

MAR 11 2022

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE COUNTY OF HAWAI'I'S EFFORTS TO PURSUE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM FUNDING FOR THE RESTORATION OF KAHALU'U BAY IN HAWAI'I ISLAND.

1 WHEREAS, Kahalu'u Bay, Hawai'i Island is located 4.5 miles
2 south of the town of Kailua-Kona situated in a major resort
3 area, recording over four hundred thousand visitors annually;
4 and

5
6 WHEREAS, Kahalu'u Bay has historically been regarded as a
7 sacred place to native Hawaiians, adorned with heiau, fishponds,
8 and barrier rock walls that provided for better fishing
9 conditions for hunter-gatherers in the area; and

10
11 WHEREAS, resulting from its historic nature and popularity
12 among visitors, there have been recent efforts by the County of
13 Hawai'i, in partnership with the Kohala Center's Kahalu'u Bay
14 Education Center, to preserve the beach park for future
15 generations through the promotion of reef-friendly practices;
16 and

17
18 WHEREAS, the Senate adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution
19 No. 52, Senate Draft 1, Regular Session of 2021, which requested
20 the Department of Land and Natural Resources and County of
21 Hawai'i to collaborate to identify sea level rise at Kahalu'u Bay
22 to avoid further deterioration and damage caused by rising sea
23 levels; and

24
25 WHEREAS, while an interagency Kahalu'u Bay Restoration
26 Working Group, comprised of state and county officials and
27 community leaders, planned for the restoration of the Kahalu'u
28 Beach Park, the Kahalu'u Bay Restoration Working Group's findings
29 warrant a prioritization of Hawai'i Island's overall coastal
30 planning, as well as the need for a sea level rise study and



1 coastal engineering input to help guide the planning process;
2 and

3
4 WHEREAS, scientific research and professional planning are
5 additionally needed to augment ongoing stewardship activities if
6 the Kahalu'u Bay and Kahalu'u Bay Beach Park are to remain
7 natural resource assets for all of Hawai'i's people and visitors
8 to enjoy; and

9
10 WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)
11 can partner with a non-federal sponsor to develop aquatic
12 ecosystem restoration and protection projects that improve the
13 quality of the environment; and

14
15 WHEREAS, the Corps' Continuing Authorities Program is a
16 group of nine legislative authorities under which the Corps can
17 plan, design, and implement certain types of water resource
18 projects without additional project specific Congressional
19 authorization; and

20
21 WHEREAS, to secure funding under the Continuing Authorities
22 Program, the County of Hawai'i must undergo a lengthy process
23 that includes a feasibility study, support for the study under
24 the President of the United States' budget, and appropriations
25 by Congress to initiate the project; and

26
27 WHEREAS, as the Continuing Authorities Program has a delay
28 of two fiscal years, the County of Hawai'i must act prudently to
29 protect and preserve Kahalu'u Bay and the surrounding beach park
30 area from impacts caused by climate change and tourism; now,
31 therefore,

32
33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
35 House of Representatives concurring, that this body supports the
36 ongoing efforts by the County of Hawaii to pursue funding by the
37 United States Army Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities
38 Program for the restoration of Kahalu'u Bay in Hawai'i Island;
39 and



S.C.R. NO. 174

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the members of the
3 Hawai'i congressional delegation, Mayor of the County of Hawai'i,
4 and members of the Hawai'i County Council.
5
6
7

OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DKM", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.