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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO  
CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO ASSESS ENVIRONMENTAL AND  
CONSERVATION INITIATIVES NEEDED TO TRANSITION VOLCANO,  
HAWAII, INTO A BIOSPHERE AREA THAT PROMOTES ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITY WELL-BEING AND COMPLEMENTS THE  
NEIGHBORING HAWAIIAN ISLANDS BIOSPHERE RESERVE.

1           WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Islands Biosphere Reserve is a United  
2 Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
3 (UNESCO) biosphere reserve that is comprised of Hawaii Volcanoes  
4 National Park and Haleakala National Park; and  
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6           WHEREAS, UNESCO biosphere reserves are recognized for their  
7 commitment to balancing human activity with environmental  
8 conservation and sustainable development; and  
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10           WHEREAS, to become a UNESCO biosphere reserve, an area must  
11 be nominated by its national government and meet certain  
12 criteria related to conservation, sustainable development, and  
13 scientific research; and  
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15           WHEREAS, although Hawaii Volcanoes National Park meets  
16 these high environmental and conservation standards, the greater  
17 Volcano, Hawaii, area suffers from many issues that threaten its  
18 environment and natural resources; and  
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20           WHEREAS, Volcano, Hawaii, has been subject to invasive  
21 plant species, Rapid Ohia Death, ungulates, declining native  
22 plant populations, and forest loss and degradation; and  
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24           WHEREAS, Volcano, Hawaii, should adopt similar  
25 environmental and conservation initiatives as Hawaii Volcanoes  
26 National Park; now, therefore,  
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
2 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
3 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Land and  
4 Natural Resources is requested to convene a working group to  
5 assess environmental and conservation initiatives needed to  
6 transition Volcano, Hawaii, into a biosphere area that promotes  
7 environmental sustainability and community well-being and  
8 complements the neighboring Hawaiian Islands Biosphere Reserve;  
9 and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
12 to consist of the following individuals:

- 13  
14 (1) Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural  
15 Resources, or the Chairperson's designee, who shall  
16 serve as Chair of the working group;  
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18 (2) A representative from the Department of Agriculture;  
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20 (3) A representative from the University of Hawaii College  
21 of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience;  
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23 (4) The State Representative from House District 5; and  
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25 (5) The State Senator from Senate District 3; and  
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair of the working group  
28 is requested to invite the following individuals to serve as  
29 members of the working group:

- 30  
31 (1) A representative from the Office of the United States  
32 Representative for Hawaii's 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District;  
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34 (2) A representative from the Natural Resources  
35 Conservation Service of the United States Department  
36 of Agriculture;  
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38 (3) A representative from the Forest Service of the United  
39 States Department of Agriculture;  
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41 (4) The Mayor of the County of Hawaii, or the Mayor's  
42 designee;



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- 2 (5) The member of the Hawaii County Council representing
- 3 District 5;
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- 5 (6) The member of the Hawaii County Council representing
- 6 District 6;
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- 8 (7) A representative from the Planning Department of the
- 9 County of Hawaii;
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- 11 (8) A representative from the Department of Public Works
- 12 of the County of Hawaii;
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- 14 (9) A representative from the Department of Environmental
- 15 Management of the County of Hawaii;
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- 17 (10) A representative from the Office of Sustainability,
- 18 Climate, Equity, and Resilience of the County of
- 19 Hawaii;
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- 21 (11) A representative from the Volcano Community
- 22 Association;
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- 24 (12) A representative from the Volcano Art Center;
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- 26 (13) A representative from the Hawaii Wildlife Management
- 27 Organization;
- 28
- 29 (14) A representative from Three Mountain Alliance;
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- 31 (15) A representative from the Big Island Invasive Species
- 32 Committee;
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- 34 (16) A representative from the National Park Service at
- 35 Hawaii Volcanoes National Park;
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- 37 (17) A representative from Hawaii Island REALTORS;
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- 39 (18) A representative from Kamehameha Schools; and
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- 41 (19) A representative from Hawaii Land Trust; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
2 to:

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- 4 (1) Conduct a literature review that assesses existing  
5 reports and studies that provide insight into the  
6 environment, natural resources, and socioeconomic  
7 conditions of Volcano, Hawaii;
  - 8
  - 9 (2) Develop best practices for native ohia forest  
10 stewardship that inform sustainable development, land  
11 use, green infrastructure development, and water  
12 resource management;
  - 13
  - 14 (3) Develop a community engagement strategy that increases  
15 education and awareness of environmental issues in  
16 Volcano, Hawaii;
  - 17
  - 18 (4) Develop a monitoring and evaluation system that tracks  
19 the progress of environmental and conservation  
20 initiatives in Volcano, Hawaii; and
  - 21
  - 22 (5) Identify potential buffer zones and conservation  
23 easements for activities that support ohia forest  
24 preservation and sustainable development; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
27 to determine the scope of the actions and initiatives to be  
28 conducted in the biosphere area; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
31 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,  
32 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature and the  
33 Hawaii County Council no later than twenty days prior to the  
34 convening of the Regular Session of 2026; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
37 Natural Resources is requested to provide any necessary  
38 administrative support to the working group, including the  
39 preparation and drafting of the report; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group shall cease  
42 to exist on June 30, 2026; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States Representative for Hawaii's 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District; Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture; Chief of the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture; Superintendent of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; Dean and Director of the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience; Mayor of the County of Hawaii; members of the Hawaii County Council representing Council Districts 5 and 6; Planning Director of the Planning Department of the County of Hawaii; Director of the Department of Public Works of the County of Hawaii; Director of the Department of Environmental Management of the County of Hawaii; Administrator of the Office of Sustainability, Climate, Equity, and Resilience of the County of Hawaii; President of the Volcano Community Association Board of Directors; Chief Executive Officer of the Volcano Art Center; Co-Executive Directors of the Hawaii Wildlife Management Organization; Coordinator of the Three Mountain Alliance; Program Manager of the Big Island Invasive Species Committee; President of the Hawaii Island REALTORS Board of Directors; Chief Executive Officer of Kamehameha Schools; and President & Chief Executive Officer of Hawaii Land Trust.

OFFERED BY:   
MAR - 7 2025

