
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENDORISING WAIKIKI AS A WORLD SURFING RESERVE.

1 WHEREAS, Waikiki was a hub for Native Hawaiian surfers,
2 such as Duke Kahanamoku, who helped to introduce and spread the
3 sport of surfing to the rest of the world, and is often referred
4 to today as the birthplace of the sport; and

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6 WHEREAS, surfing at Waikiki and throughout the rest of the
7 State has a meaning beyond just that of a sport; wave-riding and
8 surfboard-crafting were and continue to be cultural artforms
9 that preserve Native Hawaiian heritage and promote values of
10 respect for and connection with the environment; and

11
12 WHEREAS, Waikiki is already considered a world-renowned
13 surf zone, home to multiple annual surf competitions and more
14 than a dozen popular surf breaks that offer a wide variety of
15 waves for surfers of all skill levels year-round; and

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17 WHEREAS, Waikiki is also located at the base of an
18 ecologically rich watershed that supports important natural
19 resources and is home to multiple protected species, including
20 the Green Sea Turtle and the endangered Hawaiian Monk Seal; and

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22 WHEREAS, Waikiki is simultaneously the State's largest
23 tourist destination, contributing millions of dollars to state
24 GDP year over year through direct, indirect, and induced
25 impacts, with surfing being one of the main attractions; and

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27 WHEREAS, there is a direct and clear connection between the
28 environmental health and economic resilience of Waikiki, thus
29 illustrating the economic justification for protecting the
30 natural resources that sustain the economy; and

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32 WHEREAS, Waikiki's surf sites are threatened by the impacts
33 of climate change, including coral bleaching and floods that
34 wash pollution into the ocean; and



H.C.R. NO. 106

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2 WHEREAS, Waikiki has a thorough legal framework in place
3 for its preservation and long-term support, including the
4 managerial oversight of the Waikiki Beach Special Improvement
5 District Association and focused coordination of the Waikiki
6 Beach Community Advisory Committee; and
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8 WHEREAS, the World Surfing Reserves is a program created by
9 the Save the Waves Coalition for the identification,
10 designation, and preservation of the world's most outstanding
11 surf zones and their surrounding environments; and
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13 WHEREAS, recognizing Waikiki as a World Surfing Reserve
14 would raise awareness and accelerate the efforts of the local
15 community and stakeholders who are already working to protect
16 and manage Waikiki's surfing ecosystem from recognized threats
17 and to honor the unique Hawaiian contribution to the history of
18 surfing; and
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20 WHEREAS, Waikiki more than meets the minimum criteria
21 required by the Save the Waves Coalition to qualify as a World
22 Surfing Reserve; now, therefore,
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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
26 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that this body endorses the
27 recognition of Waikiki as a World Surfing Reserve because
28 Waikiki more than meets the qualifying criteria of being a
29 globally significant surf spot, with an outstanding series of
30 surf breaks, unique environmental characteristics with clear
31 avenues to protect them, a rich surf culture and history, strong
32 community support and capacity, and a priority conservation
33 area; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
37 Board of Land and Natural Resources, Mayor of the City and



