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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO  
ESTABLISH A COLLABORATIVE WORKING GROUP TO SURVEY,  
IDENTIFY, AND MONITOR CULTURALLY SENSITIVE SHORELINES  
IMPACTED BY EROSION.

1           WHEREAS, the State recognizes the cultural and historical  
2 significance of Native Hawaiian burial sites and the need to  
3 protect these sacred places; and

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5           WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian iwi kūpuna were historically  
6 interred along sandy shoreline areas, which are now increasingly  
7 threatened by coastal erosion; and

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9           WHEREAS, multiple culturally sensitive shoreline areas  
10 across the State, including Lahilahi Beach Park in Wai‘anae,  
11 Kaulahao Beach in Hamakuapoko, and the Old Kona Airport Beach  
12 Park in Kailua-Kona, have experienced ongoing coastal erosion,  
13 resulting in the continuous exposure of iwi kūpuna; and

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15           WHEREAS, pursuant to section 13-300-2, Hawaii  
16 Administrative Rules, iwi exposed due to erosion are classified  
17 as inadvertent discoveries; and

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19           WHEREAS, the State Historic Preservation Division of the  
20 Department of Land and Natural Resources is the designated  
21 agency responsible for the disposition of inadvertently  
22 discovered iwi kūpuna; and

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24           WHEREAS, iwi discovered through shoreline erosion are  
25 frequently located within the high-water mark, making it  
26 difficult to preserve them in place; and

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28           WHEREAS, iwi found in shoreline areas also fall within the  
29 jurisdiction of the State, complicating quick reinterment  
30 efforts within the immediate vicinity due to the need for  
31 permission from adjacent property owners; and



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2 WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced to address the  
3 discovery of iwi kūpuna exposed along Hawaii's shorelines due to  
4 coastal erosion; and

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6 WHEREAS, the establishment of an inter-division program to  
7 coordinate efforts among state and county agencies is necessary  
8 to ensure the successful coordination of efforts in locating,  
9 protecting, and restoring Native Hawaiian burial sites and iwi  
10 kūpuna affected by coastal erosion; now, therefore,

11  
12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
13 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
14 of 2025, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is  
15 requested to establish a collaborative working group to survey,  
16 identify, and monitor culturally sensitive shorelines impacted  
17 by erosion; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the collaborative working group  
20 is requested to include the following members:

- 21  
22 (1) Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural  
23 Resources, or the Chairperson's designee;  
24  
25 (2) Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of  
26 Hawaiian Affairs, or the Chairperson's designee;  
27  
28 (3) Administrator of the Department of Land and Natural  
29 Resources' State Historic Preservation Division, or  
30 the Administrator's designee;  
31  
32 (4) A representative of the Island Burial Councils, to be  
33 selected by the Chairperson of the Board of Land and  
34 Natural Resources;  
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36 (5) A representative from the City and County of Honolulu  
37 selected by the Mayor;  
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39 (6) A representative of the County of Hawaii selected by  
40 the Mayor;  
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1 (7) A representative of the County of Maui selected by the  
2 Mayor; and

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4 (8) A representative of the County of Kauai selected by  
5 the Mayor; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the collaborative working group  
8 is requested to determine a process to address iwi kūpuna  
9 exposed along shorelines, ensuring their protection from adverse  
10 impact; and

11  
12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the collaborative working group  
13 is requested to assess public lands near culturally sensitive  
14 areas where iwi kūpuna were exposed along shorelines to determine  
15 locations that may be designated as suitable reinternment sites;  
16 and

17  
18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
19 Natural Resources is requested to consider the appropriate  
20 methods of funding to support the collaborative working group,  
21 including for the construction of secure and culturally  
22 appropriate reinternment vaults in areas designated by the  
23 collaborative working group to ensure the respectful and  
24 permanent protection of iwi kūpuna; and

25  
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the collaborative working group  
27 is requested to submit a report of its findings and  
28 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
29 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
30 the Regular Session of 2026; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
33 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
34 Land and Natural Resources; Chairperson of the Board of Trustees  
35 of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Administrator of the  
36 Department of Land and Natural Resources' State Historic  
37 Preservation Division; and Mayors of the City and County of  
38 Honolulu and County of Maui, County of Hawaii, and County of  
39 Kauai.

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H.R. NO. 118

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. S. L.', written over a horizontal line.

OFFERED BY:

MAR 07 2025

