

MAR 12 2008

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO  
REGULARLY CONSULT WITH HO'OLAULIMA IA KAWAI NUI TO  
COORDINATE EFFORTS TO PROTECT, PRESERVE, AND MAINTAIN THE  
NATURAL, CULTURAL, AND SCENIC RESOURCES OF KAWAI NUI MARSH.

1           WHEREAS, wetlands are lands or areas, such as tidal flats  
2 and swamps, that contain a lot of soil moisture and protect and  
3 maintain water quality in other near-shore habitats; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the protection provided by wetlands is  
6 particularly important for coral reefs occurring seaward of  
7 coastal wetlands because the wetlands shield the reefs from  
8 sediment, turbidity, and pulses of fresh water during periods of  
9 heavy rain; and  
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11           WHEREAS, Kawai Nui Marsh in Kailua, Oahu is Hawaii's  
12 largest remaining natural wetland and an ecological and cultural  
13 treasure; and  
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15           WHEREAS, Kawai Nui Marsh, which encompasses approximately  
16 eight hundred thirty acres of land, has been identified by the  
17 United States Fish and Wildlife Service as a primary habitat for  
18 endemic and endangered native Hawaiian birds such as the  
19 'alaeke'oke'o, 'alae 'ula, ae'o, and koloa maoli; and  
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21           WHEREAS, despite their significance to Hawaii's  
22 environment, wetlands such as Kawai Nui Marsh are increasingly  
23 threatened by urban sprawl as the wetlands are drained, dredged,  
24 and filled to provide land for residential and commercial  
25 development; and  
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27           WHEREAS, community efforts to protect Kawai Nui Marsh began  
28 in the 1970s, when the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle rallied to  
29 educate the community, Legislature, and government agencies  
30 about the natural and cultural values of Kawai Nui Marsh to  
31 prevent a shopping mall from being built there; and  
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1           WHEREAS, for more than thirty years, community  
2 organizations have been instrumental in Kawai Nui Marsh's  
3 designation as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance by  
4 contributing to three consecutive master plans for the marsh and  
5 conducting numerous natural and cultural restoration programs,  
6 educational tours, and events; and  
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8           WHEREAS, community organizations have also provided other  
9 cooperative efforts to benefit Kawai Nui Marsh, such as  
10 fundraising and conducting pollution control and prevention  
11 efforts; and  
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13           WHEREAS, Ho'olaulima ia Kawai Nui is a network of concerned  
14 community organizations, government agencies, and individuals  
15 cooperating to foster public awareness and understanding of the  
16 natural, cultural, and scenic resources of Kawai Nui Marsh to  
17 ensure the long-term protection, restoration, and stewardship of  
18 Kawai Nui Marsh and the surrounding area; and  
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20           WHEREAS, since 2003, Ho'olaulima ia Kawai Nui has been  
21 actively advocating to unite county, state, and federal agencies  
22 to further the goal of consolidating the ownership of Kawai Nui  
23 Marsh under the State; and  
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25           WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is  
26 currently responsible for the management and sustainability of  
27 this important public resource; and  
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29           WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources  
30 should regularly consult with Ho'olaulima ia Kawai Nui to  
31 coordinate efforts to protect, preserve, and maintain the  
32 natural, cultural, and scenic resources of Kawai Nui Marsh; now,  
33 therefore,  
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35           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
36 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,  
37 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested  
38 to regularly consult with Ho'olaulima ia Kawai Nui to coordinate  
39 efforts to protect, preserve, and maintain the natural,  
40 cultural, and scenic resources of Kawai Nui Marsh; and  
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42           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
43 Natural Resources is requested to meet with Ho'olaulima ia Kawai



1 Nui on a quarterly basis to review and assess the progress of  
2 programs and goals relating to Kawai Nui Marsh; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board of Land and  
6 Natural Resources and Ho'olaulima ia Kawai Nui.

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OFFERED BY:





