

MAR 12 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE PURCHASE, PRESERVATION, AND
RESTORATION, OF AGRICULTURAL AND CONSERVATION LANDS IN
MAUNAWILI VALLEY, OAHU TO PROTECT THE IMPORTANT ANCIENT AND
HISTORIC SITES AND TRAILS AND WATERS IN MAUNAWILI VALLEY.

1 WHEREAS, Maunawili Valley in the ahupuaa (land division) of
2 Kailua is celebrated in story and chant for its association with
3 akua (gods), alii (chiefs), cultural heroes, and important
4 historical figures, including Queen Liliuokalani; and

5
6 WHEREAS, Maunawili Valley contains wetlands, streams, and
7 freshwater springs that provide most of the water that flows to
8 the Kawainui Marsh ecosystem and more than fifty springs and
9 smaller streams are present, including Maunawili Stream, the
10 most significant stream in the Kailua ahupuaa; and

11
12 WHEREAS, ancient and historic sites throughout Maunawili
13 Valley include heiau (temple or sacred site), sacred stones,
14 petroglyphs, Hawaiian burials, ala hele and alahula (path or
15 trail), house sites, grinding stones, irrigated and dryland
16 agricultural terraces, large auwai (irrigation ditches) related
17 to extensive loi (taro patches), and nineteenth and early
18 twentieth century structures related to agriculture and food
19 production; and

20
21 WHEREAS, Kawainui Marsh is a designated Ramsar Wetland of
22 International Importance; and

23
24 WHEREAS, the 1994 Kawainui Master Plan recommended that the
25 State acquire the privately-owned wetland/semi-wetland areas in
26 Maunawili, noting that they are hydrologically part of the
27 economic, ecological, and cultural resources of Kawainui Marsh,
28 separated only by the highway, and that acquisition would
29 "protect the wetlands from future undesired developments" and
30 inappropriate alteration of the landscape and waterways; and
31



1 WHEREAS, there is a need to protect and conserve the
2 Maunawili wetlands, semi-wetlands, Maunawili's Hanalei soil,
3 which is the most fertile soil in Hawaii, fresh water resources,
4 ancient and historic sites, and historic trails within the vital
5 context of agricultural sustainability; and

6
7 WHEREAS, there is a need to provide managed and restricted
8 access to the State's Maunawili and Olomana Trails in proximity
9 to Maunawili Historic Wetland/Semi-Wetland areas and The Queen's
10 Retreat; and

11
12 WHEREAS, there is a long history of public interest in
13 acquiring and protecting lands in Maunawili, but the State has
14 not been able to secure these Maunawili lands, which remain
15 privately owned; and

16
17 WHEREAS, HRT Realty, LLC, owns more than one thousand acres
18 in Maunawili, including most of the biocultural resources noted
19 above as well as the Royal Hawaiian Golf Course; and

20
21 WHEREAS, HRT Realty, LLC, has expressed an interest in
22 selling its Maunawili lands, or a significant portion thereof,
23 to the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Department
24 of Agriculture, working in partnership with The Trust for Public
25 Land, Hui Maunawili-Kawainui, and the Kailua community; and

26
27 WHEREAS, the Hui Maunawili-Kawainui is a group of
28 descendants and residents of Maunawili and Kailua who represent
29 a coalition of respected Hawaiian cultural and environmental
30 organizations, who have joined to protect prime agricultural and
31 culturally significant lands in Maunawili; and

32
33 WHEREAS, Hui Maunawili-Kawainui seeks to restore the health
34 of Maunawili so that the valley can resume its vital and
35 traditional role in the ahupuaa of Kailua as a source of free-
36 flowing fresh water and a place of abundant agriculture and rich
37 cultural resources; and

38
39 WHEREAS, Governor David H. Ige has declared a state goal to
40 double local food production by 2020, which is in line with
41 Maunawili's legacy as historically fertile ground to produce
42 food crops; and



1
2 WHEREAS, Hui Maunawili-Kawainui members have met with
3 representatives of HRT Realty, LLC and are now working in
4 partnership with The Trust for Public Land, a national nonprofit
5 organization that has helped to protect lands throughout Hawaii,
6 to identify ways to acquire HRT properties in Maunawili; and
7

8 WHEREAS, this is a rare opportunity to secure Maunawili's
9 irreplaceable resources for the health and welfare of the people
10 of Hawaii today and for future generations; now, therefore,
11

12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
14 House of Representatives concurring, that this body affirms
15 support for the purchase, preservation, and restoration of
16 agricultural and conservation lands in Maunawili Valley, Oahu,
17 and for the protection and preservation of important ancient and
18 historic sites and trails and waters in Maunawili; and
19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body believes that it is
21 in the best interest of the people of the State to bring to
22 fruition a larger, community-based vision of restoring Maunawili
23 to its vital and traditional role in the ahupuaa of Kailua as a
24 source of free-flowing fresh water and place of abundant
25 agriculture and rich cultural resources; and
26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the Department
28 of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, and
29 other relevant state entities, as well as the City and County of
30 Honolulu, and Hawaii congressional delegation, to work with The
31 Trust for Public Land and the Hui Maunawili-Kawainui in their
32 efforts to acquire these important and rich agricultural,
33 cultural, and historic lands; and
34

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's congressional
37 delegation, the Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Land and
38 Natural Resources, Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture,
39 Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Chairperson of the
40 Honolulu City Council, Councilmember of District 3 of the City
41 and County of Honolulu, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of
42 the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, members of Hui Maunawili-



S.C.R. NO. 189

1 Kawainui, and Hawaiian Islands State Director of The Trust for
2 Public Land.

3
4
5

OFFERED BY:

_____

