
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE ADOPTION OF SHARED GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE
RESTORATION OF WAIKIKI BEACHES.

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 just under
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, numerous safety incidents regularly occur in the
21 area and must be addressed by providing improved emergency
22 access to the shoreline; and
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24 WHEREAS, Waikiki was established as the original capital of
25 the Kingdom of Hawaii by Kamehameha I in 1795, and is home to a
26 rich Hawaiian cultural heritage recognized by cultural
27 practitioners, scholars, and descendants; and
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29 WHEREAS, with a shoreline shaped by years of coastal
30 engineering and urban development, Waikiki in its current form
31 has become an irreplaceable driver of contemporary Hawaii's
32 economy and culture and is indispensable to kamaaina as a locus



1 of housing, jobs, recreation, ocean access, and outdoor green
2 space in the State's densely populated urban core; and
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4 WHEREAS, the original beaches of Waikiki were lost sometime
5 before 1920 due to a combination of sand mining, coral dredging,
6 and the construction of seawalls and groins that interrupted the
7 natural movement of sand along the coast; and
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9 WHEREAS, Waikiki beaches require ongoing replenishment,
10 maintenance, and coordinated management to sustain beach width,
11 shoreline access, and recreational use and have been restored
12 approximately eleven times since 1939 using both imported and
13 offshore sand; and
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15 WHEREAS, the loss of beach access reduces opportunities for
16 the public enjoyment of coastal resources that are held in trust
17 for the people of the State; and
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19 WHEREAS, the loss of Waikiki as an economic engine would be
20 catastrophic to the State's financial future and could severely
21 impact the jobs of tens of thousands of kamaaina; and
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23 WHEREAS, the public benefits of increased public access to
24 ocean natural resources and open spaces, and the private
25 benefits to commercial interests that are located within and
26 dependent upon Waikiki, are inextricably linked; and
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28 WHEREAS, decades of coordinated efforts by the State, the
29 City and County of Honolulu, and private interests have
30 struggled to produce a sustainable and equitable long-term
31 strategy for preserving Waikiki beaches, infrastructure, and
32 commerce; now, therefore,
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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
36 House of Representatives concurring, that the following shared
37 guiding principles are urged to be adopted for the planning,
38 financing, and undertaking of efforts to restore, maintain, and
39 improve the beaches, shoreline, and coastal areas of Waikiki
40 spanning from the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor to Kaimana Beach;
41 and
42



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

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- 4 (1) Prioritization of public access to and enjoyment of
5 the ocean, beach, and shoreline consistent with the
6 State's policies relating to environmental protection
7 and the protection of traditional and customary
8 practices, including a permanent makai pathway along
9 the shoreline that conforms to Americans with
10 Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design,
11 provides lateral public access for residents and
12 visitors, and connects beaches and parks from
13 Diamondhead to Kakaako, with sufficient width to also
14 provide emergency access to light-duty emergency
15 vehicles;
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- 17 (2) Implementation of state policy to conserve and protect
18 natural resources and promote their development and
19 utilization in a manner consistent with their
20 conservation and the self-sufficiency of the State;
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- 22 (3) Adherence to principles of regional planning that
23 account for the interconnectedness of land despite
24 ownership boundaries and for the natural tidal and
25 littoral movement of water and sand across the area
26 and its surrounding environment;
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- 28 (4) Planning and implementation of beach improvements led
29 by the State, with cost-sharing among state, county,
30 federal, and private property owners; and
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- 32 (5) Confirmation of the responsibility of property owners
33 to maintain seawalls and other infrastructure above
34 the shoreline and located on the owner's property; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director
38 of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Chairperson of
39 the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Mayor of the City and
40 County of Honolulu; and Chair of the Honolulu City Council.

