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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO  
INVESTIGATE, REVIEW, AND PURSUE ALL APPLICABLE CIVIL CLAIMS  
AND CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST THE OWNER AND COMMERCIAL  
OPERATOR OF THE YACHT "NAKOA".

1           WHEREAS, Honolulu Bay is treasured by many people as a  
2 natural and cultural resource, and the bay is a popular location  
3 for recreational activities such as snorkeling, SCUBA diving,  
4 and surfing; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, the "Nakoa" was a ninety-four foot, one hundred  
7 twenty-ton luxury yacht owned by the Albert Trust and operated  
8 by Jim Jones and Jones' luxury tour company Noelani Yacht  
9 Charters, LLC; and

10  
11           WHEREAS, the Nakoa reportedly ran aground the morning of  
12 February 20, 2023, on a reef approximately seven hundred feet  
13 outside the Honolulu-Mokuleia Bay Marine Life Conservation  
14 District; and

15  
16           WHEREAS, media coverage of the incident included the  
17 following details:

- 18  
19           (1) The vessel was attached overnight to a day-use-only  
20 mooring having a two-hour time limit per use, when the  
21 mooring line snapped, causing the vessel to drift onto  
22 the reef;  
23  
24           (2) On February 21, 2023, one day after the vessel ran  
25 aground, fuel was observed leaking from the vessel  
26 into the ocean;  
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28           (3) Due to the environmental threat posed by the vessel,  
29 the Coast Guard Federal On-Scene Coordinator opened  
30 the National Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to support



1 efforts to mitigate potential oil and hazardous  
2 substance pollution;

3  
4 (4) Cleanup efforts included the placement of absorbent  
5 materials inside the vessel to capture loose  
6 substances; placement of a containment boom around the  
7 vessel to capture other discharges; and pumping of  
8 diesel from the vessel's fuel tanks into  
9 fifty-five-gallon drums, followed by removal of the  
10 drums via airlift to an offsite location for safe  
11 disposal;

12  
13 (5) Personnel from the Maui Police Department, Department  
14 of Land and Natural Resources, United States Coast  
15 Guard, and multiple private contractors assisted with  
16 response, cleanup, and salvage efforts;

17  
18 (6) Removal of the Nakoa from Honolulu Bay was arranged by  
19 the Department of Land and Natural Resources using a  
20 private contractor, at a cost of approximately  
21 \$460,000, not including significant administrative and  
22 staffing costs;

23  
24 (7) Noelani Yacht Charters, LLC, operates commercial tours  
25 to numerous locations in the State, including Honolulu  
26 Bay, and advertises tour packages from Maui starting  
27 at \$9,800; and

28  
29 (8) The Department of Land and Natural Resources indicated  
30 that it is investigating the February 20, 2023,  
31 incident, will conduct an assessment of any  
32 environmental harm caused by the Nakoa, and has raised  
33 the possibility that Jones may face fines for any  
34 violations of boating laws that occurred, and  
35 reimbursement of costs incurred by the State for  
36 removal of the vessel and repairs of damage caused by  
37 the vessel to coral reefs and live rock in Honolulu  
38 Bay; and

39  
40 WHEREAS, the February 20, 2023, incident and resulting  
41 public and media scrutiny have raised questions about  
42 environmental laws and administrative rules that may have been



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1 violated in connection with operation of the Nakoia and, more  
2 broadly, about the legality of business practices engaged in by  
3 Jones and Noelani Yacht Charters, LLC; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the preservation of access to Honolua Bay and  
6 protection of the greater Honolua-Mokuleia Bay Marine Life  
7 Conservation District require timely and consistent enforcement  
8 of all applicable state laws and administrative rules governing  
9 the use of these areas; now, therefore,  
10

11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
12 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
13 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
14 the Attorney General is requested to conduct a thorough  
15 investigation and review of the February 20, 2023, incident  
16 involving the Nakoia at Honolua Bay, and other relevant incidents  
17 involving the Nakoia or Noelani Yacht Charters, LLC, and pursue  
18 all applicable civil claims and criminal charges against the  
19 vessel's owner, and its operators Jim Jones and Noelani Yacht  
20 Charters, LLC; and  
21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General,  
24 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,  
25 Chairperson of the Maui County Council, and President of the  
26 Save Honolua Coalition.  
27  
28  
29

OFFERED BY:



MAR 10 2023

