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# 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  
4

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  
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  
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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  
23

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  
33 of housing, jobs, recreation, ocean access, and outdoor green  
34 space in the State's densely populated urban core; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, the original beaches of Waikiki were lost sometime  
3 before 1920 due to a combination of sand mining, coral dredging,  
4 and the construction of seawalls and groins that interrupted the  
5 natural movement of sand along the coast; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, Waikiki beaches require ongoing replenishment,  
8 maintenance, and coordinated management to sustain beach width,  
9 shoreline access, and recreational use and have been restored  
10 approximately eleven times since 1939 using both imported and  
11 offshore sand; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, the loss of beach access reduces opportunities for  
14 the public enjoyment of coastal resources that are held in trust  
15 for the people of the State; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, the loss of Waikiki as an economic engine would be  
18 catastrophic to the State's financial future and could severely  
19 impact the jobs of tens of thousands of kamaaina; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, the public benefits of increased public access to  
22 ocean natural resources and open spaces, and the private  
23 benefits to commercial interests that are located within and  
24 dependent upon Waikiki, are inextricably linked; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, decades of coordinated efforts by the State, the  
27 City and County of Honolulu, and private interests have  
28 struggled to produce a sustainable and equitable long-term  
29 strategy for preserving Waikiki beaches, infrastructure, and  
30 commerce; now, therefore,

31  
32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
33 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,  
34 that the following shared guiding principles are urged to be  
35 adopted for the planning, financing, and undertaking of efforts  
36 to restore, maintain, and improve the beaches, shoreline, and  
37 coastal areas of Waikiki spanning from the Ala Wai Small Boat  
38 Harbor to Kaimana Beach; and

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

