S.R. NO. 129

MAR 1 3 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO LEASE CERTAIN PUBLIC LANDS TO THE COUNTY OF HAWAII AND WAIMEA TRAILS AND GREENWAYS TO BE USED AS A TRAILHEAD AND COUNTY PARK.

WHEREAS, Waimea Trails and Greenways project and the County of Hawaii seek to acquire 17.6 acres of public land, identified as Tax Map Key 6-6-001:010 in Lalamilo to be used as a trailhead and county park; and

WHEREAS, Waimea Trails and Greenways project and the County of Hawaii are extremely interested in the subject land, as it would allow the first phase of the Waimea Trails and Greenways project to connect to Kawaiahae Road at two places; and

WHEREAS, the subject land is currently under lease to a private party who has indicated that it would be willing to exchange the subject land for another parcel; and

WHEREAS, the Waimea Trails and Greenways project would provide an alternative mode of transportation through the town of Waimea, a safe place of recreation and exercise, and easy access and enjoyment of public lands and resources; and

WHEREAS, Waimea is in a beautiful setting surrounded by private land with very limited public access hiking trails; and

WHEREAS, walking and biking in Waimea must be done on a high-speed cross island highway with heavy truck traffic; and

WHEREAS, the trail effort was begun in 1994 as a community based Waimea Main Street Project and continues to meet every Monday to advocate for the trail; in 1995, the County of Hawaii accepted it as a project under the Department of Parks and Recreation; and

WHEREAS, through community workdays and organizing volunteers from local schools and other groups, the Waimea Trails and Greenways Committee has cleared the corridor, removed

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29 30 fallen trees from the trail way and stream, made wood chips, and maintained the trail; and

WHEREAS, the trail will connect people to the six schools in the heart of Waimea, and the trail will also connect churches, shopping centers, and parks in the urban core; and

WHEREAS, the trail is used by office workers in the buildings near the trail for exercise, contributing to a healthy lifestyle, and was used by Tutu's House participants in their health drive as a safe walking area; and

WHEREAS, owners of non-motorized vehicles will have the opportunity to leave their car and not pollute the environment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is encouraged to lease public land identified as Tax Map Key 6-6-001:010 to the County of Hawaii and Waimea Trails and Greenways project to allow for the land to be used as a trailhead and county park; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the County of Hawaii and Waimea Trails and Greenways.

Maleungit

OFFERED BY: