
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

PART I

1
2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the idea of a
3 wilderness area in the culturally and historically rich south
4 Kona area on the island of Hawaii has been discussed for more
5 than thirty years. This area has limited development and
6 significant archeological sites that warrant protection and
7 preservation. Act 59, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, established
8 the south Kona wilderness area and provided for the development
9 of a comprehensive management plan for the area; however, Act 59
10 was subsequently repealed on December 31, 2007, pursuant to Act
11 215, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006.

12 The purpose of this part is to establish a south Kona
13 wilderness area on the island of Hawaii, provide a mechanism for
14 the creation of a plan for management of the wilderness area,
15 and provide a framework for management of the wilderness area.

16 SECTION 2. Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
17 by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and to read
18 as follows:



1 "PART . SOUTH KONA WILDERNESS AREA

2 §6E-A South Kona wilderness area; establishment. There is
3 established the south Kona wilderness area on the island of
4 Hawaii in the area described in section 6E-B to be administered
5 by the department of land and natural resources for the
6 preservation of the visual, cultural, and historical aspects of
7 the lands covered in this part and to:

- 8 (1) Preserve the extensive archaeological sites in the
9 area, including ancient homesites, a holua slide, a
10 heiau, and burial caves;
- 11 (2) Preserve and protect native Hawaiian plants and
12 animals currently in the area;
- 13 (3) Provide for a wilderness area with minimal man-made
14 structures;
- 15 (4) Permit limited access for recreational purposes, such
16 as fishing, swimming, camping, and exploration; and
- 17 (5) Prevent additional development in the area.

18 §6E-B Lands included. (a) Except as provided in
19 subsection (b), the following lands shall be included in the
20 south Kona wilderness area:

- 21 (1) Honomalino: All lands from the shoreline to six
22 thousand feet inland;



1 (2) Okoe: All lands from the shoreline to six thousand
2 feet inland. The Honomalino and Okoe sections include
3 approximately 1,458 acres;

4 (3) Kapu'a: All lands from the shoreline and going mauka,
5 designated as lots D-2-1 to D-2-4 in the county of
6 Hawaii, planning department, final subdivision
7 approval number 7625, a portion of which is currently
8 within the conservation district, which lands include
9 approximately 7,780 acres;

10 (4) Kaulanamauna: Extension of the Manuka natural area
11 reserve boundary to the shoreline; and

12 (5) Manuka: Extension of the Manuka natural area reserve
13 boundary to the shoreline.

14 (b) Any parcel of land included in subsection (a) upon
15 which there is a dwelling house as of July 1, 2011, together
16 with any outbuildings forming a part of the residential complex,
17 shall be excluded from the south Kona wilderness area.

18 **§6E-C Construction prohibited.** (a) No new homes or other
19 structures shall be constructed within one thousand feet of the
20 shoreline within the publicly-owned lands in the south Kona
21 wilderness area, except as follows:



1 (1) Structures built by the department for the purpose of
2 managing the area;
3 (2) Repairs to existing structures pursuant to rules
4 adopted by the department under chapter 91; and
5 (3) Construction of one dwelling by a private landowner if
6 the existing rules permit the construction;
7 provided that no land may be subdivided within the area;
8 provided further that no owner shall be permitted to consolidate
9 and resubdivide lots within the area if this would increase the
10 number of buildable lots.

11 (b) All privately-owned lands described in section 6E-B(a)
12 in the south Kona wilderness area shall be exempt from this
13 section.

14 **§6E-D Land acquisition.** The department may acquire any
15 private lands included in the lands described in section 6E-B(a)
16 for cash through condemnation; provided that, notwithstanding
17 section 171-50, the costs associated with any appraisal,
18 including that of the public land, shall be borne by the State
19 or by private funds, grants, or contributions.

20 **§6E-E Designation of lands within the conservation**
21 **district.** All publicly-owned lands described in section 6E-B(a)
22 shall be classified as lands within the conservation district,



1 as described in section 205-2, without the necessity of any
2 proceedings before the land use commission. All privately-owned
3 lands described in section 6E-B(a) shall be exempt from this
4 section."

5 **PART II**

6 SECTION 3. The legislature finds that West Oahu is rich
7 and abundant in historical sites from different periods and
8 significant in Hawaii's culture and history.

9 A pre-dawn air raid on the Marine Corps Air Field in Ewa
10 and Fort Barrette in Kapolei on the morning of December 7, 1941
11 was one of the very first acts that precipitated the entrance of
12 the United States into World War II. One still-existing
13 military bunker and its connecting roads - Guadalcanal,
14 Roosevelt, Ranger, and Coral Sea - remain as a testament to
15 Hawaii's strong military heritage.

16 The Honouliuli internment camp was situated north of the
17 H-1 freeway in Kunia. One of five such camps in Hawaii, its one
18 hundred sixty acres, isolated in a deep gulch, were set up to
19 hold up to three thousand internees. Mainland archeologist Jeff
20 Burton, an expert on Japanese American internment, concluded
21 that the Honouliuli internment camp may be eligible for listing
22 on the national register of historic places.



1 Native Hawaiian religious and cultural specialists have
2 long held that the Ewa plain and coastline contain burial and
3 religious sites sacred to native Hawaiians. Remnants of old
4 native Hawaiian activity, settlements, and living can be found
5 throughout the region. Native Hawaiians say that the area is
6 the resting ground of seven ali'i including the last king of Maui
7 and Oahu before Kamehameha the Great. Part of Fort Barrette
8 road is on an extinct dormant volcano shield known as Puu o
9 Kapolei and is built on the ancient trail named in honor of
10 Kualaka'i, the chief who brought ulu to the region. Kualaka'i
11 was a leader whose many accomplishments benefitted the Hawaiian
12 people who lived in the Ewa region.

13 Hawaii's grand role in the worldwide sugar industry
14 literally has roots in Ewa's fertile farmlands. The Ewa sugar
15 plantation, Ewa villages, and old Waipahu sugar mill are
16 remnants of a golden age gone by. The Waipahu plantation
17 village is a re-creation of the lifestyle and homes of the
18 former plantation days. The colonial style plantation
19 manager's mansion in Ewa was placed on the national register of
20 historic places. The cultural richness and Asian-Pacific
21 blending in our islands are the direct result of all of the
22 laborers brought from overseas to work in the fields and live in



1 plantation housing. The last remaining segment of the Oahu
2 Railway and Land Company, the old train and railroad that
3 carried people and prized agricultural products to the harbor in
4 Honolulu, is preserved in Ewa and is now on the national
5 register of historic places.

6 These and other areas from the Ewa coastline sweeping up to
7 the Waianae range and Kunia are historical markers in Hawaii's
8 history and should be preserved where possible. As necessary
9 development for our growing population continues in the region,
10 the important history of West Oahu must not be forgotten.

11 The purpose of this part is to establish a historical
12 district designation to recognize the historical and cultural
13 significance of certain areas of the state and to establish the
14 Pearl Harbor-Honouliuli historical district as one such
15 district.

16 SECTION 4. Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
17 by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and to read
18 as follows:

19 "PART . HISTORICAL DISTRICTS

20 §6E-F Historical district designation. (a) The
21 legislature may designate a contiguous geographical area in the
22 State as a historical district. The designation shall be for



1 honorary purposes to recognize the historical and cultural
2 significance of that area to Hawaii.

3 (b) The department of land and natural resources may
4 collaborate with interested parties to preserve historic
5 property and other historically significant sites within a
6 historical district and promote the historical district for
7 educational, tourism, and economic purposes.

8 (c) This section shall not affect any laws relating to
9 land use, zoning, development, permitting, or building codes.

10 §6E-G Pearl Harbor-Honouliuli historical district. The
11 Ewa plain in West Oahu, referring to the area including and
12 bounded by Pearl Harbor in the east, to the Marine Corps Air
13 Station Ewa Field in the west, to the Honouliuli Internment Camp
14 in the north, including the area in which the Arizona Memorial
15 Pacific Aviation Museum is located, shall be designated as the
16 Pearl Harbor-Honouliuli historical district."

17 PART III

18 SECTION 5. In codifying the new sections added by sections
19 2 and 4 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
20 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
21 the new sections in this Act.



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2030;
2 provided that Part I shall be repealed on June 30, 2032.



Report Title:

South Kona Wilderness Area; West Oahu Historical District

Description:

Part I establishes the South Kona Wilderness Area to be administered by DLNR; part II authorizes the Legislature to designate a contiguous geographical area in the State as a historical district, and establishes the Pearl Harbor-Honouliuli historical district. Effective 7/1/2030 and Part I repealed on 6/30/2032. (SD2)

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