

MAR 11 2022

SENATE RESOLUTION

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

1 WHEREAS, Kahalu'u Bay, Hawaii 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
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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
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11 WHEREAS, resulting from its historic nature and popularity
12 among visitors, there have been recent efforts by the County of
13 Hawaii, 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
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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 Hawaii 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
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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 Hawaii Island's overall coastal
30 planning, as well as the need for a sea level rise study and
31 coastal engineering input to help guide the planning process;
32 and
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1 WHEREAS, scientific research and professional planning are
2 additionally needed to augment ongoing stewardship activities if
3 the Kahalu'u Bay and Kahalu'u Bay Beach Park are to remain
4 natural resource assets for all of Hawai'i's people and visitors
5 to enjoy; and

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

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

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

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

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



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

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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "DKK", written over a horizontal line.