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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE 'AHA MOKU ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO FOLLOW ITS ADOPTED RULES OF PRACTICE, FULFILL ITS STATUTORY DUTIES, INCLUDING COMPLYING WITH THE SUNSHINE LAW, CONDUCT A PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF ITS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND ESTABLISH POLICIES TO ASSURE CONSISTENT STANDARDS OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGERIAL ACCOUNTABILITY.

1           WHEREAS, in August 2006, Native Hawaiian cultural  
2 practitioners, kūpuna, and representatives from forty-three moku  
3 across the State gathered at Puwalu 'Ekahi to share manao and  
4 call for a process to uphold and perpetuate traditional Hawaiian  
5 land and ocean practices; and

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7           WHEREAS, subsequent gatherings known as Puwalu 'Elua and  
8 Puwalu 'Ekolu, held in November and December 2006, convened  
9 educators, policymakers, cultural practitioners, environmental  
10 experts, and community leaders to discuss the integration of  
11 traditional Hawaiian knowledge and management practices into  
12 public policy, education, and resource management; and

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14           WHEREAS, additional puwalu convened between 2006 and 2010  
15 gathered input from farmers, fishers, environmental advocates,  
16 educators, Native Hawaiian organizations, agencies, and  
17 governmental representatives, resulting in consensus on the need  
18 to integrate the traditional 'aha moku system into state  
19 governance and resource management policy; and

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21           WHEREAS, the Legislature enacted Act 288, Session Laws of  
22 Hawaii 2012, establishing the 'Aha Moku Advisory Committee and  
23 administratively attaching it to the Department of Land and  
24 Natural Resources to advise the State on Native Hawaiian  
25 traditional and customary resource management practices; and

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27           WHEREAS, the 'Aha Moku Advisory Committee appears to have  
28 held meetings in 2013 and 2014 addressing organizational



1 development, funding, communications, and the development of a  
2 strategic plan and reporting framework; and

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4 WHEREAS, on October 20, 2016, the 'Aha Moku Advisory  
5 Committee reportedly adopted Rules of Practice and Procedure to  
6 govern its operations; and

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8 WHEREAS, a resolution adopted at the November 2016 puwalu  
9 gathering referenced the adoption of those Rules of Practice and  
10 Procedure and expressed support for adherence to them; and

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12 WHEREAS, a resolution adopted at the 2017 puwalu gathering  
13 expressed concerns regarding whether the 'Aha Moku Advisory  
14 Committee provided the representation required under existing  
15 law; and

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17 WHEREAS, the 'Aha Moku Advisory Committee receives annual  
18 state funding of approximately \$286,300 through the Department  
19 of Land and Natural Resources and is subject to public  
20 accountability and transparency standards; and

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22 WHEREAS, as a public advisory committee, the 'Aha Moku  
23 Advisory Committee is subject to the Sunshine Law, which  
24 requires deliberations and decision-making to occur in properly  
25 noticed public meetings; and

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27 WHEREAS, independent 'aha moku island councils and community  
28 groups exist separately from the statutorily established 'Aha  
29 Moku Advisory Committee and are not the subject of this measure;  
30 and

31  
32 WHEREAS, concerns have been raised within the Native  
33 Hawaiian community regarding the administration, representation,  
34 and transparency of the 'Aha Moku Advisory Committee; and

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36 WHEREAS, the 'Aha Moku Advisory Committee has not  
37 consistently convened publicly noticed meetings, raising  
38 concerns regarding compliance with the Sunshine Law; and

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40 WHEREAS, the Executive Director of the 'Aha Moku Advisory  
41 Committee has acknowledged that the Committee does not follow



1 the Rules of Practice reportedly adopted on October 20, 2016;  
2 and

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4 WHEREAS, there is no publicly available record indicating  
5 that the 'Aha Moku Advisory Committee has repealed, amended, or  
6 formally discontinued those Rules of Practice; and

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8 WHEREAS, the absence of publicly available agendas,  
9 minutes, reports, and other administrative records has limited  
10 transparency and hindered public participation and oversight;  
11 and

12  
13 WHEREAS, although the 'Aha Moku Advisory Committee employs  
14 an Executive Director, the lack of regular meetings,  
15 administrative records, budgetary accounting, and statutorily  
16 required reports raises concerns regarding oversight,  
17 governance, and accountability; and

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19 WHEREAS, because the 'Aha Moku Advisory Committee has not  
20 convened a publicly noticed meeting for more than five years,  
21 there is no apparent mechanism for the Advisory Committee to  
22 manage or evaluate its Executive Director, including performance  
23 reviews, duties, or salary and budgetary decisions; and

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25 WHEREAS, advisory positions have been issued in the name of  
26 the 'Aha Moku Advisory Committee without those matters being  
27 properly agendized, deliberated, and adopted at Sunshine  
28 Law-compliant meetings; and

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30 WHEREAS, consistent administrative and managerial policies  
31 are necessary to ensure accountability, effective oversight, and  
32 responsible stewardship of public resources; now, therefore,

33  
34 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
35 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
36 of 2026, that the 'Aha Moku Advisory Committee is urged to follow  
37 and implement the Rules of Practice and Procedures reportedly  
38 adopted on October 20, 2016; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 'Aha Moku Advisory Committee  
41 is urged to fulfill all statutory duties, including complying



1 with the Sunshine Law, holding regular meetings, ensuring  
2 transparency in decision-making, providing appropriate oversight  
3 of the Executive Director, and submitting required reports in a  
4 timely manner; and  
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that advisory positions issued in  
7 the name of the 'Aha Moku Advisory Committee be adopted only  
8 through properly noticed public meetings in compliance with the  
9 Sunshine Law; and  
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 'Aha Moku Advisory Committee  
12 is urged to conduct a formal performance review of its Executive  
13 Director and to convene an open and properly noticed meeting to  
14 evaluate legal and administrative risks facing the Advisory  
15 Committee, including compliance with the Sunshine Law, statutory  
16 reporting requirements, and fiscal accountability; and  
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 'Aha Moku Advisory Committee  
19 is urged to adopt appropriate administrative and managerial  
20 policies and procedures to promote consistent standards of  
21 accountability and effective governance; and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Board of  
24 Land and Natural Resources is requested to exercise oversight to  
25 ensure that the 'Aha Moku Advisory Committee fulfills its  
26 mandated purpose and operates in compliance with the Sunshine  
27 Law and other applicable legal requirements; and  
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
30 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
31 Land and Natural Resources; Executive Director of the 'Aha Moku  
32 Advisory Committee; and each member of the 'Aha Moku Advisory  
33 Committee.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



MAR 16 2026

