
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS TO ADOPT SHARED GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE PLANNING, FINANCING, AND UNDERTAKING OF EFFORTS FOR THE RESTORATION, IMPROVEMENT, AND MAINTENANCE OF THE BEACHES, SHORELINE, AND COASTAL AREAS OF WAIKIKI.

1 WHEREAS, Waikiki beaches are global visitor destinations
2 that accounted for over thirty-six percent of the State's total
3 visitor expenditures in 2025; and

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5 WHEREAS, in 2024, Waikiki directly generated approximately
6 five percent, and indirectly generated almost seven percent, of
7 the State's tax revenue, excluding tax revenue collected by the
8 City and County of Honolulu; and

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10 WHEREAS, tens of thousands of local residents work at jobs
11 in and connected to Waikiki's visitor industry, which
12 constitutes a significant portion of all non-military jobs held
13 by state residents; and

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15 WHEREAS, countless local families and residents living in
16 the urban core visit beaches in Waikiki and along the southern
17 shore daily for recreation and relaxation and to spend time with
18 family and friends; and

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20 WHEREAS, Waikiki was established as the original capital of
21 the Kingdom of Hawaii by Kamehameha I in 1795, and is home to a
22 rich Hawaiian cultural heritage recognized by cultural
23 practitioners, scholars, and descendants; and

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25 WHEREAS, with a shoreline shaped by years of coastal
26 engineering and urban development, Waikiki in its current form
27 has become an irreplaceable driver of Hawaii's economy and
28 culture and is indispensable to Hawaii residents as a locus of



1 housing, jobs, recreation, ocean access, and outdoor green space
2 in the State's densely populated urban core; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Waikiki shoreline originally consisted of a
5 narrow barrier beach backed by wetlands, duck ponds, lo'i kalo,
6 and loki i'a fed by numerous springs, which created a wetland
7 system, however, over time, seawalls and groins were constructed
8 and channels were dredged to protect the engineered beaches; and

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10 WHEREAS, Waikiki beaches require ongoing replenishment,
11 maintenance, and coordinated management to sustain beach width,
12 shoreline access, and recreational use and have been restored
13 approximately eleven times since 1939 using both imported and
14 offshore sand; and

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16 WHEREAS, improved emergency access to the shoreline is
17 necessary to address the numerous safety incidents that
18 regularly occur in Waikiki; and

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20 WHEREAS, the loss of beach access reduces opportunities for
21 the public enjoyment of coastal resources that are held in trust
22 for the people of the State; and

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24 WHEREAS, the loss of Waikiki as an economic engine would be
25 catastrophic to the State's financial future and could severely
26 impact the jobs of tens of thousands of Hawaii residents; and

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28 WHEREAS, the public benefits of increased public access to
29 ocean natural resources and open spaces, and the private
30 benefits to commercial interests that are located within and
31 dependent upon Waikiki, are inextricably linked; and

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33 WHEREAS, decades of coordinated efforts by the State, the
34 City and County of Honolulu, and private interests have worked
35 to produce a sustainable and equitable long-term strategy for
36 preserving Waikiki beaches, infrastructure, and commerce, which
37 includes the 1928 and 1929 Waikiki Beach Reclamation Agreement,
38 the 1965 Surfrider-Royal Hawaiian Sector Beach Agreement, and
39 Hawaii Supreme Court cases, including *Gold Coast Neighborhood*
40 *Association v. State of Hawaii*, 140 Hawaii 437, 403 P.3d 214
41 (2017); now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
3 House of Representatives concurring, that public and private
4 stakeholders are urged to adopt shared guiding principles for
5 the planning, financing, and undertaking of efforts for the
6 restoration, maintenance, and improvement of the beaches,
7 shoreline, and coastal areas of Waikiki spanning from the Ala
8 Wai Small Boat Harbor to Kaimana Beach; and

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the shared guiding principles
11 are requested to incorporate the following strategies:

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- 13 (1) Prioritization of public access to and enjoyment of
14 the ocean, beach, and shoreline consistent with the
15 State's policies relating to environmental protection
16 and the protection of traditional and customary
17 practices, including features that conform to
18 Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for
19 Accessible Design, provide lateral and perpendicular
20 public access for residents and visitors, connect
21 beaches and parks from Diamondhead to Kakaako, and
22 allow rapid access to beaches, parks, and the ocean
23 for emergency responders;
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25 (2) Implementation of state policy to conserve and protect
26 natural resources and promote their development and
27 utilization in a manner consistent with their
28 conservation and the self-sufficiency of the State,
29 while also affording the Department of Land and
30 Natural Resources the flexibility to address unique
31 shoreline situations with consideration of different
32 alternative approaches;
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34 (3) Adherence to principles of regional planning that
35 account for the interconnectedness of land despite
36 ownership boundaries and for the natural tidal and
37 littoral movement of water and sand across the area
38 and its surrounding environment;
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40 (4) Planning and implementation of state-led beach
41 improvements, with cost-sharing among federal, state,
42 county, and private property owners;



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2 (5) Confirmation of the responsibility of federal, state,
3 county, and private property owners to maintain
4 seawalls and other infrastructure proximate to the
5 shoreline, in accordance with authorities, including
6 but not limited to the 1928 and 1929 Waikiki Beach
7 Reclamation Agreement, the 1965 Surfrider-Royal
8 Hawaiian Sector Beach Agreement, and all applicable
9 Hawaii Supreme Court cases; and

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11 (6) Consultation and collaboration with Waikiki Beach
12 hotels, landowners, University of Hawaii Sea Grant
13 experts, and other relevant stakeholders; and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director
17 of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Chairperson of
18 the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Mayor of the City and
19 County of Honolulu; Chair of the Honolulu City Council; and
20 President and Executive Director of the Waikiki Business
21 Improvement District.

