

MAR 18 2009

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND
OTHER STATE AGENCIES RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE AND ASSIST IN
THE PRESERVATION OF THE NUUANU AUWAI SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, ancient Hawaiian tradition held fresh water as a
2 treasure from the gods, with each person using that gift along
3 the way having a duty to the person below to preserve it for use
4 by others; and

5
6 WHEREAS, the waters of Nuuanu start at its highest point in
7 the Koolau mountains with the waterfalls of Waipuhia and
8 Waipuulani feeding the streams of Nuuanu, Moole, and Waolani;
9 and

10
11 WHEREAS, ancient Hawaiian inhabitants of Nuuanu Valley
12 developed an auwai or water ditch system to take the waters from
13 the three streams and distribute the waters to irrigate
14 extensive loi ai or taro fields that were present throughout the
15 entire valley, from its upper reaches down to makai of the
16 present Judd Street; and

17
18 WHEREAS, after damage to the auwai system during the Battle
19 of Nuuanu, Kamehameha moved to quickly restore the valley's
20 agricultural production, summoning Kuhoohaiheipahu Paki to
21 rebuild the irrigation system; and

22
23 WHEREAS, "in three days[, Paki] rallied several hundred men
24 to construct the tremendous [Nuuanu] irrigation system which
25 supplies the numerous taro pondfields This irrigation
26 system is known even today as the Paki auwai"; and

27
28 WHEREAS, as Nuuanu evolved from an extensive agricultural
29 area into a residential area, many residents did not realize the
30 existence of or care about the ancient auwai system traversing
31 the valley, and in many instances, parts of the Nuuanu auwai
32 system were purposely closed, diverted, or covered up; as a



1 result, out of fourteen original auwai, there are only about
2 eight that remain either flowing or reparable; and
3

4 WHEREAS, the Nuuanu Valley Auwai Study Group is doing its
5 best to spread information on the historic origins of the Nuuanu
6 auwai system and is attempting to educate property owners on the
7 value of ways of preserving this treasure; and
8

9 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Historic Foundation, together with the
10 State Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Land
11 and Natural Resources, has named the auwai of Nuuanu Valley as
12 one of the nine most endangered historic places on its 2008
13 list, *The 9 Most Endangered Historic Sites in Hawaii*; now,
14 therefore,
15

16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
18 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land
19 and Natural Resources and all other state agencies are requested
20 to do everything in their respective areas of responsibility to
21 protect and preserve the auwai of Nuuanu Valley; and
22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
25 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the
26 Historic Hawaii Foundation, and the Nuuanu Valley Auwai Study
27 Group.
28
29
30

OFFERED BY: *Fizanna Chun Oalalana*

