
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, 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
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12 WHEREAS, ancient and historic sites throughout Maunawili
13 Valley include heiau (temples or sacred sites), sacred stones,
14 petroglyphs, Hawaiian burials, ala hele and alahula (paths or
15 trails), 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
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21 WHEREAS, Kawainui Marsh is a designated Ramsar Wetland of
22 International Importance; and
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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



1 protect the wetlands from future undesired developments and
2 inappropriate alteration of the landscape and waterways; and
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4 WHEREAS, there is a need to protect and conserve the
5 Maunawili wetlands, semi-wetlands, Maunawili's Hanalei soil,
6 which is the most fertile soil in Hawaii, fresh water resources,
7 ancient and historic sites, and historic trails within the vital
8 context of agricultural sustainability; and
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10 WHEREAS, there is a need to provide managed and restricted
11 access to the State's Maunawili and Olomana Trails in proximity
12 to Maunawili Historic Wetland/Semi-Wetland areas and The Queen's
13 Retreat; and
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15 WHEREAS, there is a long history of public interest in
16 acquiring and protecting lands in Maunawili, but the State has
17 not been able to secure these Maunawili lands, which remain
18 privately owned; and
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20 WHEREAS, HRT Realty, LLC, owns more than one thousand acres
21 in Maunawili, including most of the aforementioned biocultural
22 resources as well as the Royal Hawaiian Golf Course; and
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24 WHEREAS, HRT Realty, LLC, has expressed an interest in
25 selling its Maunawili lands, or a significant portion thereof,
26 for community benefit and stewardship, to the Department of Land
27 and Natural Resources and nonprofit, 'āina-based educational
28 organizations, working in partnership with The Trust for Public
29 Land, Hui Maunawili-Kawainui, Ho'okua'āina, Kauluakalana, and the
30 Kailua community; and
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32 WHEREAS, the Hui Maunawili-Kawainui is a group of
33 descendants and residents of Maunawili and Kailua who represent
34 a coalition of respected Hawaiian cultural and environmental
35 organizations, who have joined to protect prime agricultural and
36 culturally significant lands in Maunawili; and
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38 WHEREAS, Hui Maunawili-Kawainui seeks to restore the health
39 of Maunawili so that the valley can resume its vital and
40 traditional role in the ahupuaa of Kailua as a source of free-
41 flowing fresh water and a place of abundant agriculture and rich
42 cultural resources; and



1 WHEREAS, Governor David H. Ige has declared a state goal to
2 double local food production by 2030, which is in line with
3 Maunawili's legacy as historically fertile ground to produce
4 food crops; and
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6 WHEREAS, Hui Maunawili-Kawainui members have met with
7 representatives of HRT Realty, LLC, and are now working in
8 partnership with The Trust for Public Land, a national nonprofit
9 organization that has helped to protect lands throughout Hawaii,
10 to identify ways to acquire HRT properties in Maunawili; and
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12 WHEREAS, this is a rare opportunity to secure Maunawili's
13 irreplaceable resources for the health and welfare of the people
14 of Hawaii today and for future generations; now, therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
18 House of Representatives concurring, that this body affirms
19 support for the purchase, preservation, and restoration of
20 agricultural and conservation lands in Maunawili Valley, Oahu,
21 and for the protection and preservation of important ancient and
22 historic sites and trails and waters in Maunawili; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body believes that it is
25 in the best interest of the people of the State to realize the
26 larger, community-based vision of restoring Maunawili to its
27 vital and traditional role in the ahupuaa of Kailua as a source
28 of free-flowing fresh water and place of abundant agriculture
29 and rich cultural resources; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the Department
32 of Land and Natural Resources and other relevant state entities,
33 as well as the City and County of Honolulu, and Hawaii's
34 Congressional delegation, to work with The Trust for Public
35 Land, Hui Maunawili-Kawainui, Ho'okua'aina, and Kauluakalana in
36 their efforts to acquire these important and rich agricultural,
37 cultural, and historic lands and return them to community
38 stewardship; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's Congressional
42 delegation, the Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Land and



1 Natural Resources, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu,
2 Chairperson of the Honolulu City Council, Councilmember of
3 District 3 of the City and County of Honolulu, Chairperson of
4 the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, members
5 of Hui Maunawili-Kawainui, and Hawaiian Islands State Director
6 of The Trust for Public Land.

