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# HOUSE 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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1 WHEREAS, milo trees were historically planted around places  
2 of importance, and historical accounts note that King Kamehameha  
3 I had his residence in Waikiki surrounded by milo trees; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the milo tree was once considered sacred, and its  
6 use was restricted in certain contexts, with some traditions  
7 indicating that the tree and its wood were reserved for ali'i and  
8 not permitted to be used by commoners; and  
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10 WHEREAS, planting additional milo trees and other native  
11 Hawaiian species can help restore native landscapes, support  
12 coastal ecosystems, and preserve cultural connections to the  
13 land; and  
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15 WHEREAS, East Oahu contains areas of state-owned land that  
16 may provide opportunities for planting native trees that would  
17 benefit both the environment and the community; now, therefore,  
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
20 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
21 of 2026, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is  
22 requested to identify suitable state lands in East Oahu for the  
23 planting of native Hawaiian trees, including the milo tree; and  
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in identifying such lands, the  
26 Department is encouraged to consider opportunities that may  
27 involve schools, community groups, and youth participants, in  
28 order to foster civic engagement and environmental stewardship;  
29 and  
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to  
32 report its findings and recommendations, including potential  
33 locations and implementation considerations, to the Legislature  
34 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
35 Session of 2027; and  
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
38 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
39 Land and Natural Resources, and principal of Hahaione Elementary  
40 School.

