
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS FOR STEWARDSHIP AND
PRESERVATION OF WAIPI'O VALLEY.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that Waipi'o Valley, located
2 on Hawai'i island, is an area with great cultural, historical,
3 genealogical, and agricultural significance; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Waipi'o Valley is a revered wahi pana, or sacred
6 place, and has served as a cultural and demographic center for
7 the Native Hawaiian culture for many centuries, housing precious
8 resources including multiple heiau, an extensive taro lo'i and
9 auwai system, fishponds, burial sites, ocean culture, and
10 incomparable scenic beauty; and
11

12 WHEREAS, the Task Force to Preserve Waipi'o Valley, formed
13 pursuant to House Resolution No. 277, Regular Session of 1990,
14 found a need to protect and preserve the cultural, aesthetic,
15 and agricultural integrity of Waipi'o Valley and identified
16 several concerns including:
17

- 18 (1) Health and safety issues arising from a lack of public
19 facilities and substandard infrastructure aggravated
20 by unregulated access into the valley;
21
- 22 (2) Demographic changes on Hawai'i Island and in the
23 Hāmākua region impacting the natural and cultural
24 resources of the valley; and
25
- 26 (3) Environmental concerns related to stream management
27 and flood control to preserve and protect life and
28 property; and



1 WHEREAS, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Department of
2 Urban and Regional Planning compiled community planning and
3 ahupua'a management reports in 1999 and 2000 and offered possible
4 solutions to many of the issues identified; and
5

6 WHEREAS, the Waipi'o Valley Stakeholders Alliance was formed
7 in July 2015, and includes representation from the Waipi'o Taro
8 Farmers Association, Waipi'o Community Circle, and Hā Ola O
9 Waipi'o Valley, their voices representing the many perspectives
10 of the Waipi'o community; and
11

12 WHEREAS, the Waipi'o Valley Stakeholders Alliance works
13 collaboratively with various community resource partners to
14 proactively implement solutions to issues that have negatively
15 impacted the valley, including addressing road access and safety
16 issues and implementation of the Waipi'o Valley Stream Management
17 Plan; and
18

19 WHEREAS, the Bishop Museum has owned and managed five
20 hundred thirty-seven acres of Waipi'o Valley property,
21 representing approximately sixty percent of the valley floor,
22 for the past one hundred thirty years and has publicly announced
23 its intent to sell its interest in order to enable the museum to
24 move forward with a new strategic management plan; and
25

26 WHEREAS, the land, which is divided into approximately one
27 hundred tax map key parcels, contains a majority of the taro
28 growing lands as well as significant cultural sites such as
29 Pāka'alana Heiau; and
30

31 WHEREAS, most of the taro production lands are leased to
32 Waipi'o families, many of whom have cared for their 'āina for
33 many generations, and the announcement by the Bishop Museum to
34 sell their lands has created a great deal of uncertainty and
35 anxiety for the taro farming families of Waipi'o Valley and the
36 future of their beloved and well-cared for farms; and
37

38 WHEREAS, the Waipi'o Valley Stakeholders Alliance is fully
39 committed to take the lead on stewardship efforts to transition
40 the Bishop Museum lands, and is currently working with many
41 stakeholders, community leaders from groups who have experienced
42 similar situations, and others who have expertise in land



1 acquisition and land management to identify possible options
2 that will ensure that the Bishop Museum can remain solvent and
3 continue its important work caring for Hawai'i's cultural
4 treasures, while at the same time honoring Waipi'o Valley's past,
5 present, and future to ensure that the land remains in the
6 loving, caring hands of the Waipi'o families as it has for
7 centuries; now, therefore,
8

9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
10 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular
11 Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that Waipi'o Valley
12 Stakeholders Alliance is requested to coordinate with the Bishop
13 Museum, Kamehameha Schools, Friends of the Future, County of
14 Hawai'i, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Trust For Public Land, State
15 of Hawai'i, and other interested parties who may be invited by
16 the Waipi'o Valley Stakeholders Alliance to provide their
17 guidance and mana'o regarding the future preservation and
18 stewardship of Waipi'o Valley; and
19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Waipi'o Valley Stakeholders
21 Alliance is requested to submit a report of the results of
22 stewardship meetings including findings, recommendations, and
23 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
24 twenty days prior to the convening of the 2017 Regular Session;
25 and
26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chair of
29 the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Hawai'i
30 State Director of the Trust for Public Land, Mayor of the County
31 of Hawai'i, Community Liaison of Waipi'o Valley Stakeholders
32 Alliance, President of the Bishop Museum, Chair of the Board of
33 Trustees of Kamehameha Schools, and President of the Board of
34 Directors of Friends of the Future.

