

MAR 10 2023

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF FACILITY MAINTENANCE OF THE CITY
AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO DREDGE AND CLEAN THE ULEHAWA
STREAM AND CANAL.

1 WHEREAS, dredging is the process of removing accumulated
2 sediment from banks or the bottoms of bodies of water such as
3 streams and is essential to the preservation of wildlife,
4 ecosystems, and the health of a waterway; and
5

6 WHEREAS, the Ulehawa Stream, a perennial stream located on
7 the western shore of Oahu and to the north of Nanakuli, is
8 typically blocked by beach sand due to an absence of a fringing
9 reef, which leaves the shoreline exposed to variable wave
10 conditions from the north during winter and from the south
11 during the summer; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the Ulehawa Stream runs along the border of Oahu's
14 sole construction and demolition landfill, owned by PVT Land
15 Company Ltd., which takes in approximately forty percent of the
16 island's total waste stream as of 2020; and
17

18 WHEREAS, hundreds of residents live alongside the main
19 Ulehawa Canal and its two wing canals that reach, on the west,
20 through the Princess Kahanu Estates Association, a Department of
21 Hawaiian Home Lands homestead community, and on the east, near
22 the Puu Heleakala Community, a predominantly Native Hawaiian
23 community; and
24

25 WHEREAS, complaints of the Ulehawa Canal being backed up
26 with silt and sand have been made for over two decades, and in
27 the past two years, the Ulehawa's wing canals have been
28 completely blocked and littered with silt, vegetation, and
29 trash, such as shopping carts, beds, and construction debris;
30 and
31



1 WHEREAS, without regular dredging, the Ulehawa Stream and
2 Canal remains stagnant -- even with heavy rainfall -- and its
3 stench becomes unbearable; and
4

5 WHEREAS, reports have been made of residents living on both
6 sides of the Ulehawa Canal becoming sick, which raises public
7 health and safety concerns; and
8

9 WHEREAS, the 2008 *Hawaii Environmental Justice Initiative*
10 *Report's* definition of "environmental justice" for Hawaii
11 recognized that "no one segment of the population or geographic
12 area should be disproportionately burdened with environmental
13 and/or health impacts resulting from development, construction,
14 operations and/or use of natural resources"; and
15

16 WHEREAS, tax-paying residents living along the Ulehawa
17 Stream and Canal are being disproportionately burdened generally
18 due to the lack of regular upkeep and dredging; and
19

20 WHEREAS, the Department of Facility Maintenance of the City
21 and County of Honolulu (DFM) must obtain a permit from the Army
22 Corps of Engineers prior to any dredging or maintenance work at
23 the Ulehawa Stream and Canal, pursuant to section 404 of the
24 Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, and section 10 of the
25 Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, as amended; and
26

27 WHEREAS, although the DFM estimates that stream maintenance
28 work at Ulehawa Stream and Canal should occur at least
29 quarterly, according to residents of the area, it appears that
30 the DFM only performs its necessary work after receiving a large
31 number of complaints; and
32

33 WHEREAS, the DFM has informed at least one council member
34 of the Honolulu City Council that it does not have sufficient
35 staff to continuously clean out the Ulehawa Stream and Canal but
36 believes that a stream groin project at the mouth of the Ulehawa
37 could potentially be a permanent solution to prevent the rapid
38 accumulation of sediment and debris; now, therefore,
39

40 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
41 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the
42 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of



1 Facility Maintenance of the City and County of Honolulu is
2 requested to dredge and clean the Ulehawa Stream and Canal on a
3 quarterly basis; and

4
5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
6 requested to complete water quality testing of the Ulehawa
7 Stream and Canal quarterly every two years, at a minimum; and

8
9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Army Corps of Engineers is
10 urged to work with the DFM to create a permanent solution to
11 mitigate against the rapid accumulation of sediment and debris,
12 to include but not be limited to the design and construction of
13 a stream groin at the mouth of the Ulehawa Stream and Canal;
14 provided that any permanent solution be in alignment with the
15 Department of Transportation's plan to rehabilitate the Ulehawa
16 Stream Bridge in 2025; and

17
18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's congressional
19 delegation is requested to make finding a permanent solution for
20 the Ulehawa Stream and Canal a top priority and to assist the
21 State and county in finding federal funding for this purpose;
22 and

23
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States Army
26 Corps of Engineers District Commander of the Honolulu District,
27 members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, Director of
28 Transportation, Director and Chief Engineer of the Department of
29 Facility Maintenance of the City and County of Honolulu, and
30 Manager and Chief Engineer of the Honolulu Board of Water
31 Supply.

32
33
34

OFFERED BY:  _____

