
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE FORMATION OF A WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS THE
ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS AT PŌKA'Ī BAY.

1 WHEREAS, Pōka'ī Bay is a vital natural and cultural
2 resource for the community of Wai'anae, providing recreational,
3 environmental, and economic benefits; and
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5 WHEREAS, addressing environmental concerns is important to
6 preserve Pōka'ī Bay and its long-term viability for future
7 generations; and
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9 WHEREAS, pollution, sedimentation, and lack of adequate
10 infrastructure continue to degrade Pōka'ī Bay; and
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12 WHEREAS, the degradation of Pōka'ī Bay has significantly
13 impacted marine life, water quality, and public access; and
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15 WHEREAS, the local community, residents, cultural
16 practitioners, and businesses have expressed concerns regarding
17 the condition of Pōka'ī Bay and the need for immediate action to
18 restore and maintain its ecosystem; and
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20 WHEREAS, collaboration between government agencies,
21 community organizations, and stakeholders is necessary to
22 develop sustainable management practices and implement practical
23 solutions for the preservation of Pōka'ī Bay; and
24

25 WHEREAS, this body finds that the threats to the wildlife
26 of Pōka'ī Bay and its pristine beauty requires immediate and
27 decisive action; now, therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
31 of 2025, that a working group be established to address
32 environmental concerns at Pōka'ī Bay; and



1
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
3 to consist of the following members:
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5 (1) The Director of the Pacific Southwest Office of the
6 United States Environmental Protection Agency;
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8 (2) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
9 Resources;
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11 (3) The Director of Transportation;
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13 (4) The Representative of House District 45;
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15 (5) The Director of the City and County of Honolulu
16 Department of Facility Maintenance;
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18 (6) The Councilmember of District 1 of the City and County
19 of Honolulu; and
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21 (7) The Chair of the Wai'anae Coast Neighborhood Board No.
22 24; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
25 to invite other individuals with relevant experience and
26 expertise to be members of the working group, including:
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28 (1) A marine biologist from the University of Hawai'i at
29 Mānoa;
30

31 (2) A representative from the fishing industry; and
32

33 (3) Any other members the working group deems necessary;
34 and
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the working group is requested to
37 conduct a comprehensive environmental assessment to determine
38 the primary sources of pollution and sedimentation at Pōka'i
39 Bay; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
2 to assess the feasibility and estimated costs of:

- 3
4 (1) Erosion control measures to prevent further
5 degradation of the bay;
6
7 (2) Water quality monitoring programs to ensure ongoing
8 assessment;
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10 (3) Additional trash receptacles and regular cleanup
11 efforts to improve waste management;
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13 (4) Marine habitat restoration projects;
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15 (5) Conscious harbor practices at the bay, including
16 prohibiting commercial boats from anchoring in the bay
17 and boat owners from emptying their holding tanks that
18 contain sewage into the bay;
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20 (6) Fisheries certification programs to promote
21 sustainable fishing practices; and
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23 (7) Public facilities improvements to support responsible
24 recreation and tourism; and
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
27 to make recommendations to reduce or prevent adverse
28 environmental impacts on the bay based on its assessment; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
31 to conduct community engagement and educational initiatives to
32 raise awareness of the protection of the bay; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
35 to meet on a quarterly basis; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
38 to provide a quarterly report to the House of Representatives;
39 and
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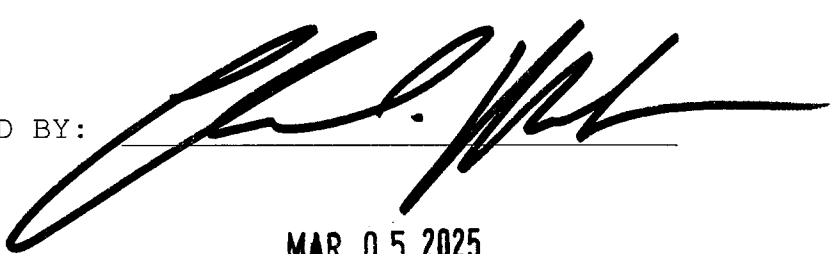


H.R. NO. 42

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group shall cease
2 on June 30, 2027; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City and County of Honolulu
5 is requested to allocate funding and resources to implement the
6 working group's recommendations; and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Pacific
10 Southwest Office of the United States Environmental Protection
11 Agency; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources;
12 Director of Transportation; Representative of House District 45;
13 Director of the City and County of Honolulu Department of
14 Facility Maintenance; Councilmember of District 1 of the City
15 and County of Honolulu; Chair of the Wai'anae Coast Neighborhood
16 Board No. 24; and Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at
17 Mānoa.
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OFFERED BY: 

MAR 05 2025

