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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT,  
IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE DIVISION, COMMISSION ON  
WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, AND CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU,  
TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF WAIIAHOLE STREAM, IDENTIFY  
JURISDICTIONAL OBSTACLES TO COORDINATED STREAM MAINTENANCE,  
AND OFFER RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE STREAM MAINTENANCE AND  
FLOOD HAZARD MITIGATION POLICIES.

1 WHEREAS, each property owner is responsible for stream  
2 maintenance on the portion of a stream that crosses through or  
3 along their property, but maintenance along the length of any  
4 stream is rarely coordinated between neighboring property  
5 owners; and  
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7 WHEREAS, the land ownership along the length of a stream  
8 may include multiple private, public, and governmental owners,  
9 none of which has authority to maintain the entire stream; and  
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11 WHEREAS, the lack of coordinated stream maintenance often  
12 leads to clogged, overgrown or debris-filled streams that  
13 function poorly, especially during rain events, and result in  
14 local flooding; and  
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16 WHEREAS, the Waiahole Stream is an example of a stream that  
17 is overgrown with hao, albizia, and other fast-growing  
18 vegetation that increase siltation and stream breaches that  
19 flood adjacent properties and impair water flow to the stream  
20 and historical auwai; and  
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22 WHEREAS, the majority of the Waiahole Valley area is owned  
23 by the State through the Departments of Land and Natural  
24 Resources, Hawaiian Home Lands, Hawaii Housing Finance and  
25 Development Corporation, and City and County of Honolulu; and  
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27 WHEREAS, the ownership of majority of the land by the State  
28 provides a unique opportunity to study jurisdictional obstacles,



1 challenges to effective watershed management, and possible  
2 recommendations for a coordinated approach to stream  
3 maintenance; and  
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5 WHEREAS, such a study would provide a road map for  
6 improving the health of Waiahole Stream and assist with flood  
7 hazard mitigation and stream maintenance policies statewide;  
8 now, therefore;  
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,  
12 that the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, in  
13 consultation with the Department of Land and Natural Resources  
14 Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Commission on Water Resource  
15 Management, and City and County of Honolulu, is requested to  
16 identify jurisdictional obstacles to coordinated stream  
17 maintenance and offer recommendations to improve stream  
18 maintenance and flood hazard mitigation policies; and  
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall address the  
21 following:  
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- 23 (1) The effects of landowner decisions on surrounding  
24 landowners and the community with a focus on flood  
25 risk;  
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- 27 (2) The obligations of government branches, private  
28 landowners, and the larger community;  
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- 30 (3) Hazards to public and private property, agriculture,  
31 and safety;  
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- 33 (4) Flood hazards related to stream management and  
34 overgrowth;  
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- 36 (5) Jurisdiction of public and private entities,  
37 including:
  - 38 (A) Private landowners;  
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  - 40 (B) State departments and agencies; and  
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- 42



1 (C) Federal property;

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3 (6) Limitations on active management by landowners and  
4 public entities;

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6 (7) Permitting;

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8 (8) Environmental conservation;

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10 (9) Best management practices for flooding at Waiahole  
11 Valley and implications for other drainage basins;

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13 (10) Recommendations to address issues identified by the  
14 study; and

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16 (11) A cost benefit analysis of establishing permanent  
17 staff to coordinate stream management across  
18 landownership boundaries in the State; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning and  
21 Sustainable Development is requested to submit a report of its  
22 findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
23 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior  
24 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and

25  
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
27 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Office of  
28 Planning and Sustainable Development, Chairperson of the  
29 Commission on Water Resource Management, Administrator of the  
30 Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry  
31 and Wildlife, and Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu.

