

MAR 16 2026

SENATE 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, Waikiki was established as the original capital of
16 the Kingdom of Hawaii by Kamehameha I in 1795, and is home to a
17 rich Hawaiian cultural heritage recognized by cultural
18 practitioners, scholars, and descendants; and

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20 WHEREAS, with a shoreline shaped by years of coastal
21 engineering and urban development, Waikiki in its current form
22 has become an irreplaceable driver of contemporary Hawaii's
23 economy and culture and is indispensable to kamaaina as a locus
24 of housing, jobs, recreation, ocean access, and outdoor green
25 space in the State's densely populated urban core; and

26
27 WHEREAS, the original beaches of Waikiki were lost sometime
28 prior to 1920 due to a combination of sand mining, coral
29 dredging, and the construction of seawalls and groins that
30 interrupted the natural movement of sand along the coast; and

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32 WHEREAS, Waikiki beaches require ongoing replenishment,
33 maintenance, and coordinated management to sustain beach width,
34 shoreline access, and recreational use and have been restored
35 approximately eleven times since 1939 using both imported and
36 offshore sand; and



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2 WHEREAS, the loss of beach access reduces opportunities for
3 the public enjoyment of coastal resources that are held in trust
4 for the people of the State; and
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6 WHEREAS, the loss of Waikiki as an economic engine would be
7 catastrophic to Hawaii's financial future and could severely
8 impact the jobs of tens of thousands of kamaaina; and
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10 WHEREAS, the public benefits of increased public access to
11 ocean natural resources and open spaces, and the private
12 benefits to commercial interests that are located within and
13 dependent upon Waikiki, are inextricably linked; and
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15 WHEREAS, decades of coordinated efforts by the State, the
16 City and County of Honolulu, and private interests have
17 struggled to produce a sustainable and equitable long-term
18 strategy for preserving Waikiki beaches, infrastructure, and
19 commerce; now, therefore,
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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
23 that the following shared guiding principles shall be applied to
24 the planning, financing, and undertaking of efforts to restore,
25 maintain, and improve the beaches, shoreline, and coastal areas
26 of Waikiki spanning from the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor to
27 Kaimana Beach; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the shared guiding principles
30 should incorporate the following strategies:
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- 32 (1) Prioritization of public access to and enjoyment of
33 the ocean, beach, and shoreline consistent with the
34 State's policies relating to environmental protection
35 and the protection of traditional and customary
36 practices;
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38 (2) Implementation of state policy to conserve and protect
39 natural resources and promote their development and
40 utilization in a manner consistent with their
41 conservation and the self-sufficiency of the State;
42



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- 1 (3) Adherence to principles of regional planning that
- 2 account for the interconnectedness of land despite
- 3 ownership boundaries and for the natural tidal and
- 4 littoral movement of water and sand across the area
- 5 and its surrounding environment;
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- 7 (4) Planning and implementation of beach improvements led
- 8 by the State, with cost-sharing among state, county,
- 9 federal, and private property owners; and
- 10
- 11 (5) Confirmation of the responsibility of property owners
- 12 to maintain seawalls and other infrastructure above
- 13 the shoreline and located on the owner's property; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director of Business,
17 Economic Development, and Tourism; Acting Chair of the Board of
18 Land and Natural Resources; Mayor of the City and County of
19 Honolulu; and Chair of the Honolulu City Council.

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OFFERED BY: _____

