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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO EVALUATE THE POSSIBILITY OF USING A CONSERVATION LAND TRUST IN THE ALA WAI WATERSHED AREA.

1           WHEREAS, the Ala Wai watershed is comprised of streams,  
2           springs, and pools of water originating from the Ko'olau  
3           mountains; and

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5           WHEREAS, approximately 161,000 people reside in the Ala Wai  
6           watershed area, making it one of the most congested areas in the  
7           state; and

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9           WHEREAS, during heavy storms, the Ala Wai watershed swells,  
10          sending runoff and debris into the Ala Wai canal and adjoining  
11          areas; and

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13          WHEREAS, the combination of public and private ownership of  
14          streamside and hillside properties in the Ala Wai watershed area  
15          has hindered the development of integrated solutions and the  
16          reduction of downstream flooding and property damage in the  
17          area; and

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19          WHEREAS, efforts to plan an effective storm water and  
20          pollution strategy for the Ala Wai watershed are also inhibited  
21          by the population density; and

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23          WHEREAS, to date, no report on the Ala Wai watershed has  
24          focused on the possibility of using a conservation land trust on  
25          private land to alleviate the downstream impact of storm water  
26          and pollution from the Ala Wai watershed; and

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28          WHEREAS, conservation land trusts have been successful in  
29          preserving private lands for public benefit in rural and  
30          agricultural areas, and have provided tax benefits to the  
31          participating private land owners; and



1 WHEREAS, a conservation land trust in the Ala Wai watershed  
2 area that incorporates nonprofit land ownership and easements  
3 may provide the means to establish a continuous corridor in  
4 which to implement effective storm water and pollution  
5 improvements; and  
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7 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources and  
8 City and County of Honolulu should evaluate the possibility of  
9 using a conservation land trust in the Ala Wai watershed area to  
10 establish a continuous corridor in which to implement effective  
11 storm water and pollution improvements; now, therefore,  
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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
14 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
15 Session of 2008, that the Department of Land and Natural  
16 Resources and the City and County of Honolulu are requested to  
17 evaluate the possibility of using a conservation land trust in  
18 the Ala Wai watershed area to establish a continuous corridor in  
19 which to implement effective storm water and pollution  
20 improvements; and  
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in evaluating the possibility  
23 of using a conservation land trust in the Ala Wai watershed  
24 area, the Department of Land and Natural Resources and City and  
25 County of Honolulu, are requested to:  
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- 27 (1) Collaborate with the Ala Wai Watershed Association;
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- 29 (2) Review the policy foundations for using a conservation  
30 land trust;
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- 32 (3) Review the use of conservation land trusts in relation  
33 to other watershed and storm water improvement  
34 projects undertaken by the State, the City and County  
35 of Honolulu, the United States Army Corps of  
36 Engineers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency,  
37 and the Natural Resources Conservation Service;
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- 39 (4) Make a technical assessment of the possibility of  
40 using a conservation land trust; and  
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- 42 (5) Solicit input from the local community;
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44 and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
3 Land and Natural Resources, Mayor and Chairperson of the City  
4 Council of the City and County of Honolulu, and the President of  
5 the Board of Directors and the Executive Director of the Ala Wai  
6 Watershed Association.  
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