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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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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

5  
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

14  
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

19  
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

23  
24 WHEREAS, Volcano, Hawaii, should adopt similar  
25 environmental and conservation initiatives as Hawaii Volcanoes  
26 National Park; now, therefore,

27  
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  
7

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;  
14
- 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;  
19
- 20 (4) The State Representative from House District 5; and  
21
- 22 (5) The State Senator from Senate District 3; and  
23

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:  
27

- 28 (1) A representative from the Office of the United States  
29 Representative for Hawaii's 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District;  
30
- 31 (2) A representative from the Natural Resources  
32 Conservation Service of the United States Department  
33 of Agriculture;  
34
- 35 (3) A representative from the Forest Service of the United  
36 States Department of Agriculture;  
37
- 38 (4) The Mayor of the County of Hawaii, or the Mayor's  
39 designee;  
40
- 41 (5) The member of the Hawaii County Council representing  
42 District 5;



- 1
- 2 (6) The member of the Hawaii County Council representing
- 3 District 6;
- 4
- 5 (7) A representative from the Planning Department of the
- 6 County of Hawaii;
- 7
- 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;
- 22
- 23 (13) A representative from the Hawaii Wildlife Management
- 24 Organization;
- 25
- 26 (14) A representative from Three Mountain Alliance;
- 27
- 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;
- 33
- 34 (17) A representative from Hawaii Island REALTORS;
- 35
- 36 (18) A representative from Kamehameha Schools; and
- 37
- 38 (19) A representative from Hawaii Land Trust; and
- 39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
41 to:  
42



- 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
- 18
- 19 (5) Identify potential buffer zones and conservation
- 20 easements for activities that support ohia forest
- 21 preservation and sustainable development; and
- 22

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

26

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

32

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



H.R. NO. 143

1 for Hawaii's 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

OFFERED BY:



MAR - 7 2025

