S.R. NO. 100

MAR 0 7 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 6 7 WHEREAS, Kailua Pier and the surrounding area of Kailua Bay

where AS, wallda Fler and the suffounding area of wallda Bay
hold deep cultural and historical significance to the Hawai'i
Island community as a sacred and political center for Native
Hawaiians, serving as the royal residence of King Kamehameha I
in his later years and the site of Ahu'ena Heiau, where the King
governed and upheld traditional Hawaiian practices; and

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 18

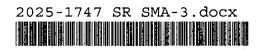
19 WHEREAS, the area has remained a vital hub for maritime 20 activity, commerce, and cultural traditions, sustaining 21 generations of Native Hawaiian fishers, voyagers, and 22 practitioners who continue to honor the ancestral connection to 23 the land and ocean; and

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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

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

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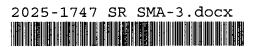
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tourism-related spending by supporting local businesses, 1 restaurants, tour operators, and cultural sites; and 2 3 WHEREAS, the high level of activity at the Kailua Pier has 4 resulted in persistent challenges related to homelessness, 5 including the frequent vandalism of public facilities, damage to 6 restroom infrastructure, and unauthorized encampments, creating 7 ongoing safety and sanitation concerns for residents and 8 visitors; and 9 10 WHEREAS, while maintenance of the Kailua Pier is essential 11 for public safety, environmental protection, and the long-term 12 benefit of the community, persistent vandalism and destruction 13 14 of public restrooms and infrastructure have led to rising maintenance costs, disruptions to public access, and the need 15 for continuous repairs by state and county agencies; and 16 17 WHEREAS, the management and operations of Kailua Pier fall 18 under the jurisdiction of multiple government agencies, 19 including the Department of Land and Natural Resources, various 20 departments of the County of Hawai'i such as Parks and Recreation 21 and the Police Department as well as federal entities such as 22 23 the United States Coast Guard; and 24 WHEREAS, local nonprofit organizations, including 25 Destination Kona Coast, play a crucial role in visitor education 26 and greeting programs while serving as dedicated stewards of 27 Kailua Pier, actively monitoring its operations, identifying 28 facility concerns, and relaying issues to government officials 29 30 in a timely manner; and 31 WHEREAS, adopting an interjurisdictional approach to 32 . addressing challenges at Kailua Pier would enhance communication 33 34 between pier users and government officials, while fostering coordinated oversight and effective management among responsible 35 authorities; now, therefore, 36 37 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third 38 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, 39 40 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to convene a Kailua Bay Advisory Working Group; and 41 42



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1	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kailua Bay Advisory Working		
2	Group is requested to:		
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4	(1)	Provide a structured forum for state, county, and	
5		community stakeholders to collaborate on	
6		interjurisdictional issues affecting Kailua Pier;	
7		•	
8	(2)	Identify and implement solutions to enhance safety for	
9		pier users, including swimmers, boaters, and visitors;	
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11	(3)	Ensure that commercial, recreational, and cultural	
12	(-)	activities at the pier remain viable and beneficial to	
13		the West Hawai'i community;	
13		che webe hawar i communicy,	
15	(4)	Monitor and advocate for necessary repairs, upgrades,	
16	(1)	and funding to maintain the pier's long-term	
17		sustainability;	
18		suscamability,	
10 19	(5)	Address issues including water quality, marine life	
20		protection, and pollution affecting Kailua Pier and	
20 21		Kailua Bay;	
21		Kallua Bay;	
22 23	(6)	Offer policy and energitional recommendations to	
	(0)	Offer policy and operational recommendations to	
24 25		improve pier management and operations;	
25 26	(7)	Serve as a liaison between government entities and the	
		public, ensuring that community voices are heard and	
27		considered in decision-making;	
28		considered in decision-making;	
29 20	(0)	Track engoing and emerging shallenges including	
30	(8)	Track ongoing and emerging challenges, including	
31		homelessness, parking availability, and user	
32		conflicts, and propose collaborative solutions; and	
33	(0)	Courses on a monthly heads and	
34	(9)	Convene on a monthly basis; and	
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36		T FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and	
37	Natural Resources is requested to include the following members in the working group:		
38	in the wo	rking group:	
39	(-)	mhe Diwininkan of the Division of Desting of Second	
40	(1)	The Administrator of the Division of Boating and Ocean	
41		Recreation or the Administrator's designee, who shall	
42	•	serve as chairperson;	

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2 3 4	(2)	The member of the Senate who represents the senatorial district in which the pier located;
4 5 6 7 8	(3)	The member of the House of Representatives who represents the house district in which the pier is located;
9 10 11	(4)	The member of the Hawai'i County Council who represents the council district in which the pier is located;
12 13 14	(5)	The Mayor of the County of Hawaiʻi, or the Mayor's designee;
15 16	(6)	A representative of the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions;
17 18 19	(7)	A representative of the Hawaiʻi Tourism Authority;
20 21 22	(8)	The Chief of the Hawaiʻi Police Department, or the Chief's designee;
23 24 25	(9)	A representative of the Kai 'Opua Canoe Club to be invited by the chairperson;
26 27 28	(10)	A representative of the Kai 'Ehitu Outrigger Team of Kailua-Kona to be invited by the chairperson;
29 30 31	(11)	A representative of the Kailua Village Business Improvement District to be invited by the chairperson;
32 33 34	(12)	A representative of the Courtyard King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel to be invited by the chairperson;
35 36 37	(13)	Two at-large members of the community appointed by the Senator representing the senatorial district in which the pier is located; and
38 39 40 41	(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

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.

OFFERED BY:

