

MAR 16 2026

---

---

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENDORISING WAIKIKI AS A WORLD SURFING RESERVE.

1           WHEREAS, Waikiki was a hub for Native Hawaiian surfers,  
2 such as Duke Kahanamoku, who helped to introduce and spread the  
3 sport of surfing to the rest of the world, and is often referred  
4 to today as the birthplace of the sport; and  
5

6           WHEREAS, surfing at Waikiki and throughout the rest of the  
7 State has a meaning beyond just that of a sport; wave-riding and  
8 surfboard-crafting were and continue to be cultural artforms  
9 that preserve Native Hawaiian heritage and promote values of  
10 respect for and connection with the environment; and  
11

12           WHEREAS, Waikiki is already considered a world-renowned  
13 surf zone, home to multiple annual surf competitions and more  
14 than a dozen popular surf breaks that offer a wide variety of  
15 waves for surfers of all skill levels year-round; and  
16

17           WHEREAS, Waikiki is also located at the base of an  
18 ecologically rich watershed that supports important natural  
19 resources and is home to multiple protected species, including  
20 the Green Sea Turtle and the endangered Hawaiian Monk Seal; and  
21

22           WHEREAS, Waikiki is simultaneously the State's largest  
23 tourist destination, contributing millions of dollars to state  
24 GDP year over year through direct, indirect, and induced  
25 impacts, with surfing being one of the main attractions; and  
26

27           WHEREAS, there is a direct and clear connection between the  
28 environmental health and economic resilience of Waikiki, thus  
29 illustrating the economic justification for protecting the  
30 natural resources that sustain the economy; and  
31

32           WHEREAS, Waikiki's surf sites are threatened by the impacts  
33 of climate change, including coral bleaching and floods that  
34 wash pollution into the ocean; and



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37

WHEREAS, Waikiki has a thorough legal framework in place for its preservation and long-term support, including the managerial oversight of the Waikiki Beach Special Improvement District Association and focused coordination of the Waikiki Beach Community Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the World Surfing Reserves is a program created by the Save the Waves Coalition for the identification, designation, and preservation of the world's most outstanding surf zones and their surrounding environments; and

WHEREAS, recognizing Waikiki as a World Surfing Reserve would raise awareness and accelerate the efforts of the local community and stakeholders who are already working to protect and manage Waikiki's surfing ecosystem from recognized threats and to honor the unique Hawaiian contribution to the history of surfing; and

WHEREAS, Waikiki more than meets the minimum criteria required by the Save the Waves Coalition to qualify as a World Surfing Reserve; now, therefore,

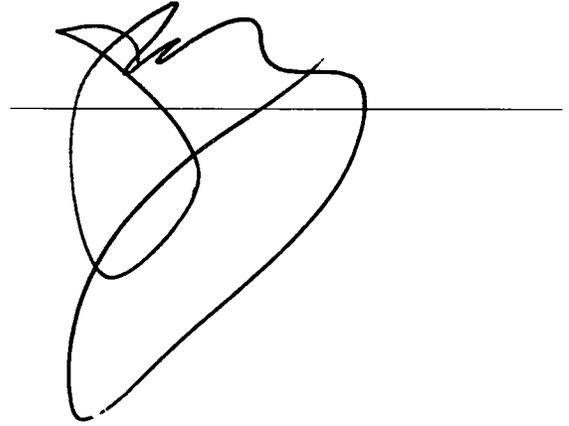
BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the House of Representatives concurring, that this body endorses the recognition of Waikiki as a World Surfing Reserve because Waikiki more than meets the qualifying criteria of being a globally significant surf spot, with an outstanding series of surf breaks, unique environmental characteristics with clear avenues to protect them, a rich surf culture and history, strong community support and capacity, and a priority conservation area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Mayor of the City and



1 County of Honolulu, and Board of Directors of the Waikiki Beach  
2 Special Improvement District Association.  
3  
4  
5

OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and appears to be a cursive name, possibly starting with 'A'. The line extends to the right of the signature.