

MAR 16 2026

SENATE 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
4

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
10

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
16

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
24

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
30

31 WHEREAS, several municipalities have renamed wastewater
32 treatment plants to emphasize environmental stewardship or
33 reduce stigma associated with sewage infrastructure, reflecting



1 the principle that the naming of public facilities can influence
2 public perception and community identity; and

3
4 WHEREAS, reviewing and renaming public facilities can be a
5 respectful way for governments to respond to community concerns
6 and ensure that culturally meaningful place names are treated
7 with appropriate consideration; now, therefore,

8
9 BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Thirty-third
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
11 of 2026, respectfully requests the City and County of Honolulu
12 to consider selecting a new name for the Honouliuli Wastewater
13 Treatment Plant that is not of Native Hawaiian origin; and

14
15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City and County of Honolulu
16 is encouraged to consult with community stakeholders, including
17 Native Hawaiian organizations and local residents, during the
18 renaming process; and

19
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a report on the progress of
21 this renaming effort, including any proposed new names and
22 community feedback, be submitted to the Legislature within one
23 year of the adoption of this resolution; and

24
25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the City and County of
27 Honolulu, the Director of the City and County of Honolulu's
28 Department of Environmental Services, and to members of the
29 Honolulu City Council.

30
31
32 OFFERED BY:



