

MAR 09 2018

SENATE 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
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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
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30 WHEREAS, there is a need to protect and conserve the
31 Maunawili wetlands and semi-wetlands; Maunawili's Hanalei soil,
32 which is the most fertile soil in Hawai'i; fresh water resources;



1 ancient and historic sites; and historic trails within the vital
2 context of agricultural sustainability; and
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4 WHEREAS, there is also a need to provide managed and
5 restricted access to the State's Maunawili and Olomana Trails in
6 proximity to Maunawili's historic wetland and semi-wetland areas
7 and the Queen's Retreat; and
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9 WHEREAS, there is a long history of public interest in
10 acquiring and protecting lands in Maunawili, but the State has
11 not been able to secure these Maunawili lands, which remain
12 privately owned; and
13

14 WHEREAS, HRT Realty, LLC, owner of more than one thousand
15 acres in Maunawili, including the majority of the biocultural
16 resources noted above and the Royal Hawaiian Golf Course, is
17 moving forward on plans to subdivide and eventually sell its
18 Maunawili lands; and
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20 WHEREAS, HRT Realty, LLC, expressed an interest in selling
21 its Maunawili lands, or a significant portion thereof, to the
22 State Department of Land and Natural Resources and Department of
23 Agriculture, working in partnership with The Trust for Public
24 Land, Hui Maunawili-Kawainui, and Kailua community, and Hui
25 Maunawili-Kawainui members have met with representatives of HRT
26 Realty, LLC, and are now working in partnership with The Trust
27 for Public Land to identify ways to acquire HRT Realty, LLC,
28 properties in Maunawili; and
29

30 WHEREAS, Hui Maunawili-Kawainui is a group of descendants
31 and residents of Maunawili and Kailua who represent a coalition
32 of respected Hawaiian cultural and environmental organizations,
33 who have joined together to protect prime agricultural and
34 culturally significant lands in Maunawili; and
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36 WHEREAS, Hui Maunawili-Kawainui seeks to restore the health
37 of Maunawili so that the valley can resume its vital and
38 traditional role in the ahupua'a of Kailua as a source of free-
39 flowing fresh water and a place of abundant agriculture and rich
40 cultural resources; and
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1 WHEREAS, The Trust for Public Land is a national nonprofit
2 organization that has helped protect lands throughout Hawai'i;
3 and
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5 WHEREAS, the Governor has declared a state goal to double
6 local food production by 2020, which is in line with Maunawili's
7 legacy as historically fertile ground for the production of food
8 crops; and
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10 WHEREAS, Hui Maunawili-Kawainui has met with numerous state
11 and county officials and elected representatives to express the
12 need to protect and preserve the Maunawili lands and to seek
13 both institutional and financial support toward that end; and
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15 WHEREAS, this is a rare opportunity to secure Maunawili's
16 irreplaceable resources for the health and welfare of the people
17 of Hawai'i today and for future generations; now, therefore,
18

19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
20 Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2018,
21 that this body supports the purchase, preservation, and
22 restoration of agricultural and conservation lands in Maunawili
23 Valley, Oahu, and the protection and preservation of important
24 ancient and historic sites and trails and waters in Maunawili;
25 and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body commends HRT Realty,
28 LLC; Hui Maunawili-Kawainui; and the Trust for Public Land for
29 taking collaborative, voluntary action toward a possible
30 conservation purchase of the HRT Realty, LLC, Maunawili lands;
31 and
32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body believes that it is
34 in the best interest of the people of the State to bring to
35 fruition a larger, community-based vision of restoring Maunawili
36 to its vital and traditional role in the ahupua'a of Kailua as a
37 source of free-flowing fresh water and place of abundant
38 agriculture and rich cultural resources; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the Department
41 of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, and
42 other relevant state entities, as well as the City and County of



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1 Honolulu and the Hawai'i congressional delegation, to work with
2 The Trust for Public Land and Hui Maunawili-Kawainui in their
3 efforts to acquire these important and rich agricultural,
4 cultural, and historic lands; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Mayor of the City and
8 County of Honolulu, Chair of the Honolulu City Council, Honolulu
9 City Councilmember Ikaika Anderson, Chair of the Board of
10 Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, members of the
11 Hawai'i congressional delegation, and Director of The Trust for
12 Public Land's Hawaiian Islands Program.
13
14
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OFFERED BY: _____

Jr
Rama T. Hui

