

MAR 09 2018

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE PURCHASE, PRESERVATION, AND RESTORATION OF  
AGRICULTURAL AND CONSERVATION LANDS IN MAUNAWILI VALLEY,  
O'AHU, AND URGING VARIOUS FEDERAL, STATE, AND COUNTY  
ENTITIES TO ACQUIRE AND PROTECT IMPORTANT ANCIENT AND  
HISTORIC SITES AND TRAILS AND WATERS IN MAUNAWILI VALLEY.

1           WHEREAS, Maunawili Valley in the ahupua'a (land division) of  
2 Kailua is celebrated in story and chant for its association with  
3 akua (gods), ali'i (chiefs), cultural heroes, and important  
4 historical figures, including Queen Lili'uokalani; and  
5

6           WHEREAS, Maunawili Valley contains wetlands, streams, and  
7 freshwater springs that provide most of the water that flows to  
8 the Kawainui Marsh ecosystem, and more than fifty springs and  
9 smaller streams, including Maunawili Stream, the most  
10 significant stream in the Kailua ahupua'a; and  
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12           WHEREAS, ancient and historic sites throughout Maunawili  
13 Valley include heiau (temple or sacred site), sacred stones,  
14 petroglyphs, Hawaiian burials, alanui (path or trail), house  
15 sites, grinding stones, irrigated and dryland agricultural  
16 terraces, large 'auwai (irrigation ditches) related to extensive  
17 lo'i (taro patches), and nineteenth and early twentieth century  
18 structures related to agriculture and food production; and  
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20           WHEREAS, Kawainui Marsh is a designated Ramsar Wetland of  
21 International Importance, and the 1994 Kawai Nui Marsh Master  
22 Plan recommended that the State acquire the privately-owned  
23 wetland and semi-wetland areas in Maunawili, noting that they  
24 are hydrologically part of the economic, ecological, and  
25 cultural resources of Kawainui Marsh, separated only by the  
26 highway, and that acquisition would "protect the wetlands from  
27 future undesired developments" and inappropriate alteration of  
28 the landscape and waterways; and  
29



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1           WHEREAS, there is a need to protect and conserve the  
2 Maunawili wetlands and semi-wetlands; Maunawili's Hanalei soil,  
3 which is the most fertile soil in Hawai'i; fresh water resources;  
4 ancient and historic sites; and historic trails within the vital  
5 context of agricultural sustainability; and  
6

7           WHEREAS, there is also a need to provide managed and  
8 restricted access to the State's Maunawili and Olomana Trails in  
9 proximity to Maunawili's historic wetland and semi-wetland areas  
10 and the Queen's Retreat; and  
11

12           WHEREAS, there is a long history of public interest in  
13 acquiring and protecting lands in Maunawili, but the State has  
14 not been able to secure these Maunawili lands, which remain  
15 privately owned; and  
16

17           WHEREAS, HRT Realty, LLC, owner of more than one thousand  
18 acres in Maunawili, including the majority of the biocultural  
19 resources noted above and the Royal Hawaiian Golf Course, is  
20 moving forward on plans to subdivide and eventually sell its  
21 Maunawili lands; and  
22

23           WHEREAS, HRT Realty, LLC, expressed an interest in selling  
24 its Maunawili lands, or a significant portion thereof, to the  
25 State Department of Land and Natural Resources and Department of  
26 Agriculture, working in partnership with The Trust for Public  
27 Land, Hui Maunawili-Kawainui, and Kailua community, and Hui  
28 Maunawili-Kawainui members have met with representatives of HRT  
29 Realty, LLC, and are now working in partnership with The Trust  
30 for Public Land to identify ways to acquire HRT Realty, LLC,  
31 properties in Maunawili; and  
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33           WHEREAS, Hui Maunawili-Kawainui is a group of descendants  
34 and residents of Maunawili and Kailua who represent a coalition  
35 of respected Hawaiian cultural and environmental organizations,  
36 who have joined together to protect prime agricultural and  
37 culturally significant lands in Maunawili; and  
38

39           WHEREAS, Hui Maunawili-Kawainui seeks to restore the health  
40 of Maunawili so that the valley can resume its vital and  
41 traditional role in the ahupua'a of Kailua as a source of free-



1 flowing fresh water and a place of abundant agriculture and rich  
2 cultural resources; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, The Trust for Public Land is a national nonprofit  
5 organization that has helped protect lands throughout Hawai'i;  
6 and  
7

8 WHEREAS, the Governor has declared a state goal to double  
9 local food production by 2020, which is in line with Maunawili's  
10 legacy as historically fertile ground for the production of food  
11 crops; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, Hui Maunawili-Kawainui has met with numerous state  
14 and county officials and elected representatives to express the  
15 need to protect and preserve the Maunawili lands and to seek  
16 both institutional and financial support toward that end; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, this is a rare opportunity to secure Maunawili's  
19 irreplaceable resources for the health and welfare of the people  
20 of Hawai'i today and for future generations; now, therefore,  
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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
23 Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2018, the  
24 House of Representatives concurring, that this body supports the  
25 purchase, preservation, and restoration of agricultural and  
26 conservation lands in Maunawili Valley, Oahu, and the protection  
27 and preservation of important ancient and historic sites and  
28 trails and waters in Maunawili; and  
29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body commends HRT Realty,  
31 LLC; Hui Maunawili-Kawainui; and the Trust for Public Land for  
32 taking collaborative, voluntary action toward a possible  
33 conservation purchase of the HRT Realty, LLC, Maunawili lands;  
34 and  
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body believes that it is  
37 in the best interest of the people of the State to bring to  
38 fruition a larger, community-based vision of restoring Maunawili  
39 to its vital and traditional role in the ahupua'a of Kailua as a  
40 source of free-flowing fresh water and place of abundant  
41 agriculture and rich cultural resources; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the Department  
2 of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, and  
3 other relevant state entities, as well as the City and County of  
4 Honolulu and the Hawai'i congressional delegation, to work with  
5 The Trust for Public Land and Hui Maunawili-Kawainui in their  
6 efforts to acquire these important and rich agricultural,  
7 cultural, and historic lands; and

8  
9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Mayor of  
11 the City and County of Honolulu, Chair of the Honolulu City  
12 Council, Honolulu City Councilmember Ikaika Anderson, Chair of  
13 the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, members  
14 of the Hawai'i congressional delegation, and Director of The  
15 Trust for Public Land's Hawaiian Islands Program.

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OFFERED BY:   


