WHEREAS, the constitution of Hawaii sets forth the goal of preservation of agriculture lands in the State of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, land ownership in Hawaii is dominated by a small number of large land owners which exercise large amounts of influence on the overall social and economic fabric of the islands, especially upon those who are dependent upon lease rents particularly at times of lease renegotiations; and

WHEREAS, Kamilo Nui Valley is the last large parcel of undeveloped land in East Honolulu, and is owned by Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate; and

WHEREAS, the farmers of Kamilo Nui Valley have been working the land for decades, raising many different types of agricultural products from vegetables to nurseries and are now entering a period of lease renegotiations; and

WHEREAS, the farmers of Kamilo Nui Valley wish to be able to afford to remain on their farms and that the agriculture lands of the valley remain in such usage; and

WHEREAS, the City Council on August 11, 2004 unanimously adopted a resolution to maintain Kamilo Nui's agricultural designation until at least 2020, the time period called for under Honolulu's East Oahu Sustainable Communities Plan; and

WHEREAS, the farmers held their leases since the 1970's, and the leases run until 2025 under the condition that the use
of land remain agricultural, however, the lease rents comes up
for renegotiation this year; and

WHEREAS, a local developer and Kamehameha Schools Bishop
Estate reached an agreement in 2005 to buy the 87 acres of
Kamilo Nui Valley for an undisclosed amount of money, under the
condition that the developer convince the leaseholders to sell
him their lease interests; and

WHEREAS, most farmers want to continue to work the land and
conduct their business as afforded under their leases; and

WHEREAS, a community group, Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui,
submitted a petition to the City Council that was signed by
3,500 Hawai‘i Kai residents demanding no change in the current
urban/agricultural boundary; and

WHEREAS, Kamilonui Farmers’ Co-op sponsored, "A Day on the
Farm" open hour event, which featured games, live entertainment,
ono food, door prizes, community booths, farm tours, and produce
from the 12 farms. The event was attended by over 500 people,
including Governor Linda Lingle who gave remarks, and was
instrumental in letting the public know about this agricultural
oasis in the midst of an urban development.

WHEREAS, Kamilo Nui Valley is part of the natural watershed
for Hawai‘i Kai, the first line of defense in a system of flood
control of which the marina is also a part of; and

WHEREAS, development of Kamilo Nui Valley could lead to a
situation similar to the New Year's Eve flood of 1987, when
flood water turned Hahahaione Valley into a river complete with
floating cars and trees; and

WHEREAS, Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate already stated
that they will continue to base rents on the agricultural zoning
of the land, but also observed that the value of agricultural
land has skyrocketed but primarily driven by urban land values;
now, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, that the House of Representatives encourages Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate to keep Kamilo Nui Valley in agricultural use for its crucial role in sustainability and for its key role in its watershed abilities to prevent flooding and to protect water quality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate is encouraged to exercise fairness, reasonableness and discretion in their renegotiations of lease rents with Kamilo Nui farmers in 2010, based on fair market land value against or contingent upon crop type, in an effort to balance the multiple interests involved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Kamilo Nui Valley Farmers Cooperative, Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate, the members of the Honolulu City Council, the Hawai‘i Kai Neighborhood Board, and Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui.

OFFERED BY: