

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
CONVENE A KAILUA BAY ADVISORY WORKING GROUP.

WHEREAS, the Kailua-Kona Wharf, commonly referred to as the Kailua Pier, in Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i Island, serves as a vital hub for place-based cultural history, community gatherings, ocean-based tourism, and recreational activities which supports local businesses and enhances the economy of West Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, Kailua Pier and the surrounding area of Kailua Bay hold deep cultural and historical significance to the Hawai'i Island community as a sacred and political center for Native Hawaiians, serving as the royal residence of King Kamehameha I in his later years and the site of Ahu'ena Heiau, where the King governed and upheld traditional Hawaiian practices; and

WHEREAS, Kailua Bay witnessed pivotal moments in Hawaiian history, including the transition from the traditional kapu system to a new era of governance in 1819, marking a profound shift in the cultural and societal structure of Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, the area has remained a vital hub for maritime activity, commerce, and cultural traditions, sustaining generations of Native Hawaiian fishers, voyagers, and practitioners who continue to honor the ancestral connection to the land and ocean; and

WHEREAS, today, the Kailua Pier provides essential access for fishing, boating, and cultural events, including the annual Queen Lili'uokalani Canoe Race, the IRONMAN World Championship, and traditional Hawaiian ceremonies, fostering both economic growth and cultural preservation; and

WHEREAS, in addition to servicing local residents, the Kailua Pier serves as a key arrival point for cruise ships, bringing thousands of visitors to West Hawai'i each year, who



1 contribute significantly to the region's economy through
2 tourism-related spending by supporting local businesses,
3 restaurants, tour operators, and cultural sites; and
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5 WHEREAS, the high level of activity at the Kailua Pier has
6 resulted in persistent challenges related to homelessness,
7 including the frequent vandalism of public facilities, damage to
8 restroom infrastructure, and unauthorized encampments, creating
9 ongoing safety and sanitation concerns for residents and
10 visitors; and
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12 WHEREAS, while maintenance of the Kailua Pier is essential
13 for public safety, environmental protection, and the long-term
14 benefit of the community, persistent vandalism and destruction
15 of public restrooms and infrastructure have led to rising
16 maintenance costs, disruptions to public access, and the need
17 for continuous repairs by state and county agencies; and
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19 WHEREAS, the management and operations of Kailua Pier fall
20 under the jurisdiction of multiple government agencies,
21 including the Department of Land and Natural Resources, various
22 departments of the County of Hawai'i such as Parks and Recreation
23 and the Police Department as well as federal entities such as
24 the United States Coast Guard; and
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26 WHEREAS, local nonprofit organizations, including
27 Destination Kona Coast, play a crucial role in visitor education
28 and greeting programs while serving as dedicated stewards of
29 Kailua Pier, actively monitoring its operations, identifying
30 facility concerns, and relaying issues to government officials
31 in a timely manner; and
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33 WHEREAS, adopting an interjurisdictional approach to
34 addressing challenges at Kailua Pier would enhance communication
35 between pier users and government officials, while fostering
36 coordinated oversight and effective management among responsible
37 authorities; now, therefore,
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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
40 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
41 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Land and



1 Natural Resources is requested to convene a Kailua Bay Advisory
2 Working Group; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kailua Bay Advisory Working
5 Group is requested to:
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- 7 (1) Provide a structured forum for state, county, and
8 community stakeholders to collaborate on
9 interjurisdictional issues affecting Kailua Pier;
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- 11 (2) Identify and implement solutions to enhance safety for
12 pier users, including swimmers, boaters, and visitors;
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- 14 (3) Ensure that commercial, recreational, and cultural
15 activities at the pier remain viable and beneficial to
16 the West Hawai'i community;
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- 18 (4) Monitor and advocate for necessary repairs, upgrades,
19 and funding to maintain the pier's long-term
20 sustainability;
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- 22 (5) Address issues including water quality, marine life
23 protection, and pollution affecting Kailua Pier and
24 Kailua Bay;
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- 26 (6) Offer policy and operational recommendations to
27 improve pier management and operations;
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- 29 (7) Serve as a liaison between government entities and the
30 public, ensuring that community voices are heard and
31 considered in decision-making;
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- 33 (8) Track ongoing and emerging challenges, including
34 homelessness, parking availability, and user
35 conflicts, and propose collaborative solutions; and
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- 37 (9) Convene on a monthly basis; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
40 Natural Resources is requested to include the following members
41 in the working group:
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- (1) The Administrator of the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation or the Administrator's designee, who shall serve as chairperson;
- (2) The member of the Senate who represents the senatorial district in which the pier located;
- (3) The member of the House of Representatives who represents the house district in which the pier is located;
- (4) The member of the Hawai'i County Council who represents the council district in which the pier is located;
- (5) The Mayor of the County of Hawai'i, or the Mayor's designee;
- (6) A representative of the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions;
- (7) A representative of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority;
- (8) The Chief of the Hawai'i Police Department, or the Chief's designee;
- (9) A representative of the Kai 'Opua Canoe Club to be invited by the chairperson;
- (10) A representative of the Kai 'Ehitu Outrigger Team of Kailua-Kona to be invited by the chairperson;
- (11) A representative of the Kailua Village Business Improvement District to be invited by the chairperson;
- (12) A representative of the Courtyard King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel to be invited by the chairperson;
- (13) Two at-large members of the community appointed by the Senator representing the senatorial district in which the pier is located; and



(14) Two community at-large members of the community appointed by the Representative representing the house district in which the pier is located; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that beginning in 2025 and for three years thereafter, the Kailua Bay Advisory Group is requested to submit a quarterly report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Coordinator on Homelessness, Administrator of the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, Mayor of the County of Hawai'i, Chairperson of the Hawai'i County Council, Chief of the Hawai'i Police Department, the Chairperson of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

OFFERED BY:

Mina E. Lu

MAR - 7 2025

