

MAR 16 2026

SENATE 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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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36 WHEREAS, Waikiki has a thorough legal framework in place
37 for its preservation and long-term support, including the



1 managerial oversight of the Waikiki Beach Special Improvement
2 District Association and focused coordination of the Waikiki
3 Beach Community Advisory Committee; and
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5 WHEREAS, the World Surfing Reserves is a program created by
6 the Save the Waves Coalition for the identification,
7 designation, and preservation of the world's most outstanding
8 surf zones and their surrounding environments; and
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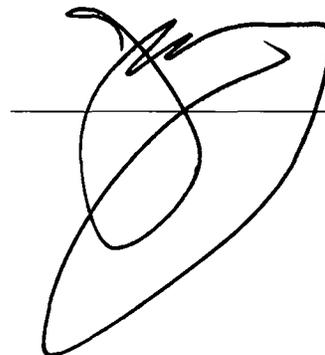
10 WHEREAS, recognizing Waikiki as a World Surfing Reserve
11 would raise awareness and accelerate the efforts of the local
12 community and stakeholders who are already working to protect
13 and manage Waikiki's surfing ecosystem from recognized threats
14 and to honor the unique Hawaiian contribution to the history of
15 surfing; and
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17 WHEREAS, Waikiki more than meets the minimum criteria
18 required by the Save the Waves Coalition to qualify as a World
19 Surfing Reserve; 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 this body endorses the recognition of Waikiki as a World
24 Surfing Reserve because Waikiki more than meets the qualifying
25 criteria of being a globally significant surf spot, with an
26 outstanding series of surf breaks, unique environmental
27 characteristics with clear avenues to protect them, a rich surf
28 culture and history, strong community support and capacity, and
29 a priority conservation area; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
33 Land and Natural Resources, Mayor of the City and County of
34 Honolulu, and Board of Directors of the Waikiki Beach Special
35 Improvement District Association.
36
37
38

OFFERED BY: _____

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat abstract, with a large loop at the bottom.