

MAR 07 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
CONVENE A KAILUA BAY ADVISORY WORKING GROUP.

1 WHEREAS, the Kailua-Kona Wharf, commonly referred to as the
2 Kailua Pier, in Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i Island, serves as a vital
3 hub for place-based cultural history, community gatherings,
4 ocean-based tourism, and recreational activities which supports
5 local businesses and enhances the economy of West Hawai'i; and
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7 WHEREAS, Kailua Pier and the surrounding area of Kailua Bay
8 hold deep cultural and historical significance to the Hawai'i
9 Island community as a sacred and political center for Native
10 Hawaiians, serving as the royal residence of King Kamehameha I
11 in his later years and the site of Ahu'ena Heiau, where the King
12 governed and upheld traditional Hawaiian practices; and
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14 WHEREAS, Kailua Bay witnessed pivotal moments in Hawaiian
15 history, including the transition from the traditional kapu
16 system to a new era of governance in 1819, marking a profound
17 shift in the cultural and societal structure of Hawai'i; and
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19 WHEREAS, the area has remained a vital hub for maritime
20 activity, commerce, and cultural traditions, sustaining
21 generations of Native Hawaiian fishers, voyagers, and
22 practitioners who continue to honor the ancestral connection to
23 the land and ocean; and
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25 WHEREAS, today, the Kailua Pier provides essential access
26 for fishing, boating, and cultural events, including the annual
27 Queen Lili'uokalani Canoe Race, the IRONMAN World Championship,
28 and traditional Hawaiian ceremonies, fostering both economic
29 growth and cultural preservation; and
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31 WHEREAS, in addition to servicing local residents, the
32 Kailua Pier serves as a key arrival point for cruise ships,
33 bringing thousands of visitors to West Hawai'i each year, who
34 contribute significantly to the region's economy through



1 tourism-related spending by supporting local businesses,
2 restaurants, tour operators, and cultural sites; and
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4 WHEREAS, the high level of activity at the Kailua Pier has
5 resulted in persistent challenges related to homelessness,
6 including the frequent vandalism of public facilities, damage to
7 restroom infrastructure, and unauthorized encampments, creating
8 ongoing safety and sanitation concerns for residents and
9 visitors; and
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11 WHEREAS, while maintenance of the Kailua Pier is essential
12 for public safety, environmental protection, and the long-term
13 benefit of the community, persistent vandalism and destruction
14 of public restrooms and infrastructure have led to rising
15 maintenance costs, disruptions to public access, and the need
16 for continuous repairs by state and county agencies; and
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18 WHEREAS, the management and operations of Kailua Pier fall
19 under the jurisdiction of multiple government agencies,
20 including the Department of Land and Natural Resources, various
21 departments of the County of Hawai'i such as Parks and Recreation
22 and the Police Department as well as federal entities such as
23 the United States Coast Guard; and
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25 WHEREAS, local nonprofit organizations, including
26 Destination Kona Coast, play a crucial role in visitor education
27 and greeting programs while serving as dedicated stewards of
28 Kailua Pier, actively monitoring its operations, identifying
29 facility concerns, and relaying issues to government officials
30 in a timely manner; and
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32 WHEREAS, adopting an interjurisdictional approach to
33 addressing challenges at Kailua Pier would enhance communication
34 between pier users and government officials, while fostering
35 coordinated oversight and effective management among responsible
36 authorities; now, therefore,
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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
39 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
40 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested
41 to convene a Kailua Bay Advisory Working Group; and
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kailua Bay Advisory Working Group is requested to:

- (1) Provide a structured forum for state, county, and community stakeholders to collaborate on interjurisdictional issues affecting Kailua Pier;
- (2) Identify and implement solutions to enhance safety for pier users, including swimmers, boaters, and visitors;
- (3) Ensure that commercial, recreational, and cultural activities at the pier remain viable and beneficial to the West Hawai'i community;
- (4) Monitor and advocate for necessary repairs, upgrades, and funding to maintain the pier's long-term sustainability;
- (5) Address issues including water quality, marine life protection, and pollution affecting Kailua Pier and Kailua Bay;
- (6) Offer policy and operational recommendations to improve pier management and operations;
- (7) Serve as a liaison between government entities and the public, ensuring that community voices are heard and considered in decision-making;
- (8) Track ongoing and emerging challenges, including homelessness, parking availability, and user conflicts, and propose collaborative solutions; and
- (9) Convene on a monthly basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to include the following members in the working group:

- (1) The Administrator of the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation or the Administrator's designee, who shall serve as chairperson;



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- (2) The member of the Senate who represents the senatorial district in which the pier located;
- (3) The member of the House of Representatives who represents the house district in which the pier is located;
- (4) The member of the Hawai'i County Council who represents the council district in which the pier is located;
- (5) The Mayor of the County of Hawai'i, or the Mayor's designee;
- (6) A representative of the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions;
- (7) A representative of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority;
- (8) The Chief of the Hawai'i Police Department, or the Chief's designee;
- (9) A representative of the Kai 'Opua Canoe Club to be invited by the chairperson;
- (10) A representative of the Kai 'Ehitu Outrigger Team of Kailua-Kona to be invited by the chairperson;
- (11) A representative of the Kailua Village Business Improvement District to be invited by the chairperson;
- (12) A representative of the Courtyard King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel to be invited by the chairperson;
- (13) Two at-large members of the community appointed by the Senator representing the senatorial district in which the pier is located; and
- (14) Two community at-large members of the community appointed by the Representative representing the house district in which the pier is located; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that beginning in 2025 and for three
3 years thereafter, the Kailua Bay Advisory Group is requested to
4 submit a quarterly report of its findings and recommendations,
5 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
9 Land and Natural Resources, Coordinator on Homelessness,
10 Administrator of the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation,
11 Mayor of the County of Hawai'i, Chairperson of the Hawai'i County
12 Council, Chief of the Hawai'i Police Department, the Chairperson
13 of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.
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OFFERED BY:

