
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
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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
29 "protect the wetlands from future undesired developments" and
30 inappropriate alteration of the landscape and waterways; and



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Governor David H. Ige has declared a state goal to double local food production by 2020, which is in line with



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



1 and County of Honolulu, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of
2 the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, members of Hui Maunawili-
3 Kawainui, and Hawaiian Islands State Director of The Trust for
4 Public Land.

