
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 was a
2 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
3 (UNESCO) biosphere reserve that was comprised of Hawaii
4 Volcanoes 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 met these
16 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

10
11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
12 to consist of the following individuals:

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14 (1) The State Representative from House District 5, who
15 shall serve as Chair of the working group; and
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17 (2) A representative from the Volcano Community
18 Association, to be invited by the Chair of the working
19 group; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
22 to:

- 23
24 (1) Conduct a literature review that assesses existing
25 reports and studies that provide insight into the
26 environment, natural resources, and socioeconomic
27 conditions of Volcano, Hawaii;
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29 (2) Develop best practices for native ohia forest
30 stewardship that inform sustainable development, land
31 use, green infrastructure development, and water
32 resource management;
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34 (3) Develop a community engagement strategy that increases
35 education and awareness of environmental issues in
36 Volcano, Hawaii;
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38 (4) Develop a monitoring and evaluation system that tracks
39 the progress of environmental and conservation
40 initiatives in Volcano, Hawaii; and
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1 (5) Identify potential buffer zones and conservation
2 easements for activities that support ohia forest
3 preservation and sustainable development; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
6 to determine the scope of the actions and initiatives to be
7 conducted in the biosphere area; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
10 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
11 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature and the
12 Hawaii County Council no later than twenty days prior to the
13 convening of the Regular Session of 2026; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
16 Natural Resources is requested to provide any necessary
17 administrative support to the working group, including the
18 preparation and drafting of the report; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group shall cease
21 to exist on June 30, 2026; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
25 Volcano Community Association Board of Directors.

