
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE TO PRIORITIZE THE RESTORATION AND PROTECTION OF ADDITIONAL WETLANDS AND ANCHIALINE POOLS.

1 WHEREAS, wetlands are a vital part of Hawaii's environment
2 and ecosystem, and the State has an obligation to protect them;
3 and
4

5 WHEREAS, the State's water quality standards and other
6 legal protections that apply to stream systems and "waters of
7 the State" also apply to Hawaii's wetlands; and
8

9 WHEREAS, the County of Maui requires wetlands to be
10 restored and protected beyond what is minimally required by the
11 Clean Water Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, or other federal
12 laws, and requires all discretionary permits issued by the
13 County to comply with this policy; and
14

15 WHEREAS, the protection and restoration of wetlands helps
16 enhance wildfire and drought resistance; reduces the magnitude
17 of floods; and provides valuable habitats for flora, fauna, and
18 endangered species; and
19

20 WHEREAS, wetlands also act as filters for stream, storm,
21 and urban runoff, preventing high levels of sediment from
22 reaching the ocean; and
23

24 WHEREAS, without the natural filters offered by wetlands,
25 coral reefs, aquatic life, and recreational ocean activities
26 would be threatened; and
27

28 WHEREAS, it is financially prudent for the State to prevent
29 the degradation of wetlands, because, once degraded, wetlands
30 can be cost-prohibitive to restore and maintain; and
31



1 WHEREAS, without further protections, the State's
2 anchialine pools are also at risk of degradation, threatening the
3 pools' rare ecosystems and species; now, therefore,
4

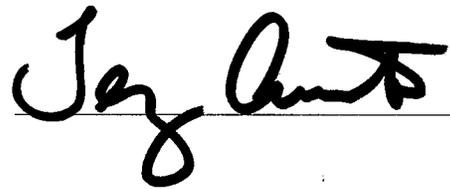
5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
6 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
7 of 2025, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources
8 Division of Forestry and Wildlife is urged to prioritize the
9 restoration and protection of additional wetlands in the State;
10 and
11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Division of Agricultural
13 Resources is also urged to apply the protective policies
14 afforded to wetlands to the State's anchialine pools; and
15

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Division is requested to
17 ensure that the protection of wetlands, especially wetlands in
18 Kihei on the Island of Maui, is prioritized over development
19 concerns, where feasible; and
20

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board of Land and
23 Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife Statewide
24 Program Manager, and Division of Forestry and Wildlife Statewide
25 Program Manager for Native Ecosystem Protection and Management.
26
27
28

OFFERED BY:



MAR - 7 2025

