
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 Waiʻanae,
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,

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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:

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22 (1) Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
23 Resources, or the Chairperson's designee;
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25 (2) Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of
26 Hawaiian Affairs, or the Chairperson's designee;
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28 (3) Administrator of the Department of Land and Natural
29 Resources' State Historic Preservation Division, or
30 the Administrator's designee;
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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

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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

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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

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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. L.' or similar, written over a horizontal line.

OFFERED BY:

MAR 07 2025

