
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING GOOGLE MAPS, APPLE MAPS, AND SIMILAR DIGITAL MAPPING AND NAVIGATION PLATFORMS TO REMOVE, MODIFY, OR RESTRICT THE PUBLIC IDENTIFICATION, LABELING, AND PROMOTION OF HAZARDOUS COASTAL FEATURES, INCLUDING MERMAID CAVES.

1 WHEREAS, the State holds coastal lands and resources in
2 trust for the benefit of present and future generations and
3 recognizes the public's right of access to and along the
4 shoreline; and

5
6 WHEREAS, chapter 6D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, establishes
7 protections for natural, cultural, and geological resources
8 within Hawaii's caves and prohibits the removal of cave
9 resources, pollution within caves, and disturbance of native
10 organisms; and

11
12 WHEREAS, these statutes reflect the State's commitment to
13 the preservation of Hawaii's caves and similar cultural and
14 natural resources; and

15
16 WHEREAS, the State has a compelling interest in protecting
17 public safety and preventing avoidable loss of life in areas
18 presenting extreme and unavoidable natural hazards; and

19
20 WHEREAS, certain confined coastal features, including sea
21 caves and similar formations, are subject to sudden wave surge,
22 unpredictable ocean conditions, limited visibility, and the
23 absence of safe means of exit; and

24
25 WHEREAS, the coastal cave formations along the Nanakuli
26 coastline, commonly referred to as Mermaid Caves, have a
27 documented history of serious injury, near drownings, and
28 fatalities, resulting in repeated emergency response and rescue
29 operations; and



1
2 WHEREAS, Mermaid Caves and other hazardous coastal features
3 have been identified and labeled as recreational destinations or
4 points of interest on digital mapping and navigation platforms,
5 contributing to increased visitation and unsafe access attempts
6 by residents and visitors; and
7

8 WHEREAS, members of the public often rely on digital
9 mapping and navigation platforms for travel and recreation and
10 may reasonably assume that labeled destinations are safe or
11 appropriate for public access; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the continued promotion of hazardous coastal
14 features through these platforms undermines public safety,
15 places additional strain on first responders and emergency
16 services, and threatens the preservation and cultural value of
17 these natural resources; and
18

19 WHEREAS, digital mapping and navigation platforms maintain
20 policies for allowing for the modification or removal of
21 locations that pose safety risks when supported by credible
22 information; now, therefore,
23

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 Google Maps, Apple Maps,
27 and similar digital mapping and navigation platforms are
28 requested to remove, modify, or restrict the public
29 identification, labeling, and promotion of hazardous coastal
30 features, including Mermaid Caves; and
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any modification should include
33 removal of recreational or point of interest designations and
34 directions or guidance encouraging public access; and
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
37 Natural Resources is requested to coordinate with appropriate
38 county agencies, emergency responders, and digital mapping and
39 navigation platforms to provide documentation, safety data, and
40 findings supporting requests for removal or modification of
41 hazardous coastal features; and
42



H.C.R. NO. 121

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing in this measure is
2 intended to restrict lawful shoreline access, traditional and
3 customary practices, news reporting, academic research, or
4 historical reference; and

5
6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
8 Board of Land and Natural Resources; Mayor of the City and
9 County of Honolulu, County of Hawaii, County of Kauai, and
10 County of Maui; Chief Executive Officer of Google; and Chief
11 Executive Officer of Apple.

12
13
14

OFFERED BY:



MAR 16 2026

