

MAR 16 2026

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO CONSIDER RENAMING
THE HONOULIULI WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT TO A NON-HAWAIIAN
NAME.

1 WHEREAS, the Honouliuli Wastewater Treatment Plant is a
2 critical municipal facility serving the residents of the City
3 and County of Honolulu; and
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5 WHEREAS, the name Honouliuli, which translates roughly
6 to "dark bay" or "deep bay," is a traditional Native Hawaiian
7 place name in the 'Ewa District of O'ahu and reflects the deep
8 cultural and geographic knowledge embedded in the Hawaiian
9 language; and
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11 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian place names often carry layers of
12 cultural meaning tied to history, genealogy, and the natural
13 environment, and many residents believe such names should be
14 used in ways that honor their significance and avoid unintended
15 negative associations; and
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17 WHEREAS, the Honouliuli Wastewater Treatment Plant provides
18 essential wastewater treatment services for the region, yet some
19 community members have expressed concern that associating the
20 culturally significant name "Honouliuli" with a sewage treatment
21 facility may unintentionally diminish the dignity of the place
22 name and contribute to teasing or stigma directed at residents
23 of the area; and
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25 WHEREAS, governmental entities across the United States
26 have periodically renamed wastewater treatment facilities and
27 other public infrastructure to address community concerns,
28 improve public perception, and avoid negative associations with
29 surrounding communities; and
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31 WHEREAS, several municipalities have renamed wastewater
32 treatment plants to emphasize environmental stewardship or



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1 reduce stigma associated with sewage infrastructure, reflecting
2 the principle that the naming of public facilities can influence
3 public perception and community identity; and
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5 WHEREAS, reviewing and renaming public facilities can be a
6 respectful way for governments to respond to community concerns
7 and ensure that culturally meaningful place names are treated
8 with appropriate consideration; now, therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Thirty-third
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
12 House of Representatives concurring, respectfully requests the
13 City and County of Honolulu to consider selecting a new name for
14 the Honouliuli Wastewater Treatment Plant that is not of Native
15 Hawaiian origin; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City and County of Honolulu
18 is encouraged to consult with community stakeholders, including
19 Native Hawaiian organizations and local residents, during the
20 renaming process; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a report on the progress of
23 this renaming effort, including any proposed new names and
24 community feedback, be submitted to the Legislature within one
25 year of the adoption of this resolution; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the City
29 and County of Honolulu, the Director of the City and County of
30 Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services, and to members
31 of the Honolulu City Council.
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OFFERED BY:



