

MAR 12 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO CONSIDER
DESIGNATING KAILUA, OAHU AS A SPECIAL DISTRICT TO PRESERVE
AND PROMOTE THE UNIQUE CHARACTER, HISTORY, AND SENSE OF
COMMUNITY THAT MAKES IT A SPECIAL PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, AND
PLAY.

1 WHEREAS, the town of Kailua on the Windward Coast of Oahu
2 is a unique beach community nestled between miles of white sand
3 beach and Kawainui Marsh, the largest wetlands in Hawaii and a
4 designated United Nations World Heritage Site; and

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6 WHEREAS, some of the earliest native Hawaiian settlers are
7 believed to have lived, farmed, fished, and recreated in the
8 Kailua area along the edge of Kawainui Marsh, between the Koolau
9 mountain range and Kailua Bay; and

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11 WHEREAS, throughout the twentieth century Kailua slowly
12 matured into a safe and sleepy residential beach town where
13 local families could afford to live, work, and play, giving the
14 town a unique charm and strong sense of community identity; and

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16 WHEREAS, Kailua has grown many of Hawaii's iconic local
17 businesses such as Buzz's Steakhouse, Hawaiian Island Creations,
18 Kalapawai Market, Lanikai Juice, and Manoa Chocolate Hawaii, and
19 always welcomed new additions that recognize the unique
20 character, history, and sense of place and work together with
21 the community to add to Kailua's strong sense of identity; and

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23 WHEREAS, since the turn of the century Kailua's unique
24 charm and community identity has drawn many newcomers, including
25 national brands such as Target, and the return of national
26 chains such as Wendy's, along with numerous new residents from
27 other places; and

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29 WHEREAS, in recent years some newcomers to Kailua have
30 generated significant controversy because their plans have
31 either ignored community input with detrimental outcomes, or
32 meaningfully diminished the unique identity and sense of place



1 that is central to Kailua's economy, community, and way of life;
2 and

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4 WHEREAS, many residents have begun to feel that local
5 voices are no longer heard and traditional collaboration with
6 the community by newcomers has diminished, and due to the
7 resulting number of businesses and developments that now appear
8 no different than those across the mainland, Kailua has
9 increasingly been compared to places like Orange County and
10 Santa Monica, California; and

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12 WHEREAS, losing the town's unique character and charm, as
13 well as meaningful collaboration to address issues between local
14 residents and newcomers, would be catastrophic to Kailua's local
15 economy and undermine the sense of community that has made it
16 the special place it is and so attractive to residents and
17 visitors alike; and

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19 WHEREAS, the town of Haleiwa has experienced similar
20 growing pains, and a process was adopted to improve community
21 engagement and promote the rural low-rise character appropriate
22 for that particular area, through the designation of a special
23 district for Haleiwa town; and

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25 WHEREAS, Haleiwa Special District has engaged the community
26 and helped guide new development to complement the existing
27 physical features, waterways, open space, mature trees, historic
28 sites, pedestrian-oriented streets, and successfully promoted
29 and maintained the town's unique character, history, and sense
30 of place; and

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32 WHEREAS, there are currently seven special districts on the
33 island of Oahu benefitting their respective communities; and

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35 WHEREAS, Kailua would similarly benefit from the
36 designation of a special district in which the unique character,
37 history, and sense of community are promoted and preserved; now,
38 therefore,

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40 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
41 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,



S.R. NO. 153

1 that the City and County of Honolulu is requested to consider
2 designating Kailua as a special district; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
6 Land and Natural Resources, Mayor of the City and County of
7 Honolulu, Honolulu Councilmember for District 3, Director of the
8 Office of Planning, and Chairperson of the Kailua Neighborhood
9 Board.

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OFFERED BY: 

