
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS NO-TRESPASSING POLICIES ALONG STREAMS ON OAHU AND IMPROVE COORDINATION BETWEEN STATE AND COUNTY AUTHORITIES TO ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS.

1 WHEREAS, streams on Oahu are vital resources that serve as
2 cultural and community landmarks and provide essential
3 ecological functions, including flood management, water quality
4 preservation, and habitats for native species; and
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6 WHEREAS, the presence of encampments along streams create
7 environmental hazards, such as improper waste disposal that
8 pollutes waterways and harms the natural ecosystems connect to
9 the streams, including the Ala Wai canal and nearshore waters;
10 and
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12 WHEREAS, the presence of encampments in and near streams
13 poses significant safety and health risks to individuals
14 experiencing homelessness, who may face life-threatening
15 conditions during floods, exposure to biohazards, and inadequate
16 access to necessary resources; and
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18 WHEREAS, the lack of clear and coordinated enforcement
19 between state and county authorities has allowed unsafe
20 conditions to persist, resulting in blocked floodways and
21 emergency rescues, and caused harm to the broader community and
22 environment; and
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24 WHEREAS, addressing these challenges requires a multi-
25 stakeholder approach that fosters collaboration between state
26 and local government organizations and community representatives
27 to develop compassionate, effective, and sustainable solutions;
28 now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
3 of 2025, that the Department of Law Enforcement, in
4 collaboration with the Department of Health, is requested to
5 convene a task force to address no-trespassing policies along
6 streams on Oahu and improve coordination between State and
7 county authorities to address environmental and public health
8 concerns; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
11 consist of the following members:
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- 13 (1) The Director of Law Enforcement, or the Director's
14 designee;
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- 16 (2) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;
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- 18 (3) The Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, or the
19 Mayor's designee;
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- 21 (4) The chairperson of the House of Representatives
22 standing committee with primary jurisdiction over
23 housing, or the chairperson's designee; and
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- 25 (5) The chairperson of the Senate standing committee with
26 primary jurisdiction over water and land, or the
27 chairperson's designee; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
30 invite the following community members to participate on the
31 task force, to be selected as follows:
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- 33 (1) One member to be selected by the Speaker of the House
34 of Representatives;
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- 36 (2) One member to be selected by the President of the
37 Senate;
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- 39 (3) One member to be selected by the Governor; and
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- 41 (4) One member to be selected by the Mayor of the City and
42 County of Honolulu; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:

- (1) Develop recommendations for implementing no-trespassing policies along streams on Oahu, with a focus on humane enforcement practices;
- (2) Propose strategies to improve coordination between state and county agencies in addressing encampments along streams on Oahu;
- (3) Identify resources and outreach programs necessary to connect individuals experiencing homelessness who are encamped along streams on Oahu to services providing shelter, health care, or permanent housing; and
- (4) Evaluate environmental impacts of encampments and propose measures to mitigate pollution and protect water quality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to convene no later than August 1, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall cease to exist on June 30, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Law Enforcement, Director of Health, and Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu.

OFFERED BY: 

MAR - 5 2025

