
SENATE RESOLUTION

STRONGLY SUPPORTING THE COUNTY OF HAWAII'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP
THE KEALAKEHE REGIONAL PARK PROJECT.

1 WHEREAS, the proposed Kealakehe Regional Park project
2 encompasses approximately one hundred ninety acres of
3 state-owned land, set aside to the County of Hawai'i, in North
4 Kona, bounded by Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway, Ane Keohokālole
5 Highway, and Kealakehe Parkway; and
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7 WHEREAS, the master plan for Kealakehe Regional Park
8 envisions multiple athletic fields, indoor and outdoor courts, a
9 skate park, an amphitheater, cultural gathering spaces, and
10 passive recreation areas designed to serve the entire West
11 Hawai'i community; and
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13 WHEREAS, despite longstanding community advocacy and
14 planning efforts, progress on the Kealakehe Regional Park
15 project has stalled, leaving the land underutilized while the
16 population of North Kona continues to grow; and
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18 WHEREAS, the lack of a regional-scale park limits
19 opportunities for organized youth sports, family recreation,
20 cultural events, and healthy lifestyles in West Hawai'i,
21 disproportionately affecting working families and school-aged
22 children; and
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24 WHEREAS, the Kealakehe Regional Park project aligns with
25 the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, the goals of
26 Vision Zero and Complete Streets, and public health strategies
27 to increase active recreation opportunities; and
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29 WHEREAS, community members, the West Hawai'i Parks and
30 Athletic Corporation, local sports leagues, schools, and
31 community associations have consistently expressed strong
32 support for the timely development of the park; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
3 that this body strongly supports the County of Hawai'i's efforts
4 to develop the Kealakehe Regional Park project; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Hawai'i is urged
7 to identify and allocate sufficient capital improvement funding,
8 seek state and federal grants, and pursue phased development to
9 ensure the timely realization of park facilities; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Hawai'i is
12 encouraged to collaborate with the Department of Hawaiian Home
13 Lands, Department of Education, community stakeholders, and
14 local nonprofit organizations to maximize recreational,
15 educational, and cultural benefits; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Hawai'i is
18 requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than
19 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
20 2027, detailing progress made in advancing the Kealakehe
21 Regional Park project; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the County of Hawai'i,
25 Chair of the Hawai'i County Council, Director of the Department
26 of Parks and Recreation of the County of Hawai'i, and President
of the West Hawai'i Parks and Athletic Corporation.
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