
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
IDENTIFY STATE LANDS IN EAST OAHU SUITABLE FOR THE PLANTING
OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN TREES.

1 WHEREAS, citizen participation is a fundamental principle
2 of democracy, and a healthy democracy depends upon the
3 engagement of its people in civic life; and
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5 WHEREAS, legislators have a responsibility to listen to
6 their constituents and remain open to ideas that arise from the
7 community, recognizing that meaningful contributions to public
8 policy can come from citizens of all ages; and
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10 WHEREAS, encouraging civic awareness and participation
11 among young people strengthens democratic institutions and
12 inspires the next generation of public servants; and
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14 WHEREAS, Shane Fung, a third-grade student at Hahaione
15 Elementary School, who has taken an interest in public service
16 and government, recently shared an idea to plant more native
17 Hawaiian trees in the community; and
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19 WHEREAS, Shane suggested that increasing the presence of
20 native trees could both beautify public lands and help preserve
21 Hawaii's natural and cultural heritage; and
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23 WHEREAS, among the native trees suggested was the milo tree
24 (*Thespesia populnea*), a coastal tree long valued in Hawaiian
25 culture; and
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27 WHEREAS, the milo tree holds historical and cultural
28 significance in Hawaii, having been used traditionally for
29 'umeke, plates, and other implements due to its attractive wood
30 and durability; and



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2 WHEREAS, milo trees were historically planted around places
3 of importance, and historical accounts note that King Kamehameha
4 I had his residence in Waikiki surrounded by milo trees; and
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6 WHEREAS, the milo tree was once considered sacred, and its
7 use was restricted in certain contexts, with some traditions
8 indicating that the tree and its wood were reserved for ali'i and
9 not permitted to be used by commoners; and
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11 WHEREAS, planting additional milo trees and other native
12 Hawaiian species can help restore native landscapes, support
13 coastal ecosystems, and preserve cultural connections to the
14 land; and
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16 WHEREAS, East Oahu contains areas of state-owned land that
17 may provide opportunities for planting native trees that would
18 benefit both the environment and the community; now, therefore,
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
21 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
22 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Land and
23 Natural Resources is requested to identify suitable state lands
24 in East Oahu for the planting of native Hawaiian trees,
25 including the milo tree; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in identifying such lands, the
28 Department is encouraged to consider opportunities that may
29 involve schools, community groups, and youth participants, in
30 order to foster civic engagement and environmental stewardship;
31 and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to
34 report its findings and recommendations, including potential
35 locations and implementation considerations, to the Legislature
36 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
37 Session of 2027; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
40 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
41 Board of Land and Natural Resources, and principal of Hahaione
42 Elementary School.

