
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND OTHER STATE AGENCIES TO WORK WITH COMMITTED COMMUNITY GROUPS TO CO-STEWARD COMMUNITY FORESTS LOCATED ON PUBLIC LANDS FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE STATE'S FORESTS AND COMMUNITIES.

1 WHEREAS, Governor Josh Green, M.D., has proclaimed 2025 the
2 Year of Our Community Forests; and

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4 WHEREAS, the mission of the Department of Land and Natural
5 Resources is to enhance, protect, conserve, and manage the
6 State's unique and limited natural, cultural, and historic
7 resources that are held in public trust for current and future
8 generations of the people of Hawaii and its visitors, in
9 partnership with others from the public and private sectors; and

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11 WHEREAS, community forests are forests where the people of
12 Hawaii live, learn, work, and play; and

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14 WHEREAS, trees and community forests provide significant
15 health benefits, including access to food and medicinal plants,
16 stress reduction, and reduced incidences of cardiovascular and
17 respiratory diseases; and

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19 WHEREAS, trees and community forests provide extensive
20 environmental benefits, including clean air and water, reduced
21 noise and air pollution, native species habitats, carbon
22 storage, and reduced erosion; and

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24 WHEREAS, trees and community forests provide important
25 economic benefits, including increased property values; cooling
26 for cities and neighborhoods, with less need for air
27 conditioning; increased spending at businesses near trees;
28 support for arboriculture and forestry jobs and ecotourism and
29 outdoor recreation businesses; and the sale of forest products
30 such as food, fiber, timber, medicines, and textiles; and

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1 WHEREAS, traditional and customary Native Hawaiian
 2 practices are supported through forestry stewardship and aloha
 3 ‘āina; therefore, it is critical for the State to build and
 4 maintain sustainable, healthy forests; and

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 6 WHEREAS, the State manages over seven hundred thousand
 7 acres of public forest reserve lands, in addition to other
 8 public lands with trees and community forests such as state
 9 parks, school campuses, and transit corridors; and

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 11 WHEREAS, investing in forest stewardship requires
 12 considerable dedication, effort, expertise, tools, human
 13 resources, and time and is often associated with community
 14 members' love of the land; and

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 16 WHEREAS, there exists a need for sustained, collaborative
 17 relationships among communities and agencies that recognize and
 18 honor community investment; and

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 20 WHEREAS, active co-stewardship of community forests between
 21 the State and the people of Hawaii will improve the State's
 22 communities and community forests; now, therefore,

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 24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 25 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 26 of 2025, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources and
 27 other state agencies are urged to work with committed community
 28 groups to co-steward community forests located on public lands
 29 for the betterment of the State's forests and communities; and

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 31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 32 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson and each member of
 33 the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

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OFFERED BY:

Lisa Motes

MAR 03 2025

