

MAR 06 2025

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE 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  
4

5 WHEREAS, the State's water quality standards and other  
6 legal protections that apply to stream systems and "waters of  
7 the State" 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  
14

15 WHEREAS, the protection and restoration of wetlands helps  
16 enhance wildfire and drought resistance; reduces the magnitude  
17 of floods; and provides 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  
30 can be cost-prohibitive to restore and maintain; and



## S.C.R. NO. 42

1  
2 WHEREAS, without further protections, the State's  
3 anchialine pools are also at risk of degradation, threatening the  
4 pools' rare ecosystems and species; now, therefore,  
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the  
8 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land  
9 and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife is urged  
10 to prioritize the restoration and protection of additional  
11 wetlands in the State; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Division of Agricultural  
14 Resources is also urged to apply the protective policies  
15 afforded to wetlands to the State's anchialine pools; and  
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Division is requested to  
18 ensure that the protection of wetlands, especially wetlands in  
19 Kihei on the Island of Maui, is prioritized over development  
20 concerns, where feasible; and  
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board  
24 of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife  
25 Statewide Program Manager, and Division of Forestry and Wildlife  
26 Statewide Program Manager for Native Ecosystem Protection and  
27 Management.  
28  
29  
30

OFFERED BY: 

