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# 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

4  
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

9  
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

14  
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

19  
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

24  
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

3  
4 WHEREAS, the Waikiki shoreline originally consisted of a  
5 narrow barrier beach backed by wetlands, duck ponds, lo'i kalo,  
6 and loko 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

9  
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

15  
16 WHEREAS, improved emergency access to the shoreline is  
17 necessary to address the numerous safety incidents that  
18 regularly occur in Waikiki; and

19  
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

23  
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

27  
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

32  
33 WHEREAS, decades of coordinated efforts by the State, the  
34 City and County of Honolulu, and private interests have fallen  
35 short of producing a sustainable and equitable long-term  
36 strategy for preserving Waikiki beaches, infrastructure, and  
37 commerce, despite various legacy contractual agreements and more  
38 recent judicial intervention; now, therefore,

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40 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
41 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the  
42 House of Representatives concurring, that public and private



1 stakeholders are urged to adopt shared guiding principles for  
2 the planning, financing, and undertaking of efforts for the  
3 restoration, maintenance, and improvement of the beaches,  
4 shoreline, and coastal areas of Waikiki spanning from the Ala  
5 Wai Small Boat Harbor to Kaimana Beach; and  
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the shared guiding principles  
8 are requested to incorporate the following strategies:  
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- 10 (1) Prioritization of public access to and enjoyment of  
11 the ocean, beach, and shoreline consistent with the  
12 State's policies relating to environmental protection  
13 and the protection of traditional and customary  
14 practices, including features that conform to  
15 Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for  
16 Accessible Design; provide lateral and perpendicular  
17 public access for residents and visitors; connect  
18 beaches and parks from Diamondhead to Kakaako; and  
19 allow rapid access to beaches, parks, and the ocean  
20 for emergency responders;  
21
- 22 (2) Implementation of state policy to conserve and protect  
23 natural resources and promote their development and  
24 use in a manner consistent with their conservation and  
25 the self-sufficiency of the State, while also  
26 affording the Department of Land and Natural Resources  
27 the flexibility to address unique shoreline situations  
28 with consideration of different alternative  
29 approaches;  
30
- 31 (3) Adherence to principles of regional planning that  
32 account for the interconnectedness of land despite  
33 ownership boundaries and for the natural tidal and  
34 littoral movement of water and sand across the area  
35 and its surrounding environment;  
36
- 37 (4) Planning and implementation of state-led beach  
38 improvements, with cost-sharing among federal, state,  
39 county, and private property owners; collaboration  
40 with all relevant stakeholders, including private  
41 interests and the community; and consultation with  
42 coastal science experts; and



1  
2 (5) Confirmation of the responsibility of federal, state,  
3 county, and private property owners to maintain  
4 seawalls and other infrastructure pursuant to  
5 jurisdictional authority and in accordance with  
6 controlling law; and  
7

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
9 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director  
10 of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Chairperson of  
11 the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Mayor of the City and  
12 County of Honolulu; Chair of the Honolulu City Council; and  
13 President and Executive Director of the Waikiki Business  
14 Improvement District.

