
HOUSE 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

9
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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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
29 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session



1 of 2025, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is
2 requested to convene a working group to assess environmental and
3 conservation initiatives needed to transition Volcano, Hawaii,
4 into a biosphere area that promotes environmental sustainability
5 and community well-being and complements the neighboring
6 Hawaiian Islands Biosphere Reserve; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
9 to consist of the following individuals:
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- 11 (1) Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
12 Resources, or the Chairperson's designee, who shall
13 serve as Chair of the working group;
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- 15 (2) A representative from the Department of Agriculture;
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- 17 (3) A representative from the University of Hawaii College
18 of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience;
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- 20 (4) The State Representative from House District 5; and
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- 22 (5) The State Senator from Senate District 3; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair of the working group
25 is requested to invite the following individuals to serve as
26 members of the working group:
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- 28 (1) A representative from the Office of the United States
29 Representative for Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District;
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- 31 (2) A representative from the Natural Resources
32 Conservation Service of the United States Department
33 of Agriculture;
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- 35 (3) A representative from the Forest Service of the United
36 States Department of Agriculture;
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- 38 (4) The Mayor of the County of Hawaii, or the Mayor's
39 designee;
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- 41 (5) The member of the Hawaii County Council representing
42 District 5;



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- 2 (6) The member of the Hawaii County Council representing
- 3 District 6;
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- 5 (7) A representative from the Planning Department of the
- 6 County of Hawaii;
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- 8 (8) A representative from the Department of Public Works
- 9 of the County of Hawaii;
- 10
- 11 (9) A representative from the Department of Environmental
- 12 Management of the County of Hawaii;
- 13
- 14 (10) A representative from the Office of Sustainability,
- 15 Climate, Equity, and Resilience of the County of
- 16 Hawaii;
- 17
- 18 (11) A representative from the Volcano Community
- 19 Association;
- 20
- 21 (12) A representative from the Volcano Art Center;
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- 23 (13) A representative from the Hawaii Wildlife Management
- 24 Organization;
- 25
- 26 (14) A representative from Three Mountain Alliance;
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- 28 (15) A representative from the Big Island Invasive Species
- 29 Committee;
- 30
- 31 (16) A representative from the National Park Service at
- 32 Hawaii Volcanoes National Park;
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- 34 (17) A representative from Hawaii Island REALTORS;
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- 36 (18) A representative from Kamehameha Schools; and
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- 38 (19) A representative from Hawaii Land Trust; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
41 to:
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- 1 (1) Conduct a literature review that assesses existing
2 reports and studies that provide insight into the
3 environment, natural resources, and socioeconomic
4 conditions of Volcano, Hawaii;
5
- 6 (2) Develop best practices for native ohia forest
7 stewardship that inform sustainable development, land
8 use, green infrastructure development, and water
9 resource management;
10
- 11 (3) Develop a community engagement strategy that increases
12 education and awareness of environmental issues in
13 Volcano, Hawaii;
14
- 15 (4) Develop a monitoring and evaluation system that tracks
16 the progress of environmental and conservation
17 initiatives in Volcano, Hawaii; and
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- 19 (5) Identify potential buffer zones and conservation
20 easements for activities that support ohia forest
21 preservation and sustainable development; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
24 to determine the scope of the actions and initiatives to be
25 conducted in the biosphere area; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
28 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
29 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature and the
30 Hawaii County Council no later than twenty days prior to the
31 convening of the Regular Session of 2026; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
34 Natural Resources is requested to provide any necessary
35 administrative support to the working group, including the
36 preparation and drafting of the report; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group shall cease
39 to exist on June 30, 2026; and
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
42 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Representative



1 for Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District; Chief of the Natural
2 Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department
3 of Agriculture; Chief of the Forest Service of the United States
4 Department of Agriculture; Superintendent of Hawaii Volcanoes
5 National Park; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
6 Resources; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; Dean and
7 Director of the University of Hawaii College of Tropical
8 Agriculture and Human Resilience; Mayor of the County of Hawaii;
9 members of the Hawaii County Council representing Council
10 Districts 5 and 6; Planning Director of the Planning Department
11 of the County of Hawaii; Director of the Department of Public
12 Works of the County of Hawaii; Director of the Department of
13 Environmental Management of the County of Hawaii; Administrator
14 of the Office of Sustainability, Climate, Equity, and Resilience
15 of the County of Hawaii; President of the Volcano Community
16 Association Board of Directors; Chief Executive Officer of the
17 Volcano Art Center; Co-Executive Directors of the Hawaii
18 Wildlife Management Organization; Coordinator of the Three
19 Mountain Alliance; Program Manager of the Big Island Invasive
20 Species Committee; President of the Hawaii Island REALTORS Board
21 of Directors; Chief Executive Officer of Kamehameha Schools; and
22 President & Chief Executive Officer of Hawaii Land Trust.

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OFFERED BY:



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