
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES 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
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5 WHEREAS, the State's water quality standards and other
6 legal protections that apply to stream systems and state waters
7 also apply to Hawaii's wetlands; and
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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
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15 WHEREAS, the protection and restoration of wetlands help
16 enhance wildfire and drought resistance; reduce the magnitude of
17 floods; and provide valuable habitats for flora, fauna, and
18 endangered species; and
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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
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24 WHEREAS, without the natural filters offered by wetlands,
25 coral reefs, aquatic life, and recreational ocean activities
26 would be threatened; and
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28 WHEREAS, it is financially prudent for the State to prevent
29 the degradation of wetlands because, once degraded, wetlands can
30 be cost-prohibitive to restore and maintain; and
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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,
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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 is
8 urged to prioritize the restoration and protection of additional
9 wetlands in the State; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Division of Aquatic
12 Resources of the Department of Land and Natural Resources is
13 also urged to apply the protective policies afforded to wetlands
14 to the State's anchialine pools; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Maui is requested
17 to ensure that the protection of wetlands, especially wetlands
18 in Kihei on the Island of Maui, is prioritized over development
19 concerns, where feasible; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
23 Land and Natural Resources, Administrator of the Division of
24 Aquatic Resources of the Department of Land and Natural
25 Resources, and Mayor of the County of Maui.

