
HOUSE 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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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
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1 WHEREAS, Mermaid Caves and other hazardous coastal features
2 have been identified and labeled as recreational destinations or
3 points of interest on digital mapping and navigation platforms,
4 contributing to increased visitation and unsafe access attempts
5 by residents and visitors; and
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7 WHEREAS, members of the public often rely on digital
8 mapping and navigation platforms for travel and recreation and
9 may reasonably assume that labeled destinations are safe or
10 appropriate for public access; and
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12 WHEREAS, the continued promotion of hazardous coastal
13 features through these platforms undermines public safety,
14 places additional strain on first responders and emergency
15 services, and threatens the preservation and cultural value of
16 these natural resources; and
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18 WHEREAS, digital mapping and navigation platforms maintain
19 policies for allowing for the modification or removal of
20 locations that pose safety risks when supported by credible
21 information; now, therefore,
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
25 of 2026, that Google Maps, Apple Maps, and similar digital
26 mapping and navigation platforms are requested to remove,
27 modify, or restrict the public identification, labeling, and
28 promotion of hazardous coastal features, including Mermaid
29 Caves; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any modification should include
32 removal of recreational or point of interest designations and
33 directions or guidance encouraging public access; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
36 Natural Resources is requested to coordinate with appropriate
37 county agencies, emergency responders, and digital mapping and
38 navigation platforms to provide documentation, safety data, and
39 findings supporting requests for removal or modification of
40 hazardous coastal features; and
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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

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

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OFFERED BY:



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