

MAR 12 2021

SENATE 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
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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 (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
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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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32 WHEREAS, there is a need to protect and conserve the
33 Maunawili wetlands, semi-wetlands, Maunawili's Hanalei soil,
34 which is the most fertile soil in Hawaii, fresh water resources,



1 ancient and historic sites, and historic trails within the vital
2 context of agricultural sustainability; and

3
4 WHEREAS, there is a need to provide managed and restricted
5 access to the State's Maunawili and Olomana Trails in proximity
6 to Maunawili Historic Wetland/Semi-Wetland areas and The Queen's
7 Retreat; and

8
9 WHEREAS, there is a long history of public interest in
10 acquiring and protecting lands in Maunawili, but the State has
11 not been able to secure these Maunawili lands, which remain
12 privately owned; and

13
14 WHEREAS, HRT Realty, LLC, owns more than one thousand acres
15 in Maunawili, including most of the biocultural resources noted
16 above as well as the Royal Hawaiian Golf Course; and

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

23
24 WHEREAS, the Hui Maunawili-Kawainui is a group of
25 descendants and residents of Maunawili and Kailua who represent
26 a coalition of respected Hawaiian cultural and environmental
27 organizations, who have joined to protect prime agricultural and
28 culturally significant lands in Maunawili; and

29
30 WHEREAS, Hui Maunawili-Kawainui seeks to restore the health
31 of Maunawili so that the valley can resume its vital and
32 traditional role in the ahupuaa of Kailua as a source of free-
33 flowing fresh water and a place of abundant agriculture and rich
34 cultural resources; and

35
36 WHEREAS, Governor David H. Ige has declared a state goal to
37 double local food production by 2020, which is in line with
38 Maunawili's legacy as historically fertile ground to produce
39 food crops; and

40
41 WHEREAS, Hui Maunawili-Kawainui members have met with
42 representatives of HRT Realty, LLC and are now working in



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1 partnership with The Trust for Public Land, a national nonprofit
 2 organization that has helped to protect lands throughout Hawaii,
 3 to identify ways to acquire HRT properties in Maunawili; and
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5 WHEREAS, this is a rare opportunity to secure Maunawili's
 6 irreplaceable resources for the health and welfare of the people
 7 of Hawaii today and for future generations; now, therefore,
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
 10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
 11 that this body affirms support for the purchase, preservation,
 12 and restoration of agricultural and conservation lands in
 13 Maunawili Valley, Oahu, and for the protection and preservation
 14 of important ancient and historic sites and trails and waters in
 15 Maunawili; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body believes that it is
 18 in the best interest of the people of the State to bring to
 19 fruition a larger, community-based vision of restoring Maunawili
 20 to its vital and traditional role in the ahupuaa of Kailua as a
 21 source of free-flowing fresh water and place of abundant
 22 agriculture and rich cultural resources; and
 23

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

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 33 Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's congressional delegation,
 34 the Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
 35 Resources, Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Mayor of the
 36 City and County of Honolulu, Chairperson of the Honolulu City
 37 Council, Councilmember of District 3 of the City and County of
 38 Honolulu, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of
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1 Hawaiian Affairs, members of Hui Maunawili-Kawainui, and
2 Hawaiian Islands State Director of The Trust for Public Land.

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OFFERED BY:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alan', is written over a horizontal line.

