU SHORELINES ARE ACCRETED LANDS AND THEREFORE STATE PROPERTY FOR PROSPECTIVE USE AS A STATE PARK.

WHEREAS, over the years, the extreme high water mark of the Waipahu shoreline coupled with mud and silt from two feeder streams from upland Waipahu has gradually changed, creating accreted lands; and

WHEREAS, there now exists unclaimed accreted lands Waipio Peninsula and the Waipahu shorelines; and

WHEREAS, by comparative size analysis, these accreted lands are approximately over 200 acres; and

WHEREAS, section 501-33, Hawaii Revised Statutes, states that no applicant other than the State shall register land accreted along the ocean, except that a private property owner whose eroded land has been restored by accretion may file an accretion claim to regain title to the restored portion; and

WHEREAS, section 171-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, defines "accreted lands" as lands formed by the gradual accumulation of land on a beach or shore along the ocean by the action of natural forces; and

WHEREAS, the accreted lands along the Waipio Peninsula and Waipahu shorelines, which are currently unused and without a Tax Map Key, should be designated as a state park reserve to be later designated as the Waipahu Shoreline Park for the community to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, parks and open recreational spaces positively affect the health and vibrancy of a community; and

WHEREAS, the people of Waipahu do not have such a space, and are deprived of the positive benefits of having a place for their children to play, the elderly to relax, and the entire community to enjoy and call their own; and

WHEREAS, the closest state parks are located outside of Waipahu in central Oahu and at Kaena Point, and are distant and inconvenient to Waipahu residents; now, therefore,

 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, that this body urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources to study whether the lands along the Waipio Peninsula and Waipahu shorelines are accreted lands and therefore are state property for prospective use as a state park in the future; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and Natural Resources submit a report of its findings and recommendations on the registration of the accreted lands along the Waipio Peninsula and Waipahu shorelines to the Legislature, including whether the lands are suitable for use as a state park in the future; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and the Chairperson of the Waipahu Neighborhood Board.